

The South Etobicoke News

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Number 89

Some of the issues that matters to our voters

Lack of housing and shelter, affordability, high-density growth and transit gridlock are some of the pressing issues in South Etobicoke to think about as we get ready to vote on October 26.

The community has been divided by the homeless, an upcoming Third Street Seniors Shelter, with groups fighting against high-rise development that are changing the face of our communities.

And there are the waterfront motorsports and traffic congestion that have motorists fuming. The City is ready with more than 10,000 election workers hired to support the 1,350 election day voting places, in addition for 50 advance voting places.



WHO WILL GET YOUR VOTE ON OCTOBER 26 - WARD 3: SOME ETOBICOKE LAKESHORE candidates are incumbent Amber Morley (left) with veteran Ted Opitz (with medals) WARD 2: ETOBICOKE CENTRE incumbent Stephen Holyday (Centre), Brad Bradford who is challenging Mayor Olivia Chow.

In Ward 3, Etobicoke Lakeshore incumbent Amber Morley is competing against former MP Ted Opitz, realtor Mihaela Andrei and Anthony Internicola for the largest riding in Toronto with a population of 140,000. In

Long Branch Neighbourhood Association and played a key role in the Ontario Land Tribunal dismissal of a massive development at 220, 230, and 240 Lake Promenade and 21 and 31 Park Boulevard.

Ward 2, Etobicoke Centre, popular 12-year incumbent Stephen Holyday is taking on a City Hall worker Katie Andrachuk and Jennifer Alexander.

The ongoing issues in the ridings include the Bloor Street W. bike lanes, which are being removed; also gone are the traffic speed cameras and the failed expansion of Billy Bishop Airport among some concerns.

Morley has been working with the

Maple Leafs Ballard's home flattened for condos

The long-time South Etobicoke former home of controversial Toronto Maple Leafs hockey club owner Harold Ballard has been quietly torn down to build a condo complex. And area residents are wondering why the 6 Montgomery Road property was not placed under heritage status due to its history and high-profile owner.

Ballard lived in the house until 1972 when he moved to an apartment inside Maple Leaf Gardens following the death of his wife Dorothy and ongoing legal issues. He died in 1990 at the age of 86.

The home was sold as part of a parcel of properties that included 3100 to 3200 Bloor Street W. and 4 to 8 Montgomery Road. Tridel Group of Companies plan to build a terraced, U-shaped mixed-use development



A FORMER HOME BY HAROLD BALLARD (middle) at 6 Montgomery Road (left) has been demolished with some other properties to build a condo complex (right) with some buildings 10 to 18 storeys tall with 319 units. Courtesy photos.

spanning the northwest corner of Bloor and Montgomery Road. The complex will have 319 units in buildings that are four, six, 10- and 18 storeys tall.

The home itself was evidence in a massive public scandal. In 1972, Ballard was convicted on 47 counts of fraud, theft, and tax evasion totalling roughly \$205,000.

Historical Society said the home had interesting Tudor styling and was the home of Ballard 'who had a very significant presence in Toronto hockey history and Maple Leaf Gardens.' Ballard owned the Leafs hockey team for 28 years total, starting as a part-owner in 1962 and serving as the majority owner for 18 years.

The Crown attorney proved that he had been treating the publicly traded Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd. as his personal bank account to pay for renovations to the property and his daughter's wedding.

Ballard spent a year in at Millhaven Institution. Upon his release, he moved into the private apartment inside Maple Leaf Gardens.

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Police remember Const. Dunmore killed in wild shootout four decades ago in Etobicoke



CONST. DAVID DUNMORE

Toronto Police Constable David Dunmore is being remembered today more than 40-years after his brutal death in a shootout at Royal York Road and The Queensway. Dunmore in September 1984 was on

duty with his partner, Constable Bradley Bested, when all points broadcast advised all units to look for a stolen vehicle whose occupants had threatened two persons with a gun.

The officers spotted the wanted car in the Royal York Road and The Queensway area and took up pursuit forcing it to stop.

As the officers attempted to pull the stolen car over, the driver braked sharply forcing them to stop in front of the stolen vehicle.

The suspect jumped from the car and opened fire with a semi-automatic weapon. Dunmore was in the front seat and was fatally wounded before he had an opportunity to get out of the car.

Dunmore suffered gunshot wounds to the neck and chest. 'Brad, I'm hit', he cried out from the bullet-ridden then Metro Police cruiser.

The father of three died enroute to St. Joseph's Health Centre. Thousands of police officers attended his funeral services.

The shooter Gary White, 18, also from Etobicoke, police discovered had armed himself with an .308 semi-automatic rifle with the intent of killing his ex-girlfriend.

White had taken the rifle from the large gun collection of his uncle and guardian, who had failed to register the weapon as required by law. He had joined the Royal Regiment of Canada in 1983 but had been dismissed for poor attendance. He dropped out of school and worked part-time at his uncle's gas station.

Friends and family suggested White had developed a fascination with guns and the military. "He had a fantasy about guns," said one neighbour. White had made threatening phone calls to his ex-girlfriend's family, sometimes several times a day, and often in the middle of the night. He said he would kill family members and hack up their bodies.

"I was terrified for my life and my children's lives. He told me, very explicitly, over and over, that he was going to kill me," the girl recalled.

The family eventually laid charges against White that angered him as he believed he would obtain a criminal conviction that will prevent him from joining the United States army.



DEADLY TORONTO CRIME SCENE from September 1984 and the vehicles involved in the fatal incident that took the life of Constable David Dunmore

RIDE marks 49 years of getting drunks off the road

This month marks the 49th anniversary of the highly-successful Reduce Impaired Driving in Etobicoke (RIDE) anti-drinking and driving program. The program got its start in South



Etobicoke on October 1, 1977 and was based at Toronto Police then Number 2 District Traffic with two cars and six officers at 22 Division station, at 3699 Bloor Street W.

Retired Sgt. Theo Holtzheuser worked on RIDE over the years and said it began as an 18-month pilot project to increase the apprehension of those drinking and behind the wheels.

"After an evaluation, the results being lower in number of impaired driving collisions, and charges, the program was expanded city wide," Holtzheuser said.

The name was changed to Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere and around 1978 turned into a full-time provincial anti-drinking and driving program.

He said then some motorists feared the RIDE high-visibility spotchecks, in up to 20 different areas daily.

"The success of the pilot project was due to the dedicated effort by those who were stationed at 3699 Bloor Street West, which is now 22 Division," Holtzheuser said.

"Word soon spread and people were taking other routes other than going through Etobicoke," he recalled. "The program was a huge success."

Holtzheuser said the RIDE program is credited with saving many lives and preventing carnage on our roadways.

"The RIDE program made a difference in Ontario by saving lives," he said.

Today, the Toronto Police Service, Peel Regional Police, and the OPP run these checkpoint operations year-round, with highly visible, intensified campaigns during the summer and festive holiday seasons.

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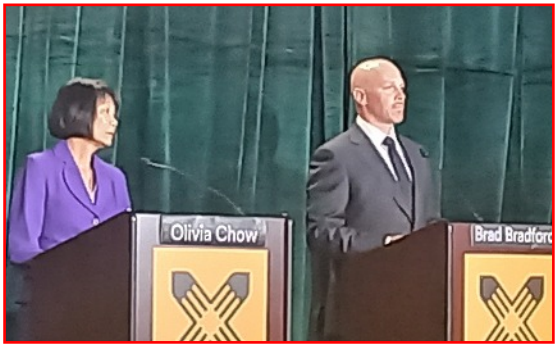
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Three mayoral candidates woo Etobicoke voters



MAYORAL CANDIDATES Olivia Chow with Councillor Brad Bradford arguing a point in debate.

14 at the Daily Bread Food Bank, on New Toronto Street. More than 350 concerned residents packed into a large meeting room, that is normally used for processing food items to feed the hungry. Listeners expressed displeasure after Chow danced around questions by Bradford as to why she was not a member of the

Mayor Olivia Chow faced a tough crowd in her first mayoral debate that saw her being booed several times for skirting around questions posed to her. Chow was on the defensive against rivals Brad Bradford and Chris Alexander during the two-hour debate on September



CHRIS ALEXANDER

Police Services Board or failed to attend a meeting by Jewish lawyers last month. The boos were loud with some in the audience screaming for her to ‘answer the question.’ Bradford accused Chow of providing free trips on the TTC when the City cannot afford it. He said the rides should be offered to senior or students. Alexander for his part appeared to be rusty having been out of politics for years. He was a former diplomat and MP who was a former federal immigration minister. He attacked Chow on a lack of housing and the rise of anti-semitism in Toronto, that has led to a number of synagogues being shot up by gunmen.



MORE THAN 350 concerned area residents packed the Daily Bread Food Bank to hear the mayoral candidates. Staff photos.

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Alexander continued that the Jewish community should be safe from anti-semitic crimes. He accused Chow of being ‘unable to fulfill the role of public safety.’ In addition to an unwraveling Toronto Police internal corruption ring. Debate moderator Neil Hetherington did a fine job in keeping the candidates in line reminding that one of 10 people use the Food Bank, which saw more than four million users last year. Bradford said the fees for developers have been increased so high and accused Chow of ‘killing the housing market in Toronto.’ ‘Nobody is investing in Toronto,’ he said. ‘Young people are moving away from the City. Development has halted.’



EAGER RESIDENTS outside the Daily Bread Food Bank waiting for the doors to open.



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LEE FAIRCLOUGH

MPP, Etobicoke—Lakeshore

Long Branch Tree Fest green fun for the family



MEMBERS OF The Gardens Lakeshore expect to grow about 950 pounds of food for those in need this year. **Staff Photos.**

Hundreds of people attended and had a good time at the Eighth Annual Long Branch Tree Festival at Marie Curtis Park. There were dozens of vendors at the free family-friendly community event on September 20 that celebrated trees, nature, and environmental stewardship.

Visitors enjoyed guided

tree walks, could ask questions of an arborist, in addition to a range of children's activities, live artists and music, environmental exhibitors and obtain free native tree and shrub giveaways.

Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley and MP James Maloney were greeting potential voters at the festival as a municipal election gets closer.

In one booth were members of The Gardens Lakeshore, a local group whose volunteer members grow food on 13 raised garden beds (PODS) in the community that are cared for by visitors.

Vanessa Keall-Vejar, of The Gardens Lakeshore, said they expect to grow about 950 pounds of food this year, which includes a range of vegetables. Keall-Vejar said the organic veggies are donated to groups that work with people suffering from food insecurities.

"We give the food to those in need," she said. "The seeds are donated to us by people in the community."

Volunteers will be reaping the tomatoes, peppers, onions and other crops in late October. The festival is presented by the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association (LBNA) in participation with community

partners Etobicoke Master Gardeners and CCFEW and is

funded in part by the City of Toronto's Urban Forestry Grants and Incentives program, the GTAA, Sunbelt, Ridley Funeral Home, Moya Financial, and RBC.

The LBNA is a non-profit incorporated association whose mission is to protect, celebrate and enhance the neighbourhood of the Village of Long Branch.

Residents were urged to achieve a 40% mature tree canopy target by taking home their own tree. The group was handing out free native trees and shrubs for planting on private property in Toronto. These are part of the 800 trees and shrubs the LBNA is distributing this fall.



TREE LOVERS CHECK out some of the displays and vendors at the Long Branch Tree Festival. Hundreds of residents attended the annual event that works to protect the City's tree canopy.



MR. TREE PLAYS with a young girl at the tree festival.

Day of Truth and

RECONCILIATION



NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION was marked by South Etobicoke residents at the Campfire sculpture at Humber Bay Shores and across the nation on September 30, or Orange Shirt Day, to remember the Indigenous children dead or missing. Larry Sault, Former Chief of The Mississaugas of The Credit First Nation, was a guest speaker.



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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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Low-riders rule in Aftermath Car Club Long Branch show

More than 100 members of the Aftermath Car Club held their year-end get together and BBQ in Long Branch last month. It was a vintage car lovers treat as people checked out the low-rider vehicles on display and talked cars in a lot just off Thirtieth Street last September 12. Club president Paul Cuzzin said members are enthusiasts, collectors and aficionados of the low-rider craft who appreciate a lifestyle and culture that dates back to the 1940s. "Our club allows us to connect, collaborate, share and participate in our communities while giving back, and keeping the history of the culture and lifestyle alive," Cuzzin said.



MEMBERS OF AFTERMATH CAR Club show off some of their low-rider vehicles in Long Branch.

The vintage vehicles are all refurbished and outfitted with hydraulic systems that makes the front end bounce up and down or the cars rise on its sides. "We are dedicated specifically to the preservation, restoration, modification and enjoyment of classic low-rider cars that have shaped our culture," he said. Started by Mexican-American serviceman modifying their cars in the 1940s, low-rider culture

finds a new home in Toronto. Low-rider culture and history goes back far beyond the West Coast gangster rap image most associate it with today. The roots date to the postwar years of the 1940s when returning Mexican-American serviceman began modifying their cars alongside the growing hot rod culture of white America.



THE CLASSIC 56 Cadillac of a bygone era.



FANS CHECK OUT a souped up low-rider speedster (top) sitting high and stop to admire an antique classic beauty from years gone by (below). It takes some finances to maintain these prized automobiles. **Staff photos.**



\$100 million sports centre coming to Humber

Construction will begin early next year for a new \$100 million Canada Basketball's National Training Centre and headquarters at Humber Polytechnic's North Campus.

The three-storey Athletic and Community Recreation Hub will have six gymnasiums for provincial, national and international competitions; a high-performance training centre, a domed playing field and expanded supporting facilities.

The centre will be located in the northwest corner of the campus, just south of the intersection of Humber College Boulevard and Humberline Drive.

"The Hub will strengthen Canada's sport system," said Adam van Koeverdan, the Secretary of State for Sport, as he made a \$76 million commitment to the facility.



ARTIST RENDERING of the planned Canada Basketball National Training Centre.

opportunities to host major sporting events here at home," he said.

The Hub will consolidate Canada Basketball's training and operations, while the organization plans to continue activities nationwide.

The Ontario government kicked in the remaining \$24 million for the project.

This will "help athletes at every level pursue excellence, expand participation and create more

"We are grateful to the Government of Canada for recognizing basketball as a sport of national importance, and to Humber Polytechnic for continuing to help make the game accessible," said Canada Basketball President and CEO Michael Bartlett.

Community, academic, and athletic programming will double, with 32,000 hours of annual community access monitored by Humber. Coaches, officials, and volunteers must meet Canada Basketball's policy, certification, and safe sport requirements.

The announcement builds on Ottawa's \$1-billion sport investment that supports athletes, infrastructure, participation, and event hosting.

Humber Polytechnic President Ann Marie Vaughan said: "Today's investment is a significant milestone for Humber, Canada Basketball and the future of the sport."

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Police still trying to ID body found by lake



ARTISTS RENDERING of the unidentified man whose body was found in Long Branch almost 50 years ago. **OPP photos.**

Police are working hard to identify a man whose remains washed up on a South Etobicoke beach almost half-a-century ago.

Police for almost 50 years have been trying to identify a young man identified as 'John Doe' whose remains were washed up on a Long Branch beach with very little clues as to his identity.

It was a week before Christmas in 1977 that the remains of a man were found along the shore along Long Branch Park and the OPP have been trying to identify him since.

"He is believed to have been between 18 to 25 years old," according to an update by the OPP Ontario Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified

Remains. "There is something especially heartbreaking about an unidentified person who has never been claimed."

Police believe he stood from 5-foot 6-inches to five-foot nine-inches tall, weighed about 140 pounds, and analysis suggested he may have been of Hispanic descent.

Police said the name of the man remains unknown nearly five decades after the body parts were found. It is believed he may have been dead for about a year before his remains were found.

"It is believed that he had been deceased for at least a year before his remains were discovered," police said.

They said somewhere, there may have been 'a family who wondered what happened to a son, brother, father, uncle or friend.'

"It is possible he was reported missing somewhere else — perhaps in another part of Canada, the United States, or even another country — and the people who loved him never learned where his life ended," according to police.

"We don't know his name, his story, or the circumstances that brought him to the shores of Lake Ontario," officers said. "He was a person, and he mattered."



THE OPP CENTER for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains is probing the case and hope to solve it to bring closure to victim's family.



OPP POSTER seeking information to identify the man whose body washed up on a Long Branch beach almost 50 years ago..

The OPP Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains centre is investigating at least 30 cases in which people have gone missing in the province.

The Toronto Police Service investigates approximately 4,000 to 4,300 missing person cases every year. Many of them are found safe. If you recognize this case, have information that could help identify him, or believe he may be connected to someone who was reported missing, please contact the OPP Centre at 1-877-934-6363.



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Two area women named on Top 100 Accomplished list



TINA GARNET

Two talented South Etobicoke women have been recognized for being on a list of Top 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women.

Tina 'Tee' Garnet, a charity worker, and Nekpen Obasogie, who is running for councillor for Ward 5 in the Toronto municipal elections, were presented with awards at a ceremony at Woodbine Banquet Hall on September 19.

Garnet serves as an executive director of the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment, in Etobicoke, who has 30 years of experience in supporting marginalized communities.

"This recognition is especially meaningful because it's something I've aspired to for over a decade," she wrote on social media.

"Grateful, humbled, and energized to keep doing the work that uplifts our communities and honours the legacy of Black women who paved the way."

Obasogie is an author and social worker who is seeking to become councillor of Ward 5, York South-Weston, in the upcoming October 26 municipal elections.

She has deep roots in the community and it was the first place she called home, after moving here from Montreal.

"Living in this community has given me valuable insights into the needs and aspirations of its residents, making it a vital part of my journey," Obasogie said. "I am committed to collaborating with everyone to improve the quality of life for all in York South-Weston."

She helped establish the Canadian Council for Family Services, the Edo Language Day Worldwide initiative in 2022, the Edo Cultural Heritage Commission in North America, and led her team on a visit to the United Nations in New York.

The purpose of the Top 100 awards is to highlight the accomplishments of trailblazing Black Canadian women who are unsung heroes in the fields of government, not-for-profit, financial, legal, real estate, health, education/academic and entertainment.



NEKPEN OBASOGIE

Family runs the Sahara

An Etobicoke father and daughter team will be competing in one of the world's toughest foot race in the Sahara Desert in blistering heat.

Isabella, and her dad, Pro Sarbadhikari, have their trips booked and are registered for the April 2027 Marathon des Sables In Morocco to raise funds for War Child Canada.

The race is said to be the World's Toughest Foot Race which covers 250 kilometres (156 miles) through the brutal Sahara Desert, where the daylight temperature reaches 40 to 50 degrees Celsius.

Pro has made the treacherous run before and this will be Isabella's first time.

She is competing to 'stand in solidarity with women, girls and families affected by war.'

"My race has a finish line," the student said. "For

millions of people living through conflict, the challenges they face continue long after the world's attention moves elsewhere."

The fourth year University of Guelph political science student has been training for months to prepare for the six-day multi-stage ultramarathon across the world's largest desert.

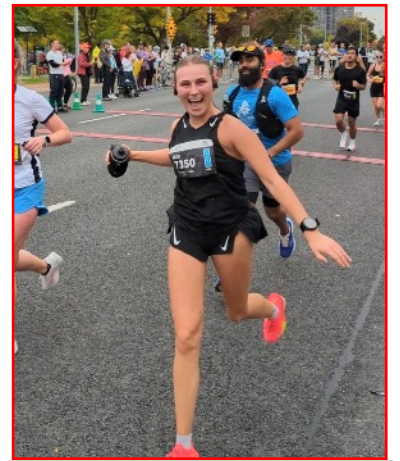
The race is self-sufficient, which means the runners have to carry their supplies for six days as food, clothing, sleeping bag, stove, cup and other required equipment. Water is provided at designated checkpoints, but otherwise, if she needs it, she carries it.

She has spent the last several years volunteering with War Child Canada and has spent her summers working with the City of Toronto as a camp coordinator.

Those experiences have given her the opportunity to see firsthand how support, opportunity and stability can make a lasting difference in a child's life.

"Around the world, conflict disrupts lives, families and communities, with women and girls often facing profound barriers to safety, education and opportunity," Sarbadhikari said. Through War Child Canada, that impact can be even more profound. In communities affected by war and conflict, support can quite literally save lives and help children build a future," she said.

You can donate to Isabella's run at <https://warchildcommunityfundraising.crowdfunder.ca/158275>



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Battle of the 'ribbers' for the best ribs in the park



CHEF THOMAS (above) of **BIG TEXAS** says the secret of cooking a tasty rib is the sauce and spices. Disann (below) is from Alabama and has been working the bbq' circuit in southern Ontario for months. She loves the country. **Staff photos.**



Every year around this time ribbers and barbequers are busy wooing customers with their taste of what makes a good-tasting rib. Some chefs say it's the sauce and others claim it's the spices and the cookin' that makes the perfect bbq rib, or other meats, that leave foodies licking their fingers.

About six high-profile ribbers gathered and competed for trophies at the Etobicoke Lakeshore Rib-Fest on September 25 to 27 at Col. Samuel Smith Park. Prizes were awarded for best rib, best sauce and other categories.

Many ribbers have dozens of trophies which are proudly displayed and gained from previous food cookouts.

Chef Lester Jordan, of Jack the Ribber, attributes his

popular ribs to the secret sauce they use.

"Our sauce is family-friendly and a little sweet but not too hot," Jordan said as he shows some awards that Jack the Ribber has won. The ribbers from London, Ont., are on the road every weekend to take part in fairs and festivals.

They claim to be the only Canadian ribbers at the rib-fest, which also had dozens of vendors, crafts and live music for the entire weekend.

"If it's not our smoke, it is a joke," Jordan bragged.

Disann is from Alabama and has been on the bbq circuit in south Ontario since last May and can't wait to get back home.

"We have travelled to many small towns," Disann said. "It's been good for us and people like what we do."

Chef Thomas, of Big Texas, offers a taste of his sauce, which he says in many cases lead to a sale. "Our sauce is sweet and smoky," Chef Thomas said. "The secret is in the sauce." He said people love the smoky flavour of his ribs.



CHEF LESTER JORDAN (above) of Jack the Ribber shows off one of his trophies as rib-lovers line up at Billy Bones BBQ (below) who claim its all about the sauce being used to marinate the ribs.



Ali the vendor says his poutine is tops in area



ALI THE VENDOR (top, right) boasts that his poutine and sausages are the best. **Staff Photos.**

Food vendor Ali Rauti boasts that he sells the best poutine and hot dogs in the community.

Rauti is the owner of Tam's Grill & Catering Co., which operates two large 10-foot by 12-foot mobile food carts in South Etobicoke.

On any day there is a line-up of people waiting to be served at his carts with a hearty sausage, hamburger or poutine meal: which is one of his best-sellers.

"We only use halal food and vegetable oil for our foods," Rauti boasts. "We only serve pork-free foods and it all natural and

healthy." He is closed on Fridays as the nearby college is closed.

His cart is usually parked in a lot in the Lake Shore Blvd. W. and Sixteen Street area; and another in the Rexdale area.

The sausages are well-spiced, fresh and good tasting. The prices are affordable as you can purchase a large hot dog and drink for less than \$10.

The cart is clean and features a range of condiments to suit your taste buds. The booth is winterized and has a heater to cope on the cold winter days.

He has been in the vending business for about 10 years and notes that people are concerned with their health and watch what they consume.

"A friend told me about the food carts years ago," he says. "It is not a bad business and I now have two carts."

Rauti has come a long way since arriving in Canada from Afghanistan with only the clothing on his back more than three decades ago.

His halal custom-made hot dogs get high reviews; with our favourite being the Italian. Also available are soft drinks, water and snacks as potato chips.



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FOOD AND FUN from dozens of vendors at the annual Cloverdale Food Truck Festival that provided good food with great music and activities. The three-day event held at Cloverdale Mall every September is a jam-packed event for foodies who choose unique tasting experiences.





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Plaque to honour prominent Mimico zoo keeper



A.W. MILES

Mimico residents are raising funds to install a plaque to honour a long-gone funeral director who established his own zoo with giraffes and elephants.

More than \$4,000 of \$6,000 have been collected in a campaign by Mimico Residents Association to pay for a Heritage Toronto sign to highlight the life of A.W. Miles and his importance to Mimico and the community.

Miles, or A.W. as he was called, founded the A.W. Miles Company, Undertakers, in 1900, and earned his fortune after introducing the country's first motorized hearse and funeral home chapel. He also had the city's first ambulance.

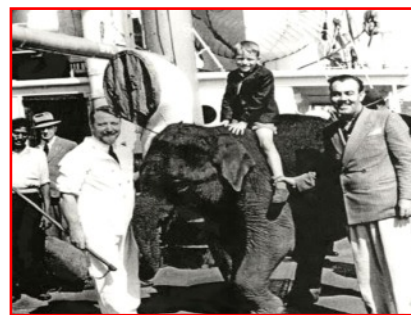
He was the Undertaker of choice to many of Canada's top politicians and citizens including Prime Minister Mackenzie King, Sir William Mulock, Sir Joseph Flavelle, Sir Henry Pellatt and Sir William Hearst.

He also arranged the 1914 mass funeral of 109 Torontonians on the *Empress of Ireland* that sank in the St. Lawrence River, in what was Canada's worst maritime

disaster. The grounds of his home was opened free to the public and popular with church and other groups. A.W. also provided free lunches, ice cream, and transportation for Sunday school classes.

By 1930, A.W.'s zoo had become fairly large and widely known with thousands of people travelling to admire the colours of the peacock, ride the pet mules, play on the slides and swings and hold picnics.

Miles Park within years was circled by homes and neighbours began to complain of the foul odour from the zoo that led to Mimico Council passing a by-law prohibiting the keeping of animals in the township. Despite appeals, A.W. in 1936 reluctantly moved all his animals to a 200-acre farm in Erindale.



A.W. MILES and his pet elephant named Tootsie.

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Don't Miss It!

Local teen top CNE singer

An 11-year-old Etobicoke singer has been crowned Junior Champion of a CNE Talent Competition for being a better singer than more than 50 contestants.

Marian Solenn Manuel took the crown after competing against 54 contestants in her age group. She was crowned the Grand Champion of the 39th annual Rising Star Talent Competition, the CNE said.

Described as a soulful singer, Manuel took home the Junior Grand Champion on the final weekend of Canada's largest fair.

At just 11, she impressed the judges and audiences throughout the competition, delivering a standout performance of the classic Jackson 5 song, "Who's Loving You".

The CNE Rising Star Competition was held from August 21 – September 6 during the fair, drawing large crowds inside the Enercare Centre to see more than 100 performers from across the province compete and showcase their extraordinary talents.

Now in its 39th year, the Rising Star Talent Competition remains one of Ontario's most beloved platforms for discovering and nurturing local talent; it is a cornerstone in the

CNE's commitment to enriching Ontario's local arts community.



MARIAN SOLENN MANUEL (top, below) was crowned Junior Champion of a CNE Talent Competition. She impressed the judges with a standout performance of the classic Jackson 5 hit 'Who's Loving You.' *Courtesy photos.*



Contestants are evaluated on factors such as natural ability, audience appeal, stage presence, and overall performance quality. The competition has a legacy of nurturing provincial talent, with past winners including jazz sensation Matt Dusk and award-winning choreographer Blake McGrath.

Other winners of the Junior category included 1st Runner up Eva Moriarity, 9, dancer, of Nobleton; 2nd runner up was singer Lexi Zane Sales, 9, Oakville, and the People's Choice Award Winner Penelope-Quinn Daniels.

In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



Many community residents will agree that something has to be done to bring under control the many e-scooters and e-vehicles that are over taking our sidewalks and streets.

How many times have we seen young children, with no helmets and with others hanging on them, speeding down sidewalks and through intersections talking on their phones without care for vehicles. Pedestrians have to duck or run for cover to escape getting hit or injured by these speeding two-wheel demons that you barely hear as they with great

speed approach behind you just missing you by inches.

Toronto Police say there have been 514 reported micromobility-related collisions involving youth and adults in Toronto, which includes two deaths involving e-scooters.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information reported 837 e-scooter hospitalizations across Canada between April 2025 and March 2026, with Ontario accounting for 294 of those cases. Hospitalizations for children aged 15 and under have nearly tripled nationally, with preteens and young teens, especially boys aged 10 to 12, facing the highest risk of severe injuries. The common injuries include fractures, head trauma and brain injuries.

The young scooter riders who are being injured or killed in crashes with vehicles across the city are of all races and backgrounds.

Just last month a 16-year old boy was hospitalized in a two-vehicle collision near The Queensway and Grand Avenue, just west of Park Lawn Road.

The e-bike rider was transported to a trauma centre and the extent of their injuries is unknown. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene.

A couple days before, another teen was critically injured after hitting a vehicle in North York; another wounded after being hit by a car in Scarborough; and another in Etobicoke.

Dr. Daniel Rosenfield, with Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, said while the e-scooters are a favourite mode of transportation for children, it's preteens that are most likely to be injured in an accident.

"The classic user of these devices that we see (in the emergency department) that is most severely injured are boys aged 10 to 12, which is before you can get a driver's licence, before you know the rules of the road, and kids don't understand how powerful these devices are," said Rosenfield.

More concerning from the Canadian Pediatric Surveillance Program is the fact that 10 children died in 2025 using e-scooters or e-bikes.

The e-scooters are getting faster and more injurious to young people. The average top speed for an e-scooter in 2022 was 25 km an hour. Now four years later, the top average speed jumped to 32 km/h, and some go much faster, with modified batteries, that spark vicious house fires, and a danger to Toronto firefighters.

In most cases the riders of these devices have little or no training, insurance or helmets and are gone by the the police arrived for any incidents.

One person I know bragged that his e-bike with modified batteries can speed to Niagara Falls from Toronto in hours and can travel more than 60 miles and hour. That's the speed of a car.

It's about time authorities consider an educational and law enforcement program to warn young people about the dangers of the e-mobility devices before more of them get hurt. Maybe they should have those injured in e-vehicles speak to our young about the dangers.

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

Tariffs/ Global Trade/ Geopolitical Tensions/ AI are huge issues in the current environment.

In this article, I going to talk about the various issues that will impact the individuals and families. Issues such as interest rate, employment and the economic impact going forward.

Interest rate, there is an underlying economic reality that will result in an uptick in the interest rate around the world and Canada. Mortgage interests are already on the upswing, I recently read an article Variable Interest Rate vs. Fixed Rate, the consensus was in the favour of Variable Interest Rate. If your mortgage is up for renewal, recommend one should consult with your broker in depth before signing the renewal. Consumer loans, credit card and Home Equity rates are also going up in tandem focus on paying down the debt aggressively.

Housing, rents and housing prices are falling, there is a significant amount of unsold inventory especially in the condo market. In the past housing contributed significantly to the Canadian economy and this downturn has significantly impacted the Canadian GDP. New housing and re-sales are down significantly and are continuing to be a drag on the economy

Canadian economy is going to need a major realignment which our Prime Minister has embarked upon. Infrastructure focused, expanded trade agreements with other countries and courting heavy weights of the financial world. The Prime Minister is moving towards exploiting our strengths in critical minerals and energy, the world needs them now more than ever. Our Prime Minster is taking a macro approach. The economy needs billions of dollars.

So how does this happen, economy will need laws and fewer regulations along with finances, some major banks have committed to targeted funds especially to fulfil the defence infrastructure. Foreign capital will need to come in to exploit our infrastructure, mining and pipelines along with government financing. The Economy needs billions of dollars.

In defence, the country has committed to building several nuclear submarines, this build will require skilled workers which Canada lacks, individuals should consider up-skilling and/or undertake training. Great opportunity and a rewarding career. Beyond the submarines Canada is looking to add naval vessels to shore up the Navy.

mining, pipelines and railroads are the other areas that are actively under consideration and or already in process. These major projects will offer some employment opportunities, please exploit this opportunity check the Skills Canada website.

Canada is actively looking at Trade Agreements with a major economies like European Union, China and India, why, to reduce dependency with the USA. We are being subjected to abuse from a major economic power USA and our Prime Minster is standing up to them. This realignment will not happen overnight, but it must start somewhere and now is as good as any other time.

AI is confronting the world and the impact that may have on our day to day lives, unfortunately Canada at this point has invested very little to technology. There is no consensus among the major players as to the impact it may have on employment. One thing is for sure,in the short it will enhance employment to build up the infrastructure like data centers and power transmission networks along battery storage. Again, opportunities are going to open in the skilled trades. Individuals currently involved computing technology may want to upgrade there potential to embrace AI. Beyond the computing, AI needs to be embraced by manufacturers and service industry and will need AI focused candidates.

Geopolitical tensions are continuing to impact the world and their economy and there seems to be no end in sight. World leaders are continuing to manage their country’s with a focused approach.

In such uncertain times, individuals and families must understand and continue to manage their finances continually, like debt reduction, retraining and/or upgrading their education targeting the potential growth areas.

How long it will take to take shape is anybody’s guess but one thing is for sure it will happen, exploit the opportunities when they happen by being ready for them

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.

Municipal elections are not a search for the most charming promises. They are a search for people we can trust to make difficult decisions on our behalf.

That becomes particularly important when candidates promise lower taxes or promise that taxes will not increase. Of course, we would all like to pay less. But before accepting that promise, voters should ask one simple question: How?

If taxes are not increased, the money still has to come from somewhere. to cover inflation. Will services be reduced? Will projects be postponed? Will maintenance be delayed? Will staff or programs be eliminated? Or are we simply being told that efficiencies will somehow be found from within? this last one never works.

I learned something about government finances during many years working in government and the justice system, including managing a justice budget of approximately \$70 million. Government departments generally do not have large pools of unnecessary money sitting around waiting to be discovered. Most of the money is already committed to providing services the public expects. I always needed more.

That does not mean governments cannot become more efficient. They certainly can. Every organization should continually ask whether it can provide a service better or at less cost.

But there is a difference between finding efficiencies and promising that efficiencies will solve everything. In my experience, there are very few large, painless savings waiting to be found. The obvious savings have usually already been examined. Eventually, governments have to make choices. They can raise revenue, reduce services, reduce spending, change priorities or postpone projects. So when a candidate says, “We won’t raise taxes because we’ll find efficiencies,” don’t simply accept the word *efficiencies*.

Ask: “Where are they? Which department or program? What exactly will change? And how much will it save?” Those questions force a campaign promise to become a plan. A candidate does not need to know every detail before taking office. But if they are making a significant financial promise, voters are entitled to know the basis for it. Otherwise, “efficiency” becomes a campaign slogan rather than a realistic proposal. The same applies when candidates say a project can be postponed.

If a road, water main, bridge, public building or other infrastructure project can wait, ask which project, for how long and what the delay will cost later on -- remember inflation.

Postponing infrastructure does not necessarily make it cheaper. Roads deteriorate. Water systems age. Buildings require maintenance. Construction costs can rise. A project postponed today may eventually have to be completed at a substantially higher cost.

That does not mean every project must be built immediately, or that taxes can never be reduced. Ask what are their priorities. If you promise not to raise taxes, tell us what you will change to make that possible.

That is why specific questions matter. They tell voters whether a candidate understands the issue or is simply repeating something that sounds good during a campaign. The other question is: does the candidate listen? I have spent much of my professional life listening to people who disagree with me. As a judge, I had to hear both sides, consider their arguments and explain my reasons.I did not have to agree with both sides. But they deserve to know my reasons.

That became important when I raised concerns about police corruption in Toronto with Councillor Amber Morley. She served on the Toronto Police Services Board. As a former judge with decades of experience in the justice system, I had prepared a paper outlining a different approach to the problem. I asked Councillor Morley to present the paper to the Board.

What struck me was that the conversation seemed more focused on telling me what she and the Board were doing rather than exploring the new idea I suggested. I wasn't looking for a sales pitch about her; I wanted a representative to consider a new idea, ask questions about it .That is an important distinction. A representative's job is not simply to tell constituents what they have accomplished. It is also to listen when a constituent brings forward a new idea.

I don't know why the conversation developed that way, and I won't speculate about her motives. My concern was simply that I wanted dialogue about the problem and the possible solutions. *I never heard back from her.* I experienced something similar during the discussion about a proposed high-rise deveopment on the Lakeshore. I wanted to know where my representative stood and, more importantly, why. I was not asking for agreement. I wanted a clear position so that we could discuss it. I wanted to understand the reasoning behind it, the evidence supporting it and whether I found that reasoning persuasive. I did not have a clear understanding of her position but democratic discussion requires knowing what the other person actually believes.

Recently, another candidate came to my door. I raised some of the same concerns about policing. The candidate asked questions. I still didn't know whether we agreed. But I knew I was being heard. We don't require agreement. In fact, disagreement is essential to democracy. What matters is a conversation in which both sides are willing to listen, question and consider another point of view. So before you vote, don't just listen to what candidates promise. Listen to what happens when you ask the next question.

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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Looking after yourself and others in the community

OCTOBER 7 COMMUNITY LISTENING CIRCLE : Third Street Shelter at LAMP CHC at 6:30 p.m. to bring community members together to share their thoughts, feelings, and opinions on topics that matter to our neighbourhood. Listening Circles offer a respectful and welcoming space to build community, connect with your neighbours, and truly listen to one another. To sign up, contact **Erica** at erica@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 257.

OCTOBER 7 FREE CONCERT SERIES at Montgomery's Inn to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Opera Company from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Inn at 4709 Dundas Street W. For more call 416-394-8113 or email monmontinn@toronto.ca or visit www.toronto.ca.

OCTOBER 8 23rd GEMS OF ETOBICOKE-LAKESHORE celebrating the best of our community this year and presented by **MP James Maloney**. The event takes place runs from 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Mimico Cruising Club, at 200 Humber Bay Park Road West.

OCTOBER 9, 10 & 11 BEER FOOD DANCE at an Oktober fest weekend party at 7 p.m. at the Westway Dance Club, at 291 Evans Avenue. Tickets \$25 and \$30. Dinner included. For more phone 416-255-6925.

OCTOBER 11 LAST DAY Humber Bay Shores Farmers' Market to end the 13th season. It runs from 9 a.m. To 2 p.m. at Humber Bay Park West. For fresh fruit, vegetables and home-made goods and treats.

OCTOBER 13 LEARNING UNLIMITED ETOBICOKE an eight week lecture series as History of the Ottoman Empire: by **Dr Olivier Courteaux**: Classical Music: The Traits, Trends and Transitions by **Rick Philips** and Women of Science Breaking barriers from Alchemy to Zoology on Zoom by **Dr. Myriam Nafte** Visit www.learningunlimited.etobicoke.com

OCTOBER 16 - 18 LAKESHORE ART TRAIL ART SHOW taking place at the Small Arms Inspection Building. Opening night is on October 16 with art, vendors and shows taking place a 1352 Lakeshore Rd. E. The show features local artists, a youth art exhibit,

a community art project, live music and more. For more e-mail: info@creativehub1352.ca

OCTOBER 17 & 18 BAZAAR ST. AMBROSE CHURCH at 782 Brown's Line from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., for artisans and crafters, grand bake sale, trash to treasure rummage and cafe and luncheon. All proceeds go to church ministries or programs. This is the 45th year of the St. Ambrose bazaar.

OCTOBER 19 ALL CANDIDATES MEETING for candidates seeking to become Councillor of Ward 3 at Lakeshore Collegiate Institute, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The municipal election is on October 26 and some of the top issues of the City will be discussed at the meeting. Attending will be **Mayor Olivia Chow, Ted Opitz, Chris Alexander, Incumbent Amber Morley**, and others.

OCTOBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 12 THE ARTIST CUBE presents "1001 Stories: Colours of Faith and Home" at Cloverdale Mall, which is a celebration of Islamic Heritage Month in October and Muslim artists and heritage. The exhibition offers visitors an intimate look into the heritage and lived experiences of Muslim communities in the Toronto area and beyond. Admission is free and for more information e-mail: nargis.naqvi@theartistcube.com or phone 905-462-4908.

OCTOBER 21 PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY FROM FLOODING and learn from experts from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Mimico Centennial Library, 47 Station Road. Speaker will be **Dr. Blair Feltmate**, of the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation. Practical and cost-effective actions will be presented to limit exposure to basement flooding. For more e-mail: info@greenmimico.ca

OCTOBER 23 ETOBICOKE COMMUNITY BAND Baseball Blues at 7:30 p.m. at Etobicoke Collegiate, 86 Montgomery Rd. Tickets \$25 and kids under 12 free. For more information call 416-410-1570 or visit tickets [at] eccb.ca

OCTOBER 23 ANNUAL HALLOWEEN FAMILY DANCE at David Hornell School from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

presented by the Mimico Residents Association. Costumes and families with young kids are welcome. There will be music, dancing, food and drinks. For more e-mail info@mimicoresidents.ca

OCTOBER 31 HALLOWEEN DANCE and with a prize for best costume. Dance starts at 7 p.m. at the Westway Dance Club, 291 Evans Avenue. Tickets required. Dinner included. For more call 416-255-6925.

NOVEMBER 1 MIMICO PUMPKIN PARADE bring your Jack-O-Lanterns to the Mimico Square at Amos Waites Park for a final chance to shine from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Volunteers will be on hand to help and organizers ask that you bring your own candles, tea lights; not in glass containers, to light the pumpkins. For more go to the Mimico Pumpkin Parade Facebook page.

GROCERY SHOPPING TRIPS for those over the age of 55 or with mobility issues as the shopping bus runs bi-weekly on Thursday morning to take shoppers to No Frills, at The Queensway and Royal York Road. The bus will pick up patrons and return them home. To sign up call 416-231-7070 ext. 239 to fill out the necessary forms.

FRIDAYS AT 11 a.m. SOCA DANCE CLASS get moving with this upbeat, energetic dance class set to vibrant Caribbean beats at LAMP CHC. Perfect for improving physical fitness while having fun in a supportive group atmosphere. For more contact Erica at erica@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 257.

UNTIL OCTOBER 31 FALL FOOD DRIVE by Haven on the Queensway in which monetary or food items being accepted to help those who cannot afford food. Items needed includes: frozen turkeys, rolls-ham, canned soup, tuna, meats, vegetables, baby food, breakfast cereals, rice or pasta. Drop off at 76 Fordhouse Blvd., by October 5 for Thanksgiving distribution or November 9 for Fall distribution. For more info contact 416-640-2005 or visit info@havenontheq.com

OCTOBER 23 & 24 ANNUAL CHARITY Halloween Year Sale and Mimico Residents' Halloween Dance return to David Hornell Junior Public School. For the 10th year in a row, the Junior Public School's gym will be packed with secondhand treasures as local realtor Mike Majeski hosts his annual Charity Halloween Yard Sale on October 24. The event has become a neighbourhood fixture. It draws hundreds of shoppers each year, along with a team of volunteers and 50 to 100 residents who drop off donations. On October 23, Majeski helps the Mimico Residents' Association host its annual Halloween Dance from 6 to 8 p.m., also at David Hornell. Donations for the yard sale can be dropped off on October 21 and October 22 between 5 and 7 p.m. at a local Mimico location. David Hornell Junior Public School is located at 32 Victoria Street. E-mail home@realestatelove.ca or call 416-988-3425 for more.



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2 BR condo with 2 full baths and 1 car underground parking.
\$599,000



Shelley Porritt - Broker of Record
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Happy Thanksgiving