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Centennial News

A publication of the Centennial Community and Recreation Association

Happy holidays, everyone!



Centennial News is delighted to have Derrick Liberty's stunning watercolour "A Winter's Day at Colonel Danforth Park" to highlight this issue. Derrick has lived in the Centennial community since 1995. His painting is a good reminder that even in winter Centennial is a wonderful place to be, so continue to get outside to walk and hike as much as you can and try to embrace the season.

By Kathryn Stocks

What to say as 2020 painfully lurches to an end and we find ourselves in another lockdown? With the holiday season arriving and COVID cases surging, we won't be able to gather in large groups at least until December 21. No parties or festive events, just get-togethers with members of your household. This has the potential to be bleak.

You're probably hearing a lot of people say "shop local this year" and it's so true if we want our neighbourhood businesses to keep going. Having to shut down during the holiday season is brutal for them. So even though their shops are closed, check online to see if you can help them out. See page 6 for a list of ways you can give them a boost.

During the lockdown, restaurants can no longer serve indoors or on patios but many are still open for

takeout and delivery. Please make an effort to find out which ones are open and continue to support them, too.

And don't forget charities. They are suffering as well. Many couldn't hold their usual fundraising events this year and are strapped for cash when it's needed most. For your family members who don't need more stuff, consider giving a charitable donation in their name.

In a front-page article last January, Centennial News welcomed the new year and the new decade with these words: "The last '20s decade was a defining era... So what will the 2020s bring? It will definitely be a time of change..."

We were right on with that part. This, too, will be a defining era and we will always remember this time in our lives. So do what you can to make this holiday season as special as possible for those around you. Decorate your home, put up outdoor lights and share your baking with your neighbours. Kindness and goodwill go a long way in a difficult time.

Highland Creek condo plan gets a closer look

By Rob Elbertsen

Altree Developments submitted an application last fall for the construction of two eight-storey residential buildings overlooking the Highland Creek ravine at Military Trail and Kingston Rd. The mandatory community consultation meeting originally scheduled for April by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie was held virtually on Nov. 3.

Hosted by City Planning staff, the meeting was also attended by Councillor McKelvie, TRCA, and representatives from Altree. The development applicant presented detailed information regarding their application, including possible building design and layout, road widening configurations, and greenspace.

This development application differed from the original plan. The number of residential units has decreased from 620 to 558 (some one-bedroom units were replaced with two- or three-bedroom units). Vehicle parking spaces have been reduced from 577 to 518 (435 for residents and 83 for visitors). It was also noted that on top of the eight-storey buildings would be a "mechanical penthouse," about five metres in height. The plan maintains eight storeys even though the Highland Creek Secondary Plan and zoning bylaws for the area permit a maximum building height of six storeys.

Following the presentation, planning staff and the applicant answered questions and addressed comments from attendees. All presentation slides and other documentation can be found at: aic.to/1625MilitaryTrl

The next step will be for the applicant to present their plan to Scarborough Community Council. If approved, it will proceed to Toronto City Council for further review.

Anyone with comments or questions is encouraged to contact Sophie Knowles at City Planning at 416-396-4157, Sophie.Knowles@toronto.ca and Councillor McKelvie's office at 416-338-3771, Councillor_McKelvie@toronto.ca. It's important to make your views known.

See page 5 for more on the discussion.

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What an excellent first-time experience! 10/10 would buy with you again lol. It really did just work out the way you said. My mom is thinking it was meant to be as well. It is so totally surreal right now. Thanks again for all your advice, you were a total game changer for us! - **Tori French**

My partner and I felt that home ownership would never be possible for us, let alone during a pandemic. Immediately, Jean made us comfortable and confident with her research-based approach, helping us unpack all the details as we viewed listing by listing. More shocking to us that we could see the homes in person during a quarantine. Jean was extremely transparent and upfront about all the specific COVID-19 protocols, paperwork, and even drew out clearly how and what is different during this period. I cannot say enough about how supported and respected we felt by Jean during our process in finding our first home! What a dream! Thank you to Jean and her excellent team! We could not have done it without you, and I would not have changed a thing.
– **Lindsey and James**



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Letter to the editor

Be part of the change

In the September issue, I read the following, eloquently expressed in an article by Wendell Gibbs: "Particularly, if you're non-black, you cannot walk in a 'black' shoe, but you can walk beside it, to speak up, support, challenge and defend it against any attacks for its 'colour.'"

In October, an editorial shared community comments received on that article. The opinions were familiar – that racism is more of an American issue, it's not as prevalent in Canada, and certainly not as much of a problem in multicultural Toronto.

That depends on who you ask. The murder of Black citizens and protests led by Black Lives Matter illuminate systemic problems felt by many people of colour, here in Canada and globally. I am Asian-Canadian, born and raised in Toronto. I have experienced racism throughout my life, and will be the first to say that it has greatly improved over time. That is a hopeful sign, but it still exists.

By denying the existence of anti-Black racism, we accept a system that has built huge inequities for Black and Indigenous communities here, not to mention barriers that exist for all persons of colour. We too often look away while others fight for justice, and there is so much to be gained, as Wendell Gibbs wrote, by challenging acts of racism, unintended or not.

This is a welcoming and inclusive community but has room to be better. We need to listen respectfully to the ongoing dialogue about systemic racism and question our biases. By speaking up when we see inequality, we are a part of the real change happening now.

Janice Bennink

President’s Message

Take care not to invite the coronavirus in

By Kathy Rowe

The holiday season is upon us and although it is usually a time when we want to invite friends and loved ones into our homes, we must take good care not to invite the coronavirus in. This is going to be a very different December, but it just can’t be helped. Ways to keep the joy of the holidays close to us can range from enjoying the decorated homes during a neighbourhood stroll to participating in a drive-thru holiday presentation. On page 4 you will find an array of ideas in my article, “Holidays from a distance.”

AGM in a virtual way

Conducting our annual general meeting via Zoom was quite the experience! To be honest, I’m still getting comfortable with virtual meetings and a meeting of this scale was somewhat nerve-wracking. Fortunately, with sound support, a good-sized audience and excellent guest speakers, things went quite smoothly. I’d like to thank MP Gary Anandasangaree, MPP Vijay

Thanigasalam and Councillor Jennifer McKelvie for their contributions to the meeting.

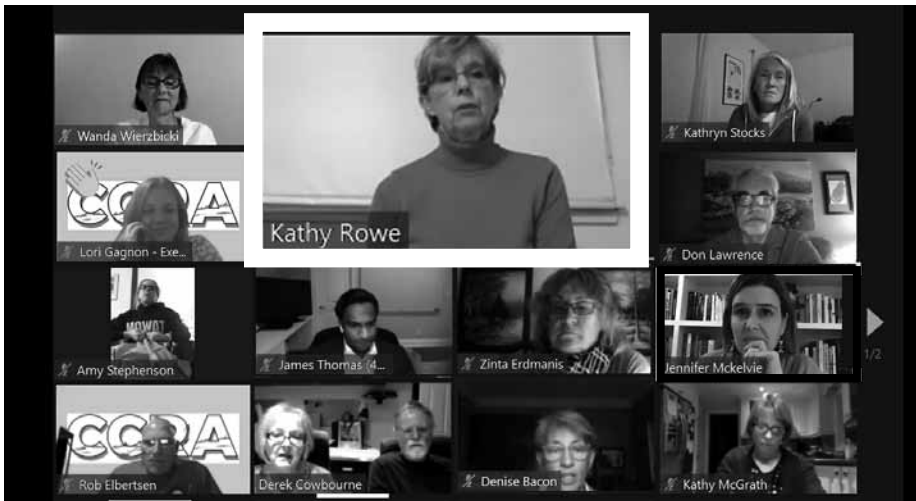
A fond farewell was made to our advertising chair **Kelsey Dorval**. Kelsey has been on the executive for more than 10 years. During her tenure, Kelsey liaised with advertisers and built solid relationships with over 25 clients who continue to support our newspaper.

Kelsey’s excellent communication skills were valuable to our advertisers and to the CCRA. We thank Kelsey for her dedication to the CCRA and we wish her all the best!

I’d like to introduce four new members to our executive. The CCRA welcomes **Julie Kish, Kaz Anwar and Pam Collins**. Returning to our board for 2021 is **Gerry Divaris**. Gerry left our board a year ago due to work commitments and we are pleased to have him back in the role of vice-president.

Online Pumpkin Parade success

I want to thank the Centennial residents who submitted photos of their jack-o’-lantern and decorated



CCRA’s first Zoom AGM went quite smoothly thanks to a good-sized audience and excellent guest speakers, Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, MP Gary Anandasangaree and MPP Vijay Thanigasalam.

homes for the pumpkin video that was posted on area association websites throughout the first week of November. Submissions came from the residents of Centennial, Highland Creek and West Rouge. The five-minute video was fun to watch and the music that accompanied it was terrific! Many thanks to West Rouge Community Association president Kathi Loughran for creating the video. I’m sure it brought many smiles to many families.

Community Centre update

As expected, on November 23 the Port Union Community Centre shut down the few drop-in programs and registered programs that it was running over the past few weeks. The fitness centre and the library both remain closed. As I write this, there is hope that access to the building for washroom facilities will remain. Directions of this kind change daily. Enjoy the holidays and stay healthy, everyone!



Happy Holidays!

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While we may be ringing in the holidays a little differently this year, our holiday cheer is here to stay. We want to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season, as well as thank you for your patience, understanding, and kindness during these times.

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Virtual Get-togethers

Holidays from a distance – family fun on Zoom

By Kathy Rowe

The holidays are coming fast and we need to make some lemonade from the lemons we were delivered in March. The lemons? COVID-19, of course. So let’s make the best of the situation and explore how we can make our virtual meetings and outings entertaining over this holiday season.

Virtual holiday parties and celebrations will be all the rage this year and there are many platforms to choose from, including Zoom, Google Meet and WebEx. By now most of us have learned how to use at least one of these platforms for the purpose of keeping in touch with family and friends over the past few months.

Let’s begin with a few ideas for virtual gatherings. Interactive games can be played virtually by using the chat function on the platform. There



are plenty of online holiday BINGO games that you can find by searching “online holiday BINGO templates.” Download the template of your choice and email it to your crew.

A holiday scavenger hunt could also work with your virtual gathering. The game host can name items for the group to share to the camera. Item

suggestions could be: your favourite gift of all time, a special holiday decoration, a Christmas CD or DVD. The first person to share the requested object wins a point.

Another idea is to let your group know in advance to wear their favourite ugly holiday sweater. If they don’t have one, they can decorate an every-

day sweater. People can get really creative with this one!

For the music lovers, your host could play holiday music in the background. Take it one step further and play “Name that tune” or stop the song part way through and have people sing the next line.

Holiday trivia is another game that could easily be played on a virtual call. Have the host ask a question and the participants have to answer it in the chat.

Food lovers may enjoy a recipe share. Recipes can be shared via email in advance of the virtual meet. Participants can create their recipe of choice and share it on screen with the group. Another idea is to have a cookie decorating contest on screen.

Keep in mind that non-verbal communication like turning off your microphone if you know the answer, using the thumbs up icon or the chat function will work well on these platforms. This will avoid the participants from all talking at once.

Here’s a final tip: those of us who are technically challenged may want to have a virtual trial run before the actual day of the planned online celebration. We all have different comfort levels when dealing with computers and a practice meet for some of the participants may help quell any uncertainties.

I have noticed a couple of holiday drive-through events in the news lately. Close to home is the Bluffs Winter Wonderland Drive-Thru Experience, which will kick off on November 27. There will be over 50,000 lights decorating a one-kilometre path at the foot of Brimley Road. More information about the event and ticket sales can be found at bluffswinterwonderland.com. Other locations further from home are: The Pickering Heritage Museum, Casa Loma, Blue Mountain, the Kortright Centre and Niagara Falls. Most of these drive-thru experiences will open toward the end of November and an online search can get you all the information you need.

December 2020

Dear Friends, Neighbours, Past and Present Clients,

Once again, another year has come and gone and I am still active in Real Estate....Even though I had a really rewarding first career as a Registered Nurse at The Hospital for Sick Children, but my 2nd career as a Real Estate Broker is my true calling...I have loved every minute of it!! Many of my past clients call me for Real Estate advice, asking me to help their children and family find a property or ask me to help their aging parents sell their family home...it is so rewarding to be able to apply my extensive experience and knowledge in Real Estate to help them.



What a year we have had with this Covid-19 pandemic, we are all hiding in our homes, masks, social distancing...it has an impact on almost every aspect of our daily lives....However, the housing market has roared back to life despite the ongoing pandemic. The GTA market soared in September for the third month in a row. Average prices in the Greater Toronto Area increased to \$960,000 in the month of September. With the interest rates at all time lows, which makes owning a house more affordable! However it will be important to monitor the trajectory of Covid-19 cases. The related government policy response and impact on jobs and consumer confidence says Lisa Patel - TRREB President. If you are interested in finding out the current value of your home, call me anytime at 416-417-4488 or email me at sophiatan@sympatico.ca, I will be more than wiling to do a free current market evaluation for you.

As for the Tan Family, My son Kevin, his wife Monika and 3 kids (Maddie, Eric and Alex) still live in Boston, US. This year with the Covid-19 Pandemic, they cannot come to Toronto for Christmas. 🙏 My daughter Genevieve, her husband Kevin and 3 kids (Ethan, Michelle and Nathaniel) still live in Markham, ON.

As for relaxation this year I did not go on any cruises nor travel to anywhere else...Hope this pandemic will be over soon, so we can all resume our normal life!

I still remain as an active realtor, and once again my success in Real Estate is largely dependent on all of your support and trust. Your loyalty is the reason for my success. Over 95% of my business is from my past clients, referrals and neighbours, I would like to make this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU!

Finally, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Joy-Filled Christmas, and all the best for 2021!!

Sincerely,

Sophia Tan



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Community Meeting

Residents voice concerns on Highland Creek condo plan

By Robin Shonfield

Here are some of the issues brought up by the community at the virtual meeting on November 3 for the condo plan proposed by Atree Developments in Highland Creek at Military Trail and Kingston Road.

Building Height: The meeting outlined the proposal to widen Military Trail from the existing 20-metre road allowance to 27 metres. The proposed eight storeys of this building will be 27 metres, equal to the road allowance. City planning staff seemed to be in agreement with the developer's staff that this height would be appropriate in this location. The original development plan by city staff proposed a 27-metre height limit for this area. City council had reduced planning guidelines to six storeys when the development plan was passed at council. City staff felt that a sight line of 45 degrees from the far side of Military Trail to the top of the building would not give passersby a feeling that the building was too high.

The most recent diagrams from the developer show a three-metre setback from the widened road. The top two storeys are set back from lower levels to be less imposing. The total height does not include utility rooms for HVAC on the roof but due to setbacks these aren't expected to be visible from the road. A study of the new shadows created by the buildings was presented at the meeting.

Unit Sizes: The developer announced a response to local neighbourhood concerns about too many studio and one-bedroom units. At the community meeting the developer said the number of units was being reduced from 620 to 558. The number of two- and three-bedroom units was being increased from 25% to 45% of the total units in the building. In response to a direct question, the developer said that he would not be marketing the units directly to students. City staff responded that guidelines for unit sizes are meant to include a diverse mix of residents.

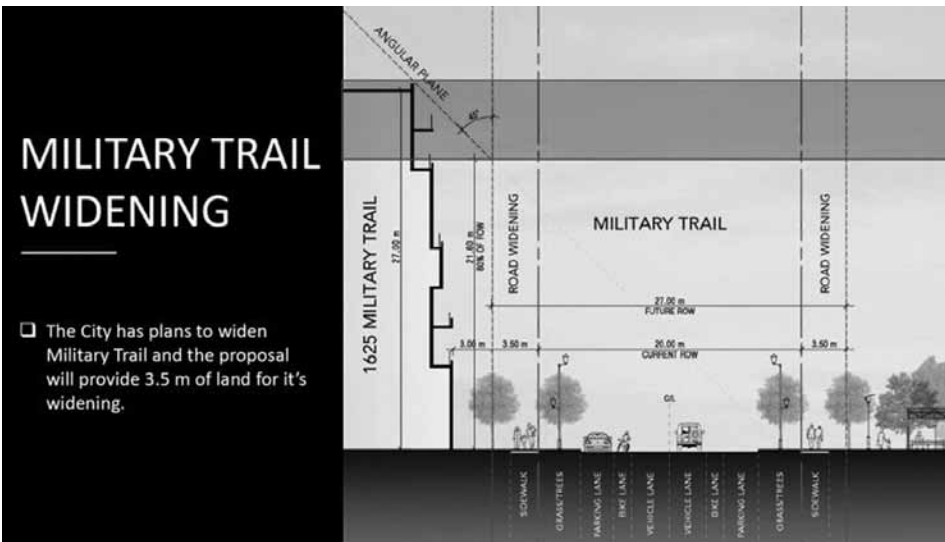
Parking and Traffic: With 558 units planned, the number of resident parking spaces has been set at 435, with another 83 for visitors. This led to concerns about new residents parking on the street. City staff and the developer were not concerned. There are plans for a car-share program onsite. The developer felt that many buyers would not require a parking space, stating that the area was well served with public transit. A traffic study was done and it showed an increase of 145 to 180 rush-hour trips per day, which

planners said could be handled by existing roads.

Impact on the Valley: Questions were raised about whether this building might impact the valley lands, including the possibility of increased erosion. A number of studies have been done but the meeting did not discuss these in detail. A Toronto Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA) representative was at the meeting. The main point emphasized by the developer was the fact that a 10-metre strip of land along the valley edge is being conveyed to the TRCA.

Environmental Details: The developer outlined environmental considerations such as electric vehicle charging stations, bird-friendly lighting and glazing, and a green or reflective roof to minimize air conditioning requirements.

More Parkland: The developer would



purchase land to extend Morrish Parkette to Military Trail. The development has been split into two separate buildings. There would be a view of the valley lands from the new park extension.

Top: A diagram presented at the meeting showed the plan for widening Military Trail. Right: The top two storeys are set back from the lower levels.



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Book Reviews

Reading suggestions for long winter evenings

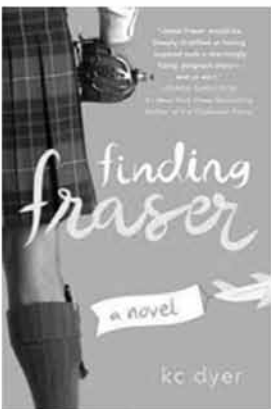
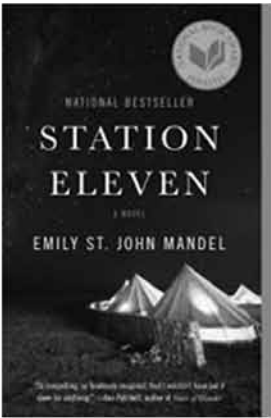
By Julie Kish

With hundreds of television channels and a dozen subscription-based streaming services, it's tempting to park in front of a screen when it's too cold and too scary to venture outside the house. Why not break up the screen time and lose yourself in a good book? Research says reading reduces stress, alleviates depression, helps you sleep and keeps you mentally alert as you age. Reading is active; watching a screen is passive.

If finding the right book is challenging, I recommend *goodreads.com*. The website lists books by genre and has loads of reviews.

I've recently finished a dystopian novel that follows a group of survivors after a virus wipes out 99 percent of the population. Written in 2014, long before the current COVID situation, *Station Eleven*, by Canadian Emily St. John Mantel, paints a mural of memorable characters living in extreme circumstances. I couldn't put it down.

My next pick was something lighter. *Clanlands* is a travel log written by Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish, two heartthrobs from the popular STARZ network series *Outlander*. I'm a huge fan of Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* book series, and I highly recommend it. I devoured each of the eight books in the Scottish historical romance/time-travelling series and am anx-



iously awaiting the ninth book's publication. They are my go-to comfort books and I've read each of the lengthy novels more than once. When the love story between fictional characters Jamie Fraser and Claire Randall arrived on television a few years ago, I was an instant fan.

Clanlands follows two of the television series' Scottish actors as they travel through the Scottish Highlands in a camper van. Through skillful use of humour and personal anecdotes, readers catch a glimpse into their personalities while learning about whisky and Scottish history. It's currently at the top of the non-fiction best sellers lists for The New York Times and The Globe and Mail, so I guess I'm not the only *Outlander* fan out there.

If you still haven't had enough of sexy Scots and romance in the Highlands, I suggest *Finding Fraser*, by Canadian K.C. Dyer. It's a charming, well-written, romantic-comedy-style novel about an *Outlander* fan who travels to Scotland in search of her very own Jamie Fraser (*Outlander*'s red-headed Scottish protagonist, also known as The King of Men). I loved this novel.

Choosing a book is very personal. No matter what genre you like, there are books just right for you. Happy reading!

Ways to support small businesses

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Local Author

Hockey fans will enjoy book on Pittsburgh Penguins

By Mark Campbell

Do you remember Ken Schinkel? Dean Prentice? Jean Pronovost? Probably not. How about Mario Lemieux? Yes, that one you know. Many people – even hockey fans – believe the history of the Pittsburgh Penguins began with Mario Lemieux. That is something Greg Enright hopes to change with his book on the first 25 years of the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Born in Montreal, Greg currently lives in the Centennial area, so it is only natural that he is a Penguins fan. Right? Growing up in “la belle province” it seemed as though everyone was a fan of the Montreal Canadiens. Everyone except Greg who at 7 or 8 years of age was enamoured by the team whose logo was a hockey playing penguin.

The book itself is a labour of love. After a lifetime of dreaming about it, four years of effort were spent researching, interviewing and writing. The story begins the year before the Penguins first hit the ice in 1967 as part of the modern NHL’s first expansion beyond six teams. Greg breaks down each season in a chapter of its own.

The team spent many years in the basement of the standings until

that other Montrealer by the name of Lemieux came to town. Success was anything but overnight, even after the arrival of the “Magnificent One” as it was a further seven years before he delivered the Stanley Cup to Pittsburgh. Greg decided to write the book because there is not a lot documented on the history of the Pittsburgh Penguins. He describes the process as “the thrill of discovery as an adult after viewing the story through the lens of a 12-year-old.”

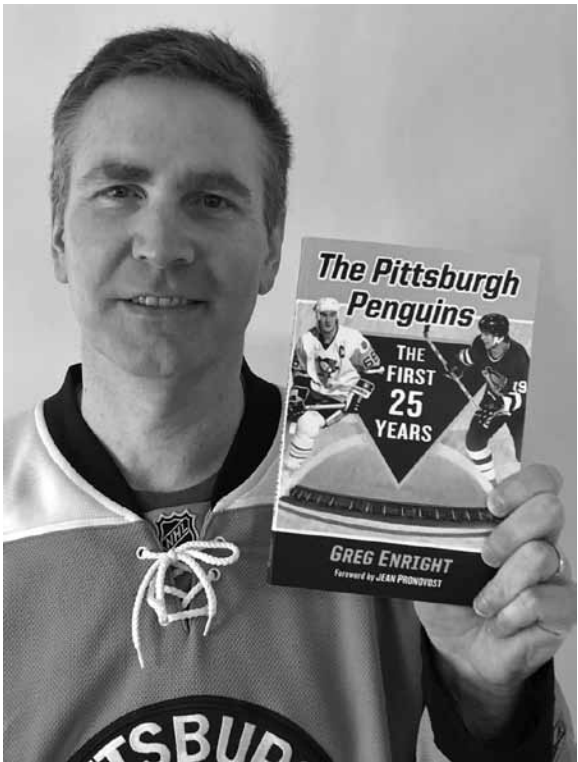
The city of Pittsburgh has traditionally been a football town, with most of the attention given to the Steelers and their storied history. Next are baseball’s Pirates, and then come the Penguins. In fact, in the Pens early years this was blatantly evident when they could attract no more than a few thousand fans at some games.

The book is an interesting read,

even to the casual hockey fan. Greg spoke freely about the experience, even getting boyish at times when discussing his interviews with his childhood heroes and the hours spent poring over periodicals and research materials.

The book concludes after the Penguins’ second Stanley Cup in 1992. When pressed about whether he will write about the next 25 years, Enright is coy. “Probably not,” he says with a smile.

The Pittsburgh Penguins: The First 25 Years is available now in paperback and e-book format online at Indigo and Amazon.



Greg Enright wrote a book on the first 25 years of the Pittsburgh Penguins NHL team.



Hashtag campaign #RealScarcborough

Toronto.com has initiated a hashtag campaign, #RealScarcborough, to get people thinking about what Scarcorough is to them, what its best features are, what makes it unique and what the area needs to develop and grow. Is it the people, places, culture, communities? What makes Scarcorough unique? What are its best qualities? Its best opportunities? Tag toronto.com in a post on Twitter or Facebook by using the #RealScarcborough hashtag to join the conversation. Posts can include a photo and caption, or a sentence or short paragraph with or without an image. If you’re including a photo, make sure it’s one you own and include the photo credit. Toronto.com will share your contributions with readers and get responses from people who may be in a position to act on some of your suggestions.

“We’re still standing” and as soon as it’s permitted to fully open safely, there will be celebrations. Namaste.

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Community

Backyard wedding was icing on the cake for local couple

By Kathy McGrath

It wasn't the wedding they planned, but in the end it was the perfect start to their life together.

When Aneesha Sood and Delan D'Souza got engaged in August 2019, they envisioned a large ceremony at a banquet hall with a minimum of 500 guests. "I have a big family so all the weddings I attend are huge – like 600 people," said Delan. "When we set our date for August 2020, family and friends immediately booked vacation time to attend. We had guests coming from all over the world – Dubai, India, New Zealand."

Six months later, the couple's plan was in jeopardy. "As soon as COVID hit, everything changed," Delan said. "Aneesha and I changed our minds a hundred times about what to do. We were talking to our families and everyone was suggesting different options. We were overwhelmed."

"We considered rescheduling the wedding for 2021, but even that became unpredictable," Aneesha said. "I didn't want to be kicking myself for putting things off for a year and then ending up in the same boat."

Eventually, the couple decided to keep their original date of August 22, 2020, and have a very small wedding



When Aneesha Sood and Delan D'Souza got engaged in 2019, they envisioned a large wedding with a minimum of 500 guests. Instead, they were lucky to have 60 people this summer.

with 10 people in attendance. Then they got a break. "Somehow we got lucky and squeezed it in when Toronto went into Stage 3," said Aneesha. "It was perfect timing."

They were able to get married in a church with 60 people – which was the mandated 30 percent capacity. Guests were limited to close family members and friends in their large

wedding party – nine bridesmaids and nine groomsmen.

The guests were then invited to a dinner in Delan's family's backyard with strict social distancing measures in place. Mother Nature co-operated by providing a sunny day, which was important because there was no indoor backup plan.

"In the end, we were able to have a

dinner, do our speeches and dances," Aneesha said. "We had so much fun and spent quality time with everyone. It was so good. It was perfect."

Delan, 29, and Aneesha, 28, both grew up in the neighbourhood and started dating as students at Mowat Collegiate. They were together for three years, then separated shortly after Aneesha went out of town for university. After having no contact for four years, Aneesha started following Delan on Instagram. One evening their friends took matters into their own hands by bringing the two together for a surprise meeting at a restaurant.

"At first it was so awkward – we didn't make eye contact or say one word to each other," Aneesha recalled. "Then we had a drink and started talking to each other and it was like no one else was there. From then on we were inseparable."

Aneesha, a nurse at Sick Kids Hospital, and Delan, who works for TD, are currently living in Aneesha's childhood home with her sister and brother. They still plan to have a large party for those who could not come to the wedding, but for now they are just grateful they were able to have an unforgettable wedding day.

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Sustainability

Tips for making your holiday a little bit greener

By Lorelee A. Sankarlal

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year...” Now that I have put that song into your minds, you’re welcome! Seriously, though, there is an incredible season coming up with so many events to celebrate – Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Winter Solstice, various New Years, just to name a few. With all that celebrating comes lots of presents, lots of food, and worries over money and spending. So how can we have a sustainable holiday this year? Here are a few ideas.

Skip the wrapping paper Wrap gifts in cloth and ribbon instead. It saves trees and the cloth can be used by the person receiving the gift. Or use cloth bags, which are completely reusable. If the cloth doesn’t have a holiday print on it, don’t worry about it. That just makes it easier for the person to reuse.

Mason Jar Cookies/Cakes Pack mason jars with all the dry ingredients to make a favourite cookie or cake. Wrap with a ribbon, tag and instructions for baking. It makes a personalized gift that doesn’t cost much but has a big impact. Or bake the item, put it in a box tied with a ribbon and deliver it.

Gift Boxes If you are a crafter or can make wooden toys or something else, put together a small box of supplies to make a creation and add simple instructions along with a picture of the final item. If you are together when they open it, you can both create it.

Heirlooms There is no better time than the holidays to give someone you love something that was special to you. On a card, write the story of how it came to be in your possession, what it meant to you and why you think they deserve it. Give them a little piece of your history to add to their own.

Ah, the toys! Lego has a great recycling program called Lego Replay. If your kids have bricks they no longer use or would like to give them to a child in need, this is a great initiative. Go to lego.com/en-ca/aboutus/replay to donate. It’s super simple.

Family Experiences Instead of toys, why not try an experience? Something you do together as a family that all of you will remember. And they can cost almost nothing:

- 1. Run/hike/walk through a park, along the waterfront, at the zoo or in your neighbourhood.
- 2. Volunteer at a shelter or food bank to spend time together and help others.
- 3. Have an ugly holiday sweater contest on Zoom. We tried this last year and it was hilarious.

All that yummy food In this fall’s issues of Centennial News, Kathryn McLean shared some fabulous ideas for how to create new culinary masterpieces and how to freeze foods for later use. I recommend reading those articles on the CCRA website if you missed them.

Sustainable purchasing Our area has a fantastic program for sustainable purchasing and recycling on Facebook. Joining these FB groups, you can buy new and gently used items



at a fraction of the retail prices. A few local sites are:

- West Rouge & Highland Creek Recycled
- West Rouge Buy & Sell
- West Hill Buy / Sell / Swap
- West Rouge Buy and Sell 2.0
- West Rouge Shop Local

Donating There are many people who will be struggling this year. If you can, consider donating groceries, gift cards for teens or other needed items to shelters and initiatives around Scarborough and the GTA.

Have a happy and sustainable holiday season from my family to yours!

Mason jars with all the dry ingredients to make a favourite cookie or cake are inexpensive, personalized gifts.



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LOCKDOWN HOLIDAY TREATS



Kathryn McLean is the food writer at Centennial News. She has lived in the area for three years with her family. You can follow her blog at allfoodthoughts.com

By Kathryn McLean

Years ago, I would do a lot of baking for the holidays. Once the calendar page was turned to December, I'd start rolling out sweet treats: gingersnaps, sugar cookies with royal icing, chocolate-dipped fingers, piped meringue rosettes with sprinkles, brownies with crushed candy cane topping, chocolate-coffee slices. And if I found a new recipe I really liked, it became part of the annual regulars. Like dried fruit crostini.

But when my little kids were still quite young, I found I didn't have as much time for those traditional sweets. Until one year I realized these weren't going to be the traditional cookies of my children's memories if I didn't start making them again. I worried I'd find myself saying "Let's have those crostini that I make every year" and only my oldest would know what I meant.

Over the past few years I've returned to making a variety of treats. And top of the list are the sugar cookies with royal icing and sprinkles. The tradition of rolling, cutting and decorating holiday cookies has evolved for us to be more of a family activity. The kids choose from our growing collection of cutters and we get set up at the table with tinted icings, sprinkles and small candies.

Whether you already have a list of yearly favourites, are looking to add to your recipe cards or want to start out small, this recipe for cookie bars is simple. Even with the help of little kids, it won't take an entire afternoon with hands-on decorating. It's a good start. And there's still some fun in choosing your toppings and sprinkling them over the chocolate layer.

I know this looks like a lot of steps, but read through the recipe and you'll see it is easy. All the steps are just building the layers.

ANY-WAY-YOU-LIKE COOKIE BARS

INGREDIENTS

Cookie Base

- ¼ cup soft butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp water

Toffee Layer

- ¼ cup butter
- ½ cup brown sugar

Chocolate and Toppings

- ¾ cup chocolate chips
- Toppings of your choice (the

amount will vary, depending on the topping chosen: you could expect to use ½ cup of chopped nuts or candies, but not of coarse salt)

Suggested toppings: chopped nuts, crushed coffee beans, coarse salt, sprinkles, crushed candy cane, coconut, pretzel pieces, dried fruit, crispy rice cereal, toffee bits, graham cookie crumbs, chopped candy-coated chocolate.

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line an 8x8" baking pan with parchment paper or foil, leaving 1" or more overhang for lifting the bars out later.

In a medium-sized mixing bowl, stir together the butter and sugar until creamy; add the vanilla; add the remaining cookie base ingredients and stir until dough begins to stick in clumps. Tip into a lined baking pan and press evenly to fill the bottom of the pan. Bake for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine toffee ingredients in a small pot and melt together over medium low heat. The butter will separate but stir well. Once everything is melted, it will become a thick cohesive mix.

Once the cookie base is baked, pour the hot toffee over top, and tip the pan

to evenly coat the whole base. Return to the hot oven and bake for 7 minutes.

Remove the pan from the oven to a cooling rack and immediately scatter ¾ cup of chocolate chips evenly over the hot toffee. Leave the chocolate untouched for 5 minutes, then gently spread the now-soft chocolate with a knife, reaching to all the edges. Distribute the toppings over the melted chocolate and leave to set into the chocolate as it cools, at least one hour. Cut into 24 or 36 pieces.

I hope you do try these cookie bars, whether they become part of your tradition or not!



SOFT GINGER
MOLASSES COOKIES



Talia Kish, a social worker who grew up in the Centennial area, loves to cook her family's favourite recipes. These cookies are soft and full of flavour.

INGREDIENTS

- 2¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ¾ tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground cloves
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¾ cup margarine
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 Tbsp water
- ¼ cup molasses
- 2 Tbsp white sugar

DIRECTIONS

Combine flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream together margarine and 1 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg and gently mix in water and molasses. Gradually add the dry ingredients.

Shape dough into walnut sized balls and roll them in 2 Tbsp sugar. Place the balls 2 inches apart on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Flatten each ball lightly with a wet fork.

Bake for 10 minutes at 350 F. Allow cookies to cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing them. Store in an airtight container so cookies will remain soft.

Makes 3 dozen cookies.



CHOCOLATE CRACKLES



Margot Russell lives with her husband and three sons in Centennial. Besides baking, she is an avid runner and works for the Toronto Public Library.

INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz. bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup unsweetened Dutch process cocoa powder
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp coarse salt
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temp.
- 1 ½ cups packed light brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- ⅓ cup whole milk
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup confectioners sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. Melt chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of simmering water, stirring. Set aside and let cool. Sift together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt in a bowl.
2. With an electric mixer, beat butter and brown sugar on medium speed until pale and fluffy—2-3 minutes. Mix in eggs and vanilla, then the melted chocolate. Reduce speed to low and mix in flour mixture in two batches, alternating with milk. Divide dough into four equal pieces. Wrap each in plastic; refrigerate until firm—about 2 hours.
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Divide each piece into 16 1-inch balls, then roll them in granulated sugar to coat, then in confectioners sugar to coat. Space 2 inches apart on baking sheets lined with parchment paper.
4. Bake until surfaces crack, about 14 minutes, rotating sheets halfway through. Let sheets cool on wire racks. Cookies can be stored between layers of parchment in airtight containers at room temperature up to 3 days.

Makes about 5 dozen cookies.



LOVE IN LITTLE PIECES



Rylan Mascarenhas is a university student living in Centennial who fondly remembers his Nana making this treat at Christmas. He tracked down the recipe and added his own twists.

INGREDIENTS

- Pillsbury pie crust (2 sheets)
- Filling
 - 2 x 14 oz cans of pineapple chunks
 - 1 x 300 ml can condensed milk
 - 170 grams shredded coconut
 - 1/2 cup 2% milk
 - 500 grams sugar
- Glaze
 - ⅓ cup icing sugar
 - Simple syrup

DIRECTIONS

Combine the filling ingredients in a saucepan and cook over low heat stirring occasionally. Once the filling starts to thicken, turn the heat down and stir constantly. This step is the most time consuming. When the filling starts to leave the sides of the saucepan, turn the heat off and allow it to cool.

Preheat the oven to 450 F. While the oven is preheating, lay one sheet of pastry in a glass dish, and gently press it to the corners. Trim the edges if needed.

Spread the cooled filling out inside the bottom crust and smooth the top. Lay the second sheet of pastry over the filling. Fold the top crust under the bottom crust around the edges and crimp. Poke holes with a fork into the top crust to prevent bloating. Or use a lattice crust to top the filling.

Bake for 12-15 minutes or until the top starts to brown. Cover with foil and return to the oven for another 25 minutes approximately for a total of 45 minutes. Remove and allow to cool on the counter before glazing.

For the glaze, add syrup to the icing sugar slowly, until you reach a consistency like honey. Drizzle over the pastry and cut into squares or use a cookie cutter.



KULKULS



Vasukie Asirwatham lives in Centennial with her husband and three daughters. Her kulkuls are a traditional Goan Christmas sweet.

INGREDIENTS

- ¼ kg semolina (rava)
- ¼ kg all-purpose flour (maida)
- 1 egg
- Splash of milk
- 3 Tbsp clarified butter (ghee)
- ⅓ of a 400 ml can of coconut cream
- Two pinches of salt or to taste
- Superfine or powdered sugar, to taste (start with a couple of heaped tablespoons and add more as needed)
- Oil for deep frying

DIRECTIONS

Knead all ingredients to a dough adding milk as needed. If your dough is on the dry side, add a little ghee and knead again. If you want your kulkuls sweeter, add more sugar and knead into the dough. Cover the dough with a damp cloth for half an hour.

Keep the unused portion covered with a damp cloth while you work with small portions. Roll into a long sausage shape and cut into small pieces. Working with one piece at a time, place it on the back of a fork. Using your thumb, flatten the dough into a rectangle. Gently lift the dough and roll it away from you, keeping it fairly tight. Lightly press the edges to seal it up. Repeat with the rest of the dough. Keep the shaped kulkuls on a flat tray.

When they are all done, heat oil for deep frying. Test that the oil is hot enough by dropping a bead of dough into it. If the oil bubbles and the bead instantly comes to the top, the oil is ready. Keep it on medium heat. Fry the kulkuls in small batches and turn with a slotted spoon.

When golden, remove with a slotted spoon and place on paper towels to drain off excess oil. When they have completely cooled, store in an airtight container.

Education

TDSB Trustee Anu Sriskandarajah



TDSB Connects App now available

TDSB has launched a new online app to help high school students stay connected and organized. Phase 1 is designed with secondary students in mind, helping them stay organized with school work, see their daily school calendar and stay in touch with their school community. By logging in with their TDSB school ID, their timetable is automatically populated

allowing them to easily add notes, goals and details to each course. Schools can also share announcements, updates, local calendars and more to help students stay connected and informed. Subsequent phases include features such as the student safety line, notifications and opportunities to share your voice, and also a version for elementary students and families. The TDSB Connects App supports our commitment to be more digitally-friendly, reduce paper and find new and engaging ways to connect with students to support their success. Download the app now at the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.

Lockdown and fire drills

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for

the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment. Although no one ever wants to see an emergency happen at a school, it's important for school staff to be equipped to deal with those situations. The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted. One aspect of emergency preparedness is the lockdown and fire drill. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. The drills last approximately five minutes and

ensure plans are effective and can also identify any safety concerns. This year, since all cohorts need to participate, additional drills may be required. Communication is also critical in any emergency situation. Please ensure the school office has accurate emergency contact information and advise us of any changes during the school year.

TCDSB Trustee Garry Tanuan



As we go into the season of Advent, we are reminded that the true spirit of Christmas is in giving.

The giving of our time, patience and most importantly, displaying kindness and goodwill to others. Here at the TCDSB, we are honoured to be affiliated with The Angel Foundation of Learning. The AFL is the charitable organization that serves students in the TCDSB. They support students by nurturing their body, mind and soul through nutritional, educational and spiritual programs.

Student Nutrition Programs by Angel Foundation

In the TCDSB, 167 schools are currently running 184 student nutrition programs. Collectively, these programs serve the needs of over 60,000 students on a daily basis. Programs offer breakfast, lunches and/or snacks.

Remembrance Through an Afrocentric Lens

During the month of November, the TCDSB staff and students explored the historical significance of Black-Canadian soldiers and veterans in shaping our country's history. All staff were invited to share in the Remembrance Day celebration virtually.

Transition to High School Guidelines

As parents and students prepare for the transition to high school, we've prepared the following guidelines to help students in Grade 8 and their families become familiar with secondary schools in their expectations. Read about the guidelines here: [tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition to High School](https://tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School)

Secondary School Applications

The online application process is ongoing. For more information, contact your local school or visit our website: tcdsb.org/forparents/admissionsandregistration

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Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

Merry Christmas, Centennial!

It's hard to believe December is already here. There's no denying that 2020 has been a difficult year, but we've also seen tremendous goodwill from both residents and businesses in the Centennial community. As we look ahead to 2021, I know that whatever challenges we may face, our community is resilient and residents will continue to look out for one another. I wish you and your family all the best for a safe and happy holiday season.

Light Up the Christmas Spirit!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in our community. After seeing all the fantastic decorations at Halloween, I can't wait to see what great displays you have for the Christmas season. Whether you prefer a traditional wreath and subtle lighting, love 10-foot inflatables or take inspiration from the Griswold Family Christmas, all ideas help build the holiday spirit in our neighbourhood.

Thanks to the fantastic feedback on our Halloween home tour and contest, we're doing it all again for Christmas. To celebrate the efforts of our neighbours, send the address of your favourite Christmas displays to councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca. To count down the 12 days to Christmas, we will post a list of homes in our e-newsletter and on social media so you can enjoy a neighbourhood tour. Closer to Christmas, you'll be able to select your favourite home.

Reimagining Employment Areas

At November's Scarborough Community Council meeting, I tabled a motion, "Imagining 21st Century Employment Areas – Request for a Planning and Transportation Study for the Coronation Drive Employment Area."

I believe it is necessary for the City to fully examine the Employment Area encompassing Coronation Drive, to determine what a designated industrial area directly adjacent to a residential community looks like in the 21st century. This area was heavily supported by rail in the past and is now almost entirely supported by trucking. This increase in heavy vehicle traffic has the potential to clash with the residential makeup of the surrounding neighbourhood, creating conflicts related to noise and pollution concerns. It is important that we assess how the Coronation Drive Employment Area can support ideas, innovation and economic development, while balancing traffic and environmental concerns.

I want to thank everyone who has relayed their concerns about the im-

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JenniferMcKelvie
Councillor • Ward 25 Scarborough-Rouge Park

To celebrate the season, send the addresses of your favourite Christmas displays to councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca.

pacts of the Coronation Drive Employment Area on the surrounding neighbourhood. I look forward to sharing the feedback from City staff regarding this motion via my e-newsletter in the new year.

BetterHomesTO

November 5th marked the one-year anniversary of BetterHomesTO, an initiative launched by our City to make single-family detached homes more energy efficient. Scarborough-Rouge Park has over 18,000 single family homes and is included as one of the areas targeted to benefit from

the program.

BetterHomesTO offers an online resource where Toronto homeowners can find information and tools to assist in undertaking home energy retrofits. There are 31 retrofits detailed and a holistic list of all the programs, rebates and incentives offered by the City and its partners.

A net zero home is more comfortable, healthier and better for the environment because all the efficient features work together to lower energy consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shrink the home's carbon footprint. Learn more about this

new platform at www.betterhomesto.ca.

We're Here to Work for You

If you have local issues you would like addressed, any ideas for how we can build a better City, or just want to chat about the neighbourhood, please contact us at councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca. To stay up to date with local news, please sign up for our e-newsletter at www.jennifermckelvie.ca, and follow me on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter via my handle, @McKelvieWard25.

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MPP Vijay Thanigasalam

Health and safety of Ontarians is our highest priority

I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe and preparing for the festive holiday season ahead.

As we live in the midst of this pandemic and in a time of profound uncertainty, it is important for everyone to know what their government is doing for them and how it is providing help for you. To show transparency and commitment to our highest priority, the health and safety of Ontarians, earlier this month we released our budget that outlines our framework to protect, support and recover Ontario.

We know that the second wave is straining the resources of our health-care network, workers and hospitals. We must do everything we can to help them in the vital work that they perform, and to ensure that they have the capacity to provide the care that people rightfully deserve. I am incredibly proud that our government is investing an additional \$761 million to build and renovate 74 long-term-care homes in Ontario. This investment includes \$25 million for Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care to build a new facility to help our seniors.

Additionally, the budget included \$7.5 billion in new funding to our long-term-care sector. We know that now more than ever, patients need personal attention and care. That is



MPP Vijay Thanigasalam was honoured to take part in Remembrance Day commemorations held at the Toronto Zoo.

why this funding will ensure that nurses and personal support workers can provide four hours of care per day per patient. This will radically help improve the health and wellbeing of our seniors. We will always ensure that no one is left behind.

While investing in long-term-care is critical, we must also remember


that many elders can and wish to live in their own homes or with their families. To support this and ease the increased financial strain they face, I am delighted on the tax credit we included in the budget that allows for seniors to renovate their homes to include safety measures that help them live in their homes, such as guard railings or stair lifts, worth 25 percent of up to \$10,000 in expenses.


I also want to focus on an issue that is increasingly prevalent and which I believe needs more attention. While we have done much to normalize and bring awareness to mental health, there is still much to be done. Our government recognizes the strain the pandemic has put on individuals' mental health across the province. Isolation, loneliness and stress are all side effects of this pandemic that have had negative impacts on our mental health. Because of this, I am proud that our government is providing an additional \$176 million in annual funding on mental health and addiction, which is part of the province's

commitment to invest \$3.8 billion over the next 10 years to develop and implement a comprehensive and connected mental health and addictions strategy. By working together, we can help break the stigma around mental health, and provide better care for all those who need it in our communities.

I was honoured to take part in Remembrance Day commemorations held at the Highland Creek Legion Branch 258 and the Toronto Zoo. It gave us an opportunity to pause to remember the sacrifices made by our brave men and women in uniform, and all those who have made their final journey home, draped in our maple flag. I was honoured to wear a poppy and to place a wreath.

I look forward to speaking to you again soon. My office and I are always here to help. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to my office email at vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org or call 416-283-8448.





VIJAY THANIGASALAM
MPP, Scarborough-Rouge Park

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE | 8130 Sheppard Ave. East, Unit 105, Scarborough, Ontario M1B 3W3
(416) 283-8448 vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

Please contact my office at (416) 283-8448 or vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org

if you need help with any provincial matters such as:

- Marriage, Birth, or Death Certificates
- Family Responsibility Office
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Driver's Licenses, Health Cards, or Photo ID Cards
- Health Care Issues
- Education Issues
- Senior Services

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ODSP/Ontario Works	416-397-1000	WSIB	416-344-1000



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MP Gary Anandasangaree

Honoured to represent Canada on Remembrance Day

On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, Canada remembers. Although many Canadians observed a moment of silence on November 11 from their own homes, I was honoured to represent the Government of Canada alongside a small contingent of Veterans and their families during Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Toronto Zoo and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258.

In times of war and times of peace, these brave men and women answered the call – travelling into harm’s way in service of their country. Although their voices can no longer be heard, we honour their courage, bravery and selflessness by showing our gratitude to their families, sharing their stories, and ensuring their legacies live on forever.

Legislative Updates from Ottawa

In October and November, Parliament moved forward at a blistering pace. In addition to passing our second confidence motion in as many weeks, our government introduced vital legislation to Ban Conversion Therapy, update our Medical Assistance in Dying laws, modernize our Broadcasting Act to ensure fairness for Canadian creators, proposed an inclusive Citizenship Oath that recognizes Indigenous peoples in Canada, and unveiled the details of our proposed ban on single-use plastics.

COVID Support Measures

Since the start of the pandemic, our government has listened to families and business owners to ensure we respond effectively to their needs. That’s why we introduced new and targeted supports to help Canadians during this second wave. These measures include: The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS), the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRF), the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB), the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES), the Black Entrepreneurship Program (BEP), and a one-time payment for Canadians with disabilities.

While the road to recovery may not be easy, these supports will be critical to help individuals and entrepreneurs stay strong. As we continue to get through this difficult time, we will continue to take action to support Canadian families and businesses, and set the stage for a stronger and more resilient Canada once the pandemic is over.

The Holiday Season

As we approach the holiday season, we need to remain vigilant about the

steps we take to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. Sadly, more than 10,000 Canadians have lost their lives to COVID-19, and recently, regions across the country have been setting records for positive cases.

Following public health advice and avoiding the 3 C’s wherever possible – closed spaces, crowded places and close contact situations – is the best way to slow the spread of this virus. The small actions make some of the biggest differences, so continue to wear your mask, stay at least two metres apart, limit your social circle, wash your hands regularly, and download the free COVID Alert App.

Slowing the spread of COVID-19 will require a complete Team Canada effort. In order for us to get through




MP Gary Anandasangaree represents the Government of Canada during a private Remembrance Day ceremony at the Toronto Zoo.

this together, we must all step up and do our part.

For the latest information on prevention, being prepared, and travel health advice, visit **canada.ca/coronavirus** or call **1-833-784-4397**

My team and I are here to support you with any federal issues through the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

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Toronto Zoo

Holiday Marketplace was forced to close, but Holiday Drive-Thru is taking its place

By Wanda Wierzbicki

On Saturday, November 21, I had the pleasure of enjoying a stroll through the magical, family-friendly, outdoor Holiday Marketplace at the Toronto Zoo.

Located in the front courtyard of the zoo were large Christmas trees covered with lights and a Christmas tree “forest.” There were vendors selling cookies and treats, ornaments, jewelry, soaps and candles, pet accessories, jams and preserves. Further up the path, Santa was meeting with masked families in a socially distanced manner, while other families waited in line.

Sounds wonderful, right? Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown,

the Holiday Marketplace had to close after only three days. But rather than waste the gorgeous decorations, the zoo made a quick turnaround and focused on creating a Holiday Drive-Thru Experience, which will run from November 28 to December 21.

The Holiday Drive-Thru is a family-friendly and COVID-safe experience as visitors travel in the warmth and safety of their own vehicles. The adventure will take them past a 35-foot-tall Christmas Tree and the Holiday Marketplace on their way to see Santa Claus. Children are encouraged to bring their letters to Santa until December 10 for a COVID-safe dropoff.

After a drive-by visit with Santa, families will continue on through the zoo to see Santa’s cottage, where some of his reindeer (and caribou) reside, and the Enrichment Toy Workshop where Toronto Zoo Elves can be seen making toys for the zoo’s animals.

Families are encouraged to bring donations of non-perishable food items and toys for families in need. Perhaps helping those less fortunate than ourselves will be the best way to experience the joy of Christmas this year.

See torontozoo.com for more details.



The Toronto Zoo’s magical Holiday Marketplace was only open for three days.



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Cadets

Cadets still active despite pandemic

By Capt T. Foulds

QOR Cadets remains active in the community, albeit virtually, providing useful and interesting knowledge and skills to participants while we wait with anticipation to get our Cadets from West Rouge/Centennial/Highland Creek communities back outdoors.

The start of the pandemic resulted in the cancellation of a long anticipated March Break trip to the Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton, and Fort George in Niagara. Leveraging the skills of the Canadian Forces who support the Cadet program, Cadets pivoted and for summer 2020 ran a virtual Cadet Training Centre with more than 6,000 participants.

This fall, QOR Cadets commenced their own virtual training using Microsoft Teams, providing

training in a wide variety of skill areas that will prepare Cadets to get back outside.

Cadets Canada has ramped up a March Break Cadet Activity Program (CAP) that will be delivered locally March 15-19, 2021. CAP consists of day activities with no overnight component while still following COVID-19 measures. Programs are also planned for next summer.

QOR Cadets will commence a new virtual program starting in January, and participation in this program will make you eligible for CAP.

For more information, please check in at www.qorcadets.ca, check us out on social media, or email us at info@qorcadets.ca



QOR Cadets transit between two training sessions at CFB Borden, pre-COVID. Top: The Commanding Officer presents local resident Warrant Officer Bridge with his new rank after completion of his Star Level prerequisites.

Scouts

Remembrance, Zoom meetings and neighbourhood fun



The Remembrance Day service at Tony Stacey Centre was cancelled so the 2nd Highland Creek Scouts painted rocks for the residents.

By Tracy Forsyth

For over 20 years the 2nd Highland Creek Cubs have attended the Remembrance Day service at the Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care. This year the service was cancelled, so the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Scouters painted rocks to give to the residents to let them know we care and remember even though we couldn't be together to observe the day of Remembrance.

We continue to have virtual meetings through Zoom. Beavers painted ceramic pumpkins and the pumpkins were included in the East Scarborough Virtual Pumpkin Parade. The Beavers are also learning and sharing about Super (Community) Heroes to receive their personal achievement badge.

The Cubs enjoyed a self-guided

Halloween scavenger hunt with their families throughout their neighbourhood, finding 31 Halloween objects. (See photos on our Facebook page.) The Cubs will be back out in the neighbourhood with their families looking for Christmas/holiday decorations. They will also be painting ceramic tree decorations while having a Zoom visit from Crock A Doodle staff (Pickering) to assist and give the Cubs tips and hints on how to paint their item. We thank Crock A Doodle for their support.

While we continue the online virtual meetings, we will share pictures on our Facebook page – 2nd Highland Creek Scouting Group – and hope to have in-person meetings soon.

Season's greetings from the 2nd Highland Creek Scouting Group.

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Membership

Welcome to the CCRA family!

By Denise Bacon



Thank you to the hundreds of residents and neighbours who joined CCRA in 2020! Many residents have already paid their membership fees for

2021 and 2022 and a special thank you goes out to them, too. A number of residents joined CCRA for the first time ever in November and a warm welcome goes out to them. Welcome to the CCRA family!

Membership in CCRA is valuable. As a start, it gives members a real sense of belonging and ownership in our beautiful community. We care for each other as can be seen through some of the stories published through the year in this paper. We meet each other at community events, except for this crazy year, of course. We sponsor worthwhile efforts and we advocate to keep our community safe. CCRA will resume its membership appeal in the new year.

Winners of the special random prize draws from among residents who purchased memberships in November will be made in the first week of December. Watch for the names of winners and their prizes in an upcoming CCRA email newsletter or in the January 2021 issue of Centennial News.

Have a very happy and safe holiday season!

Denise
Email: membershipn@ccranews.com

Distribution

Thanks for going above and beyond!



As I sit down to write this report, I am very conscious of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effect it has had on our commu-

nity. We are all constantly juggling the health-related restrictions with trying to keep life as normal as possible. Many people have already put up their Christmas lights and some of the house decorations are truly spectacular. During these long dark winter nights, I love walking around the neighbourhood. The bright and beautiful Christmas lights lift my spirit.

As the year 2020 draws to a close, I want to THANK the entire distribution team for going above and beyond during this difficult year. Together we have delivered the monthly CCRA Centennial News to over 4,800 individuals and businesses in our community. We couldn't have done it without you.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year! Happy Holidays!

Stay Safe.
Wanda
Email: distribution@ccranews.com

CCRA 2020 Membership Form

It's easy to join or renew your membership. Complete this form, then mail or drop off with your annual household fee of \$15. To join online, go to www.ccranews.com and select **Join CCRA** to pay with credit card or PayPal.

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This year has been a very different one that has affected us all in various ways, but the absence of our social connection with family, friends and colleagues, seems to be what everyone misses the most.

Learning new ways to move forward during this odd time has been a challenge, but like most, we quickly adapted to connecting virtually, and we are very proud of the huge success we had with our "Virtual Uplifting Party" in support of our local Women's Shelter – Julliette's Place.

Collectively, we learned how to stretch property; the steps involved in decorating a room; how to do our make up in 5 minutes or less; how to craft a wreath; how to cook a quick and healthy dinner; and the steps required to make the perfect cocktail. It was a fantastic day, and we are very proud to say that we raised \$6,000.00 for Julliette's Place.

However, you are celebrating this year – we wish you and yours all the best of the holiday season. Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy 2021!

Heather, Gabby and Ross

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Preparing for Winter



Two white-tailed deer gaze out over the Highland Creek Ravine. If you look closely, you'll notice that both of them are bucks. Photo credit: Michael McCabe



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