

The South Etobicoke News

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Housing 'Team Canada' sell South Etobicoke

A so-called political 'Team Canada' of housing were in hotspot South Etobicoke to try and boost housing and real estate activity.

Some of this country's top politicians – including Prime Minister Mark Carney – were on site of a complex under construction called The Stella, at 5207 Dundas Street W., in the Six Points area, to announce a multi-billion-dollar housing partnership.

Premier Doug Ford, Mayor Olivia Chow, MPs James Maloney and Yvan Baker and other dignitaries announced they were getting rid of the 13% HST on new homes up to \$1 million and reducing development charges by up to 50%—projected to support up to 21,000 new skilled trades jobs. The deal includes \$8.8 billion in funding shared between Ottawa



PRIME MINISTER MARK CARNEY, Premier Doug Ford and other political leaders at The Stella complex (left) with Etobicoke Civic Centre (right) in Six Points area.

and Queen's Park to support housing-enabling infrastructure and reduce development charges, which governments say have contributed to rising construction costs.

The Stella is a 30- and 26-storey mixed-use affordable and market-rate rental building that will feature 725 units, of which 200 are affordable housing, when completed in 2028. It is located at the southeast corner of Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street W. close to the Etobicoke Civic Centre.

Carney described the broader initiative as part of a "team Canada" approach to housing, emphasizing cooperation across jurisdictions and with the private sector. Ford said the agreement will help stimulate

economic growth and protect Ontario's economy amid external pressures. "By lowering taxes and fees that make new homes more expensive, we can get more shovels in the ground across Ontario," he said.

New Toronto drive-by shooting and police chase

There has been about a dozen drive by shootings in the Toronto area in the last month.

Homes and businesses are being sprayed with bullets in the middle of the night and for the most part the shooters are seldom caught, and they include some Toronto Police officers who were caught on video in a recent corruption probe.

No one was injured in a drive-by shooting in New Toronto in the early morning of March 26 as a jiu jitsu arts studio near Lake Shore Blvd. W. and Islington Avenue had gunshots fired at the building as the shooter fled the scene.

Police nearby chased after a Honda Civic on Royal York Road which ploughed through a back yard fence after the vehicle went out of control after a 10 km chase. The



TORONTO POLICE OFFICERS INSPECT martial arts studio (left) that was shot four times by gunman who fled in a police chase and crashed into a fence (centre) of a North York home. The area was taped off by police (right). The studio is among two in the GTA fired upon by gunmen who took off. Courtesy photos.

driver, with a possible accomplice, bolted from the vehicle and police were not able to make an arrest.

The Rosedale home of GFL CEO was shot at in early March, with reports indicating a gunman fired at the door while a security guard was present.

Police said evidence of the New Toronto gunfire was located near a commercial premise around 3:32 a.m.

foot.

Photos from the scene show a heavily damaged vehicle in the front yard of a home near Royal York Road and North Drive. No injuries were reported at the home. Police have not released descriptions of the individuals involved or details on whether a firearm was recovered, and the investigation is ongoing.

Officers had the area blocked off as they collected shell casings and other evidence. "First responding officers attempted to stop a vehicle fleeing the scene, vehicle didn't and fled on foot," police said in a social media post.

Police said the Honda crashed into the fence near Eglinton Avenue W.

The suspect or suspects jumped from the vehicle and fled on

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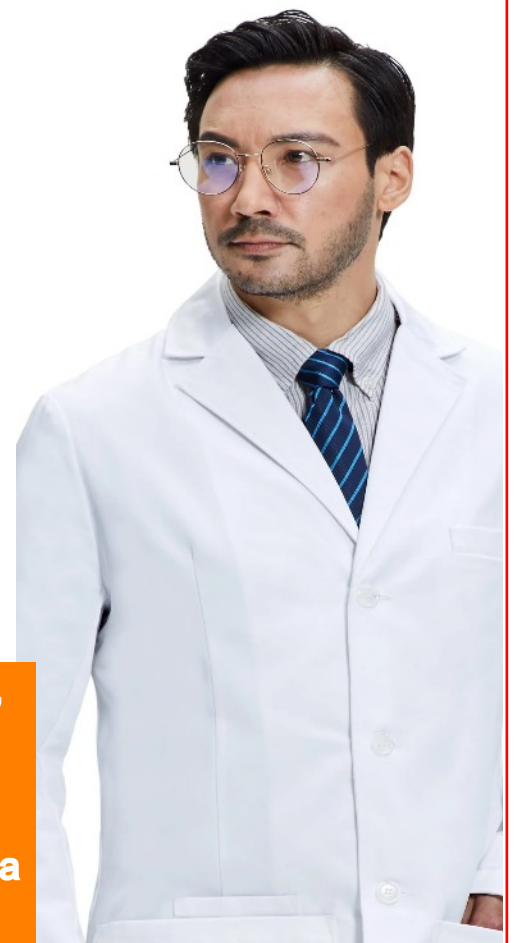
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Police create new anti-terror task force to fight antisemitism and monitor FIFA World Cup

South Etobicoke mosques, temples and other religious centres are now being patrolled by heavily-armed members of a new Toronto Police unit.

A new counter-terrorism unit and task force has been created to target anti-Semitic gunmen who have fired shots against three Toronto mosques and the U.S. consulate general in downtown Toronto. Police Chief Myron Demkiw said there are no specific threats and the officers will be patrolling places of worship, tourist attractions, high traffic public spaces and critical infrastructure.

He said the dedicated counter-terrorism security unit is being set up to "prevent, detect and disrupt" extremism violence and terrorism.

The police measure comes as security heightens with the war in the Middle East and as Toronto hosts six FIFA World Cup games starting in mid-June, when tens of thousands of people are expected to visit the city.

"Torontonians can expect to see Toronto police officers deployed with tactical capabilities, including patrol rifles," Demkiw said, adding there is no specific threat.

He said the unit and task force are a response to global conflicts, rising hate crimes, and the risk of violent extremism in Toronto.



HEAVILY ARMED police officers (top, bottom) will be patrolling religious centres and tourist hotspots to curb mosque shooters and other

The new unit will function as a rapid-response hub, enhancing how the Service shares intelligence and collaborates with partners, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

"With this unit, we will substantially increase the resources dedicated to countering terrorism and violent extremism, supported by robust analytical capacity and dedicated leadership," Demkiw said. "This will be a new standalone unit."

Part of that proactive approach includes the launch of Task Force Guardian.

Project Guardian will enhance police visibility in key locations including critical infrastructure, high-traffic public spaces, tourist attractions, and places of worship. This initiative will involve uniformed officers equipped with patrol rifles and other long guns as part of a deterrence strategy.

Police said in the first two months of 2026 there were more than 22 reported cases of antisemitism in Toronto, and there were more than 200 incidents reported to police last year.



Mourning teen hit by GO Train and killed on spot



MOURNING for the young boy. Courtesy photo.

Family and friends are mourning the death of a 13-year-old boy who was tragically hit by a GO Train in Mississauga after leaving the Long Branch station.

Family members were sobbing in front of flowers left where the teen was killed at Alexandra Avenue and Fourth Street, just north of Lakeshore Blvd. E., around 3 p.m. on March 18.

Peel Police said the boy was on a motorized scooter with another boy when he went around a barrier that signals a passing train and was hit by the GO Train. "This is an absolutely horrible situation for the family involved," Const. Tyler Bell-Morena said.

He said the boys were not with an adult.

"But this is a time, unfortunately, to remind our kids that when they're on these bikes, to really mind the crossings, particularly at railway passing," Bell-Morena said.

A large area at the site as taped off as an investigation was underway by police and Metrolinx to determine the cause of the collision.

The boy was hit after the train left Long Branch enroute to the Port Credit GO station, police said.

Train and vehicle traffic were backed up for hours as about 500 to 600 people on board the train that hit the child were transferred to another train.

This is not the first time a person was hit by the Long Branch GO train.

A 46-year old mother of two was hospitalized last September 2024 after being hit by another GO Train at the Long Branch station while walking on the edge of the platform.



THE INVESTIGATION of the child's death continues in Mississauga.



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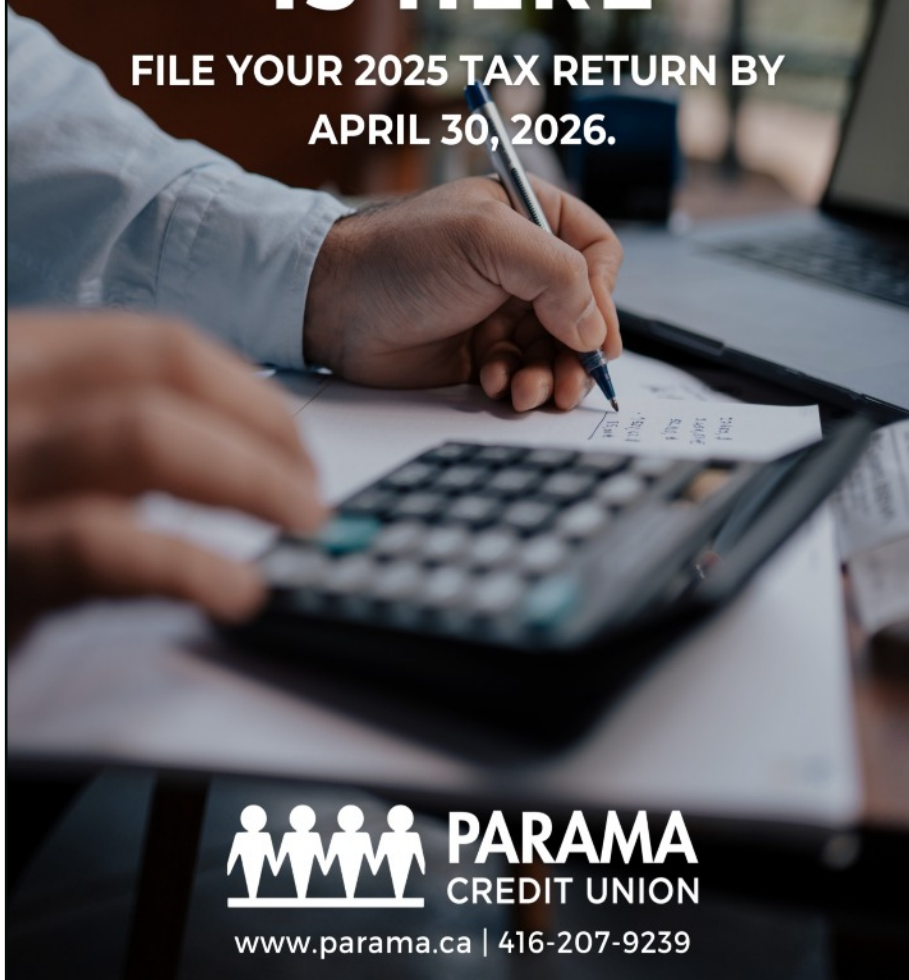
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Move to bring back the Mute Swans to area parks due to their lessening numbers



PLANS ARE UNDERWAY to increase the population of mute swans in South Etobicoke parks.

The mute swan population in South Etobicoke has dwindled to less than 100 birds and there are efforts underway to try and increase the flocks. A motion was adopted by City Council to curb a Mute Swan Population Management Program in Ward 3, Etobicoke Lakeshore, in which their eggs are coated with oil in the nest so that they do not hatch. The oil cuts off oxygen to the cygnets inside preventing them from developing so the eggs do not hatch. The motion by Councillor Amber Morley called for City Council at its March 25 meeting to ask the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to leave some eggs uncoated with the oil so they will hatch in the nests. "Female swans will remain on the nest for longer than typical incubation period, subjecting them to increased physical stress before they give up on a clutch of eggs," according to the motion.

The TRCA is required to report back to an Infrastructure and Environment Committee early next year. It said the population control for mute swans stems from concerns that "they displace other water birds and overgraze aquatic vegetation." There is a body of scientific research that the swans do not outcompete other water birds and do not damage wetland ecosystems by overgrazing, the motion stated. A TRCA survey found that the population of Mute Swans have decreased by 81 per cent since 2011. There were 413 of the birds then as compared to 80 in 2024. "Many residents of Etobicoke-Lakeshore get a great deal of joy from the mute swans along our waterfront and waterways," council was told. "They would like to see mating pairs experience a more natural life cycle where they lay eggs, hatch cygnets, and raise their young." Environment Canada and Canadian Wildlife Service was also asked to consider newer scientific research on the behaviours and environmental impacts of mute swans and re-evaluate the need for population control. The birds are spotted along the shorelines of Humber Bay Park East, West, and near Colonel Samuel Smith Park. While they are technically protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act as a non-native species in Canada, their impact on wetlands leads to ongoing management efforts.



TWO MUTE SWANS searching for food.

Humber Yacht club given chance to stay afloat in river



THE TROUBLED Humber Yacht Club has been given until June to straighten out its issues.

The 70-year-old Toronto Humber Yacht Club is being given another chance to stay afloat. The club was refused funding but a City General Government Committee has given it until June to come up with

opportunities to deal with outstanding issues. The decision has disappointed advocates who wanted to see it shut citing environment and wildlife concerns. City council ruled club officials will have to report back in four months on how they plan to address community concerns; including a limit to the number of boats and jet skis on the property. The Humber Yacht Club was among four of 28 non-profit volunteer run sailing-boating and rowing clubs proposed not to receive funding, according to a City report. The report said the clubs contribute and invested in infrastructure that help with programs and services for the community, waterfront and shoreline upkeep. The clubs "contributed to the local economy through operating expenses, employment and tourism-related activity." The projected lease revenue for the City this year of all 24 boat clubs is about \$849,590. "Over the 20-year term of the lease renewal the projected lease revenue is approximately \$20.64 million," according to the report. The club was founded in 1956 by local boating enthusiasts. It was established after purchasing the former Bill Hicks' Boat Livery property on the west bank of the Humber River, with a clubhouse dating back to roughly 1874. More than 2,500 people have signed an online petition calling for the club be sent packing. There have been complaints about club members expanding its space and cutting down trees.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS

- **APRIL 4 - STONEGATE COMMUNITY** cleanup from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Bell Manor Park, 1 Wayside Lane. Meet at playground. Dress appropriately.
- **APRIL 11 - ALDERWOOD COMMUNITY** neighbourhood clean up from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Alderwood Memorial Park, 215 Sheldon Ave. Meet at playground.
- **APRIL 18 - LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.** cleanup from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. from Long Branch to Dwight Aves. Meet at Humber College.
- **APRIL 25 - KINGSMILL PARK** from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Kingsmill Park South Entrance. Meet in the parking lot near the public boat access. The lane into the park is off 34-39 Riverwood Parkway. Please wear covered shoes or boots, bring gloves and black garbage bags.
- **MAY 3 - FRIENDS OF HUMBER BAY PARK** 29th Annual Spring Clean Up with the Humber Bay Shores Condo Association from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Meet at 8:45 a.m. In front of Eden Trattoria to get gloves and bags. BBQ to follow at 12:30 p.m. at the Mimico Cruising Club. For more e-mail admin@hbcsca.ca

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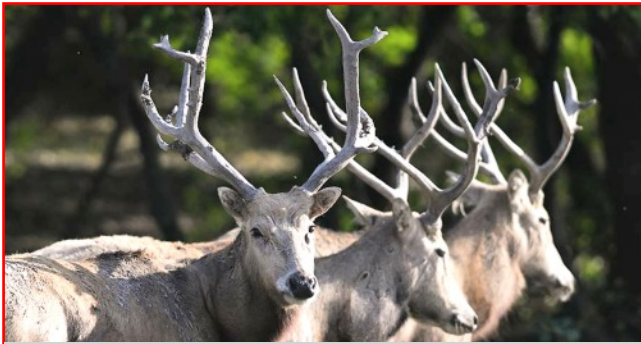
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Plaque for historic bones dug at Islington Subway station



BONES (centre) BELONGING to Toronto Subway Deer (above) are on display at the Royal Ontario Museum.

A pre-historic set of large antlers and portion of a skull found 50-years-ago as workers were excavating the Islington subway station is finally getting its history told. The bones were nicknamed the 'Toronto Subway Deer,' which DNA tests identified as belonging to a new prehistoric species called 'Torontoceros hypogaeus,' meaning 'horned Toronto deer from underground.' "This creature would have walked with mammoths during the last ice age about 11,300 years ago," according to a motion before City Council. "As the climate warmed, its habitat disappeared, and eventually the species went extinct."

A motion by Councillor Amber Morley approved by City council granted \$10,000 from Heritage Toronto to



"This specimen is a tangible connection to the days when giants roamed the earth," it stated. "The antlers discovered at Islington station are currently the only known evidence of this species of prehistoric deer." It said new DNA technology has confirmed the subway deer is most closely related to mule deer and white-tailed deer. Originally, the antlers' shape led scientists to believe it was part of the caribou family.

produce and install a heritage plaque at the Islington Station to recognize the Toronto Subway Deer.

Morley's motion said the bones were discovered by workers in 1976 while excavating Islington subway station. The Subway Deer antlers are currently on display at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Research showed the deer lived in the Late Pleistocene, around 11,000 - 12,000 years ago, in Ontario while likely being native over a larger area.

Genetic evidence indicates that *Torontoceros* is likely

a synonym of *Odocoileus*, and it is unclear whether it represents a distinct extinct species of *Odocoileus* or is a synonym of one of the living species.

The fossils were incomplete, consisting only of a damaged braincase with attached antlers, though they were noted to be very heavily-built for the size of the animal, according to one report.

The species name *hypogaeus* comes from the Greek words for below and earth, as it was found several metres underground.

"The large antlers appear to have been much larger and heavier than those of the present forms," according to studies. "The surface of the pedicles indicates that the *Torontoceros* specimen had died in the spring, when the antlers were still covered with velvet and not yet fully developed."



THE BONES (centre) likely belonged to this pre-historic deer 'Torontoceros hypogaeus.'

The new Jim Tovey Conservation Area opening next month as Ontario parks merge

A new Jim Tovey Conservation Area is opening next month as the Ontario government vow to amalgamate the province's 36 conservation authorities down to nine.

Critics fear the move will reduce key environmental and wildlife protections of our beautiful parks. The Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area, near to Marie Curtis Park, in Mississauga, is a 64-acre (26-hectare) \$59 million waterfront park slated to open in May.

The park at 1300 Lakeshore Road E., features restored wetlands, forests, trails, and boardwalks. It transforms former industrial land into a green space with wildlife habitats.

Three coastal wetlands were built to provide long-lasting fish, wildlife and bird habitat. Hundreds of trees, shrubs, flowers and grass were planted to grow a meadow and forests. It is not known in which conservation authority the Jim Tovey park will end up as the parks merge.

Todd McCarthy, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, said the current system is too large, has too much duplication and results in a fragmented system, which can be difficult to navigate to obtain permits.

He said the change stemmed from feedback from the public, municipal governments and even within the Progressive Conservative caucus.

"We had a problem with fragmentation and inconsistency," McCarthy said. "We identified the solution to that problem. We listened after initially proposing seven, and we've arrived at nine."

McCarthy said his office received 14,000 messages and consultations about its decision to reduce the number of conservation authorities.

The new structure will also see the creation of an Ontario-wide conservation body, which will help to handle a transition from 36 to nine conservation authorities over the next year.

McCarthy said his plans to reduce the number of conservation authorities will not result in job losses, but it can mean that fewer senior leaders are needed.

The park was named after late Councillor Jim Tovey who was a dedicated champion of conservation and the preservation of our Great Lakes. His vision was for a revitalized and accessible waterfront, and he played a pivotal role in the ongoing transformation of Mississauga.



THE NEW JIM TOVEY Conservation Area (top, bottom) is slated to open in May.



THE JIM TOVEY CONSERVATION AREA has restored forests, wetlands and lots of wildlife.

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

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

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Alderwood Church collecting food to help needy this Easter



VOLUNTEERS OF the Alderwood Church take part in the annual Alderwood Cares Food Drive. **Staff photos.**

Members of the Alderwood Church held their annual Alderwood Cares Food Drive to help raise food for the needy in the community. Members placed a large table in the parking lot of their 44 Delma Drive

The church usually collect about 1,370 pounds of food to help those at risk. Many residents dropped off bags with their food items in boxes to be sorted out by about a dozen volunteers who were bundled up on a cold day. The church is also hosting a FIFA World Cup 2026 watch party on June 12 as Canada will be taking to the field. It is



THE FOOD ITEMS donated will be distributed to area food banks to help others.

church in which community residents placed non-perishable food items.

Minister Lawrence Nyarko said the food collected will be donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank and Haven on the Queensway, which will be distributed to those at risk or in need.

“This is part of our Easter season program,” Nyarko said. “There are many people in our community who are hungry and are in need.”



MINISTER Lawrence Nyarko

unknown at this time whom the opponent will be. Three large screen televisions have been placed in the worship hall and the chairs there will be re-arranged and tables added with snacks as members of the community watch the soccer action. “We will all be cheering for Canada to win,” Nyarko said. “You don’t have to watch alone at home.” The game begins at 3 p.m. and there will be a BBQ following the game, along with friendly outdoor soccer games for kids.

Toronto to declare Black Maternal Health Week in April ‘26



The City of Toronto will next month declare April 11 to 17 as Black Maternal Health Week.

A motion by Councillor Amber Morley that was approved by Council states that Black maternal health is often overlooked due to limited data on maternal health outcomes, systemic anti-Black racism and lack of public initiatives. “Research shows that Black pregnant people experience higher rates of stillbirths, and poor maternal and infant outcomes, such as preterm birth,” according to the motion, that was seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson. “

It cites a study from McGill University that found that almost 9 per cent of Black women gave birth to preterm babies between 2004 and 2005. That was compared to 5.9 per cent of white women who had similar issues.

“This data stresses the need for targeted interventions and support to address disparities,” the study revealed. “Even with a universal healthcare system, Black women face health disparities due to systemic racism and social inequalities.” The week addresses systemic inequities and promote safer healthcare for Black parents and features community-led events, such as the Toronto Black Maternal Health Week 2026 kick-off by Women’s Health in Women’s Hands, aiming to raise awareness and improve maternal outcomes. The goal is to dismantle anti-Black racism in healthcare, improve access to culturally responsive care, and support the well-being of Black mothers, as supported by Toronto Public Health and community partners.



MOM AND BABY

There will a kick-off ceremony on April 10, a Minofest Conference on April 11 and a Midwife Day at Malvern Recreation Centre on April 12, in addition to practitioner events.



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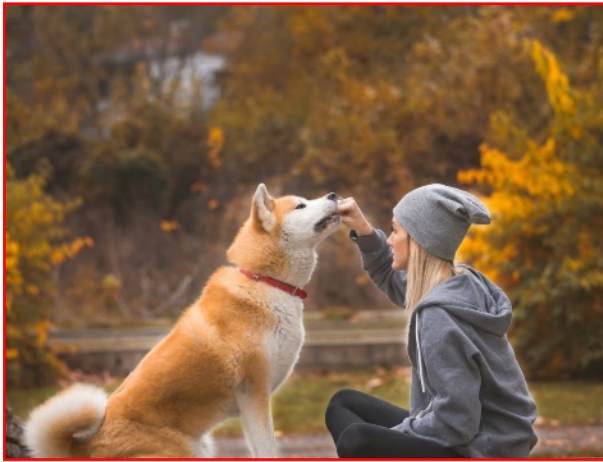
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Youths train therapy dogs to help



LOCAL YOUTHS TRAIN therapy dogs that go on to help others in the community.

Some area pet-loving youths are training therapy dogs that will go on to help many challenged people.

A number of therapy dogs took part in a training showcase on March 31, said Jane Boake, co-founder of Paws and Boots on the Ground.

"We are a registered charity that empowers youth through a hands-on program where they help train carefully screened dogs from local families to become therapy dogs," Boake said.

She said the youths take part in a training program where they work with screened dogs from local families. They learn safe handling and training skills while developing confidence, teamwork, and leadership.

The trained therapy dogs with their masters will visit and support children's schools, hospitals, libraries, seniors homes, community events, wellness and support programs.

"This full-circle model allows youth, dogs, and families to do good together in the community," she said.

Boake said besides training dogs, the program empowers youth, builds connections, and creates therapy dog teams that make a difference.

The dog-loving former teacher and Order of Ontario inductee developed a Canines in the Classroom program, in which more than 1,300 students facing barriers earned high school credits while learning to train service dogs. The program has had good reviews from dog lovers on social media.

"My dog loved being trained by a youth, she got loads from the program and we are really happy to start our therapy visits soon," wrote Sarah Woolcott.

Diane Sykes loved the program and congratulated all those who were involved.

"What an amazing program," said Jackie Roberts.



THESE THERAPY dogs help many seniors and students.

Dixie Outlet Mall in receivership biz open



NEW CONDOS planned for parking lot of Dixie Outlet Mall now in receivership.

A sign of the times. A popular Mississauga mall has been placed in receivership but its stores are still open and conducting business.

The Dixie Outlet Mall last March 2 was granted an order by a Superior Court of Justice placing the mall and its assets under a court appointed receiver.

The more than 100 stores who are tenants of the mall are open and operating normally as the legal drama play out. The Mall receivership highlights the financial pressures facing older retail properties and the growing push to redevelop large suburban sites into mixed use communities.

Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc. has been appointed as receiver for the property. The firm now has authority to manage the mall's assets and financial structure while determining the best path forward for creditors and stakeholders.

The Dixie Mall Development plan includes three mixed-use buildings up to 15 floors at will provide over 1,200 new residential homes, including a range of suite types and sizes designed to cater to a diverse set of incomes, ages and life stages.

Similar mixed housing developments are planned for the parking lots of Sherway Gardens Mall, Cloverdale Mall, Yorkdale Mall and many others.



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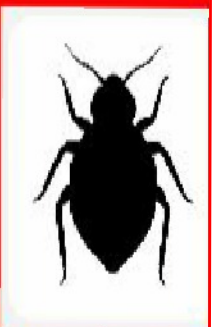
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Huge donation to help with Ontario's burn care centre



SITE OF new burn care unit in Ontario.

A historic former fire hall that is almost 100 years old is being converted to a first-of-its-kind burn care centre in Ontario.

The former hall at 641 Eglinton Avenue W., was at one time Fire Station 135 that was built in 1932.

It will be leased to Toronto Fire Fighters Charities Inc., to operate a 'Home Away Program,' to provide accommodations and support

for burn and trauma survivors and their family receiving treatment at SickKids and Sunnybrook Hospital, according to a release.

Councillor Josh Matlow, Toronto Fire Chief Jim Jessop, the Toronto Professional Firefighters Association announced on March 26 some \$2 million in community benefits funding to help with the transformation of the hall into a clinic.



FIRE CHIEF Jim Jessop

The funds will support rehabilitation and heritage conservation work for the building.

This program would be first of its kind in Ontario - giving burn victims and their families a place to heal close to the specialized care they need. The building will also feature a historical firefighter museum that pays tribute to both past and current

firefighter heroes.

Matlow said the investment will bring new life to an almost century-old building while delivering compassionate, practical support to those who need it most.

"If you're a burn survivor, you and your family should have to worry about how to afford to receive the care you need," he said.

The centre will include individual accommodation units, professional support and provide therapy.

The project is projected to cost about \$12 million, with families expected to pay a nominal fee of about \$25 daily. The project aims to provide a space for families to stay together with easy access to specialized medical care.



School sought for site of planned Kipling and Queensway Mall rebuild



DEVELOPERS PLAN of new condo towers that they hope to build in a demolished Kipling Queensway Mall.

A massive and high-density development with 45 and 65-storey towers, a school and two parks are planned on the site of the Kipling-Queensway Mall.

Developers of the 1255 The Queensway site are in talks with the Toronto Catholic District School Board to establish a school on the redeveloped 7.4 hectare site at the south-east corner of Kipling Avenue and The Queensway.

Documents filed by Weston Consulting for the developer show the project will create 7,360 residential units; including almost 6,000 square

metres of retail uses along The Queensway and almost 4,700 square metres allocated for an elementary school.

It said the site now hosts a large-format retail plaza with surface parking surrounding multiple buildings.

"To both the west and the east are areas currently transitioning from industrial to commercial and high-rise residential," according to documents. "Across The Queensway to the north are a mix of mid-rise residential buildings, commercial plazas, and low-rise neighbourhoods."

The proposal will feature two new public parks totalling more than 10,000 square metres to form a green corridor through the site, planned to expand Zorra Park to the east.

It said the school will serve as a recreational space during school hours and as accessible public parkland at other times.

The plan includes 4,200 underground parking spots, including 3,680 for residents, 370 for visitors, 119 for retail and 23 for school and institutional use.

Bicycle provisions entail 5,005 long-term and 516 short-term residential spaces, along with 23 for commercial and eight for school uses.



THE MASSIVE PROJECT will have more than 840 housing units when completed as it goes through the application process before City officials.

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Life's Undertaking Podcast

Fox and John's pub prep for World Cup soccer



FOX AND JOHN'S manager 'Gobi' Vadibelu is busy with lunch time regulars who order their favourite dishes. **Staff photos.**

With the FIFA World Cup 2026 soccer matches kicking off in June in Toronto, area sports bars and pubs are gearing up to host legions of fans.

City of Toronto bars can open at 6 a.m. to offer food and pints to fans as large screen televisions blast the pitch action as early-morning fans cheer their favourite teams. BMO Field, which will be called The Toronto Stadium for the tourney, will host international teams from June 12 to July 2.

Teams from Senegal, Panama, Germany, Ghana and Croatia will be playing at the stadium that has



PUB FAVES includes burger, fries and spicy wings with 16 types of beer.

"We are excited and have many daily specials planned for the World Cup," Gobi explained. "We expect many fans to be here to watch the games."

The Fox and John's opened in Long Branch in July 2025 and has quickly grown to become an area favourite. The bar is clean and friendly, with photos and sports memorabilia, including hockey photos hanging from the walls.

It was busy around this lunch time as customers stopped by to enjoy a pint of beer and have a bite. The server Wendy knew most of the regulars by name and what drinks or meals they enjoyed.

"We are a sports bar and the Winter Olympic Games was big for us," he explains. "We had a lot of people in here. It was filled."

The spicy chicken wings are quite popular and the pub goers rave about them and that it goes down well with a cold beer.

"We have an impressive selection of draught and craft beers, cocktails and wines," Gobi said. "We have a vibrant atmosphere and TV screens to keep sports fans entertained."

He said Fox and John's is a hub for all sports. "Watch your favourite team play while enjoying a cold pint and one of our daily specials!"

The pub is one of three owned by his family in Toronto. There is one at 2199 Bloor Street W., and another at 107 Atlantic Avenue, in Liberty Village.



been converted to hold 45,700 fans.



At the Fox and John's Restaurant and Bar, at 3527 Lake Shore Blvd., manager Gobinath 'Gobi' Vadibelu said chicken wings are their big sellers, along with special daily dishes to recognize the teams competing that day. The bar features a range of pub foods, with daily specials; as half-price wings on Monday in addition to about 16 types of beer.



TWO OF the best Toronto Maple Leafs' players

Non-profit food stores being looked at to help the needy



THE CITY IS planning to get involved in the non-profit food store business. The matter is under study and report due this year.

City-operated non-profit grocery stores are being looked at to help low income or at risk people living in food desert areas obtain affordable food. City Council has adopted a project to open four municipally operated grocery stores within the City of Toronto, in Community Council

districts across the City.

There are at least three charitable groups in South Etobicoke now feeding hundreds of area residents who cannot afford food or are homeless.

Toronto Daily Bread Food Bank officials have said they are experiencing record levels of people seeking food and one of ten residents use the food bank.

"Establishing City-operated grocery stores could help increase access to affordable food while addressing food insecurity in underserved communities," according to a motion by Councillor Anthony Perruzza.

"The rising cost of living continues to place significant pressure on many residents across Toronto."

He said priority will be given to neighbourhoods with limited access to full-service grocery stores where residents have lower than average household incomes. The stores would be "a not-for-profit model under the City of Toronto with the goal of providing residents with the most affordable food pricing possible," the motion said. It said "financial supports including potential waivers of property taxes, development charges, and other applicable fees, to reduce operating costs and maximize affordability for residents."

"Food costs, in particular, represent one of the largest household expense," he said. "As a result, food bank usage has increased dramatically throughout the city."



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Vehicle carjacked after scuffle at fuel station

Toronto Police are searching for three suspects who stole a pick up truck parked at a New Toronto service station as the driver was inflating a tire with air. Police records show officers responded to a call on March 31 around 6:34 a.m. at a Shell Service Station near Third Street.



SERVICE STATION in New Toronto where the carjacking with injuries took place at 6:34 in the morning.



POLICE ARE SEARCHING for three suspects; two who drove off with a pick up truck as the owner suffered injuries from being dragged as he hung to the door handle. **Photos Christina Murie**



The service station, including the store inside, were sealed off with police tape for most of the day as officers searched for clues and examined security cameras.

Witnesses said the young suspects drove into the station in a BMW and later hopped

into a pick up as the owner was pumping a tire. At least two of the thieves drove off with the truck as the owner bravely hung on to the door handle.

The victim suffered injuries including lacerations and reported broken bones as he was dragged in the station lot before the thieves took off with the vehicle.

Police from 22 Division are searching for the thieves and the vehicle has not been found.

Auto thefts this year remain high, with 19 vehicles reported stolen in Etobicoke between March 12-18, often targeting vehicles in West Humber-Clairville and Islington-City Centre West.

Carjacking or shootings at gas stations occur and last October two people were injured in a carjacking and shooting at a gas station in north

Etobicoke, in the Rexdale Blvd., and Hwy 27 area. The couple suffered serious, but non-life-threatening injuries. Police said gas stations are frequent



THE VICTIM WAS dragged though a section of the service station lot and apparently suffered broken bones from being dragged by thieves taking off with his truck. **Photos by Christina Murie**

targets for opportunistic thefts when vehicles are left unattended. Motorists are being reminded to lock their vehicles when they gas up or visit a booth to pay for gas. Theft of vehicles is still keeping police busy as so far this year. In Toronto, police data shows that auto theft incidents decreased from 9,650 in 2024 to 7,305 in 2025. Customers have been paying visits to the station to enquire about the well-being of the female worker in the store.

Shipment of rice on way to Daily Bread Food Bank after being hit in Hormuz



TANKER SHIPS. laden with oil wait to pass through in the Strait of Hormuz

Hundreds of pounds of much-needed rice destined for the Daily Bread Food Bank, on New Toronto Street, almost didn't make it to feed the needy in the community.

Officials and reports have said one of three ships carrying 40,000 pounds of rice, worth about \$90,000, from Thailand was attacked in the Strait of Hormuz near Iran in early March. Officials said the Thai-registered cargo ship was struck by some kind

of projectile while passing through the waterway. The ship with 23 crew on board was able to sail.

"Right now, we are purchasing dozens of containers with rice," Daily Bread CEO Neil Hetherington told CTV News. "I don't know the number of containers, but it would probably be in the neighbourhood of a half dozen."

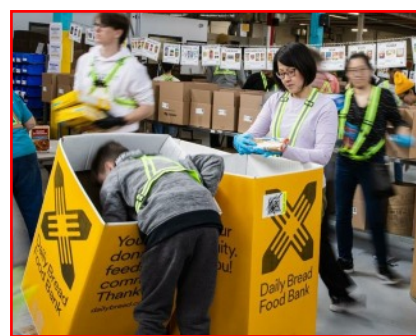
"We want to make sure that the individuals who are supposed to get that food, get it," he said. "We have some redundancy plans in place so that every single person who was promised a meal by the Daily Bread will get that meal."



Ship carrying rice for Toronto food bank struck near Iran amid Middle East tensions

Iran has effectively stopped cargo traffic through the narrow Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of all traded oil passes. Some seven sailors have been killed and there has been at least 12 incidents involving vessels in and around the Strait since the war began on February 28.

As many as 151 ships were passing through the Strait daily in February and that number was down to four, with the conflict blocking a key shipping route.



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Beating FIFA traffic jams



CITY OFFICIALS are working hard to ease our traffic congestion for June-July's FIFA World Cup soccer.

Services Communication Unit (RESCU). Staff will monitor our roadways and send crews to mitigate incidents on our roads. There will be Signal Timing Modifications, which are temporary modifications to signal timings along designated routes to prioritize direction of travel and to adapt to operational changes based on increased demand.

There will also be a restriction of on-street parking, as planning is underway to eliminate on-street parking for a designated period on Toronto match days along major corridors and routes.

Resources will be available to monitor and clear any vehicles that stop or park illegally on roads with active parking enforcement; necessary regulatory requirements will be addressed to temporarily modify by-laws.



Officials will also limit parking near the stadium. Public parking will be limited within the vicinity of the stadium to limit traffic infiltration and overwhelming the network with impacts on residents.

Toronto Stadium for FIFA World Cup games will have a maximum attendance of about 45,000 fans on match days and city officials are working on plans to curb traffic congestion.

City officials are looking at ways to curb traffic and pedestrian congestion from June 12 of July 2 when FIFA comes to town. Staff said a FIFA Fan Festival will have a maximum attendance of 20,000 soccer fans when operating.

A City report said more Traffic Control Agents and personnel or police officers will be deployed to facilitate traffic control at key intersections, check-point locations and drop-off/pick-up.

There will be expressway, highway control with closures of on or off ramps to control the volumes of traffic entering or exiting roadways.

Officials will be actively monitoring traffic with a network of cameras, the Traffic Operations Centre, Road Emergency

LAMP Community Health Centre



LAMP IS LOOKING FOR BOARD MEMBERS!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to contribute to your community? JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Who should apply?

If you live or work in the South Etobicoke or South Mississauga area and are interested in shaping the future work and direction of LAMP – your local health care community service centre – this is a perfect opportunity to share your insight and expertise. We are particularly seeking individuals with knowledge or professional experience in areas such as finance, legal services, public relations, healthcare, community outreach, or marketing.

LAMP is deeply committed to diversity and inclusion. We are dedicated to building a Board of Directors that reflect the diversity and unique life experiences of the community in which we live and serve. We highly encourage applications from Indigenous, Black, and racialized individuals, those who are part of the LGBTQ2S+ community and all others who would contribute to a diverse and inclusive community at LAMP.

What does the LAMP Board of Directors do?

The Board of Directors at LAMP is responsible for setting the overall direction and vision of the organization. This is achieved by attending monthly meetings to monitor, implement, and track goals to guide success at LAMP, as well participating in Board committees which are tasked with specific duties to guide and support the Board of Directors as a whole.

What is the time commitment?

Board members will be expected to commit an average of 8-10 hours a month (evenings and occasional weekends) and are expected to commit to a two-year term.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in applying for a position on LAMP's Board of Directors, please send your cover letter and resume to karinar@lampchc.org

In your cover letter please detail your interest and the experience you would bring to the position, including insights on what you find most compelling about the work that LAMP does in the community and why.

The deadline for applications is **Monday, April 13th at 5:00 pm EST.**

To learn more about LAMP you can visit our website at lampchc.org/

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Trackless train may be coming back to serve many High Park visitors



TRACKLESS TRAINS (top,bottom) making the rounds at High Park. Courtesy photos.

The popular trackless train that hauled thousands of cheering High Park lovers over the years may be coming back to ferry nature lovers visiting the park. And the timing may be right as vehicles have been banned from the park on weekends and statutory holidays since 2020 and a full ban on visitor vehicles will take effect next year. City officials are considering if a company called Carla Construction and Maintenance Ltd., will continue the operations and maintenance of the trackless train amusement service in High Park.

The contract was cancelled and a new proposal request issued to which Carla Construction won since it had the equipment required for a planned

opening this month.

A report to the General Government Committee on February 24 said there is a 'need to ensure continuity of people-moving services for the 2026 operating season,' which runs from April to October.

It said the TTC will extend service to its High Park route to 'provide a more affordable, accessible and higher-capacity transportation option for park users.'

The service will feature summer weekday, weekend and holiday service.

The company plans to introduce features as senior discount days, family passes and reduced fares for caregivers travelling with those with disabilities, according to the report.

The train will accommodate up to 70 passengers a unit, with a capacity of about 140 passengers an hour.

It will cost the City a licensing fee for the trackless train service of more than \$10,000 yearly.

It cost park goers about \$10 each to hop on the trackless train for a nature lined journey that includes nine stops including attractions like the zoo, restaurant, and playgrounds as part of a 30-minute trip.



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



This has got to be one of the worst years for potholes plaguing South Etobicoke roads.

Just take a drive along Lake Shore Blvd. W. and you have to dodge and weave around the large chassis-bending holes in the road that are from the melted leftovers of winter.

I counted more than 20 huge sink holes while driving from Brown's Line east to Royal York Road through Long Branch and New Toronto. Some were quite large

and others you don't see until you are upon them. Then boom and the vehicle vibrates and shakes.

You can see through the rear view mirror the vehicles behind you slowing down or veering from sides to miss some of the deep holes along our main streets.

Its like this community has been forgotten and that no one is pushing at City Hall for things to be fixed; like getting our roads repaired; much less trying to lure small businesses to the many vacant stores in the community. It is too much to ask.

This area has been neglected for a long time as our politicians only pay lip service.

We all know the City of Toronto has dozens of crews out daily filling the holes and flattening down the asphalt. It is slow and laborious work for which most Toronto motorists are thankful. It is a full-time year-round task this year tending to the hundreds of dangerous potholes.

Crews have filled more than 60,000 holes on our roads so far this year. For a while, the pothole filling effort was a priority as Mayor Olivia Chow appeared on the news daily providing updates and photo ops with her hard-hatted paving crews.

There have been more than 3,000 pothole claims reported to the City from January to February, a 292 per cent increase over the same period last year," the city said in a statement.

The deep holes have been relentless on vehicles if you are not paying attention and don't have time to swerve, which can be dangerous and then there is the damages involved.

The potholes have been good for business for the tire and rim trades; as motorists line up to have their tires replaced or straightened after landing in a gutter. On some days there are lineups of people waiting to have their vehicles repaired after undergoing a pothole attack.

I find some of the notorious roads for the potholes; includes Lake Shore Blvd. W., the entire New Toronto Street, Kipling Avenue, just north of The Queensway, and the Islington Avenue and Bloor Street W., area. Those are just a few.

It was just a couple weeks ago when Food For Now charity founder Daniel Lauzon ran into a hole in the Birmingham and Sixteenth Streets area that shook his vehicle.

Lauzon posted online a bill from his mechanic of close to \$1,500 he had to cough up to fix a slew of front-end steering and wheel damages.

It was a big financial hit for the charity as they work hard to raise donations and food to feed hundreds of people, including many seniors, in the community.

Potholes can form when water seeps through cracks in the road, freezes, and expands in the soil underneath, the city says, then pushes the asphalt back out. Last month, the city recorded its longest cold snap in over a decade.

The pothole problem is so serious that the city increased its 2026 pothole repair budget to \$6.2 million from \$5.5 million in 2025.

Last year City crews filled a whopping 257,000 potholes in total. The City aims to fix potholes within four days of reports to 311, as long as the roads are clear enough. Good luck and lets hope your vehicle doesn't require front-end work after hitting one of these big holes.

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

In this article I am going to talk about building Wealth. Before I go into the details let me share my thoughts on use of cash.

Today the use of autopay and credit cards have resulted in increase of personal debt and long-term anxiety. Love your cash pay your everyday expenses, groceries etc. this should give one a better sense of spending and control the impulse buys and picking up specials.

Why does one need to create wealth, the reason is simple to cover emergency needs and secure one's financial future. Government pensions and Old Age Security will not do it. How much money one needs only you can determine, maintain the current lifestyle or settle for less.

Tools for creating wealth are far and wide and I will try to give the reader a brief overview. Wealth is simply the gap between expenses and income.

Let's start with the simplest way forward- Compound Interest. Start with an X amount and contribute regularly, GIC's would be an ideal choice, don't expect immediate returns. The magic of compounding is in the long run; the interest is accumulating and as the time progresses Interest earned will attract more interest.

Small amounts invested early should outperform large amounts invested later. Other Investment vehicles are TFSA -Tax Free Savings Account this is great product. No tax impact in the year the investment is made, growth in this product is as the name implies is tax free when you withdraw any money.

RRSP- Registered Retirement Savings Plan all investment (up to the allowable limit) will provide immediate tax relief. Use the Tax refund and invest in this plan or some other product going forward. Maybe one can use the refund to pay off debt. Upon withdrawal the money is taxable. However, as the name implies it is a retirement savings plan to be used to supplement one's retirement.

FHSA- First time Home ownership Savings Plan another great product, up to \$8,000 per year for a period of five years. Use this plan if buying a home is in your future. This plan provides tax relief like an RRSP and if not used it can be rolled over to a RRSP. Now combine the magic of Compounding Interest in a RRSP and TFSA will yield excellent results in the long run. Stay away from all the fancy products provided by the financial institutions.

Stock market is another option use low-cost index funds, ideal for long-term growth with minimal effort. Stock markets have a proven record of growth as long as one does get taken in by greed or listen to others about a winning stock. People will boast of their success but won't talk about the losses. Again this could be used in the aforementioned savings products.

Real estate, though the current situation is not very good. Leveraging your current house (mortgage) and creating rental income with a good long-term growth. Budgeting and sticking to it by closely following your expenses. I covered this extensively in a one of the previous articles, a topic I wrote in significant detail. High Interest Debt, let's say one has a credit card debt with a 20% interest rate paying it off will give you a guaranteed return on your money better than any stock market average.

Ownership. Starting a business or owning an equity one. This carries a highest risk but also the highest potential for creating wealth.

Starting a business as side hustle using one's strength and contacts to make additional income is another way forward. It does not have to be on a grand scale. Depending upon the success it may blossom into a full-blown business. The side business should be low-cost entry an amount that one will not miss.

Building wealth is not about getting a lucky break but consistently application of a few core principles. A look at ones starting point (student, mid-career or looking to retire) any one of the principles identified earlier should be taken into consideration.

In closing keep in mind that wealth is not a number in your bank account, it is "money buys you freedom from things you hate doing."

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

On March 17, Toronto Police Chief Myron Demkiw stood before cameras and told Ontarians that three of his officers had been vindicated. The Ontario Provincial Police had investigated allegations that those officers lied and colluded in their testimony at the murder trial of Umar Zameer, and found no evidence of wrongdoing. Case closed, said the Chief.

With respect — and I say this as someone who spent nearly three decades on the Ontario bench and trained police officers in evidence and testimony — that is not what happened. The question of whether these officers committed perjury before a Superior Court judge is now more confused than before the investigation began, and the reason why reveals a structural failure at the heart of Ontario policing.

At the Zameer trial, Ontario Superior Court Justice Anne Molloy heard from two collision reconstruction experts — including the Crown's own witness — who both concluded that Detective Constable Jeffrey Northrup had already fallen to the ground before Zameer's vehicle ran over him. This directly contradicted the sworn testimony of three officers, who said Northrup was standing upright with his hands outstretched when struck. Both trial experts were qualified before the court, disclosed their reports, and were cross-examined at length. That adversarial testing process is the bedrock of reliable expert evidence. The jury acquitted Zameer.

Justice Molloy went further in her written reasons. She found that two of the officers had not merely been mistaken — they had lied. Their accounts matched so closely that she reached what she called the inexorable conclusion that they had not only lied but colluded to lie. She also noted that officers had written their notes together in the same room more than a month after the incident — what she called a note-taking party — and had walked through the garage together two weeks before writing those notes.

The OPP then produced its own collision reconstruction reaching the opposite conclusion, and the Chief announced the clearance. Here is what the public was not told: we know nothing publicly verifiable about the OPP's reconstructionist. Not his qualifications, not his methodology, not the assumptions underpinning his analysis. He was never cross-examined. His conclusions were never tested by the adversarial process that reliable expert evidence demands. The Chief chose this untested reconstruction over two court-tested experts and presented the result as vindication. For his part, Umar Zameer — in whose trial a Superior Court judge found the officers lied — was not contacted during the OPP review and received no advance copy of the report.

The Chief is not a bad man. He is a man operating in a structure that makes genuine independence impossible — because that structure was never built to provide it. A chief facing this situation is simultaneously the officers' employer, their institutional advocate, a labour relations counterparty, and a media figure. He cannot be an impartial adjudicator at the same time. The result is not accountability. It is a police chief picking the expert he prefers, from a process no court could review, and presenting the conclusion as justice.

The remedy is a College of Policing, and it is simpler than it sounds. Under the College model, every police officer in Ontario holds a professional licence issued by an independent civilian body — exactly as doctors hold licences from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, lawyers from the Law Society, and teachers from the Ontario College of Teachers. That licence is the legal basis for the officer's authority. It belongs to the officer personally. No chief can grant it. No union can shield it. Only the College can issue it — and only the College can suspend or revoke it.

When a Superior Court judge records in writing that officers lied under oath and colluded in their testimony, the matter goes automatically to the College. Not to the employing chief. Not to another police service commissioned by that chief. To a civilian body with no institutional loyalty, no employment relationship with the officers, and no reputational stake in the outcome. The College does not conduct a criminal investigation. It conducts a professional licensing hearing — the same process used for every regulated profession in this province. Both collision reconstructions would be placed before a neutral civilian panel. Each expert's qualifications and methodology would be examined. All affected parties would have defined rights to challenge the evidence. The panel would then determine, on a professional standard, whether the officers met the requirements of their licence and whether that licence should be maintained, suspended, or revoked. The decision would be public and reasoned.

That single change removes the politics entirely. It replaces the press conference with a hearing. It replaces the chief's judgment with a neutral panel's. It replaces a process in which the most affected person had no role with one in which all parties are present. The outcome might be identical to what the OPP produced. But it would be reached through a process the public could examine, challenge, and trust.

Every other Ontario profession exercising authority over the public is regulated this way. Medicine, law, engineering, teaching, nursing — not one investigates itself when the integrity of professional conduct is in question. Policing is the sole exception. It is the one profession whose members carry weapons, exercise coercive state power, and testify in criminal courts — and it is the one profession without a licensing body to hold individual officers to a standard that exists independently of their employer, their union, and their chief. That exemption is no longer defensible. It is time to end it.

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 Justice Budzinski's full report, *The Case for a College of Policing* in Ontario, is available by writing to him.

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TTC electric buses parked in west-end lot for months due to concerns



TTC Electric bus

More than 30 pioneering TTC electric buses have been withdrawn from service and have been parked for months at Obico yard on North Queen Drive in South Etobicoke. Some 35 EV buses were built by three companies as part of a TTC bus EV demonstrator program in 2020. Workers said that by December 2025 many of them were taken out of service. The EV buses were mothballed due to repeated battery faults, lack of parts or the manufacturers went out of business.

“Due to the experimental nature and questionable reliability of these buses, they began to the unofficially withdrawn from service,” according to a social media post. “All units are currently in dead storage at the Obico yard in Etobicoke.”

There are literally hundreds of used TTC unused buses parked at the 74-acre site that was purchased by the City from a railway company.

The TTC now has over 100 battery-electric buses in service across the city, marking another milestone in its goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040. These buses will serve communities citywide and are funded jointly by the federal government and the City of Toronto.

All the TTC’s 340 electric buses under procurement have been delivered, bringing the total EV fleet to 400.

Politicians said the EVs bring modern transit, cleaner air, and quieter streets for the people of Toronto.

“It’s good for public transit, for the health of our communities and the future of our planet,” TTC officials said. “We’re proud to partner with the City of Toronto and the TTC to help deliver a greener, more sustainable future.”

“Reliable, environmentally friendly public transit is a priority for the City of Toronto,”

said Mayor Olivia Chow. “I am pleased to see the TTC making progress on its goal of fleet electrification and achieving a cleaner, greener future for everyone.”

It didn’t take long before dozens of TTC users took to online sites to express their views on what should happen with the decommissioned EV buses.

Anthony van Osch wrote that the used EVs can be converted to RVs for use as housing for refugees to Canada to curb the overflow.



TTC BUS yard in South Etobicoke.

Local author Stelter takes a look at life and her family



AUTHOR M. Gail Stelter and book (below).

Author M. Gail Stelter grew up South Etobicoke which helped to shape the writer she is today. Stelter most recent book is called 21 Smithfield Drive, which the former teacher describes as part family history, and part memoir. The stories in the book is shared in three sections: her parents’s lives, her childhood in the post-war years and then her you young adult years when she met the love of her life, Peter, her husband of 57 years. “These stories are filled with vulnerability, humour and insights and illuminate the joys and challenges of the times, of family, and of love,” Stelter said in an introduction.

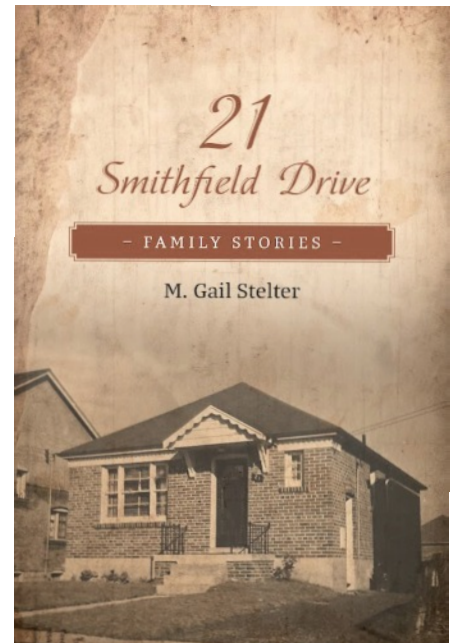
She grew up in a home at 21 Smithfield Drive, in the Park Lawn Road and Stephen Drive area. A photo of the home is on the cover of the book.

The author’s experiences are also shaped by her previously work as an elementary school vice principal and principal and a university professor on a three-year secondment to a faculty of education.

Stelter was also honoured to be the first principal to receive her board’s Principal of the Year award.

She is also a recipient of the Price of Wales Award, in 1971, as the top student in teaching and academic studies at Lakeshore Teachers’ College. She also received a Bronze Medal Award from Wilfrid Laurier University.

She now lives in Haliburton, Ontario, where she writes items for the local newspapers in addition to her other writing work online.



Sikh religious parade!



HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE from diverse faiths, backgrounds and ethnicities took part in the 37th Annual Baba Balak Nath Ji Shukrana Challa parade on Lake Shore Blvd. W., on March 22. For more than three decades, Sarav Sanjha Darbar and its annual Challa have brought together families, youth, newcomers and long-time residents seeking connection, support and a sense of belonging. **Staff photos.**



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Looking after yourself and others in the community

APRIL 4 ANNUAL EASTER MRKT from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mimico Square, 2435 Lake Shore Blvd. W., for a day of fun, shop, meet your neighbours and explore the Mimico waterfront. Take a photo as the Easter Bunny will appear from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on the main stage.

APRIL 8, 15, 29 SPRING RESET WELLNESS WORKSHOP at 11:30 a.m. to reconnect with your well-being through a seasonal wellness workshop focused on renewal and balance. The session explores practical strategies for supporting physical and emotional health as we enter Spring. Takes place at LAMP CHC at 185 Fifth Street.

APRIL 8, 15, 29 CHAIR YOGA WITH MEAUX a gently yoga class blends seated and supported standing postures to improve flexibility, reduce stiffness and encourage relaxation. Participants move through stretches to support joint comfort, improve posture, and create a sense of calm and balance. Starts at 10 a.m. at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street. Contact Jasmin at jasmind@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

APRIL 10, 17, 24 DRUMMING end the week with an energetic drumming circle that celebrates rhythm, creativity, and community connection. Participants explore basic beats and rhythms while playing together in a supportive group setting. No prior experience is needed, and drums are provided. Contact Jasmin at jasmind@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

APRIL 11 KINGSWAY Lambton Charity Art Show & Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as 31 award-winning professional artists showcase and sell their fine art across a variety of media, with all proceeds supporting local charities. Over 500 art pieces is slated to attract of about 600 art buyers in an exclusive one-day event. Speak with the artists directly. Details at KingswayLambtonArtShow.ca.

APRIL 11 THE YOUNG SCONES rock and roll band with support from Barry McIlvogue is performing original songs, Irish folk and rock at 9 p.m. at the Galway

Arms, at 840 The Queensway. For more contact Gary at 647-914-7124.

APRIL 13, 20, 27 QIGONG EXPLORE this ancient movement practice that combines slow, flowing motions with intention breathing and focused attention. Qigong helps promote energy circulation through the body, supports joint mobility and encourages relaxation. Starts at 10 a.m. at LAMP CHC at 185 Fifth St.

APRIL 13, 20, 27 LIFT YOUR SPIRITS LONGEVITY for a lively, uplifting session that blends music, movement and interactive fun. Participants follow simple guided movements designed to improve mood, increase energy and encourage creativity. Class at 11:15 a.m. at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth St.

APRIL 13 IS DEADLINE as LAMP CHC is seeking board members who live or work in South Etobicoke or South Mississauga. The Board of Directors at LAMP is responsible for setting the overall direction and vision of our local health care community service centre. To learn more about LAMP you can visit their website at lampchc.org/

APRIL 18 DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY as The West-Way Club stages a stylish Paris Dance Party to celebrate the Spirit of Paris from 7 p.m. to midnight at 291 Evans Avenue, near Kipling Avenue. Parisian chic. Tickets: members \$25, non-members \$30. For more visit www.thewestwayclub.ca

UNTIL APRIL 20 URBAN GARDENS TRAINING PROGRAM by Humber Polytechnic Indigenous Education and Engagement every Monday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street, Community Room 306. Seeking 25 community members to participate in a free eight week urban gardening training program to enhance knowledge in sustainable food growing. Contact thelmad@lampchc.org

UNTIL APRIL 23 & 26 ETOBICOKE YOUTH ART CRAWL Exhibition featuring art from youth artists across the City, who participate in a Parks & Recreation Enhanced Youth Spaces program taking place between Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas St. W.,

and the Assembly Hall, at 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park. Program runs from Monday to Saturday until April 23 at Assembly Hall, and until April 26 at Montgomery's Inn. For more call Nicole at 416-394-6025 or email Nicole.markland@toronto.ca

UNTIL END OF APRIL FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC for individuals and families with low income and who have simple tax returns. By appointment only at LAMP CHC at 185 Fifth Street. To qualify a single person must be earning \$40,000 or less, couples who earn \$50,000 or less combined or one adult with child who earn \$42,500 or less. To book an appointment call 416-252-9701 ext. 280 or 281.

MAY 3 FRIENDS OF HUMBER Bay Park 29th Annual Spring Clean Up with the Humber Bay Shores Condo Association from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Meet at 8:45 a.m. In front of Eden Trattoria to get gloves and bags. BBQ to follow at 12:30 p.m. at the Mimico Cruising Club. For more e-mail admin@hbsca.ca

MAY 9 LEGS PLANTS & SEEDS sale and exchange presented by the Lakeshore Environmental and Gardening Society rain or shine at the Assembly Hall Community Centre at 1 Colonel Sam Smith Park Drive for organic seeds, veggie or native plant seeds for swap or sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fundraising raffle with prizes.

MAY 24 TO OCTOBER 25 CREATIVE HUB 1352 Farmers' & Artisan Market returns and vendor applications are now open to join this vibrant community market at 42B Woodlawn Avenue, Mississauga. For more e-mail info@creativehub1352.ca or visit www.creativehub1352.ca

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED for outstanding individuals, businesses or organizations in the LAMP CHC'S 26TH Annual Awards of Merit on June 17 to recognize those who have gone above and beyond to enhance the health and well-being of our community. Contact jasmind@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308. Applications due 11:59 p.m. on May 10.

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Ridley Funeral Home big win



Ridley Funeral Home has been recognized as the top-performing funeral home in Canada in the 2025 Graystone Greats Awards, earning the highest honours across every measured category of family satisfaction and service performance.

Presented by Graystone Associates, the Graystone Greats Awards, evaluate funeral homes across North America based on verified family feedback and key performance metrics. In 2025, hundreds of firms and nearly 900 funeral professionals were evaluated, with only the top performers earning recognition. Ridley Funeral Home distinguished itself by achieving the highest results in all major performance categories within Group E (Canada), including Presentation of Deceased, Support & Follow-Up, Value, Overall Satisfaction, Advocate, and Total Performance Index (TPI).

This comprehensive recognition reflects a consistent commitment to excellence across every aspect of the family experience—from first contact through follow-up—setting a benchmark for funeral service providers across Canada.

“Having worked closely with the Ridley team, it’s clear their performance is not accidental,” said Kyle West, of Graystone Associates “They are highly engaged, coachable, and committed to continuous improvement.”

Serving the Toronto community, Ridley Funeral Home has built a reputation for providing thoughtful guidance, clear communication, and meaningful, personalized services. This recognition highlights the firm’s dedication to delivering exceptional care and support to every family they serve.

For more information about Ridley Funeral Home, visit www.RidleyFuneralHome.com.

Western Tech junior b'ball are City champions



COACH RAYMOND TONE

The students and staff of Western Technical-Commercial School basketball team have a lot to be proud of as their school approaches its 100-year anniversary. The Junior Colts boys basketball team, under coach Raymond Tone and Principal Mark Koczij, last February 25 won the City of Toronto Junior Boys Basketball

Championship for the first time in 80-years. The school, which will turn a century old next year, last brought the championship home in 1946.

"I am so proud of this team," Tone said. "They deserved full credit for playing so well."

Tone, who was at Richview Collegiate before transferring to Western Tech a couple of years ago, said he found the lack of access to sports resources more pronounced than at his previous school.

To raise funds for the basketball team, he took to the streets and helped to raise \$6,000 from businesses and community residents to purchase uniforms and other badly-needed items for the Colts players. "Western Tech has been a staple in this community for many years, so it was quite an easy sell," said Tone. "They understood that every little bit helps, and I'm so glad we were able to make it work."

The athletes, who are in Grades 9 and 10, led by Tone emphasizes skill development and community support to maintain a sustainable, competitive program in the West Region.

His said even though his team faced budgetary challenges it has remained a staple in local basketball, frequently competing against rivals like Etobicoke Collegiate Institute.



CHERISHED City of Toronto Junior Boys Basketball Championship award

The school will likely be celebrating their basketball win and other achievements at its 100 year celebrations in 2027.

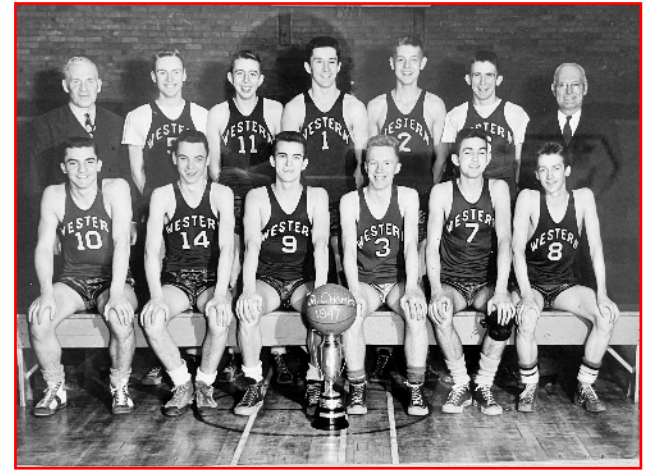
An ecstatic Tone said his team had to play and win against 110 top junior high school basketball teams from across the City to claim the coveted championship.

"It is the most difficult trophy to win," he says. "Every high school in Toronto has a junior boys' basketball team."

Western Tech is in the High Park North neighbourhood and is administered by the Toronto District School Board. It shares the same building with Ursula Franklin Academy and The Student School, at 125 Evelyn Crescent, near Runnymede Road.

"The school looks like a castle and it's so old, but everybody knows where it is and they were more than willing to donate or sponsor," he said.

The team would like to thank its donors Food for Now and Aura Dessert Café.



WESTERN TECH Boys Basketball team



MEMBERS OF THE Western-Tech Junior Colts boys basketball team celebrates their win.

Toronto Maple Leafs turns 100



MAPLE LEAFS PLAYERS after a big win but still out of the playoffs. The team went down fighting but ran out of steam. Courtesy photos

A Toronto councillor is calling for a high-profile NHL hockey game to be staged outdoors at the Rogers Centre next year to mark the 100-year anniversary of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

A motion by Councillor Paul Ainslie said the game will be part of a National Hockey

League Stadium Series Game to be considered by the NHL leadership.

City Council will consider the proposal at its meeting on March 25 to 27.

"Toronto is a global capital of hockey, as deserved of a major outdoor NHL game hosted by the Toronto Maple Leafs to celebrate this great sport and the traditions surrounding it," Ainslie wrote in his motion.

"The NHL Stadium Series as a marquee outdoor hockey event that attracts national and international attention offers a model for a made-in-Toronto hockey showcase," said Ainslie, a deputy mayor.

He said the event would generate significant economic, tourism and hospitality benefits to the City.

"Traditionally held only in U.S. markets, the Stadium Series has never been hosted in Toronto—Canada's largest city, a global sports destination and an international capital of hockey."

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the Toronto Hockey Club officially becoming the Toronto Maple Leafs, making this an ideal time to host a major NHL outdoor event in our city, Ainslie said.

"This milestone offers a unique opportunity to celebrate Toronto's deep hockey heritage while positioning the city as a leader in hosting premier sporting events," he noted.

The game could take place at the Rogers Centre with the roof open, 'providing a magnificent view of the CN Tower and Toronto's city skyline—creating an unforgettable backdrop for fans and global broadcasts or another iconic outdoor stadium.'

He said the game will highlight Toronto's historic connection to hockey, provide an economic impact to tourism and hospitality and showcase Toronto as a destination for major sporting events.

The motion seeks the City's General Manager, Economic Development and Culture engage with the NHL, Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment, Rogers Communications, Destination Toronto and other stakeholders to initiate discussions on hosting the event.

The Toronto Maple Leafs was formed in November 1917 as a founding member of the NHL, initially known as the Toronto Arenas. The team was renamed the Toronto St. Patricks in 1919, before Conn Smythe purchased the team and renamed it the Maple Leafs in February 1927.



MAPLE LEAFS PLAYERS take a break in between plays as the season winds down.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 100-year anniversary of Toronto Maple Leafs next year and the celebrations that are being planned to mark the event. A City councillor wants to stage an outdoor game so fans can celebrate in downtown Toronto.



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Property being sold as "land value" Lot size is 25 x 125 ft.
\$729,000



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Renovated bachelor apartment, includes laundry. No Parking.
\$1,299/month



1-3511 Lakeshore Blvd W, Tor.
2 bedroom apartment. Includes one car parking. Coin Laundry.
\$2,000/month



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\$5,800/month

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