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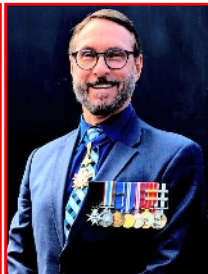
Number 88

South Etobicoke candidates for City election

Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley is facing two registered candidates trying to unseat her at City Hall as Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Holyday faces off against two women on October 26.

Two others who started the race for Ward 3 have withdrawn from the City of Toronto municipal elections to select a mayor, 25 councillors and school trustees.

Morley, a deputy mayor, was elected four years ago and her team as others are knocking on doors in the community to get the vote out in what is the largest riding in the City. She is facing stiff competition for the ward from former Etobicoke Centre MP Ted Opitz and Mihaela Andrei, a realtor and a Toronto condo board



WHO WILL GET YOUR VOTE ON OCTOBER 26 - WARD 3: ETOBICOKE LAKESHORE candidates are incumbent Amber Morley (left) with veteran Ted Opitz (with medals) realtor Mihaela Andrei (middle). **WARD 2: ETOBICOKE CENTRE** candidates are Stephen Holyday (second from right) and Katie Andrachuk.

president. Opitz said he tossed his hat in the ring to tackle the housing and affordability crisis. He plans to bring back more jobs and businesses to the area, that are plagued with empty stores and small businesses leaving due to high costs.

Ward 2 has a population of 117,200 and neighbouring Ward 3 has 142,000 people. The area is undergoing rapid development in some areas to build high-rise condos, including the Kipling and Dundas Corridors..

Andrei, a Scarborough realtor, says she 'is passionate about community governance and optimizing condo community living.'

In Ward 2, long-time and popular Holyday is leading two highly-qualified female candidates seeking to unseat him.

Seeking the affluent Ward 2 also includes community advocate Jennifer Alexander, an editor of *The Etobicoke Voice*, and Katie Andrachuk.

A bike lane protest after Court rules they can go

Over 1,000 people showed up to a Critical Mass Toronto bicycle protest in solidarity against Doug Ford's plan to rip out bike lanes along Bloor Street West and University Avenue.

The protests continue even though many residents believed by now the controversial bike lanes were all gone.

The Ontario government despite winning a legal battle last August 14 has not yet announced an immediate timeline or started the physical removal of the protected bike lanes.

City of Toronto politicians and cycling advocates continue to debate the future of the infrastructure, which means the lanes may remain in place for now. The province passed legislation in 2024 enabling it to remove bike lanes along Bloor Street, Yonge Street and



A CRITICAL MASS BIKE PROTEST was held to demonstrate against a plan to remove main bike lanes on Bloor, Yonge and University Avenue that were permitted by an Ontario Court of Appeal.

University Avenue citing public safety, lack of parking and traffic congestion. But, an Ontario Court of Appeal ruled the province is free to remove about 19 kilometres of protected bike lanes on Bloor, Yonge and University. A three-judge panel found that "the Ontario legislature

is as free to establish bicycle lanes as it is to remove them or authorize their removal."

Mayor Olivia Chow led the bike protest to Queen's Park on August 28 and warned there is no direct, alternative east-west routes with protected infrastructure if the Bloor Street West lanes are removed. Bloor serves as the central spine of the city's cycling network.

Cycle Toronto's Michael Longfield said they will keep fighting to the full extent of the law.

"This decision is an affront to local democracy," he said. "These bike lanes aren't here because Cycle Toronto said to put them here. This is a the result of the decision by city staff and city council to vote in favour of them." Many residents find it a waste of taxpayer's money.

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Two 31 Division front-line officers hailed as heroes for saving a child's life from choking



HERO COPS Const. Gary Hoang (left) and Sgt. Jermaine Watt saved a child's life as the boy was choking. **Courtesy photo.**

Two Toronto Police officers are being hailed as heroes for saving the life of a six-year-old boy.

The young boy had become 'limped and not breathing,' after becoming choked on a lollipop, police said in a post on social media.

The life-saving incident occurred at 31 Division and released on August 13 when a frantic parent called the station to report that her young son was lifeless.

The mom said the family was on their way home from his birthday celebration when he started to choke in the back seat while sucking a lollipop.

Const. Gary Hoang, a 26 year veteran, was on duty at the front desk when the nerve-stricken call came in.

He "took the call and quickly broadcast the caller's roadside location as a hotshot on the air," police said. Sgt. Jermaine Watt said luckily he was in the area and quickly arrived on scene, to be handed a lifeless child by a grieving mother.

"He performed three back strikes followed by one Heimlich maneuver and the boy started to breathe and

cry," according to 31 Division officers.

"Const. Hoang was able to keep a panicked mother calm enough to communicate relevant information."

During the time Watt, a 20-year officer, performed his First Aid training flawlessly to get the boy breathing.

His panicked mom couldn't thank the officers enough for saving her son's life.

Sgt. Watt and Const. Hoang were named Members of the Week by their bosses.

Dozens of thankful residents took to social media to thank the officers for jumping into action to save the child's life.

"Well done Jermaine. Very proud of you," wrote Alan Davis.

"So incredible," said spalozzi1.

"Always cool under pressure and serving his community 200%. Well done Jermaine," another wrote.

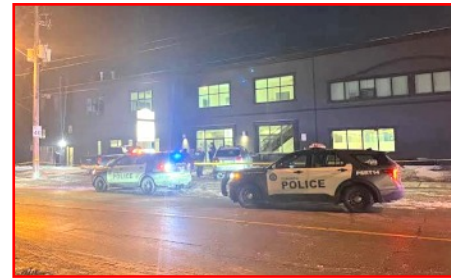
"Way to go gentlemen. As a mother I am positive that mom will never forget what you did for her family," wrote natalieg22.

"Good job Jermaine and Hoang!! I've known Jermaine for a long time as coworkers and I am not surprised that he is a hero!" said chevys10extreme.

Others said the officers should be presented with plaques at headquarters by Chief Myron Demkiw for Teamwork, rather than receiving a pat on the back for saving a child's life.



Police nab fugitive Long Branch double killer shock



SCENE of Long Branch double murders.

It was a brutal double murder that rocked the Long Branch area. Windsor Police have arrested an accused double killer who was a fugitive for more than four years to escape capture for allegedly killing two

men and wounding a woman in a chase and shootout at a Thirtieth Street building, police said.

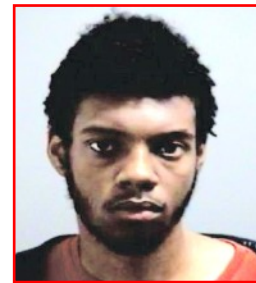
The accused was arrested on August 22 and turned over to Toronto Police's Homicide Squad.

The suspect has been the subject of a national manhunt since the January 2022 murders and injury.

Officers at the scene found two men suffering from gunshot wounds, and a woman nearby with injuries, police said in a release. The female survived.

The victims have been identified as Minyali Wur, 24, and Chudier Reat, 20, both of Mississauga.

Darriel Thompson, 21, also of Mississauga, has been charged with two counts of second degree murder and attempt



MINYALI WUR

murder.

He appeared for a bail hearing at a Finch Avenue West court on August 25.

Another man is still sought in connection with the shootings.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-7400, Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS.



CHUDIER REAT



WARD 3, ETOBICOKE-LAKESHORE

TOWN HALL COMMUNITY EVENT

Meet Your Candidate for City Council for the Upcoming Election, **TED OPITZ**

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DATE

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TIME

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm



LOCATION

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Local politicians here courting Etobicoke voters



AT THE CORN ROAST Liberal leader contender Lee Fairclough with mayoral candidate Brad Bradford meet South Etobicoke residents.

More than 250 people packed a local hall on a rainy day to hear from two major political candidates as municipal and provincial elections are well underway.

A corn roast held on August 23 by Liberal MPP Lee Fairclough, who is running for leadership of the Ontario Liberal Party (OLP), was moved inside due to a pounding rain.

Fairclough said she was delighted by a great turnout on a rainy Sunday at the Franklin Horner Community Centre, on Horner Avenue.

“The turnout has been great with a constant flow of people all day,” Fairclough said. “People are listening to our message.”

She was surrounded by supporters and well-wishers in a leadership bid that has visited 85 ridings across the province. Members of the Liberal Party will vote from November 9 to 20 to choose a permanent leader to replace John Fraser.

Fairclough was joined by Brad Bradford, who is chasing Olivia Chow in polls for the Mayor’s office in a municipal vote on October 26.

Bradford said he has been spending a lot of time in South Etobicoke in is campaign promise to fight crime, fix traffic congestion and reduce costs to citizens.

“I want every resident in Toronto to be proud of this city again,” he said. “I believe Toronto can be the best pace in the world to raise a family or start a business.”

Recent polls show that Bradford is second choice or about 10 per cent behind Mayor Chow.

Residents were excited to see the politicians and get an opportunity to ask them a question on local issues. The results of the Liberal race will be announced on November 21.



MPP LEE FAIRCLOUGH enjoying a tasty homegrown corn as she meets residents of the Alderwood community.

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Mayoral debate planned for Daily Bread

The first mayoral debate of next month’s municipal election will take place on September 14 at the Daily Bread Food Bank, in partnership with community organizations across Toronto.

It is promised to be a packed house as three of the leading mayoral candidates are expected to show up and take questions.

The top-polling candidates Mayor Olivia Chow, Councillor Brad Bradford and former MP Chris Alexander will be presenting why they would make the best City leader and deserve your vote.

The debate will be moderated by Food Bank CEO Neil Hetherington and begin at 7 p.m. at its 191 New Toronto Street location.

Hetherington said the debate will challenge candidates to outline their plans for addressing Toronto’s affordability crisis, including how they would tackle food insecurity, housing affordability and poverty.



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Sept 12th

Mimico Square Food Fest

Sept 19th

Long Branch Tree Fest

Sept 20th





LEE FAIRCLOUGH

MPP, Etobicoke—Lakeshore

lfairclough.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

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Local hockey stick company caught in tariff war



HOCKEY STICK MAN ships a large amount of sticks to the U.S. and are not sure how the tariff will affect them. **Staff photos.**

An Alderwood hockey stick store is one of the hundreds of businesses caught up as tempers flare in a trade war between Canada and the U.S. over staggering tariffs. Staff of Hockey Stick Man, at 532 Evans Avenue, are hoping they won't be affected and are taking it 'day by day.'

Hockey sticks are on a

list of Canadian goods subject to up to 50% tariffs to enter the U.S., or being shipped to Canada.

Hockey Stick Man employee Roop Kalra said most hockey sticks these days are made of carbon fibre and are manufactured in China.

His company, which has stores in South Etobicoke, Belleville and Vaughan, has a warehouse in Buffalo to ship sticks for sale in the U.S. It is one of the larger hockey supply stores in the Toronto area.

Kalra said a bulk of their business are from online sales in which they ship their hockey gear to stores or players to hockey-playing countries within days. The busy store is always

lined with shoppers or fans trying out the gear, which they said is sold at reduced prices compared to major sports stores.

The inside is lined with hundreds of different-branded hockey sticks, skates, gloves, sweaters and other hockey gear. They have agreements with more than 100 professional teams to sell their gear.

"We carry an unmatched selection of pro stock sticks and equipment sourced directly



STICK MAN ROOP shows some of the thousands of hockey sticks and sweaters (bottom) for sale at his store, which also sells gear online.



from NHL players and teams," Kalra said. "Whether you're chasing a specific flex, curve, or pattern, there's a good chance we have it on the shelf."

They make their own line of hockey sticks and repair damaged ones as a new stick these days can cost around \$500.

The successful company was founded by former player Joey Walsh about 15 years ago and today has about 45 employees. They handle thousands of sticks yearly from a loyal worldwide customer base. Some U.S. Senators have expressed concern that weeks after hockey legend Gordie Howe International Bridge opened for business the steep tariff was imposed on hockey sticks.

Poles celebrate Solidarity



WARD 3 COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE Ted Opitz with Polish Consul-General Marek Ciesielczuk (right) mark the anniversary of the signing of the Gdansk Agreement in 1980, which led to the creation of the independent Solidarity trade union. August 31 in Poland is observed annually as the Day of Solidarity and Freedom. There are an estimated 180,000 to 200,000 people of Polish descent living in the Toronto area.

Photo by Chris Korwin-Kuczynski.

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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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Construction of rental units begin in prime Mimico Village



DIGNITARIES IN a ground breaking ceremony to build a housing complex (right) in Mimico Village.

Construction has begun to build a 10-storey rental housing complex in prime Mimico Village. The Mimico Commons at 351-365 Royal York promises to deliver 271 new rental homes and 5,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space. MP James Maloney and Councillor Amber Morley with other dignitaries took part in a ground-breaking ceremony on August 25 to launch the much-anticipated project.

Work crews have been demolishing 10 single detached homes between Portland and Newcastle Streets to make room for the complex. The Commons is less than 250 metres from the Mimico GO Station on the Lakeshore West line, placing residents within a 15-minute train ride of Union Station, according to sales information.

"Mimico Commons provides residents with seamless access to the broader Greater Toronto Area," the developers said. "As a resident of Etobicoke, we take pride in helping shape the community we call home and in delivering quality rental housing here, at a time when the market needs it most," said Ernie Rinomato, Co-Founder, Rinomato Group of Companies. "Mimico Commons will generate meaningful work for construction workers and LiUNA members, creating local jobs while adding much-needed rental supply to the community." Once complete, Mimico Commons will offer a mix of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom suites, along with select ground-floor units, designed for families, students, downsizers, and young professionals. Residents will have access to a full suite of amenities including a fitness centre, co-working space, party room, children's playroom, landscaped terrace, rooftop gathering space and an onsite dog run. Mimico Commons is a LiUNA Pension Fund of Central and Eastern Canada project, developed in partnership with Fengate and Rinomato Group of Companies.



CONSTRUCTION HAS begun on this Mimico 10-story rental building. Courtesy photos.

Campbell's soup plant going hi-tech after 100 years



THE RENOVATED Campbell's Soup plant on Birmingham Street.

A renovated New Toronto Campbell's Soup plant after making soup for more than 100 years is now going high-tech and becoming an AI

digital innovation, was in town on August 29, along with MP James Maloney, to boast the homegrown technology. He said the quantum technology could revolutionize artificial intelligence, medical science and a host of other key sectors of the economy. Solomon said Xanadu promises to create 275 high-paying jobs in building the "advanced photonic and semiconductor components that will power the next generation of quantum computers." Officials said the investment will bring new jobs and revenue to the area and place Canada "at the leading edge of one of the world's most important emerging technologies." "This is absolutely a great day for Canada, for Xanadu, and I think for science around the world," Solomon said.



NEW LIFE FOR CAMPBELL'S SOUP plant in hi-tech announcement by Minister Evan Solomon (left) here with Xanadu official and MP James Maloney.

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Long Branch community celebrate zone win



LONG BRANCH residents celebrate an Ontario Land Tribunal decision to dismiss an application for a massive redevelopment. **Photo Courtesy Toronto Star.**

Many Long Branch area residents were cheering out loud as a massive proposed development on Lake Promenade was quashed. They will be holding a celebration BBQ on September 6 at the Lake Promenade site to mark the event. An Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) last month dismissed an application by

developers to amend zoning by-laws regarding 220, 230 and 240 Lake Promenade and 21 and 31 Park Boulevard to allow the construction of five high-rise rental apartments ranging from 12 to 30 storeys high.

"We welcome the OLT's decision," said Christine Mercado, of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association that spearheaded the appeal. "The tribunal has finally decided that this proposed development is not suitable for Lake Promenade."

Patti Pokorchak, of the Lake Promenade Tenants' Association, said residents are relieved with the outcome which would have led to years of construction and hundreds of mostly seniors offered other living arrangements during construction. Residents said the move would have been the largest 'demoviction' in the Toronto area.

"This is a win for the community," Pokorchak said. "We will no longer have to fear the loss of our homes and living through

years of construction." They thanked Councillor Amber Morley and her team for supporting the community during more than three-years of litigation. Morley said the victory will protect green space, the waterfront and rental homes. "This is a significant win for the

community that protects existing rental homes and green space along our waterfront from over development," Morley said in a release. She said this is what can happen when residents engage, organize and have their collective voices represented at City Hall. The tribunal nixed the application claiming there was a lack of parking for the hundreds of new residents and issues with shadows of the high-rises against low rise homes.

It said more than 2,000 new residents would have resettled in the community if the development had gone through. They noted a lack of public transportation, shopping, school or medical facilities for the newcomers.

The developers had planned to include 550 rental units, a daycare, parkland, open spaces and more than 9,000 square metres of retail space on the nine-acre property.



RESIDENTS OF 220, 230 and 240 Lake Promenade and 21 and 31 Park Boulevard (above) are pleased they will not have to move out of their buildings which had been planned to be demolished to build five high-rise condos (below). **Staff photo.**



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Long Branch tree vying for Tree of the Year accolades



THIS LONG BRANCH tree (above) is competing for 2026 'Tree of the Year' to be selected in December.

One of Long Branch's natural beauty is a contender for Ontario's 2026 'Tree of the Year.'

A rare Dawn Redwood tree was submitted last month by the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association (LBNA) to the annual contest hosted by Tree Trust to crown the province's tree of the year.

The Long Branch area is well known for its many trees and boasts some of the oldest trees in Canada.

The provincial contest is opened from May to August 3 and the winner is selected by a panel of judges in mid-December. The first place contestant wins \$500, second place will receive \$250 and third place \$100.

The contestant Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) is a fast-growing, ancient deciduous

conifer known as a "living fossil" because it was thought to be extinct for millions of years until its rediscovery in China in the 1940s, said Long Branch historian Bill Zufelt.

"Unlike most conifers, this unique tree sheds its soft, feathery needles every autumn after they turn a brilliant copper-orange or red-bronze," he said.

A top-tier panel of judges for the top tree includes Ontario Green Party leader Mike Schreiner, Guelph MPP Paul Zammit, an Instructor, School of Environment and Horticulture and Terry Schwan, Professional Forester and Board of Directors, Forest History Ontario.

Tree Trust's core mission is to preserve older trees through expert assessment and specialized arborist care. Every big tree does the work of at least 300 saplings. Trust arborists have special training in the physiology and preservation of older trees.

Last year's Tree of the Year winner is a 400-year 100-foot tall White Oak growing in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It was selected from 80 trees submitted by Ontario residents.

The 8th Annual Long Branch Tree Fest takes place at Marie Curtis Park on September 20. Tree Fest is Toronto's largest free family-friendly community event celebrating trees, nature, and environmental stewardship. The popular event will have more than 50 exhibitors and vendors and takes place from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Forty Second Street park.

New bylaw to protect our trees now in place to increase City tree canopy

The City of Toronto is toughening up its tree protection bylaws starting this month.

A 'Distinct Tree' category was introduced with stricter rules being imposed for large trees. It is part of a plan to reach a 40 percent tree canopy by 2050.

The bylaw changes mean private trees measuring 61 centimetres (24 inches) or more in diameter now receive extra protection and city staff have greater authority to refuse permit applications to remove these large and mature trees.

There would be immediate protection for new trees in that trees planted as a condition of a permit or development approval are now protected by law from the exact day they go into the ground.

Ravine permit application fees are affected in that the City is introducing non-refundable permit application fees for regulated activities—such as tree removal, injury, or grade changes—within protected ravine and natural feature areas.

The City will introduce permit fees for the first time for the 30,000 households in Toronto's ravine-protected areas, which will range between \$87 and \$632, depending on the application.

And the standard thresholds will be unchanged. The baseline permit requirement for removing other private trees remains at 30 centimetres in diameter, though the city is exploring lowering this threshold to 20 centimetres in future updates planned for 2027. Right now, if you cut down a protected tree without a permit, consequences can include fines, ranging between \$500 and \$100,000, and having to pay for the cost of replanting five trees for every one that's gone — nearly \$600 per tree.

Starting September 1, the number of replacement trees required will depend on the size of the tree removed.

Even after the tree is gone, the stump could now tell a story for City staff who are investigating. According to the updated bylaw, staff will now be able to measure the size of stumps and use it as evidence a protected tree was removed without permission.

A pilot program is also being launched to help private property owners care for very large trees, including those in the "distinctive tree" category.



CYCLISTS TAKE a break to admire a giant tree like those growing in Long Branch. **Courtesy photo.**

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Life's Undertaking Podcast

Police cram the cruiser with badly needed food



TORONTO POLICE officers load a vehicle with food donated by residents in a 'Cram-a-Cruiser' fundraiser. **Staff photos.**

More than 2,000 pounds of badly-needed food items were collected in a recent Toronto Police 22 Division a "Cram-a-Cruiser" food drive for Haven on the Queensway. Police were outside a Metro Ontario grocery store, at Lloyd Manor Road, on August 15 for hours as shoppers dropped off items to fill four police vehicles. Students of a Youth In Policing Program (YIPI) took part in the food raiser as part of their police training.

The 22 Division officers frequently hold the food-raisers at local grocery stores like Longo's Queensway, Metro at Cloverdale and Food Basics. Haven on the Queensway has been stocking up with food and clothing in preparation for the winter and increasing homeless and unaffordability in the community. The charity also received a truckload of snacks, toiletries, and beautiful care boxes for newborns and babies, ready to transform lives from Elevation Church. Haven's food bank serve more than 1,100 clients every week, providing them with essential resources like produce, dried goods and other necessities.

They work in partnership with Second Harvest, Daily Bread Food Bank, and local businesses, to distribute approximately 672,308 pounds of food every year.

The group also help to seniors, including food delivery, hygiene kits, and art kits. They also make weekly wellness phone calls to check-in and offer companionship, and host in-house workshops and outdoor social event and trips. If you need help call 416-640-2005 and Press 3.



STUDENT POLICE OFFICERS (top, bottom) with a Constable and some of the food collected in a 'Cram-a-Cruiser' food-raiser to help those in need.



THE FOOD will go to Haven on the Queensway to help others.

Thumbs up for Alderwood's Harbanero Mexican restaurant



HARBANERO Restaurant (above) and one of its dishes (right).

A new Mexican restaurant has opened up in the Alderwood area.

People are talking about Harbanero Mexican Restaurant located at 876 Brown's Line, at Evans Avenue. The eatery offers a straightforward menu of classic Mexican fare that highlights comforting, familiar flavours in a casual takeout and delivery-friendly environment.

The interior focuses on quick service and accessibility for neighbourhood residents looking for a quick and comfort-food meal.

Visitors can explore a selection of standard staples including tacos on soft corn tortillas, burritos, burrito bowls,

enchiladas, and tortillas loaded with a choice of protein.

Side options feature chips paired with various salsas, guacamole, and poutine, alongside a signature housemade tres leches cake for dessert.

The prices are moderate, making it a convenient option for a quick lunch or casual neighborhood dinner without the formality of a sit-down establishment. The restaurant has been getting some good reviews on social media. "Went tonight as it is my birthday and mexican is my favourite," wrote Jennie Froome. "Such friendly staff, good value and very delicious."

Residents recommend Habanero's for delicious and affordable Mexican food, with many praising their tacos and gluten-free options.





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South Etobicoke's first Plus Size Clothing Swap, organized by Colette Slone, took place at Long Branch Public Library on August 23. Instead of getting rid of clothing they no longer wanted to wear, attendees brought their gently used or new with tags plus size clothing, met their neighbours and picked out new outfits from the clothing that was brought by others. The event was very well attended with 36 ladies and over 400 pieces of clothing brought and shared. Clothing swaps are a fun way to update your wardrobe, reduce clothing waste and save money! At the end of the event, clothing that remained was donated to several women's shelters. The next clothing swap will take place in Spring 2027.

Photos by Colette Slone.

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More pickleball for City



SIR ADAM BECK park being dug up by City crews to install new pickleball courts. **Staff photo.**

City work crews were digging up the Sir Adam Beck Park in Alderwood to add new pickleball courts and rehabilitate the existing tennis courts. The crew said two or three pickleball courts are being added to the existing tennis courts leaving lovers of the sport having to play at other area courts for several months.

Toronto now offers more

than 300 individual public pickle ball courts across 108 outdoor summer locations, with an additional 49 indoor locations providing drop-in play.

In Centennial Park, where the West Sports Hub opened, there are 12 lit outdoor courts and permanent pickleball nets. The west portion of the park features four baseball diamonds and eight public-use beach volleyball courts.

The City's Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan calls for expanding access to high-quality pickleball infrastructure with a \$1.05 million investment through the Mayor's Back on Track program, in which some 57 tennis courts will also be rehabilitated.

"Recreation spaces are where neighbours come together, stay active and build stronger communities," Mayor Olivia Chow said in July at the opening of the City's largest dedicated pickleball facilities at the Main Sewage Treatment Playground. The Playground is an 11.2-hectare park at Eastern Avenue and Coxwell Avenue that features 11 dedicated pickleball courts, two basketball courts, a diamond and the Tubs & Gee Gage Rugby field. It opens daily for public drop-in and passive use.

"These new pickleball courts are a great example of how we are making it easier for residents to stay healthy and active without barriers," she said.

There are also pickleball courts in Cloverdale Mall and soon a major multi-lane bowling alley opening at Sherway

Gardens Mall and soon a roller skating rink being introduced at Woodbine Mall.

There are more than 700 pickle ball courts in more than 300 dedicated facilities in Toronto now serving more than 175,000 known players, according to records.

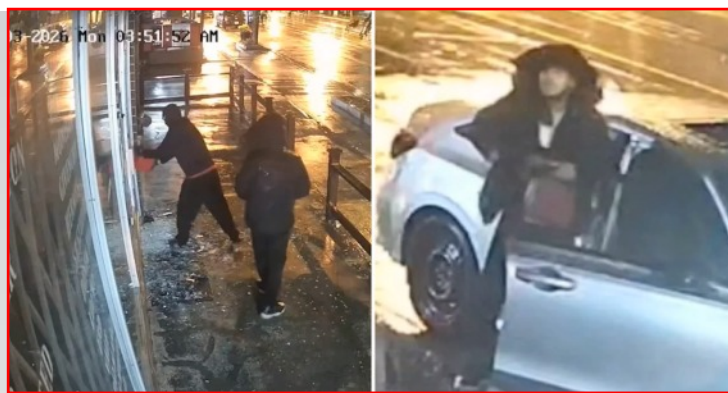
About 6 per cent of the City's population play the sport and that number is growing. Demand in Toronto is driven by the same factors powering pickleball

nationally: low barrier to entry, intergenerational appeal, and capital-efficient facility economics.



SOME PICKLEBALL players having fun on City court. **Courtesy photos.**

Police tighten a search for Mimico arsonists taped while torching a store



Someone out there knows these two men, dubbed the Mimico arsonists.

Toronto police are working to identify two suspects wanted in connection with an alleged arson in Mimico last month. It was early on August 3, when emergency crews

responded to reports of a fire at a clothing store in the Mimico-Queensway neighbourhood, near Lake Shore Boulevard West and Albert Avenue, east of Royal York Road.

A video released by Toronto Police shows one suspect smashing the store's windows, while the other man appears to pour an accelerant inside the store.

Police say the suspect then lit the accelerant, causing the store to go up in flames.

The pair then fled the area in a silver/grey metallic Honda Civic sedan, believed to be a 2022–2026 model.

The first suspect is described as having a medium build and last seen wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt with the hood down, a dark balaclava, dark pants, and dark athletic-style shoes with light-coloured soles.

The second is a male with a medium build, who wore a dark hooded jacket with the hood up, a black surgical-style face mask, a white undershirt, dark pants, and dark footwear.

This arson investigation is ongoing and anyone with further information is asked to contact Toronto police or Crime Stoppers anonymously.

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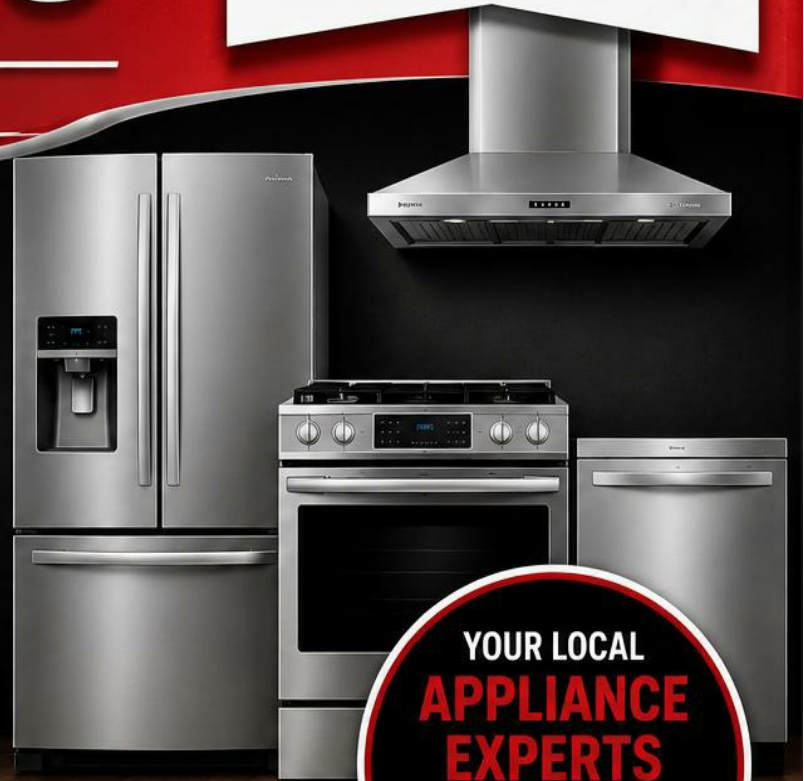
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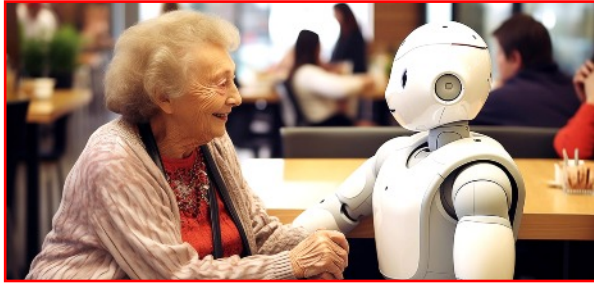


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Many local seniors concerned and have fears about how AI will affect their lives



A MAJORITY OF our seniors have concerns or mixed feelings about the emergence of AI technology.

Some seniors in the community have expressed concern and fears about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it will affect them. The concerns were addressed at a NovaForge AI Venture Lab AI in Healthcare: Lessons from the Field conference that took place on August 26 at Office 146, on Thirtieth Street.

This event brought together healthcare leaders, clinicians, AI founders, MedTech innovators, researchers, investors, and other experts to talk about AI and healthcare. Nova Forge official Zahra Rezaei said AI is technology that allows computers to recognize patterns, understand questions, create content and help make decisions. It is not a person, is not conscious, and does not think exactly as humans do. "For seniors, AI can offer real benefits," Rezaei said. "It can provide medication reminders, translate languages, improve hearing and vision tools and detect unusual banking activity."

She said AI can support healthcare professionals and help people remain independent.

Rezaei warned that it also cause risks to some people.

"It can generate incorrect information, collect personal data, and be used by scammers to create convincing fake calls, messages, photographs, or videos," she wrote.

Seniors are warned to never share passwords, banking information, or verification codes because of an unexpected message or call—even if the voice sounds familiar.

They are being told to neither fear nor blindly trust AI systems.

"It should be treated as a useful tool that requires human judgment," Rezaei alerted. "Important medical, financial, and legal decisions should always be confirmed with a qualified professional." She said a data centre is a secure building filled with powerful computers that process information used by websites, hospitals, banks, government services, video calls, cloud storage and AI systems.

The centres have been banned in some cities due to the significant use of electricity and water, generate continuous noise, and place pressure on local resources. They may also create fewer permanent jobs than residents expect

NovaForge is a registered nonprofit AI venture lab dedicated to strengthening Toronto's AI ecosystem through community events, mentorship, founder support, and strategic partnerships.



SENIORS are all hi-tech these days.



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



THE COMMUNITY OF 220, 230 and 240 Lake Promenade and 21 and 31 Park Boulevard that was targeted for redevelopment.

The people have won a big victory. Long Branch residents are cheering the good news that a plan by developers to carve a prime 18-acre waterfront property to build five condos ranging from 12 to 29-storeys in height. The complex if the site went through would have brought in thousands of new

residents in an area that lacks parking, public transit, shopping or other facilities. Developers had applied unsuccessfully to have rezoned for residential use 220, 230 and 240 Lake Promenade and 21 and 31 Park Boulevard. The desirable site sits steps from the lake in the midst of low rise detached homes and would have mean years of noise, dust and construction activity in the quiet area.

The application was appealed to an Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) whose members dismissed the proposal on August 7.

The current five seven-storey rental apartments on the site were built in the 1960s and contain about 550 units. Hundreds of confused older tenants would had to be re-housed elsewhere for years until the buildings were completed.

Outraged members of the community obtained a lawyer, rallied, held protests and appealed the developer's application, which was ultimately dismissed by the Tribunal.

The complex in a quiet residential area would have been massive and it was noted that the buildings would cast many shadows on the low rise residences. It is a nice green, serene community with Lake Ontario just steps away.

To try and sweeten the deal the developer featured some retail space, a daycare, just over 9,000 square metres in amenity space, 3,600 square metres in parkland dedication, and 4,300 square metres in privately owned and publicly accessible open space.

The City described the proposed development as 'unrestrained and unwarranted intensification, without sufficient planning justification,' according to the OLT decision.

"They argue that the proposed height of the towers should be reduced, because, as proposed, they fail to conform to the City's Official Plan."

Members of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association (LB NA), the Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority were among the groups that fought against the development. Councillor Amber Morley was credited for her role during tribunal proceedings.

Residents raised and the tribunal heard concerns the construction would have led to the destruction of the area's mature tree canopy, increased traffic, noise, dust and the area was not designated for high growth and would bring disruption to Long Branch from insufficient parking and a lack of public transit.

In the end the residents fought back, and this time they won.

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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Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI



Investments for sure, however, one can give some thought to a part-time job or to capitalize on hobby and turning into a business. Increasingly I am seeing a few individuals using social media to generate extra income. The theme in the above words of wisdom have a all lot in common- focused on savings first and taking spending to a secondary level. In some of the previous articles I have focused on the similar

themes. Budgeting would be a good start and monitoring the spending and above all set aside a certain amount or percentage for savings before plan the spending. Just recently I heard another interesting saying, and it was something like this “the character of an individual can be judged by the company which the individual keeps”. Thinking more about in relationship to the theme of this article, one should surround yourself with successful individuals and feed of them. Another interesting comment I heard the other “talk to everybody you meet”. Reflecting on this comment one can broaden one’s horizon learn from their experiences, background and thinking. Now let me reflect on the current economic conditions in the country, too much turmoil and potentially more to come. Going forward I am not sure if anybody has the right answer but keep yourself informed and manage the changing environment to the best of your ability. The economy did great last quarter, but this new tariff scenario has certainly thrown a wrench. Last month I referred to a saying from my Father “aki na, jakhi na, thakhi na” meaning don’t procrastinate, don’t hesitate and don’t get tired. In this article I am going to refer to other financial wisdom imparted by some well known figures:

Do not save what is left after spending, but spend what is left after saving."
— Warren Buffett

Such a powerful statement if fully embraced debt would never be a problem
"A penny saved is a penny earned."
— Benjamin Franklin

In today’s world the more appropriate should be nickel saved is a nickel earned.
"Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship."
— Benjamin Franklin

Another way of looking at this saying would-be “a watch those nickels and the dollar would take care of itself”
It's not your salary that makes you rich; it's your spending habits."
— Charles A. Jaffe
This piece of wisdom says it all.
The habit of saving is itself an education."
— T.T. Munger

This is an interesting piece of advice, savings and education should be a never-ending process. Financial freedom begins when your money works harder than you do.
— Unkown

This is anther piece of financial wisdom.
"Never depend on a single income. Make an investment to create a second source."
— Warren Buffett

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.

Me, My Piano, and the Day the Music Finally Died

My mother believed in music the way some mothers believe in castor oil: unpleasant, character-building, and best administered in heroic doses. She was convinced that somewhere in her family—perhaps hiding behind a shy chromosome—was a musical genius waiting to burst forth. And she was determined to find him. Her first attempt was my brother. This was during the Depression, when families didn’t buy anything unless It was food or rent. She somehow managed to get him a used violin, but the real extravagance wasn’t the instrument—it was the teacher. An instructor at the Royal Conservatory of Music, a class act from Europe who had played for Royalty and charged as much. My brother had the gift. He could pick up a tune by ear without reading a note. By his third year at the Conservatory, he won a silver medal for Brahms’ Lullaby, a performance the teacher said “made even me weep.” Glenn Gould won gold that year, which my mother repeated often, as though being siting on a chair in proximity meant my brother was practically a colleague of him. But life, as she liked to say, has a crooked street. Lessons were expensive, interest waned, and eventually the violin was tucked away. Yet in later life, whenever sadness or anxiety crept in, he found refuge in that old fiddle. He took to down-east music—jigs, reels, Don Messer tunes that made the kitchen feel like a barn dance. At parties he’d pull out the fiddle and play something that made everyone want to stomp their feet. When he played Brahms for my mother, we all got teary-eyed. accept his teacher in heaven. Oh, what he could have been. But crooked streets don’t straighten themselves. Twelve years later, I arrived. My mother saw her second chance. Times were better. My father, who had never been an electrician, became one during the war by going to the library, reading every book he could find, and showing up at the Toronto shipyards at the end of Spadina. They were building minesweepers for the North Atlantic, and the need for electricians was so great they didn’t ask for a license. He was self-taught, and so good at it that when the war ended, he was the last man laid off. Flush with hope and post-war optimism, my mother bought a piano. Not a violin. A piano. A full-sized, upright, mahogany monument to her dreams. It sat in the living room like a visiting relative who wasn’t leaving. She was determined that this time the prodigy would stick with it. And for three years, I did—if by “did” one means sitting on the bench while inventing new and creative ways to avoid practising. I became a master of delay tactics. I needed water. I needed a snack. I needed to check the mailbox. I needed to reorganize my sock drawer. I needed to contemplate the meaning of life. Anything but scales. My mother hovered like a musical foreman. She encouraged. She threatened. She pleaded. She prayed. She stood in the doorway like a warden overseeing a prisoner sentenced to thirty minutes of hard labour. Finally, she deployed the ultimate threat: “If you don’t practise, I will sell the piano.” It was a bluff. A big one. The kind of bluff mothers use when they’ve run out of lesser ammunition. But I, being a child of keen instinct and limited musical ambition, called it. The day the movers arrived, I stood by the door trying very hard to look sad. I arranged my face into what I imagined was a tragic expression—something between a Shakespearean prince and a child denied dessert. Inside, however, my happiness was trying to burst out like steam from a kettle. I stiffened my shoulders. I clenched my jaw. I pressed my lips together so tightly I looked like I’d swallowed a lemon. I folded my hands behind my back to hide the fact they were trembling with joy. I was practically vibrating. The movers lifted the piano, grunted, and shuffled it out the door. I maintained my sorrowful pose until the last corner of mahogany disappeared down the walkway. Then the performance ended. I bolted to my room with the speed of a child escaping a dentist, slammed the door, and launched myself onto the bed like a stuntman. I grabbed the nearest pillow, buried my face in it, and tried—tried with every fibre of my being—to choke down the tidal wave of a roar rising in my chest. My whole body shook. My shoulders quivered. My legs kicked like I was trying to swim through the bedsheets. I pressed my face so deep into that pillow I nearly suffocated myself in the name of emotional suppression. A strangled snort escaped, then another, until I was half-choking, half-laughing, and wholly relieved. “It’s gone,” I gasped into the pillow, muffled and triumphant, sounding like a man confessing to a crime he was proud of. Poor Mom. She had tried twice. She had invested hope, money, and emotion into the belief that music would shape her sons into something grand. And in a way, it did. My brother became the man who could make a room dance. I became the man who could make a room laugh about how I never practised. The crooked street of life winds differently for everyone. My mother didn’t get the prodigy she dreamed of, but she got two sons who carried music in their own ways—one in his fiddle, one in his stories. And perhaps that’s enough. After all, not every piano produces a Glenn Gould. Sometimes it produces a writer who remembers Brahms drifting through a kitchen, a mother wiping her eyes, and a brother who could make even the teacher cry. Judge Lloyd Budzinski retired after 28 years and was a former Crown Attorney, Defence Counsel and Ontario’s Assistant Deputy Minister of Criminal Law. He was Chief Prosecutor in the trial of ex-RCMP officer Patrick Michael Kelly, found guilty of murder for throwing his wife from a 17th floor balcony in March 1981. He can be reached at lbudzinski@talkjustice.info.

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'Captain Ron' mourned by fellow fire fighters



RON BRUCE BRITTON

Friends and family members are mourning the passing of Retired Toronto Fire Captain Ron Bruce Britton who served Etobicoke as a firefighter for 32 years. Britton, who grew up in Long Branch, passed away on August 16 just shy of his 67th birthday.

His boyhood dream was to become a Firefighter and then Captain with Toronto Professional Fire Services, who was dedicated to the safety of the citizens of Toronto. "The lives Ron touched in his life and career, his family, friends, colleagues and communities, were blessed by knowing him and will remember a man profoundly loyal and always ready to lend a hand,"

according to his obituary.

"He never judged, he only respected. He was gifted with talents he selflessly shared."



THE LATE FIREFIGHTER with colleagues fighting blazes (above and right)

The avid Harley Davidson rider was described as 'strong, smart and sensible Ron could calm and conquer any emergency. He was gifted with a natural sense for safety and was always there to lend a hand.'

Friends boast 'Captain Ron' was a great cook 'who could whip up a meal in a breeze or serve a full course meal from a slim pantry.'

"Recipes be damned! And deep fried? Even better," according to his colleagues.

They remembered Britton as a gifted athlete who had boxes of lacrosse trophies and 'Young Nats' hockey badges accumulated in previous years.

"He loved fishing and tinkering and with that charming smile and those beautiful baby blues, he could muster a discount anywhere. He loved that."

Friends said they will miss running into Ron and his beloved dog Leonard in the community and are grateful of all his stories and memories.



NEW MIMICO KASSEL MURAL



A new mural was unveiled honouring two Mimico long-time pharmacists whose family-owned business is now in its 78 year. The artwork was unveiled on August 30. It was created by local artist Tetyana Bibik and honours the legacy of Max and son, Bill Kassel, owners of Kassel's Pharmacy, which was founded by Max in 1948 at 396 Royal York Road. Back then the deliveries were made by bicycle. The mural sponsored by the Mimico Village BIA of the men on the side of their pharmacy at Hay Avenue and Royal York Roads is beautifully done. Bill joined his father's business in 1970 after graduating from the University of Toronto. Max's dream was to 'create a closely-knit store that really cared about the health and well-being of their customers.' And he did since he was once named Druggist of the Year, for his outstanding work.



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Canadians dig in to aid ailing Nepal



SOME OF THE SUFFERING Nepalese women with their children as they make their way to safety. Courtesy photos.

Etobicoke charity GlobalMedic workers are in flood-stricken Nepal and are carrying water purification units, family emergency kits and drones to help people suffering from the muddy disaster. More than 1,000 bodies have been recovered by workers so far. And many rescuers fear their time is running out as they try to find others.

More than 1,000 dead and 5,000 missing: Red Cross

River. At least 1,000 people have been killed and more than 5,000 are missing, with search and recovery operations still ongoing.

Many thousands of people may have lost or damaged homes, creating significant shelter needs across affected communities. Damaged roads, destroyed bridges and remote mountain terrain are making it difficult to reach affected communities.



ENTIRE VILLAGE filled with the dead and awash in mud and water.

The Medic workers said hospitals will be able to provide clean drinking water, while a family emergency kit contains a point of use water purification kit, hygiene items and a portable solar light. GlobalMedic said it can help in mapping out the extent of the damage and provide search and rescue support. The teams collect data that provide information to emergency responders so better aid decisions can be made.

At least 24 Canadians, including more than 10 from Toronto, are among the hundreds of mostly tourists missing or unaccounted for after deadly flash floods struck northern Nepal on August 26, destroying homes, roads, bridges and vital infrastructure.

The flood was reportedly triggered by a glacier collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border, sending mud, ice and rock into the Bhote Koshi



FLOOD SURVIVORS with all their worldly belongings.

Money raised will enable the Red Cross to support immediate relief, recovery efforts, resilience, and preparedness activities for future events in impacted and surrounding areas. The Canadian government has contributed more than \$5 million to help the ill-fated country and the United Nations. Nepal has almost the population of Canada with about 30 million people. More than 80% of the population are Hindus with 10% Buddhists. You can make a donation online at www.redcross.ca or by calling 1-800-418-1111.

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Looking after yourself and others in the community

STARTING SEPTEMBER 3 IMPROVE YOUR LATIN & BALLROOM DANCING skills with no experience required. Singles or couples welcomed as we have world-class dance teachers. Classes takes place on Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 22 Dorchester Street, in the Islington Ave. and The Queensway. Phone 647-239-1918 or visit www.30-up.com. Tickets \$15.

SEPTEMBER 6 FREE BBQ FAMILY PICNIC with face painting, fun games and community fellowship from 12:45 to 2:30 p.m. at Queensway Baptist Church at 950 Islington Avenue. For more information phone 825-439-8460 or e-mail queenswaychildren@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 6 LONG BRANCH CELEBRATION BBQ in the courtyard of 220, 230 and 240 Lake Promenade and 21 and 31 Park Blvd., which redevelopment was halted by the Ontario Land Tribunal due to community pressure from the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association, politicians and residents. The event will take place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. between buildings 220 and 230. There will be hot dogs, an ice cream truck and bring your own chair. For more contact Patti at 416-951-3842 or e-mail pattipokorchak@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 11 - 13 TASTE OF THE KINGSWAY a weekend of incredible food, NHL alumni, classic car show, shopping, live music and family fun at South Etobicoke's largest street festival that takes over Bloor Street West, from Prince Edward Drive to Montgomery Street. For more e-mail social@thekingsway.ca

SEPTEMBER 12 IS THE 21st Annual Extravaganza Fun Fair from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Franklin Horner Community Centre for another year! Join us on the back lawn for all kinds of fun including kids games, exciting vendors, a beer and barbecue tent and a stage featuring live music and fun games!" For more e-mail franklinhorner.matthew@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 30 IS NATIONAL TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY

OCTOBER 7 FOR A LISTENING CIRCLE taking place at LAMP CHC at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the upcoming 66 Third Street Shelter. Listening Circles are guided conversations that bring community members together to discuss topics that matter. They provide a respectful and welcoming space to share experiences, listen to different perspectives, and build understanding. A Listening Circle is not a debate or a forum for persuading others. It is an opportunity to listen, learn, and connect with members of our community. Work is underway to build the controversial 100 bed shelter for seniors, one of many planned by the City. Another shelter for women is also planned for the Six Points area. There were concerns for the New Toronto shelter that led to demonstrations by community residents. Contact Erica at erica@lampchc.org or 416-252-6471 ext. 257.

SEPTEMBER 13 HUMBER BAY PARK CLEAN UP from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. put on by Friends of Humber Bay Park and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Farmer's Markets also planned for September 12 and October 10. For more info e-mail friendsofhumberbaypark@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 14 BEGIN YOUR WEEK with gentle movement, balance exercises and breathwork to support flexibility, stability, relaxation and overall well-being at 9 a.m. at LAMP CHC. Join LAMP CHC Healthy Aging. E-mail erica@lampchc.org or call 416-252-647, ext. 257.

SEPTEMBER 14 MAYORAL DEBATE come listen or ask questions of your potential Toronto leadership candidates at the Daily Bread Food Bank, on 191 New Toronto Road, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Zoom event is free but online registration is required to reserve a spot. Only candidates meeting about 5% in public support polls will be invited. For more visit www.dailybread.ca

SEPTEMBER 17 LAMP Community Health Centre Annual General Meeting to learn about the work happening at LAMP, hear important updates and connect with members of our community at 6 p.m. 185 Fifth Street. Contact Erica at erica@lampchc.org or 416-252-6471 ext. 257.

SEPTEMBER 18 WOMEN'S HABITAT OF ETOBICOKE presents Boundless Gala a celebration of Mexican culture to raise critical funds for the shelter and outreach programs to help women and children in our community. It takes from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Old Mill Venue. For more contact 416-252-7949 Ext. 230 or e-mail mlana@womens-habitat.ca or visit womenshabitat.ca

SEPTEMBER 19 THIRD ANNUAL FOOD FEST at Mimico Square between 12 noon and 6 p.m. as Mimico Residents Association its 20th Anniversary. There will also be a free public walking historical tour hosted by Alex Rascanu. It starts at 10 a.m. in front of the Mimico Centennial Library Branch. Bring comfortable shoes.

SEPTEMBER 19 FREE MIMICO HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR Explore Mimico's fascinating evolution from a 19th-century railway and farming town into a vibrant lakeside neighborhood from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Meet at Toronto Public Library - Mimico Centennial Branch, 47 Station Road. For more tour *guide Alex Rascanu* can be reached at 647-471-3337 or visit www.rascanu.com.

SEPTEMBER 19 MILES FOR MEALS a Strive Community run and Food Drive at Humber Bay Shores Park, at 15 Marine Parade Dr., at 10 a.m. for 5-km run and 2-km walk. Free event but please bring a non-perishable food item in support of Haven on the Queensway. For more e-mail striverunclub.com

SEPTEMBER 20 FOR 8th ANNUAL TREE FEST put on by the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association at Marie Curtis Park and is a family-friendly day of fun for all ages from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. to enjoy trees and nature with live music, a BBQ, more than 50 vendors, workshops, arts and crafts. For more information visit their website at longbranchtreefest.ca

SEPTEMBER 21 SEWING REPAIR CAFÉ if you have a sewing machine and enjoy helping others. Volunteers are being sought to help launch a Sewing Repair Café at LAMP CHC at 4 p.m. If you have sewing skills and have time to volunteer to help others contact Erica at erica@lampchc.org or 416-252-6471 ext. 257.

SEPTEMBER 24 COOKING CLASS AT AMONG FRIENDS for a fun and interactive cooking class at Among Friends, 2867 Lake Shore Blvd. W. Learn practical tips for preparing nutritious, affordable, and delicious meals while connecting with others. For more information contact Erica at erica@lampchc.org or 416-252-6471 ext. 257.

UNTIL SEPTEMBER 24 EVERY THURSDAY The Good Food Market from 12 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, for affordable produce. Bring your own bags and cash and debit accepted. For more call 416-231-7070 ext. 307.



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Property being sold as "land value" Lot size is 25 x 125 ft.

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2 BR condo with balcony & 1 underground parking.

\$589,000



Wear orange in support on September 30



Shelley Porritt - Broker of Record
rlpporritt@gmail.com
416-259-9639



See you at the
Franklin Horner Extravaganza
Sept 12
10am-4pm