

The South Etobicoke News

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Landmark Humber yacht club burned to ash

A landmark 70-year-old Toronto Humber Yacht Club has been burnt down in what fire officials believe was a suspicious blaze.

The Ontario Fire Marshals are investigating the three-alarm blaze at the Humber Valley Road and Glenaden Avenue E. area facility, around 4:45 a.m. on April 29.

About 100 Toronto firefighters and 27 fire trucks fought the inferno for most of the day as there was significant damage to the building and that the roof was completely damaged and destroyed. "There was quite a lot of damage



MORE THAN 100 FIREFIGHTERS FROM 27 trucks fought a three-alarm blaze at the Toronto Humber Yacht Club which had been refused funding from the City due to complaints. Fire officials believe the fire to the facility was suspicious and may have been deliberately set due to a lack of funding. Courtesy photos.

but no other structures were involved," said Toronto's Deputy Fire Chief Paul Fitzgerald.

He said the smoky fire was suspicious. Smoke rose through the charred remains of the building's roof, while the brick walls still remained standing. Some residents watched as the historic building was burned to the ground.

The club had fallen on some hard times and was recently refused funding by the City if it could deal with its outstanding issues.

The decision has disappointed advocates who wanted to see it shut citing environment and wildlife concerns. The yacht club sadly was destroyed by another fire in 1966 and restored.

Community mailboxes here soon in S. Etobicoke

Sections of Etobicoke will be among some of the first areas in Canada being converted from doorstep to community mailboxes by Canada Post to reduce costs.

Parts of north and central Etobicoke are among 12 regions of Canada to begin receiving community mailboxes as the Crown company has been ordered to stop door-to-door delivery to curb its multi-billion dollar losses. The company lost \$1.5 billion last year.

Work is now underway to install the lines of boxes in areas with zip codes of M9V and M9W, north and central Etobicoke, according to the company. Some of the communities being affected include: South Steeles, Silverstone, Humbergate, Jamestown, Mount Olive, Beaumont Heights, Thistleton and Albion Gardens.



ETOBICOKE RESIDENTS WILL SOON have to step outside to pick up their mail as Canada Post will be ending its door-to-door delivery service due to losing billions of dollars. Thousands of workers stands to be laid off as the Crown corporation trim routes and existing delivery service. Many people have complained of the changes.

Roughly 18,000 homes in Etobicoke will lose their daily door service. Workers are installing the mailboxes in designated neighbourhoods and will direct your home mail to the new boxes.

There are concerns from seniors and those with mobility issues that they will have to trek outside in the winter to pick up their letters.

Post office officials said they will alert residents of upcoming changes to their mail delivery, promising to keep everyone in the loop as updates come around. Post officials said a majority of deliveries will fit into a community mailbox and larger boxes can be delivered to your door or held for pick up at the post office.

Seniors and individuals with health concerns can apply for a Canada Post Delivery Accommodation Program to request customized assistance, including weekly home delivery or altered mailbox compartments.

The Crown company said converting addresses typically takes months and staff members will engage with neighbourhoods when they find suitable locations for their community mailboxes to be located.

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New OPP detachment with Marine Unit planned for Ontario Place highway traffic duty



THESE OPP OFFICERS (top, bottom) may soon be based at a planned new Ontario Place Detachment to handle highway traffic issues.

First it was a luxury spa being proposed for Ontario Place, now a new OPP detachment is planned for the site to monitor highway traffic.

The Ontario government is planning to construct a new building for an OPP detachment on Ontario Place' East Island. The force will eventually be relocated in a new police administrative building on the site of an older building.

The detachment will include a helicopter pad, a proposed marine unit and the first OPP Mounted Unit in Ontario to enhance patrol operations at the park, which is expected to attract about six million visitors annually.

Ontario government has launched a Request for Proposals to support the construction of the detachment. The full-time station will police Ontario Place as

Don Valley Parkway, while Toronto Police will maintain responsibility for all other non-traffic patrol related functions.

The station will be part of a new administration and maintenance complex that will replace the existing administration building at Ontario Place. It will house specialized policing vehicles and operational functions required for highway patrol and onsite policing needs.

Transportation Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria said by taking ownership of the Gardiner and Parkway the province is keeping the highways toll-free and that the more than 140,000 daily drivers have a safe trip.

The OPP employs more than 6,400 uniformed officers and is one of North America's largest deployed police services. In addition to sworn officers, they have about 3,000 civilian staff.



Cops bust new to Canada fake cell tower fraud scam

Toronto Police have charged three men in a first-of-its-kind investigation into the use of a mobile "SMS blaster," a sophisticated cybercrime tool not previously detected in Canada.



POLICE with a new-in-Canada 'SMS blaster' device used to commit fraud.

An SMS blaster is a device that mimics a legitimate cellular tower. When activated, it causes nearby mobile phones to connect to it instead of a real network, police said.

Deputy Chief Robert Johnson said that once connected, the device sends fraudulent text messages that appear to come from trusted organizations, such as banks or service providers.

"These messages often contain links directing users to fake websites designed to steal personal, financial, or login information — a tactic commonly known as "smishing," he said.

In November 2025, a cybersecurity partner alerted law enforcement to a mobile SMS blaster operating in downtown Toronto. The device was later detected being moved by vehicle throughout various locations across the Greater Toronto Area over several months.

Investigators determined that tens of thousands of mobile devices connected to the blaster during this period. In addition, more than 13 million network disruptions were recorded.

These disruptions could temporarily prevent affected devices from connecting to legitimate cellular networks, including limiting access to emergency services such as 911 for periods ranging from seconds to several minutes.

Two Markham men, and another from Hamilton, in their 20s, have been charged with 44 fraud and mischief related offences.



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Eight homes on Royal York strip to be demolished to build 10-storey mixed condo

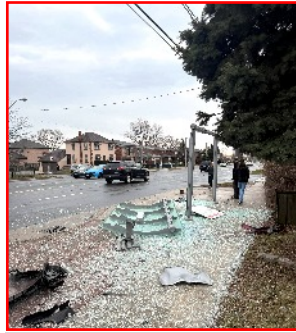
Eight homes along Royal York Road will soon be demolished to create a 10-storey mixed use housing complex. The demolition will include 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, and 365 Royal York Road mid-block between Portland Street and Newcastle Street, and is within a three minute walk of Mimico GO station. The site is opposite San Remo Bakery, on a busy stretch of Royal York Road. The owner intends to start construction of a proposed 10-storey mixed-use building with a total of 282 dwelling units, 870 square metres of non-residential gross floor area and 206 parking spaces within a two-level underground garage. The proposed building includes retail space on the ground level which would contribute to the commercial offerings in the area while increasing its population through the inclusion of a number of residential units above.

Typical buildings in the area to the east are aging single-storey office/warehouse/light industrial businesses, but this area has been designated in recent years for mixed use in the City of Toronto Official Plan. On the ground floor there will be 837 square meters of non-residential space designated for retail space. On the ground floor there will also be living apartments, a modern residential lobby, trash room and parcel room. There will be a two-level underground parking garage with 206 parking spots, including 165 resident spaces, 28 residential visitor spaces, nine shop spaces, and four car-share spaces. There will be 288 bicycle parking spots and loading or staging rooms, according to plans. It is a short walk to Mimico GO station and area businesses and services.



THIS 10 STOREY CONDO is planned on the site of 351 to 365 Royal York Road homes when demolished and re-developed. Some more development are going up nearby.

Two TTC bus shelters flattened by drivers in days



CAR DEMOLISHED bus shelter on Brown's Line.

Two young children in an Alderwood bus stop had to run for cover as a suspected impaired driver crashed and totally destroyed a TTC shelter. The vehicle hit a shelter on the west side of Brown's Line, at Rimilton Road, around 1 p.m. on April 9. Many shards of glass were on the road, sidewalk and lawns of residents. One resident found a seat from the shelter on his front lawn. The vehicle crashed into a car parked in a driveway after taking out the bus shelter. The vehicle had to be towed away. All that was left were two poles that held up the structure. Police said the driver was charged with suspicion of being under the influence of alcohol. Days later another South Etobicoke motorist suffered injuries after crashing into another bus shelter at East Mall and Rathburn Road.

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TTC bus driver spots fatal fire calls for aid



VIGILANT TTC bus operator Tom Emery (left) with CEO Mandeep Lali and with co-workers bottom.

A TTC bus operator based at the Evans Avenue yard is being recognized for spotting a fatal house fire while working on the overnight shift. Tom Emery, an eight year bus driver, saw flames and smoke shooting from a home in the Steeles and Islington Avenues area, in late March 31 as he was driving the 337 Islington overnight

bus, the TTC said. "Tom immediately called the incident into Transit Control so it could be escalated through emergency responders who arrived a short time later," the company said in a social media post. "He remained on scene with his bus just in case there was a need for a shelter vehicle."

Emery's actions were praised by the TTC and City Staff on April 16. He was described as "an example of the kind of employee excellence we see daily on the TTC."

The fatal fire killed an elderly couple at a Anthia Drive residence just after 4 a.m. that horrific day. "I want to extend our deepest condolences to those impacted





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Premier Ford makes pitch to control the TTC angers union



THE PROVINCE is hoping to take control of the TTC from the City to help curb traffic congestion (right).

“The City of Toronto Act already allows TTC to invite outside operators onto its routes and the One Fare program removes the penalty for riding on two systems,” the ATU said.

Officials have said there have been early discussions about what the new fare structure might look like,

including the possibility of a zoned system in which riders might pay based on how far they travel, rather than a single flat fare. ATU and its locals called Bill 98 an “unprecedented provincial takeover of municipal transit, with

Premier Doug Ford is already seeking control of Toronto Island Airport and now wants to head the TTC. The Ford Government last March introduced Bill 98 in the Ontario Legislature, which if passed, will give the Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Singh Sakaria control over the TTC. The Amalgamated Transit Union Local 113 said the bill gives Sakaria total control over transit fares and service levels, it provides TTC fare revenue with other transit operators and effectively ends democratic oversight of public transit in Toronto.



TORONTO TRAFFIC congestion is among the worst in the world.



TTC PASSENGERS line up for a 'Red Rocket' with no seats available.

no enforceable protections for service levels, fare revenue, or worker rights.” The unions also claimed that transit agencies in Brampton, Hamilton and Mississauga are losing riders and revenue under One Fare, and Bill 98 would accelerate the trend. Currently, there are strict boundaries between Toronto-area cities that effectively ban transit agencies from operating in each other’s jurisdictions. A bus heading to the Toronto subway from Mississauga, for example, cannot pick up new passengers when it

enters the city, even if they’re waiting at a stop. Only a TTC bus can accept them. The cash-strapped TTC will require much work and provincial funds to bring the system up to date so trains and buses run on time.

National Volunteer Appreciation Week



Registered Massage Therapists (RMT) Colette Slone (left), with Melanie McIvor RMT, and Samantha Chapman provided massages to volunteers at the Daily Bread Food Bank during their 2nd Annual Massage Marathon, which was part of National Volunteer Appreciation Week, from April 19 to 25. The RMTs provided 360 minutes of massage for 18 lucky volunteers, and raised \$1000 in support of the Food Bank, said organizer Colette Slone, who can be reached via email at coletteslonermt@gmail.com”

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Bird proofing our civic buildings to prevent bird slaughter



DEAD BIRDS on the sidewalk

City officials are warning that more than 5,000 birds are killed in Toronto yearly from flying into the windows of high-rise buildings and are taking action to stop the slaughter.

Staff are working to reduce the thousands of birds dying by retrofitting glass railings and windows at Toronto City Hall, Metro Hall and other City buildings with bird-friendly glass or window

film to the fifth floor, where a majority the incidents occur.

“Bird-friendly glass and window film has been proven to reduce collisions by up to 95 per cent,” according to a City report.

The collisions can easily be prevented by treating windows and glass railings with visual markers that make glass “visible” to birds so they will avoid it.

The study said a bulk of collisions happen during Spring and Fall migration, when thousands of birds are travelling through the City between their breeding and wintering grounds.

Studies show that in the last 50 years, North American bird populations have declined by more than 25 per cent. Of all the threats

birds face, buildings top the list. Metro Hall is one of the top buildings in the City for the death of birds, workers say.

In Canada, at least 42 million birds die from window strikes each year. In Toronto, more than 5,000 birds collided with glass in 2025 alone.

The City of Toronto has been on the cutting edge in protecting migratory birds and was one of the first in North America in 2007 to publish

a Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines, introducing design strategies to reduce bird collisions.

City Council in 2005 launched a Lights Out Toronto campaign to raise public awareness about turning off unnecessary lights during migratory seasons.

The Toronto Green Standard (TGS) was established in 2010, mandating bird-collision deterrence for new developments and updated best practices for bird-friendly glass and lighting.

Plans are underway to bird-proof all buildings in the City’s real estate portfolio.



BIRDS AT PLAY

Move to ban seadoos in some of Toronto prime lake fronts

You may not be able to ride your skidoos or motorized watercraft this summer in Humber Bay Park, Marie Curtis Park and Bluffer’s Park Beach.

City Council are looking at banning the speedy devices at its April 22 to 24 meetings as they seek more Motorized Watercraft Exclusion Zones (MWEZ) to stop the fast and noisy machines.

The motor devices will not be permitted in the Exclusion Zones as defined by Council and those caught inside the zone can face possible penalties.

The bylaws are implemented by the Toronto Port Authority and the first Exclusion Zones took effect this year at Hanlan’s Point Beach, Humber Bay Shores and Woodbine Beach.

Council is calling on police to increase boating and water-safety management to keep the vehicles and their drivers at bay following complaints of noise, pollution or wildlife being threatened at nearby parks. They would also like to ban all power driven vessels



driven by electric propulsion at Marie Curtis Park, Humber Bay Park and Bluffer’s Park Beach.

At the same time staff is exploring potential sites that can be used by personal watercraft rental companies.

City officials said the unsafe operation of PWCs can conflict with swimmers and paddlers, and unpermitted commercial PWC rental activity in City parks and beaches have highlighted the need for a coordinated, multi-jurisdictional response that takes into account the various roles and responsibilities of the City, the Toronto Police Service (TPS) Marine Unit, and

external partners as the Port Authority and Transport Canada.

“Toronto has experienced increasing safety risks, compliance challenges, and public concern related to the use of PWCs along the waterfront, particularly in near-shore and high-use areas,” according to a City report.

The Port Authority has approved the implementation of Exclusion Zones in the waters off Humber Bay Shores, Hanlan's Point Beach and Woodbine Beach for 2026.



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New Book: Cal's life as a reporter

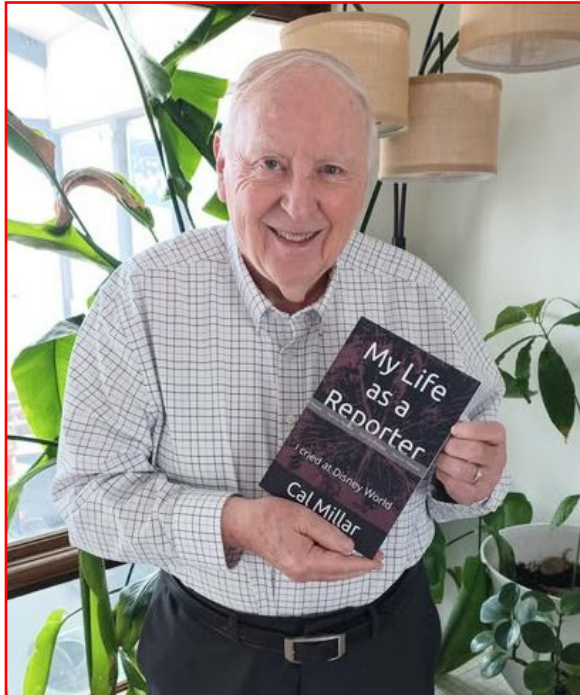
My Life as a Reporter: I Cried at Disney World – is a memoir by Canadian journalist Cal Millar. The book was released April 2026 and covers the reporter's 40 year career, primarily covering crime, breaking news and spot news for newspapers in Toronto and other parts of Ontario.

Millar is a veteran reporter who started his career as an intern at radio station CKOC in Hamilton. He went on to work at newspapers in Peterborough, Chatham, Windsor and Toronto. His path included writing for the Toronto Telegram until its demise in October 1970, the Toronto Sun since the first day of its publication on November 1, 1970 and later the Toronto Star where he started in 1983. Millar focused on breaking news and crime reporting, as well as covering major international events through the hay-day of the newspaper business.

The subtitle (I Cried at Disney World) hints at a personal and emotional moment amid the often gritty and traumatic stories he covered.

At 531-pages, the book is a substantial memoir that dives into the day-to-day realities of being a reporter from the early 1960s to 2005. Millar emphasizes the challenges of covering crime and spot news, which often involved exposure to violence, disasters and unusual events that were not topics you'd casually bring home to discuss with family.

Key stories in the book include: The 1987 Edmonton tornado which killed 34 people; the Dupont Plaza Hotel fire in Puerto Rico (96 deaths); organized crime hearings in Florida; the 1979 Mississauga train derailment which led to the evacuation of more than 200,000 people and coverage related to the September 11 terrorist attacks. He also writes about a 1966 school bus crash just before Christmas near Windsor which killed eight children, the



AUTHOR CAL MILLAR with his new book.

mysterious death of jockey Dan Beckon and an odd story of a seeing-eye dog getting lost.

The book tells of working under tight deadlines and relying on sources and witnesses to get stories to print while at the same time striving for accuracy and fairness. It also paints a picture of the old-school newspaper industry in Canada – pre-digital era pressures, newsroom life in different cities, and the mix of routine grind with high-stakes assignments.

The book is available from Amazon.

Residents complain recyclables in trash

Many area residents are concerned that recyclable waste thrown in public bins on sidewalks are not being processed and thrown out with regular garbage.

Some residents have complained that recyclable items thrown in public bins are not sorted and dumped in a general stream of garbage.

City of Toronto officials agreed they face challenges with the public putting the wrong items in public recycling bins. "Right now, less than one per cent of public bin materials are managed as recycling due to materials being mixed," according to a spokesperson at City Hall.

She said by 'increasing usage of recycling and organics from public bins on streets and parks is key for improvement and a focus of a long-term Waste Management Strategy.'

The City recently conducted public consultations to gather feedback from residents on what would encourage them to participate in recycling correctly.

She said the City is using bins in some parks with openings for empty beverage containers, such as water bottles and pop cans, to help guide proper disposal.

"These bins are more effectively reducing contamination and allow for some amounts of recycling to be collected, which is of a good enough quality to be recycled." Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, a former chair of the Lake Shore Village BIA, claimed the garbage contamination has been occurring for years. "People throw many items in the bins and it is difficult to recycle."



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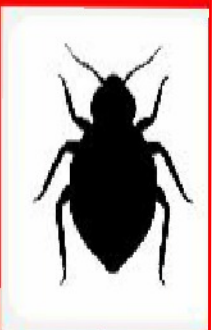
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Politicians step in to stop demolition of Food Terminal

City selecting expensive art to grace the hallways of new Civic Centre



THE ONTARIO FOOD Terminal and below are condos planned next door to traffic and noise concerns.

A motion by Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley calls for the Ontario Food Terminal (OFT), at 125 The Queensway, be protected and preserved as employment lands across Toronto.

There is a plan being looked at to demolish the open plaza next door to the terminal to build a number of high-rise condos.

There are concerns the proposed condo residents will complain about all night truck movements, noise, smell and traffic congestion due to the new residents.

It said the OFT is a key employer in the City's west end that supports 2,500 jobs and indirectly contributes to the employment of about 168,000 people; including farmworkers and the operations of 5,000 registered buyers.

"The Ontario Food Terminal is a critical distribution centre for independent grocers across the GTA and plays an essential role in maintaining food security," according to the motion.

It said allowing residential uses near the site could lead to complaints, constrain operations, and create a precedent that threatens the long-term viability of the terminal. The proposed development of the open 18-acre plaza site, would include 15 towers with heights ranging from 12 to 65 storeys.

Maintaining the employment use of the site will help ensure stability for the terminal and protect the significant economic and community benefits it provides to Toronto and the surrounding region.

More broadly, maintaining the employment use of the Site supports the City's policy framework for

Employment Areas and helps avoid land use conflicts that could constrain existing operations.

The protection of Employment Lands, including The Ontario Food Terminal is of vital importance, especially to South Etobicoke.



SOME 15 TOWERS ranging up to 65 storeys are planned to redevelop 125 The Queensway.



ARTWORK from Jordan Sook Studios (top, centre)

Efforts are being made to bring some wonderful pieces of art to grace the hallways and spaces of a new Etobicoke Civic Centre that is being built. More than \$510,000 is being spent on public art for the huge building that will be about 16-storeys high when completed in the Six Points Plaza area.

The centre is a hive of activity with dozens of workers and machinery working under deadline. The City has posted on social media that a new public art installation is coming to the Etobicoke Civic Centre in 2028.

"After a two-stage national competition, public consultation and an online survey, Jordan Sook's artwork, love is the space between us & infinity, was selected," City staff wrote.

Being highlighted is a 4,000-pound art piece that will be suspended in the main atrium and feature a red

rollercoaster sculpture (right) that was inspired by winding and overlapping roads known as the "Spaghetti Junction", a feature previously seen at the former Six Point Interchange.

Toronto company Jordan Sook Studios has been granted a non-competitive contract for the provision of public art at the new Civic Centre in the amount of \$514,250, net of all applicable taxes and charges, according to a City report.

The studio was selected through a national design competition led by Economic Development and Culture in collaboration with Corporate Real Estate Management to create a landmark public sculpture that will be displayed in the



multi-level atrium of the new Etobicoke Civic Centre. The competition was conducted following Economic Development and Culture's established practices for commissioning public art works, in alignment with the Council-approved Public Art Strategy.

With 508,000 square feet of accessible public-facing space, City officials said the new centre is the first of its kind to be built in the last 50 years and is designed as a state-of-the-art mixed-used civic hub. The facility will include a health clinic, public library branch, public meeting rooms, constituency offices for councillors and large council chambers.



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Life's Undertaking Podcast

New Layali brings Mediterranean food to area



LAYALI OWNER Wahbi Zaitoun shows some of his freshly made Syrian food which he hopes will try. Staff photos.

Wahbi Zaitoun is hoping most people will try his tasty Syrian dishes right here in New Toronto.

Zaitoun only months ago opened Layali Mediterranean Cuisine, at 2735 Lake Shore Blvd. W., close to Second Street, with an aim to serve the best Syrian cuisine. "There is no Syrian food restaurants in the area," he explained. "All our food is made in-house with spices shipped from Syria."

Zaitoun chose the New Toronto due its small-town feel and friendly people. Many who are checking out the tasty Syrian food. He is preparing for next month's FIFA World Cup 2026 soccer matches as a team from popular Morocco will be participating. "We will be making special meals and

offering some specials," Zaitoun said. "We hope people will be out cheering for Morocco." Morocco is in the World Cup and will play its group-stage matches in the U.S., with games in New York on June 13 against Brazil; June 19 vs. Scotland and against Haiti on June 24.



TASTY SYRIAN!

The restaurant offers spicy Syrian-style chicken or beef shawarmas, vegetarian falafels, shish tawook BBQ, fish or large family platters. Customers can select from an assortment of toppings they desire for their meals as it is made in a clean environment.

"Everything here is fresh and nothing is frozen," he said. "It is very healthy food that people like." All the meat is marinated for many hours so it tastes the best and fresh.



OWNER ZAITOUN says more people are enjoying his healthy home-made Syrian cuisine.



They are also known for their fresh hummus and breads. The BBQ real shawarma is especially tasty and juicy, as it is freshly wrapped and 'every bite is different.'

Loblaws back in thriving South Etobicoke food market



There is one new place to grocery shop in the thriving South Etobicoke food market. The Humbertown Loblaws at 270 The Kingsway in Etobicoke, last month opened a newly redesigned, 34,000 square-foot store after closing about one year ago for renovations.

The refreshed store features a new layout and additional service offerings, Loblaws said, adding the store added another 10,000 square feet of size for more goods and services. New features include a cheese wall with over 300 varieties from around the world; an expanded bakery including a cake counter; more grab-and-go meal options such as sandwiches, bowls and salads; an expanded international food section; and natural and organic food aisles.

There is a full-service florist in the store, an a butcher on site to cut meat. Loblaws Humbertown is open Sunday to Saturday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Longo's at 1055 The Queensway opened its doors several months ago and has been doing quite well, mainly with a vast array of prepared foods. There are large fruit, dairy and bread selections and the store is large and brand new.



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Dream trip to Florida

It was a dream trip of a lifetime for a group of South Etobicoke students. Some 158 teens, with seven from South Etobicoke, were selected for a May 5 daylong dream trip to Disneyland sponsored by Dreams for Flight charity.

The local youths, with their parents, were invited to 22 Division

for what they thought was a Toronto Police Summer Camp.

They were surprised and instead told they had been selected by leaders in the community for the day-long trip to Disneyland for their volunteerism, studies and other duties.

The teens were jumping with joy when told of their trip from Pearson Airport. "It is a dream come true," one youth said. Many had never left the country or been on an aircraft.

They were told to leave their cellphones, cameras and money at home as "we want the kids to have a good time and hands-free day," according to a Dreams for Flight volunteer.

The charity was created by a group of Air Canada employees to give a trip of a lifetime to Disney World or Disneyland for a day for children who have experienced medical, mental, physical, social or emotional challenges.

The group has been in operation since 1989 and has eight chapters across Canada.

Each chapter sends a full flight every year to either Disney World or Disneyland.

Air Canada donates an aircraft to each chapter for a day, and volunteers fundraise throughout the year to pay for the rest. Chapters work with various medical organizations, social agencies and school districts, to select the children for the flight.



SOME OF THE teens selected for a day-long trip to Disney World by Dreams for Flight charity and Toronto Police. Staff photos.

Toronto Police boxing program is a hit for some youths in the community

The Fearless Boxing Club is packed every Monday night with teens taking part in a pilot Toronto Police 22 Division Boxing Program. Tonight some 15 mostly young men, and some women, are put through the ropes as the program kicked off last month at the 24 Jutland Street gym. Coach Mohammed Ahedeen is putting the aspiring boxers through stretches and warm up for work on a boxing bag and sparring against others.

Ahedeen is a former professional boxing champion having won awards with the International Boxing Association. He always wanted to give back to the community that means much to him.

"I always had an interest in helping youths in South Etobicoke," he said. "The program is free and people like it."

The boxers are taught sparring and other basic boxing techniques, which keeps them in shape and gives them more self confidence in their daily lives.

Const. Varun Thakur, a Neighbourhood Community Officer, said the teens are selected from the community for the eight week program.

"It is a pilot program to engage with the young people in the community," he said. And so far the teens seem to like it.

Parent Michael Burke attended the session with his son Micah. "The police reached out and it is something my son may like," he said. "It has been good so far."

Gabriel Cruz said he couldn't wait for the start of the program as "I always wanted to be a boxer."

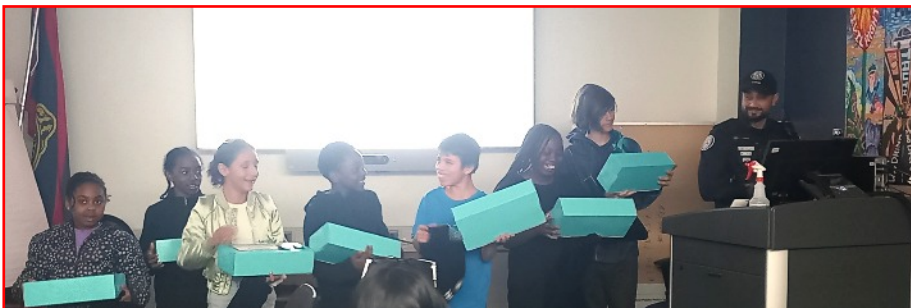
Mom Kimberly said her son was interested in trying out boxing and brought him in to get some lessons with Coach Ahedeen.



BOXERS IN A 22 Division Boxing program meet every Monday at the Fearless Boxing Club. Staff photo.



COACH Mohammed Ahedeen



THE GROUP were told they were part of a police summer camp and later surprised that they were selected for the Disney World trip.

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Public meeting to get feedback on proposed womens' 60-bed shelter



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



A public meeting is being held by the City's Planning and Housing Committee to receive input and review a proposal to build a 60-bed women's shelter at 3838 Bloor Street W. A meeting is being held on May 7 at 9:30 a.m., in Committee Room 1, at City Hall. The application proposes to amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-

law to accommodate a four-storey 60-bed women's facility. The shelter will provide critical services to help women experiencing homelessness gain stability and work toward permanent housing. It is part of a City plan to open up to 20 new shelters citywide by 2033, to cater to those at risk or homeless. 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. More than 200 people are turned away from Toronto shelters nightly due to a lack of beds. You can address the Committee by registering by e-mail to phc@toronto.ca or by phone at 416-397-4579, no later than May 6.



The warm weather is here and most of us who were locked in for the long winter are heading outside to area parks. It is a favourite time of the year for many as the greenery and trees turn green. At the same time City officials are trying to make our parks more enjoyable and a better experience for all. The City has a four-part strategy to extend more food and drink selections served by food trucks near parks, which are usually

packed with families having fun. The plan is to license more food trucks or small operators who carry a wide selection of food items that a wide range of people can enjoy. The City is considering a park mobile vending program as more hot foods are experienced by park goers. Many will recall that it was back in 2023 that Toronto residents were allowed to drink beer and wine in our parks, and there hasn't been a spike in drunken park goers that many feared. "Toronto's parks are among the City's most valued public spaces, but food and beverage services remain limited, inconsistent, and developed on a site-by-site basis," according to a City staff report.

It would be nice to be able to purchase some jerk chicken, Chinese food, shawarma and other treats and have an outdoor picnic on a nice day. City staff said a more coordinated, city-wide approach is needed to improve access, modernize infrastructure, and reduce barriers for small businesses and community organizations. It called for a City mobile vending program with a phased rollout across selected parks starting June 25.

Staff said it should be easier for vendors to apply and more access to selling food should go to non-profits and small operators. And it is worth it for the City. Over the last three years, historical revenue from food and beverage agreements has ranged from \$1.1 million to \$1.2 million annually. I think it is a great idea, as the entrances to parks now are filled with trucks selling ice cream, popcorn, games and assorted ways to spend your money. It is noted that the sale of alcohol and other non-food-related items or services will not be included in the City's food truck program.



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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 a document you will receive from your employer. If you have had various jobs through out 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 (prorated 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 \$5000). 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 your 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 \$8000 up to a maximum of \$40,000 in a 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 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(prorated), Supplies, Sub-contract, automobile expenses (prorated), 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 3 month). 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



Every election, Canadians mark an X beside a name and think of it as choosing a government — picking a prime minister, deciding who runs the country. That's a natural way to see it, and it's easy to understand why. But it isn't quite how our system works. And understanding the difference matters, especially when something like floor crossing hits the news.

Canada uses what's called the Westminster system of parliament

— a model inherited from Britain and used across much of the Commonwealth. At its heart, the idea is straightforward: voters in each riding elect one person to represent them in Ottawa. That person is your Member of Parliament, your MP. Think of them less like a remote control for government and more like a hired agent. Say you need a lawyer for a complicated estate. You don't tell them what to argue in court every day — you hire them because you trust their knowledge, judgment, and values. Your MP works the same way.

When you vote, you are not issuing a set of daily instructions. You are picking your representative and sending them to Ottawa to use their knowledge and their conscience on your behalf. This is not a technicality. It is the foundation of how our democracy is built, and it changes everything about how you should think about your relationship with your elected representative.

Here's the part that surprises a lot of people: Canadians do not elect a prime minister. Not directly. The Governor General — the Crown's representative — asks the leader of the party that holds the confidence of the House of Commons to form a government. In practice, that usually means the party with the most seats. But the MPs are the ones who give or withdraw that confidence. The prime minister holds the job only as long as the elected representatives support them. Put simply: MPs choose the government. We choose the MPs. This is an important distinction with real consequences. It means that if a party loses the trust of its own members in the House, that government can fall — even between elections. MPs carry genuine individual authority. They are not just party puppets. They are the actual elected officials in our system.

Compare that to the United States. Americans directly elect their president in a national vote. The president has a fixed four-year term and cannot be removed by Congress through a simple vote of non-confidence. The president also does not sit in Congress, so there is a hard wall between the executive branch and the legislative branch. That separation creates stability, but also gridlock — a president from one party facing a Congress from another, with neither able to move forward. Americans have watched this play out for decades, with government after government grinding to a halt over basic legislation. In our Westminster system, the prime minister must sit in the House of Commons and must keep the support of MPs to govern. This makes our executive more accountable, more flexible, and faster to respond when a government loses its way. If a prime minister is failing, Parliament can act without waiting for a scheduled election. There is no four-year wall protecting a leader who has lost the room.

All of this brings us to floor crossing — and why the outrage around it is often misplaced. Floor crossing happens when an MP switches parties, walking across the floor of the House of Commons, symbolically speaking. People feel betrayed. They voted for a Conservative or a Liberal, they say, and now that MP is sitting somewhere else. But remember: you did not vote for a party. You voted for a person. Your MP is your agent, hired to use their best judgment on your behalf. If they discover that their party has shifted away from your interests — or their own deeply held principles — their obligation to you may require them to act independently. An MP who crosses the floor is saying: my conscience, and my duty to my constituents, pulls me in a different direction than my former party.

Is that sometimes opportunistic? Sure. Politicians are people, and people have mixed motives. But the act itself is not a betrayal of the system. It is, in many ways, exactly what the system was designed to allow. A parliament made up of truly independent representatives, each accountable to their own riding, is far harder to corrupt than one where every MP is simply a soldier for the party line. The ability to cross the floor keeps parties honest. It says to every leader: hold your caucus, or lose it. That tension between individual conscience and party loyalty is a feature of our system, not a flaw.

Westminster democracy is not clean or simple. It is full of conventions, unwritten rules, and judgment calls that go back centuries. There is no single written document that explains all of it. It runs, to a remarkable degree, on trust — trust between voters and their representatives, between representatives and their parties, and between parties and the institutions that hold them all together. But underneath all of that, the core idea is remarkably decent: your community sends one of your own to Ottawa, gives them your trust, and asks them to do right by you. That's worth understanding — and worth protecting.

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.

The South Etobicoke News

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Konrad mourned by community will be missed



RIP KONRAD

Family and friends are mourning the loss of Konrad Gumienik whose family is well-known by many in the New Toronto community.

Gumienik passed away suddenly on April 10. He was to turn 50 this month.

“He loved his wife and children with all his heart and there was nothing he would not do for them,” his family said.

Funeral services for the long-time area resident, who was husband to Anna and their three children, was held at Turner-Porter-Yorke Chapel, on Bloor Street W. Many people packed a funeral service at St. Teresa’s Catholic Church, on Tenth Street.

“He worked hard, made people laugh, and

He was a talented artist, a gift he shared with his children,” said his obituary. “Konrad created a life that was comfortable, strong and successful.”

He was a man of many interests; which included history, science, geography and architectural design.

“His homemade burgers were unforgettable,” his family said. “He always made sure the fridge was full of healthy food, and that no one left their home hungry.”

“Konrad will live in our hearts forever,” they said. “Rest in peace and continue God’s work in heaven as beautifully as you did here on earth.”

He will be missed by his mother Danuta; his wife Anna, children Nikolas, Kayah, Victoria and Gemma, his sister Anet, grandmother Stanislawa, aunt Bernadette and his cousins and those who knew him, including stepfather Chris. Konrad is now in heaven with his father, Jan, uncle Leszek and grandfather Czeslaw.



KONRAD GUMIENIK

made everyone feel comfortable in his presence,” they said. “He was the sunshine in many people’s lives, those he proudly called his friends.”

The beloved family man worked in his family business from a young age. He more recently was involved in the renovation of Konrad’s Lounge Restaurant as a contractor and designer.

Konrad lived for his children and encouraged them in sports as rollerblading, skating, dancing, karate, volleyball and hockey.

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At 80, Farrugia says he is concerned about his health and wants to sell the coveted vehicles to someone who will cherish them, as he does. Many may know George, as he for many years ran the Mississauga Classic Car Club that met at the Dixie Outlet Mall every Saturday. He was also involved in a similar car club that met at the Canadian Tire, on The Queensway. Each club had hundreds of members who gladly prepped and demonstrated their cars at the shows for free. George has always been involved in the car business, and has been married to wife Bonnie for decades. They have been living in the same home for 48 years. He can be reached at 416-259 -8122 for serious inquiries.

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MAY 3 OPEN HOUSE Community Renal Centre, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Unity Health Toronto, 1020 Islington Avenue, Unit 11. Learn about kidney disease. Information session at 11:30 a.m.

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 6, 13, 20 CHAIR YOGA WITH MEAUX at 10 a.m. for a gentle class featuring seated and supported standing poses to increase flexibility, reduce stiffness and promote relaxation. Also available online. Contact jasmind@lampchc.org, or visit www.lampchc.org

UNTIL MAY 7 ART EXHIBITION by Croatian-Canadian artist **Tatjana Hutinec** at the Assembly Gallery Hall, 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Dr. Her works draw inspiration from traditional ceremonies and folklore, highlighting the richness of Croatian cultural heritage. For more visit toronto.ca/AssemblyHall or call 416-338-7255.

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 13 METIS FIDDLE CONCERT at Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas St. W., by accomplished Métis fiddler Alicia Blore from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Each performance features a special introduction about the history and development of Metis fiddle music by Senator Paul Irvine of the Toronto and York Region Metis Council. For more call 416-394-8113 or e-mail montinn@toronto.ca

MAY 14 & JUNE 11 THE ETOBICOKE GENEALOGY GROUP'S next meetings from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Fairfield Seniors Centre, 80 Lothian Ave. They share information on family research and have speakers, presentations relating to family history. Contact Jo Anne at jienn@rogers.com

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.

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 UNTIL MAY 29 for the Daniel G. Hill Human Rights Awards by the Ontario Human Rights Commission to share, recognize and celebrate achievements made to advance and foster human rights in Ontario. These awards recognize individuals for their outstanding contributions to advancing human rights in Ontario.

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED for outstanding individuals, businesses or organizations in the South Etobicoke or East Mississauga communities in LAMP CHC'S 26TH Annual Awards of Merit taking place 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.

THURSDAYS AT 11:45 AM Soca Cardio Dance Class Get your heart pumping with this high-energy dance class set to lively soca music. This fun and dynamic workout helps improve cardiovascular fitness while boosting mood and confidence. Contact jasmind@lampchc.org, or visit www.lampchc.org

FRIDAYS DRUMMING at LAMP CHC at 1 p.m. End your week with an engaging group drumming circle

focused on rhythm, creativity, and community connection. No experience needed—drums provided. Contact jasmind@lampchc.org, or visit www.lampchc.org

MONDAYS UNTIL JUNE 8 Ukrainian Weekly Social Group from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, in Multipurpose Room, at 10 Neighbourhood Lane, to make new friends and socialize in eight-week group for Ukrainian speakers. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 229 or email julia.graham@stonegatechc.org

EVERY THURSDAY UNTIL JUNE 25 Stonegate Drop-In for children aged up to 6 and their caregivers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, Suite 201, Children's & Trillium Room. Contact Anna or Larissa at early.years@stonegatechc.org

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JUNE 6 ETOBICOKE CENTENNIAL CHOIR spotlights women composers with a moving and diverse program featuring local and international artists. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. at Runnymede United Church, 432 Runnymede Rd. Tickets \$35. For tickets call 416-779-2258.

JUNE 13 STEPS FOR PETS family friendly charity pet walk to help fund local animal care centres. The walk takes place at Etienne Brule Park to raise \$20,000. Visit stepsforpets.ca or call 416-576-2578.

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Updated 2 BR condo with 1 car underground parking and balcony.
\$499,000



2633 Eglinton Ave E, Scarb
Investment opportunity. 2 stores + 4 rental apartments.
\$2,990,000



1109-3865 LakeShore Blvd W Tor
2 BR condo with balcony & 1 underground parking.
\$689,000



61 Fairfield Ave, Toronto
2 + 1 BR bungalow. Opportunity to renovate or re-develop
\$749,900



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.
\$700,000



322 Indian Valley Tr, Miss.
4 BR, 2 bath home in Mineola Wesr. Secluded property, double garage
\$3,800/month



86 Ash Cres, Tor.
2 BR bungalow with unfinished basement & 1 car parking
\$849,900



Shelley Porritt
Broker of Record



3367 Lakeshore Blvd W, Tor.
2,860 sq ft of commercial/retail space. one rear parking space.
\$5,800/month

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