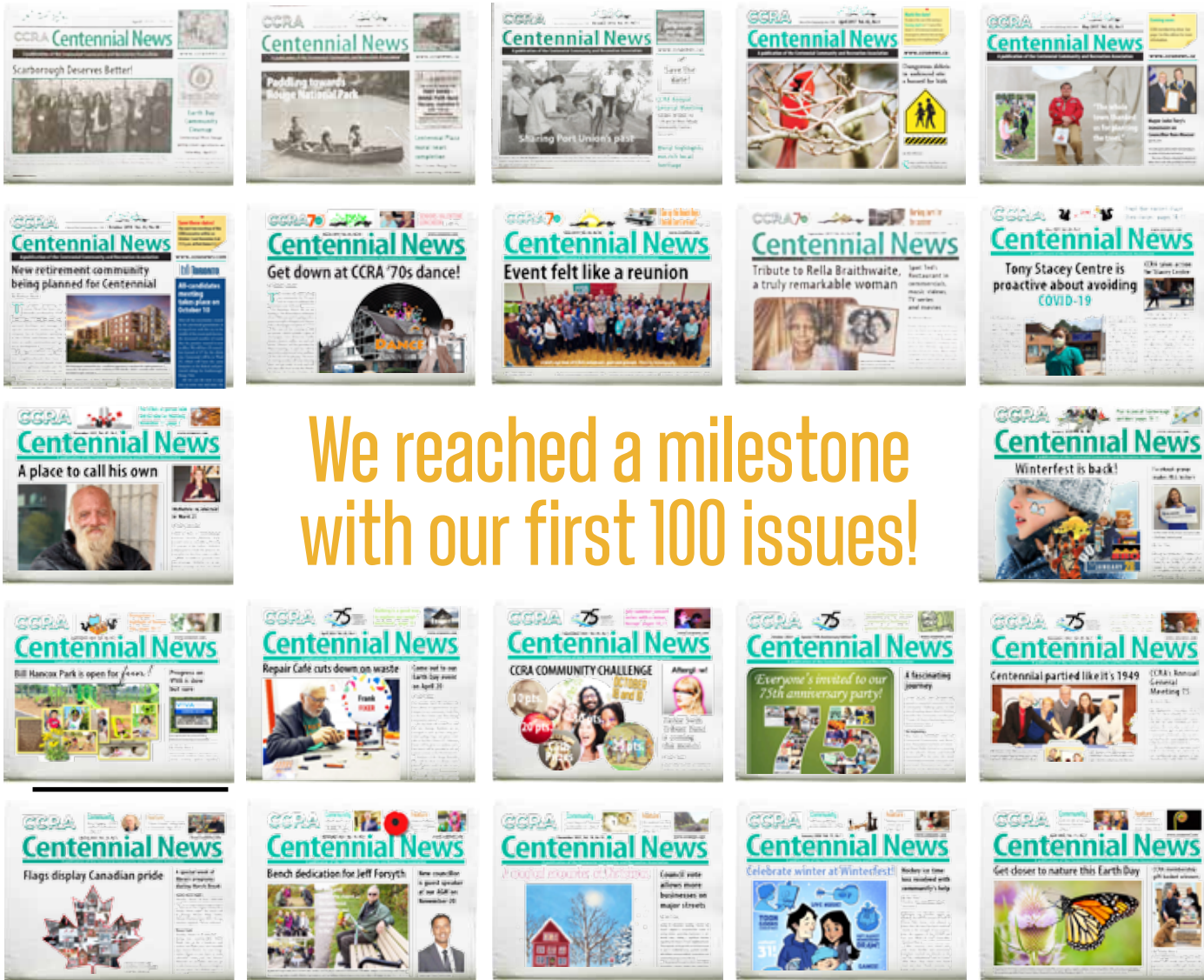




Centennial News

A publication of the Centennial Community and Recreation Association



We reached a milestone with our first 100 issues!

Top row: Our first issue in April 2016; the cardinal started continuous colour photos on the page. **Second row:** VIVA residence story in 2018; the wonderful Rella Braithwaite; and the COVID issue that was online only in May 2020. **Third row:** Exclusive interview with Wayne. **Fourth row:** CCRA's Community Challenge and 75th Anniversary in 2024.

By Kathryn Stocks

We don't usually toot our own horn here at Centennial News, but we wanted to share the news that the tabloid format of our paper is now in its 10th year and the March paper was our 100th issue! Here's a little history about it.

For a long time, all Centennial residents received a green newsletter called CCRA News that was put out by the community association. That changed in December 2015 when then-editor Janice Bennink presented a report to the CCRA executive about the economic and editorial advantages of publishing a tabloid newspaper instead.

The first issue of the new paper, now called CCRA Centennial News, came out in April 2016. It was black and white with a little green on the front, back and middle pages as a salute to the newsletter it had replaced. In her editorial in that issue, Janice wrote: "We also wanted to freshen the look and content of our new publication to include more of Centennial's own stories." I took over

from her as editor in December 2016, and telling people's stories has been the goal ever since.

At first, the articles came mainly from the CCRA and local politicians. I soon realized that the paper needed more writers, so I asked for help at an executive meeting and a number of people joined our newspaper committee. We meet almost every month to suggest ideas for the next issue, then these awesome volunteers head out to do interviews, take photos and write stories. Once the stories are edited, our graphic designer Don Lawrence brings life to the pages with photos, graphics and appealing layouts. As you can see from the front pages pictured above, we've covered a lot of ground over the past 10 years.

We only had one month when the paper wasn't printed and that was May 2020 (last photo in second row). We were in a COVID lockdown and although we completed the issue after an editorial meeting on Zoom, we worried about the health of our distributors and decided to put that paper online only. We found out later that most distributors were happy to deliver the papers during the pandemic and every issue after that has been printed.

» continued on page 3

CCRA appreciates every membership

Why Join CCRA

By Denise Bacon

It is wonderful that you are reading Centennial News, which is celebrating 10 years in this tabloid newspaper format. Prior to this format, Centennial Community and Recreation Association published a green newsletter called CCRA News for many years. Centennial News is published 10 months a year to keep our community informed, entertained and engaged.

I would like to invite all residents of Centennial to become civically engaged by joining CCRA. Membership fees help to pay for this paper and for all the events hosted/sponsored by CCRA every season, as well as for donations made to worthy local causes like food banks, Scouts, scholarship at Mowat Collegiate and others.

Further, your membership acts as a voice to preserve, nurture and protect our beautiful community as CCRA advocates for Centennial with politicians, Police Services, policy and decision makers. The more members, the stronger is our advocacy. Your membership matters.

The 2026 calendar year membership fee for each household remains at only \$15, unchanged for the last 15 or so years. The Membership Form is on the inside back page of this paper. Or, visit "Member Signup" at www.ccranews.com.

Please get your 2026 membership! Join CCRA, the oldest, continuously active community association in the GTA, which is in its 77th year. Belong and contribute to Centennial community in this tangible way.

SPECIAL CALLOUT: We need Centennial residents to canvass in the community to get memberships. Neighbours asking neighbours to join CCRA is the best approach to build community. This truly is civic engagement – knocking on doors and saying hello to neighbours! Please contact Denise Bacon at membership@ccranews.com. It's easy and a fun way to get more engaged in the community.

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CCRA Centennial News

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| | |
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Publishing Policy

CCRA Centennial News invites submissions of articles, signed letters, art and photography from Centennial community members and all elected representatives. We will consider all submissions for publication that are information-based and relevant to the community. Not-for-profit and community groups are also invited to submit event listings to be published free of charge, space permitting. CCRA Centennial News reserves the right to decline material considered to be unpaid advertising, politically partisan or likely to offend. CCRA reserves the right to edit all submitted material. The opinions expressed in CCRA Centennial News do not represent the views of the CCRA Executive. All submissions will be considered for both print and online publication unless otherwise instructed by the author. CCRA will notify all authors prior to publication.

To be published in CCRA Centennial News, articles must reach the Communications team by the 15th day of the preceding month. To submit an article or suggest a story, please contact any member of the Executive by phone, or by e-mail to editor@ccranews.com.

Mailing address:
Centennial Community & Recreation Association
5450 Lawrence Ave. East, Scarborough ON M1C 3B2

Advertising

Advertising in CCRA News

Nearly 5,000 copies of CCRA News are delivered, for free, to homes and businesses throughout the Centennial community and surrounding neighbourhoods. In addition, all ads appear in the online version of CCRA News, so you know your ad will reach customers.

Ad choices available include full page, half page, quarter page, banner and business card sizes. Ask about premium placement. To get your Ad in an upcoming issue, email Jill MacMillan at advertising@ccranews.com.

Notice to Advertisers

Advertising copy must reach the CCRA no later than the 10th day of the preceding month for publication. Files should be in high resolution PDF, TIF, EPS or JPG format for best results. Please e-mail your advertisement to Jill MacMillan at advertising@ccranews.com. Cheques in the correct amount are to be addressed to "CCRA" and deposited in the CCRA mailbox at 5450 Lawrence Ave. East, in the Port Union Recreation Centre. **It is the advertiser's responsibility to advise CCRA of any problems with an advertisement before the 20th of the month in which the ad appears.** For more about advertising, visit www.ccranews.com/advertising

Facebook.com/ccranews - Instagram: ccranews - Youtube@ccranews.

Letter to the Editor

As we move into the season of heavy rains and spring runoff, I would like to share a small request with our neighbours on Invermarge Dr. and the surrounding streets.

While many of us enjoy the beautiful mature trees in our neighbourhood, their leaves often find their way into the street gutters. During heavy rainstorms or when backyard swimming pools are being drained, these leaves quickly wash downstream and block the storm drains. For the residents living at the lower points of Invermarge, this leads to significant driveway flooding and property stress.

We can solve this together with just a few minutes of effort. If every resident took a moment to ensure the curb and drain grates near their home were clear of debris, especially during the fall leaf drop and the spring thaw, it would make a world of difference for your neighbours further down the hill.

A clear drain means a dry driveway for everyone. Thank you for helping us keep our community safe and accessible.

Sincerely,
The Poulters



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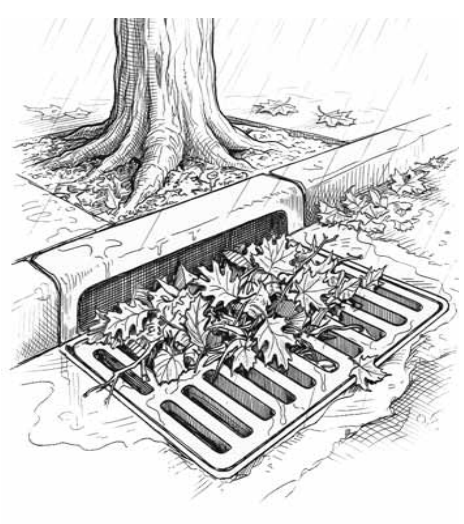


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President's Message

Appreciation for Earth Day's success

By Kathy Rowe

I want to thank the Community Earth Day committee for their hard work planning and facilitating the indoor/outdoor event on April 25. We could have had better weather, but we were grateful to all who came out to participate on such an important day. Due to the heavy rain, wind and cold, the Scouts recycling drive at the West Rouge C.C. was cancelled and rescheduled for the following day. That was a first! Scout leader Kevin Beleskey had to do some fancy footwork to make that adjustment at the last minute.

I'd like to give special thanks to a few people who were key to the success of the day. These people went above and beyond to make sure that the community had the best event ever: Bob Lalonde (bird feeder workshop facilitator), Louise Bonycastle (children's craft facilitator), Rudy Kirpal (BBQ), Kevin Beleskey (Scouts recycling drive), Frank Kaufman (mini-repair café), and the Port Union Seniors (food and drink servers).

The displays were terrific and there was a great deal for the community to learn on that day.

Thank you to the councillor's office for the free compost for residents who want to get a jump on gardening. As

well, Iron Mountain provided free paper shredding, which was a bonus to those who were able to safely recycle their personal papers for free!

Councillor's Forum

On April 17, Neethan Shan hosted a community forum at the Port Union Community Centre. More than 30 residents came to pose questions and express ideas and concerns about our community.

I was able to speak to the group about the Community Earth Day. In addition to that, I impressed upon the Centennial residents the importance of purchasing an annual CCRA membership. Our door-to-door membership campaign is starting this month, so please consider supporting our association this year.

Other topics raised at the forum consisted of: area hydro blackouts; TTC buses parking along the bike lanes east of the Rouge Hill GO station; abuse of the waterfront beaches on summer weekends; the status of the vacant school lands on Bridgeport Drive; and the noise from heavy transport trucks that travel up and down Port Union Road in the middle of the night.

The councillor listened to these concerns and more with the intention of addressing them with the appropriate departments.



Kathy Rowe browses some of the 100 issues of Centennial News at the Scarborough Archives & Research Centre. Archivist Rick Schofield is still accepting copies of the green newsletter for his collection.

High Praise for Centennial

Charles Fairbanks, who recently left his job at the councillor's office to return to Sarnia, bid a fond farewell to our community. Charles had been regularly attending our CCRA board-meetings, and he was also very supportive of our special events. He will be missed. His goodbye letter to our board was so complimentary. I'd like to close off my report by sharing some of his kind words about our community with you:

"Growing up in a small town, it was a lovely surprise to see the same kind of care and dedication to community like you do in Centennial. I wasn't expecting to be reminded of home in the GTA of all places!

We reached a milestone with our first 100 issues

continued from page 1

We've been incredibly fortunate over the decade to have reliable advertisers supporting our paper. At a time when dozens of newspapers have closed due to ad loss, we thank them for their commitment to community news.

And we thank you for reading CCRA Centennial News. We hope you continue to do so. Remember, we're perpetually on the lookout for your Centennial stories, so share your news with us -- it may be our next cover story!



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Citizen Science

We welcomed EcoSpark to our Earth Day event

By Kathy Rowe

EcoSpark was new to our Earth Day event on April 25. If you missed them, here's some background.

EcoSpark is an environmental charity connecting people to their local natural environment through education, monitoring and stewardship. Operating since 1996, the organization has developed a reputation as a community leader in local engagement, education, citizen science and collaboration.

Retired educator Donna Rice is chair of the board of EcoSpark and she told me how the organization developed over the last 30 years. It was originally named Environment Watch, she said, and it was founded by several Canadian scientists, including Dr. Ursula Franklin. Her team first imagined citizens working to gather data as a result of provincial cuts to the monitoring of our waterways. The programs have changed over the years, but their goal is to connect people with their local environment through everyday, easy-to-access citizen science programs.

"EcoSpark works with schools across the City of Toronto and it has a partnership with the Toronto District School Board," Donna said. "We work with students primarily from Grades 6 to 12 and our programs are connected



Donna Rice, right, is chair of the board at EcoSpark and Aurien Grace is a volunteer.

to the curriculum." EcoSpark tends to focus on inner-city schools, which benefits students who often need more exposure to nature. "This helps with mental health as well," Donna said.

She noted that one of the most successful programs is School Watch, which is done in schoolyards, local parks or ravines. This program is all about outdoor workshops that focus on environmental monitoring throughout the school year. Other programs offered are: Tree Benefits, Biodiversity, Health and Wellness, and Plants and Energy. The biodiversity data collected during these workshops is shared with scientists nationally and internationally.

"We also run a volunteer project called Caterpillars Count!, which kids really like," Donna said. This is

a citizen science project for measuring the seasonal variation and abundance of arthropods like caterpillars, beetles and spiders found on the foliage of trees and shrubs. EcoSpark helps with starter kits, in-person training, curriculum connections and more.

As with School Watch, the data collected is shared with scientists. In 2025, EcoSpark was featured in a wonderful documentary produced by TVO called *The Extraordinary Caterpillar*. This beautiful 60-minute film talks about the essential role that caterpillars play in the food web and what we can do to support climate action.

EcoSpark's funding comes from a variety of sources. In addition to the funding, they organize three major fundraisers that are promoted through letters to sponsors, their elaborate

website, social media, and their electronic newsletters. Donations are encouraged for Walk on the Wild Side, a Spring Silent Auction and Send a Kid to Camp.

"This is our second year doing the Send a Kid to Camp fundraiser," said Donna, "and this year we will be sending two kids to camp for free! We work with the Toronto Police and Rotary Scarborough to help us get the message out and they also help choose the kids who will get the opportunity to go to Camp Muskoka for a week. We love this fundraiser as we can help more kids have a wonderful summer experience."

EcoSpark certainly is a busy organization with a wonderful mission. We hope to have them back at our Earth Day event next year.

This spring, EcoSpark is holding its second Send a Kid to Camp fundraiser, which will send two kids to camp for free! Please scan this QR code to donate.



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Local Maker

Locally blended tea a perfect gift for mom

By Kathryn Stocks

When her exciting job as a conference and event planner came to a grinding halt when COVID hit in 2020, Centennial resident Robin Paisley needed something to do. So, she started researching tea and blending it for herself, her friends and family. "Then this great little idea slowly grew into something," she said, and that was how her Crafted Tea Company got started.

"Tea doesn't have to be fancy, but once you're turned on to the world of tea, I don't think you leave."

Robin had loved the excitement of her event planning career and since she functioned best when busy, the lockdown gave her a chance to chase this passion. Having grown up in a household that drank tea, she had always enjoyed buying different kinds of it from little shops when she was travelling. "I was a consumer of tea," she said.

Robin started by ordering tea leaves, spices and flowers from Toronto-based

importers and set up her tea company at home. She found that not all combinations work and she had to experiment to find the perfect balance. "Tea is part science and part creativity," she said. "So it's this beautiful balance between the two." She handcrafts tea blends with a variety of black, green, white teas and herbal blends.

"Consistency is key," she said about the ingredients she purchases. "You have to choose your suppliers wisely because your products are only as good as the ingredients you receive." It was important to her to work with Canadian suppliers, and her packaging is from a family-owned business here in Ontario. She designed her own packages and she has two sizes: the larger one is 35-50 grams, and the smaller size, which she sells at events, is 25 grams.

"Tea doesn't have to be fancy," Robin said, "but once you're turned on to the world of tea, I don't think you leave." She started out with six blends and now has more than 20 varieties with names like Muskoka Morning, Peachy Keen, Cool Days Warm Nights, and Turning Pages - Book Lovers Blend. "Sometimes I go through a creative period where there might be a few. And sometimes it might be just one." She said she never stops learning.



Robin Paisley wanted to keep busy during COVID so she started the Crafted Tea Company.

Robin enjoys selling her tea at local events and markets because that's where she gets good ideas. People give her feedback on what they like and make suggestions for new products. "That's how Copper Chai came about," she said. Her Masala Chai has caffeine in it and a pregnant woman told her she couldn't drink it, but she really missed it. "It just sent me down a road of research and exploring, and now it's one of my bestsellers," Robin said.

The packages she sells all have a steeping guide on the back and she advises that you'll get the best flavour if you follow those directions. Tea should always be stored in a dark place in an airtight container. Her teas contain no artificial additives, sweeteners or preservatives and they're made in small batches.

Crafted Tea Company products are sold online at craftedteacompany.ca or nearby at Cherry Bomb Mercantile on East Ave. If you're not sure what to order, you can try one of Robin's tea bundles that offer a variety of flavours. They make great Mother's Day gifts for moms who enjoy this warm and comforting beverage.



Are you a first time home Seller?

article by Sue Anfang, Realtor

Selling a home after 30 or 40 years is a major life transition. Just as a lot of things have changed in that time, so has selling a home. But where do you get the information you need to start?

First, be clear on your goals: What's prompting your thoughts of moving? To be nearer to family, have a simpler lifestyle or unlock the equity in your home? What's your timeline? Do you know where you're going next? Thinking about your goals will help you get prepared to speak to a real estate professional.

When should you engage in a professional's advice? If you're not in a crisis situation (generally brought on by health issues) then start early. Planning a year or more out will make things a lot less stressful. Then you can budget, make home improvements and declutter at a comfortable pace, with the help of a realtor like me. You don't have to do things alone!

Questions to ask a real estate professional:
Meeting a professional with a list of questions

for them is a great way to start.

Some common questions I get are:

- What would my house realistically sell for today?
- What will my "walk-away" number be?
- Should I fix it or leave it?
- How do you handle the 'stuff'?

Where else to get advice or specific information:

- Downsizing Specialists/Transition Managers: local companies like "The Next Step Forward"
- Your financial advisor
- Realtors with an SRES (Seniors Real Estate Specialist) designation
- The Government of Canada's "Selling a Home" Guide: This provides a neutral overview the home selling process
- Chat GPT can help source common questions (make sure you fact check!)
- CMHC (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) website has a variety of resources for both buyers & sellers

FEATURED LISTINGS



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Eating Out

Neighbourhood Popeyes gets a fresh start



Councillor Neethan Shan attended the restaurant's grand opening on February 1.

By Kathy Rowe

The Popeyes location in the Centennial Plaza has entered a new chapter under the ownership of Ronny Chowdhury. The restaurant was officially reopened on February 1, and the store is quickly rebuilding its reputation and reconnecting with the community.

Following a challenging period in 2025 for several locations, this Port Union restaurant now offers a refreshed experience along with welcoming staff. Ronny is pleased that repeat customers are visiting at all hours of the day and they are enjoying the variety of food options.

At the age of 21, Ronny left Bangladesh to study hospitality management at George Brown College. "After graduating, my first job was

as a food runner at the Holiday Inn on King St.," he said. "I would work large banquets of 500 people. Food runners would go back and forth from the kitchen serving customers and buffet tables."

Around that time, Ronny's family opened up an Indian restaurant in Toronto. He gained a lot of cooking experience during those years while helping to run the restaurant.

At Popeyes, Ronny knows the ins and outs of managing the business. With a team of 12 employees, both full and part-time, he takes a hands-on approach, which ensures that daily operations run smoothly. "I am there every day," he said. "In a small operation it's important that I have the knowledge and flexibility to step into every role: cooking, cash, payroll and promotion."

Ronny lives just outside of the Centennial area and he enjoys working here. "It's a great neighbourhood and I'm glad to be here," he said. Ronny is committed to building strong ties within the community. The store has already catered large local events and is actively seeking opportunities to support neighbourhood initiatives. CCRA looks forward to working with Ronny throughout the year.

Earth Day

Raindrops and drop-ins

Even though it was a cold and rainy day, there was still a good turnout for our Earth Day event on April 25. Special thanks to those who came out to pick up garbage along the waterfront. Your efforts are really appreciat-

ed. Indoors at the community centre, residents learned about the natural environment, native plants, and the zoo, while the kids made crafts and built bird feeders. Thanks to everyone who participated!



Top row: Audrey and son Joey at the waterfront cleanup; Treasure presents her handmade Earth Day poster. Second row: Toronto Zoo volunteer Kelly Cole explained display items to Aizzah, foreground, and sister Yusra; Repair Cafe volunteer Rod McMair with client Andrew Sulker. Last row: Aidan, foreground, and Emma enjoy children's craft room; Cathy Falvo deposits papers for free shredding by Iron Mountain.

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It can feel like true customer service is rare these days—but working with Jeannie Laverock restored our faith completely. As a couple with two young kids, a dog, and a move over 400 km away, we had just under a month to sell our home and secure top dollar for our future. It felt impossible. Jeannie made it happen.

From day one, she and her amazing team supported us every step of the way—helping with packing, providing supplies, and beautifully staging our home while keeping it functional for our kids and active dog. What could have been a stressful transition actually turned around to be a fun, smooth and exciting experience all thanks to Jeannie and her team's wonderful personalities. They were fully honest, professional, caring and very supportive. Showings happened multiple times a day, yet our home always felt comfortable and looked immaculate.

The result? Our home sold in just seven days—above asking—and achieved the highest sale price among comparable properties at the time, even as the market began to dip.

Jeannie is not only incredibly knowledgeable about the market and what it takes to sell, she leads with kindness, integrity, and genuine care. Even in the final days before our move, she checked in personally to see how she could help.

We found Jeannie through research, impressed by the quality of her listings. What we didn't expect was to find not just an exceptional realtor, but an exceptional person.

If you're looking for a true gem of a realtor, don't hesitate—choose Jeannie Laverock!

Janet McLellan ★★★★★

" Jeannie Laverock REMAX helped me to downsize after 20 years (and having raised three girls) in my 4 bedroom home.

This process could have been overwhelming but Jeannie made the entire experience feel manageable - and even fun. Her patience and steady support through my moments of indecision were invaluable.

Jeannie listened, asked the right questions, and helped me clearly define (and trust) my goals for this next chapter. There were times along the way when I was veering off track and Jeannie was there to steer me in the right direction.

I'm so grateful for her guidance, professionalism, and kindness every step of the way.

If you are looking for an agent who goes above and beyond then call Jeannie. I highly recommend her for all your real estate needs."

Valerie Romagnino ★★★★★

" Working with Jeannie Laverock as my seller's agent was an exceptional experience from start to finish. I was truly impressed by the level of investment she and her team made to ensure my home showed at its absolute best. From painting walls and purchasing beautiful plants to professional staging, strategic advertising, and well-organized open houses, no detail was overlooked.

Jeannie doesn't just list a property — she elevates it. Her thoughtful preparation and hands-on approach clearly demonstrate her commitment to maximizing value for her clients.

Beyond her professionalism, what stood out most to me was her integrity. Jeannie operates with honesty, transparency, and genuine care. I always felt that she had my best interests at heart and that I could trust her guidance completely.

If you're looking for a real estate agent who combines expertise, dedication, and strong ethical values, I would highly recommend Jeannie Laverock."

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7 Delbeatrice Cres
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Just purchased
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Mar 2026



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34 Port Union Rd
Sold in 23 days Nov 2025



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21 Ling Rd # 1209
Purchased Nov 2025



80 Dunstall Cres
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6 Ivanhoe Court
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Culinary Corner

It's so easy to make your own granola

By Kathryn McLean

If you like granola and don't mind spending a few minutes in the kitchen, you should try making your own. One of the good things about making your own granola is you can decide what goes into the mix and what doesn't.

For example, if you want it less sweet, you can cut down on the sugar. Same for salt: it's not necessary so you can omit it or add a pinch. And you can customize with additional flavours like maple syrup or cinnamon.

Add as many dried fruits as you like. I usually use a mix of chopped dry apricots and raisins or currants. You can also try chopped dry apples or figs.

For nuts, I recommend chopped raw almonds, but cashews, pecans and walnuts are good, too. Try adding puffed quinoa or hemp hearts, or stirring in some chocolate chips once the batch is cooked and cooled.

Once your granola is ready, you can eat it by the handful, in a bowl with milk or with yogurt and fruit. I like to add a few spoonfuls of granola to the top of a bowl of hot oatmeal. The crunchy sweetness works great with the simple soft cereal.

Or try it mixed with a boxed dry cereal. Simple cereals work best. Rice Krispies or some type of flakes. Cheerios, Shreddies, Life, Chex or Crispex would be good, too.



You can eat your granola by the handful, in a bowl with milk or with yogurt and fruit.

So, how do you make homemade granola? Start by preheating the oven. Measure the dry ingredients into a mixing bowl. Leave the dry fruit aside to mix in later, after baking. Baking the dry fruit will only dry it out further making it rock hard.

Add the wet ingredients and stir everything. Then pour the mixture onto a baking sheet. Give the pan a gentle shake to keep everything in an even layer and pop it into the oven. Bake for 10 minutes, stir the granola, and bake for another 5 to 10 minutes.

It's important to watch the last few minutes carefully and pull it out when you get the colour and toastiness you want. You'll have to check the oven every minute for the last few minutes

since granola can go from almost there to burnt very quickly.

You can double the recipe for a larger batch, but it will take longer to cook. Add an additional 10 minutes to the timer or divide the mixture between two pans to keep the bake time short.

My Guideline for Granola

Ingredients

- 1 cup dried fruit
- 2 cups large flake oats
- ½ cup raw nuts (almonds, walnuts, pecans)
- ⅓ cup seeds (pumpkin, sunflower, flax, sesame)
- ¼ - ½ cup shredded unsweetened coconut (as you like)
- ¼ - ½ cup additional mix-ins, such as hemp hearts and ground flax
- Pinch of salt
- ¼ cup honey or maple syrup
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350F.
- Measure all the dry ingredients except for the dried fruit into a mixing bowl. Add the wet ingredients and stir everything.
- Transfer the mixture onto a baking sheet and spread into an even layer. Bake for 10 minutes, stir the granola, and bake for another 5-10 minutes until golden. Remove from the oven and stir in the dry fruit. Store in a sealed container once cooled.

Special Event

Doors Open Toronto is on this month

By Kathryn Stocks

Doors Open Toronto is happening this month on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24. This event gives everyone a chance to explore buildings and sites across the city that aren't usually open to the public. It also offers the opportunity to take advantage of free admission to places that normally charge entrance fees.

There are more than 160 buildings, sites and locations open this year, including a few in our area. First on that list is the Scarborough Archives & Research Centre in Highland Creek at 6282 Kingston Rd. It is worth seeing this beautifully renovated building that was constructed in 1890 by William J. Morrish. At the time, it was the finest store in the district. Note that it's only open on Saturday, May 23.

Other places on the Doors Open list that aren't far from here include the Clark Centre for the Arts at the Guild Inn, Cedar Ridge Creative Centre, Hillside Outdoor Education School, and Fool's Paradise, which was the home and studio of Canadian landscape artist, writer and educator Doris McCarthy. This one's a real treat to see, but it's only open on Saturday, May 23.

For more information on all the listings, go to toronto.ca/doors-open

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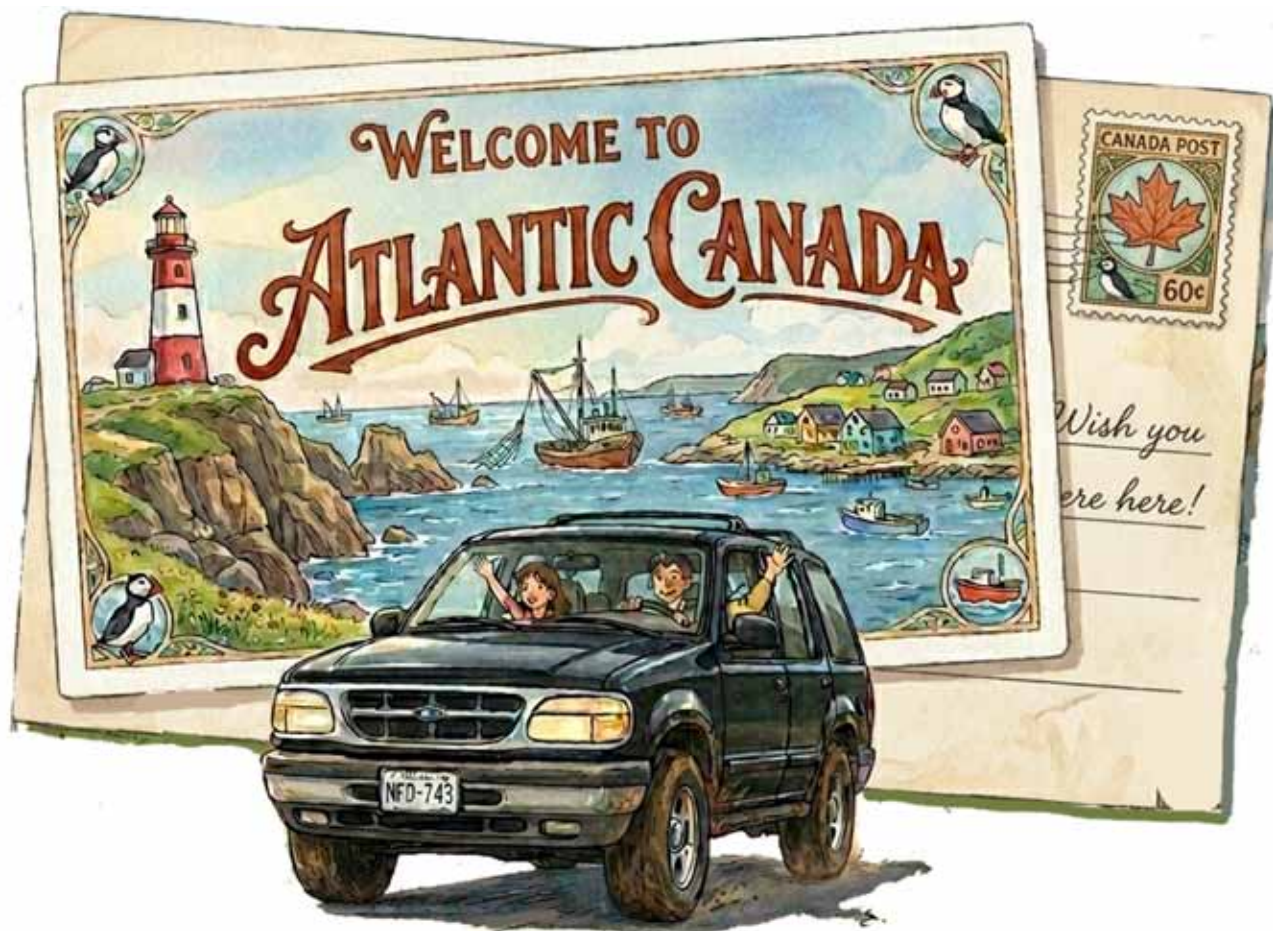
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ROAD JOURNEY FROM CENTENNIAL TO CANADA'S EAST COAST

On the road: scenic views and maritime rhythms

As promised in our March story on the train journey from Toronto to Vancouver, here is the followup story about a road trip from Toronto to Canada's Atlantic provinces



By John Murphy

Wondering what to do this summer? Friends of ours asked us that last year and since we had a family reunion coming up in PEI, we invited them to join us. My wife has family there, I grew up in Dartmouth, NS, and our friends' family also had roots. We made it a three-week adventure across four provinces. No matter how much time you take, there is plenty of adventure, interesting sites to see, and memories to be had.

New Brunswick

The first night was spent in Levis, QC, and then onward to New Brunswick. Past Levis, the highway is smooth sailing to Fredericton. This city is compact with elm-lined streets and the St. John River sets a tranquil tone. Cousins took us to the Beaverbrook Art Gallery and then on a riverside trail walk that led to our choice of pints at Picaroons, just one of the many craft brewers in this historic city.

Then we were off to Saint John to see more family and the tides of the Bay of Fundy: mid tide at the Reversing Falls

and low tide at St. Martins Sea Caves. Seafood was a must and Spinney's Seafood Market was perfect – no indoor dining, just picnic tables and sunshine. It was at this point that I started my quest for the best seafood chowder place out east. Theirs was pretty good but too soon to tell.

Nova Scotia

From Saint John, the Digby ferry took us to Nova Scotia. We travelled the scenic route to Wolfville and explored Annapolis Royal's shops, trails and its Acadian history. That afternoon we had booked one of many wine tours

in Annapolis Valley and were not disappointed. On a bit of a whim, we called on a friend of a friend who lived in former prime minister Robert Borden's childhood home. I have driven by these old "Four Square" homes many times and wondered about their history and how large families got along in these small houses.

Below left: Walking on the seabed and exploring the St. Martin Sea Caves and inlets in New Brunswick was amazing. We did get a bit wet on the return as our path back changed when the tide came in. Timing had us forgo a trip up the shore to Hopewell Rocks.

Below: Staying in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, is like stepping into a painting with its three churches and bay. We visited Blue Rocks village where fishing boats bob quietly.

Above top: On the pier in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, we enjoyed the museum, happy hour mussels, and a pretty good chowder. We timed it so I could relive a childhood memory of stepping onto the Bluenose. When it came in, my friends laughed at me being first in line. If you plan, you can even sail on it for half a day.

Above: Taking the scenic route brings many surprises like learning about the history of Annapolis Royal and "le grand Dérangement" (The Great Upheaval) of the Acadian people. We wandered Fort Anne, which was great for kids, and explored the interactive museum.





Left: On the Halifax waterfront I took the time to visit Pier 21 as my dad was an immigrant of the '50s. I wanted to get a feel for his experience and the exhibits did more than that. They let me string a luggage tag onto a large world map, and on the tag I wrote a thank you note for all he did for me. I was proud to be a Canadian when I left and even prouder of my dad.

Coastal Villages and Ocean Stories

We ventured to the postcard perfect South Shore where we explored Lunenburg's brightly painted homes and shops on quiet streets. I must add that no matter where you are out east, conversations are easy. It feels like two people sharing a moment, let's see where it goes. It's kind and often you know someone in common.

Our next stop was Halifax, my birthplace, with a stop in Peggy's Cove. It is family friendly at the waterfront boardwalk, fort and more. There's the Brewery Market, and the unforgettable Harbour Hopper Tours on an old army vehicle that goes into the harbour! In the evening, we took in good east coast music at one of my favourite Canadian pubs, the Lower Deck.

Cape Breton was next, in part to meet cousins we had never met before. Finding our friends' father's old home-stead in River Bourgeois based on a 50-year-old picture and a serendipitous conversation at our spring garage sale is its own story. As for my wife, she met Glace Bay cousins she had never met, but did they know her: "You look like your mom!"

We wound along highland cliffs, stopped at the beautiful Ingonish Beach and Black Brook Beach before staying in Cape North. There are many places to view the amazing shoreline cliffs. We walked the trails like the Sky-line or White Point with waterfalls, open vistas and serenity.



Left: A short trail through 400-year-old sugar maple trees leads to the Lone Shieling, a Scottish-style sheep crofters hut in Cape Breton Highlands National Park in Nova Scotia.

Below: Cape Breton has so much to offer: Louisbourg, the Miners Museum and the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck (shown here). Did you know he was into planes and hydrofoils?



Prince Edward Island

Island Time and the Road Home

We took our fourth ferry ride to PEI and easily travelled across the island to Tignish in a day. North Cape has shallow red sand beaches that stretch endlessly. We also liked the white sands of PEI National Park, Greenwich.

We ended our journey back in St. Andrews-by-the-Sea in New Brunswick. It is a seaside town rich with history, music, arts and whale-watching tours.

Reflecting back, our Atlantic road trip had a rhythm and without rushing I was able to appreciate its natural beauty, culture and human endeavours.



Top: Fishing and music are a way of living in Prince Edward Island. If you're lucky, you can watch them unload tuna during the day and in the evening take in some real down-east music at the Stompin' Tom Centre.

Middle: Richard Wood & the Somerset Dancers was a high-energy Celtic music and step-dance show. We enjoyed the fast-paced traditional East Coast music.

Below: After our family reunion, we timed our arrival in Cavendish to sightsee at The Cactus Pot and taste PEI oysters at the Blue Mussel Café. If you plan, you can enjoy one of the top dining experiences in Canada at The Table. The menu changes weekly and they have never repeated

Below: Cape North in Nova Scotia is full of gems and wild beauty. The Lone Shieling or Wild Shore in Cape Breton and the Ship Hector museum in Pictou mark the impact of Scots on this coast.

Left: You can find the Rusty Anchor Restaurant in Cape Breton. Their chowder was the best!



Above: Greenwich Provincial Park is vast and has many surprises. The long boardwalk leads to a lagoon, then to dunes and then to pristine brown sandy beaches that go on forever in PEI!



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Warm weather activities word search

Find the following words in the puzzle.

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| Travel | Swim | Kite |

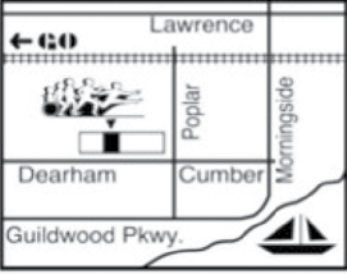
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Protecting your bike from thieves

By Kazi Anwar

As the weather warms up, more people pull their bikes out and hit the road. Riding a bike is great exercise, saves money on gas, and lets you enjoy the sunshine. Unfortunately, warmer weather also means bike thieves show up.

The good news is that protecting your bike is not complicated. The first step is using a good lock. A strong U-lock is usually safer than a simple cable lock. Cable locks can sometimes be cut quickly with basic tools, while a solid U-lock takes more effort.

When locking your bike, make sure you lock the frame and at least one wheel to something solid like a bike rack or metal pole. If you only lock the wheel, a thief might take the rest of the bike and leave you with a lonely wheel. If you have kids, teach them to lock their bikes. No security method is perfect, but the more difficult you make it for a thief, the more likely they are to move on.

Where you leave your bike also matters. Thieves prefer quiet places where nobody is watching. Dark corners and empty streets make their job easier. Try to park your bike in busy and well-lit areas where people are walking by. At home, the safest place for your bike is indoors or in a locked garage.

It's a good idea to keep a record of your bike's serial number. This number is usually stamped on the frame near the pedals. If your bike gets stolen, that number can help police identify it.

Taking a few photos of your bike is helpful. Snap pictures of the whole bike and any unique features that can help prove it is yours.

Communities can help prevent bike theft, too. If you see someone messing with a locked bike or carrying tools that look like they are meant for cutting locks, it might be worth reporting it. A quick call can stop a theft before it happens.

You can register your bike with the Toronto Police Service at: tps.ca/services/bicycle-registration/register

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Councillor Neethan Shan, Scarborough–Rouge Park

Celebrating the community during Centennial Week

Centennial Week was a meaningful opportunity to connect more deeply with our community. From April 6 to 12, our team knocked on 2,000 doors and had many thoughtful conversations with residents about what matters most in the neighbourhood. These conversations, from local priorities to everyday concerns, continue to shape the work we bring forward at City Hall.

I encourage you to explore the hashtag #MyCentennial to see highlights and celebrate our community. You can also subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter by visiting councillorshan.ca for more updates.

collective voice and helps ensure the neighbourhood's needs are clearly represented. My office will continue working alongside residents and the CCRA to turn these priorities into concrete improvements and keep you updated every step of the way.



Councillor Shan supported the Earth Day event by providing free compost.



The councillor engaged with the community during the Centennial Community Forum at the Port Union Community Centre on April 17.

Centennial Community Forum

Thank you to the more than 30 neighbours who joined us at the Centennial Community Forum. Your participation grounded the discussion in real, everyday experiences. We heard clear concerns about Port Union Rd., recent blackouts, and the growing need for more pickleball space. These priorities will be brought back to the city as we continue pushing for practical improvements that reflect what residents are experiencing on the ground.

A sincere thank you to Kathy Rowe, president of the Centennial Community Recreation Association, for joining us and sharing her insights.

Community Earth Day

It was wonderful to take part in the Community Earth Day event alongside the Centennial Community and Recreation Association. Seeing neighbours come together to celebrate sustainability and care for our shared spaces made the day especially meaningful. We were proud to support the event by providing free compost, helping residents take small but important steps toward greener gardens and a healthier environment. Thank you to everyone who joined and contributed to such a vibrant day.

Supporting the CCRA and Moving Forward Together

The Centennial Community and Recreation Association plays a key role in organizing, advocating, and keeping neighbours informed. As we work to address concerns raised at the forum, from road safety on Port Union to power reliability and expanded recreational space, strong community participation will be essential in moving these priorities forward.

With May as membership month, I encourage residents to consider joining the CCRA. A growing and active membership strengthens Centennial's

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MPP Vijay Thanigasalam

Building a competitive, resilient economy



At the future home of Scarborough's first medical school, we showed that as needs evolve, we're taking action to support workers.

I hope you and your families are doing well. Our government recently announced the 2026 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario. In the midst of tariffs and economic uncertainty, we are continuing to build the most competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy in the G7.

2026 Ontario Budget

The 2026 Budget furthers our plan to attract jobs and investments, lower costs for workers and businesses, keep life affordable for families and individuals, and make targeted investments in key public services that support the province's long-term prosperity.

This includes taking action to keep people safe by strengthening bail rules, increasing penalties for dangerous and impaired driving, and ensuring greater accountability for serious offences. At

the same time, our government is supporting small businesses by delivering meaningful tax relief, helping over 375,000 businesses save up to \$5,000 each year so they can grow, invest and create jobs.

Ontario is navigating economic challenges with a strong and effective fiscal plan while retaining a path to a balanced budget.

Increasing WSIB Benefits

I had the pleasure of standing at the site of Scarborough's first medical school alongside Minister David Piccini and Minister Andrea Khanjin to speak on our government's proposal to announce the new measures our government will be taking to increase benefits to protect injured workers in Ontario.

By proposing the first increase to

WSIB benefits in nearly 30 years, we are helping more workers keep more of their income while they recover. With approximately 444,000 Ontarians aged 65 and older participating in the workforce, these updates reflect the realities of today's labour market and help ensure workers never have to choose between recovery and their financial security.

These changes are a part of our plan to protect workers, strengthen Ontario's workforce, and make Ontario the best place to invest in the G7.

Opening HOV Lanes To More Drivers

We've heard from drivers across our communities that people want more flexibility and less time stuck in traffic. That's why our government is taking a practical step to make better use of the roads we already have.

We're opening up High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to more drivers during off-peak hours, when those lanes often go underused. It's about keeping traffic moving and making everyday commutes a little easier.

Once finalized later this year, the new off-peak hours will be set out in regulation. This change will help reduce gridlock and keep people and goods moving efficiently across Ontario.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our office at 8130 Sheppard Ave. East Unit 105, by email at vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org, or give us a call at 416-283-8448.



Mowat car wash fundraiser on May 9

By Mackenzie Adair

The Mowat Athletic Council (MAC) is hosting a car wash fundraiser at the school on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to support and preserve athletics at Mowat. The rain date will be May 30. As the snow melts and spring arrives, it's the perfect time to wash away the salt, dirt and grime left behind by winter while supporting a great cause.

Car washes are just \$10 (cash only), with all proceeds going toward maintaining athletic programs and helping cover student banquet costs. MAC members and student volunteers will be onsite working hard to give every vehicle a fresh spring clean.

Bring your family, invite your friends, and stop by to support Mowat student athletes.

Find more information on our Instagram account [@Mowatathleticcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/Mowatathleticcouncil)

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MP Gary Anandasangaree

Initiatives to keep neighbourhoods safer



MP Gary Anandasangaree announces the proposed investment to the Building Safer Communities Fund

With brighter days ahead and spring in full swing, I'm pleased to share some of the work your federal government is doing to support Canadians and strengthen our community.

Investing in Safer Communities

I am proud to share the Government of Canada's intention to invest \$157.5 million over the next three years through the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) to strengthen efforts to prevent gun and gang violence. This funding will support municipalities, Indigenous communities, and local organiza-

tions working directly with at-risk youth, helping guide them toward safer paths and brighter futures.

By investing in community-led solutions, these initiatives make a meaningful difference in keeping neighbourhoods safer, supporting young people, and ultimately saving lives.

Protecting Nature

The government is taking meaningful action to protect our environment. Here in Scarborough-Guildwood-Rouge Park, up to \$936,485 is being invested to support ecological resto-

ration at 13 sites in Rouge National Urban Park, advancing Canada's national strategy to protect nature.

This work will restore wetlands, strengthen forests, and enhance vital waterways, creating cleaner, greener spaces for residents to enjoy, supporting local wildlife, and contributing to a healthier, more vibrant community for everyone.

Step into Your Summer Job

With summer just around the corner, I'm pleased to share that the hiring period for the 2026 Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program has begun!

This year, the government is increasing support to help create up to 100,000 job opportunities for youth across the country, including hundreds of positions right here in our riding. Young people aged 15 to 30 are encouraged to visit the Job Bank website and Mobile App to search for jobs available in their communities. As these organizations begin hiring, I encourage students and young people in our community to take advantage of these opportunities and apply early!



Free Canada Strong Pass

Free admission for summer 2026

The Canada Strong Pass is back! From June 19 to September 7 inclusive, Parks Canada is offering:

- Free admission for all visitors to all national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas operated by Parks Canada
- A 25% discount on fees for camping and overnight stays
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Existing pass holders

If you already hold a Discovery Pass or annual single-location pass valid during any Canada Strong Pass period, the pass will be automatically extended.

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Book Review

Book for young readers explores the power of helping others

A Drop of Hope

Author: Keith Calabrese

Publisher: Scholastic Press

By Pamela Collins

Meet 6th graders Ernest, Ryan, Lizzie and their teacher, Mr. Earle. They all live in the town of Cliffs Donnelly.

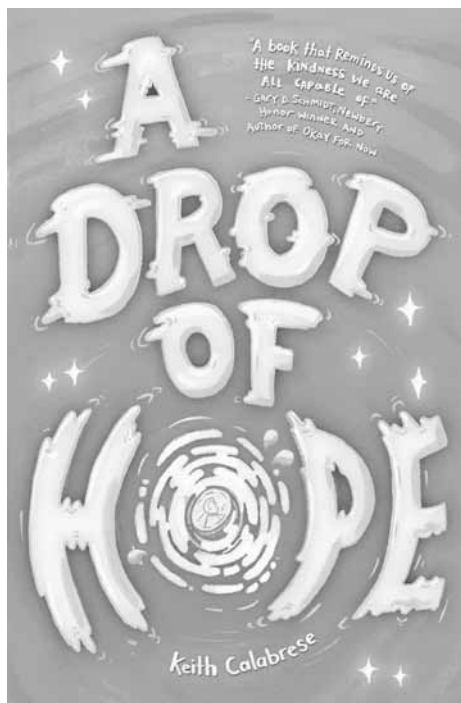
The sign going into the town had been spray-painted by graffiti artists but they left the letters IF ONLY. This became the name that the locals used for their town: IF ONLY.

As the town was quite poor, the people could be heard saying, "IF ONLY I had a better job, IF ONLY we had enough money to buy groceries..."

One day in class, Mr. Earle tells the kids about an old landmark in town known as the wishing well where people would drop money in the well and make a wish. Ernest, Ryan and Lizzie find a hidden path to the old well and overhear people, even kids from their class, come and make wishes.

Over time, they hear many wishes and Ryan is surprised how often people make wishes for others and not themselves. Those are the ones he remembers the most.

Ernest is a dreamer and he wants to find ways to make these wishes come true. Ryan is a realist and thinks they should just leave well enough alone. Lizzie is a smart kid and thinks she has all the answers.



"You can't fix the world but you can do your best in your own little corner of it, you can give hope – one wish at a time."

As a series of events happens in the town, the kids discover that their wishes and the wishes of others might actually be coming true. The kids start getting involved in the wishes people make and they begin to realize that helping others can be more powerful than they ever imagined.

Each character has their own struggles, but the way their stories connect shows how people can lift each other up without even knowing it. The author writes, "The strongest friendships are often based on the little things."

What I liked about *A Drop of Hope* is how it reminds us that everyone has the power to make a difference, even if in small ways. The story is full of hope, friendship and surprises. It also teaches that you don't have to be a superhero to help someone – you just have to care.

As Ryan realizes, "You can't fix the world but you can do your best in your own little corner of it, you can give hope – one wish at a time."

Young readers will enjoy the humour, the mystery and magic of the wishing well, and the way the characters' lives weave together like a puzzle. There are so many other interesting characters in the book but you will have to read it to discover them all.

This book encourages kindness, empathy, and believing that good things can happen, even when life gets hard. It leaves you with good feelings and shows how one small good deed can ripple out and change someone's world.

If you like stories about friendship, magic that feels almost real, and characters who discover their own strengths, *A Drop of Hope* is a fun choice to read.

This book is available at our local Port Union library.

Port Union Library

Library Closed: Sunday, May 17, Monday, May 18 - Victoria Day

Movie Night: Mondays May 4, 11, 25 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Adults and older adults are welcome Monday evenings for Port Union Movie Night. We will screen a variety of films, from golden oldies to later releases. May 4: *Zootopia 2*, May 11: *The Naked Gun*, May 25: *Good Fortune*.

Afternoon Book Club: Tuesday, May 5 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Join us the first Tuesday of each month for an engaging book discussion. This month's book is *The Djinn Waits a Hundred Years* by Shubnum Khan. The library will provide 15 copies or you may order your own. Contact the branch for book lists and details. Drop-in program – all are welcome! Space is limited.

Evening Book Club: Tuesday, May 12 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Join us to discuss great books each month. This month's book is *Hang the Moon* by Jeannette Walls. The library will provide 15 copies or you may order your own. Contact the branch for book lists and details. Drop-in program – all are welcome! Space is limited.

Family Time: Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27 from 10:30-11:00 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs and rhymes at a staff-led story time. For children 5 years and under with their parents or caregivers. Drop-in program.

Chess Club: Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Looking for a fun after-school activity? Drop by the Port Union Library and learn how to play or improve your game with members of the UTSC Chess Club. No registration required. Drop-in program for ages 7-17.

Baby Time: Fridays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 10:30-11:00 a.m. Introduce your child (18 months to 3 years) to sounds and actions at a staff-led story time with rhymes, songs and stories. For toddlers with their parents or caregivers. Drop-in program.

Knitting Circle: Saturdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Drop-in program but limited to a room capacity of 20 participants. Arrive early to secure your spot!

Family Club: Saturdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 from 11:30-12:30 p.m. Celebrate your Saturday morning at Port Union Library! You can colour your favourite characters or create freestyle Legos with family and friends. Drop-in program but limited to a room capacity of 20 participants. Arrive early to secure your spot!

Book-a-Librarian Sessions: Do you need help downloading eBooks, eMagazines or eAudiobooks? Are you unsure how to use the library's online resources? Contact library staff at 416-396-8885 to reserve a session.

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Submitted by Seema Datta, Senior Library Assistant

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Roundup

Why we need to support Canadian media

By Shelley Cooke

Despite the widespread availability of international news outlets, supporting Canadian media is vital to keeping Canadians informed about the issues and decisions that shape our lives.

In recent years, Canada's media industry has faced significant challenges. Declining advertising revenue, government funding cuts, and increased competition from global media platforms have placed growing financial pressure on local news organizations. Unfortunately, these challenges have contributed to the closure of publications and news outlets across the country.

Media leaders nationwide, particularly those at CBC/Radio-Canada, are very concerned about the future of local journalism in Canada. Catherine Tait, the former president and CEO of CBC, emphasized the importance of maintaining a national perspective, noting: "It's really important that Canadians get a Canadian point of view on what's going on in the world and what's going on here at home. We can't give that away to global companies."

Here are five more reasons why supporting Canadian media matters:

Staying informed: Canadian news outlets ensure that we stay informed about what's happening in our own country. These include issues such as: healthcare, federal/provincial decisions, housing affordability, Indigenous issues, and regional stories.

Protecting Canadian viewpoints: Supporting domestic media helps maintain a distinctly Canadian perspective. When we rely on foreign media outlets, Canadian voices and experiences can be overshadowed by outside narratives.

Supporting democracy: Canadian journalists play a key role in holding government leaders accountable by reporting on decisions at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. Relying on foreign media, especially American outlets, can reduce coverage of important domestic issues.

Sustaining careers in journalism: News organizations across the country employ thousands of professionals, including reporters, writers, editors, anchors, researchers, producers, videographers, and camera operators. When we support Canadian media, we help to sustain these careers and the institutions that depend on them.

Preserving Canadian culture: Canadian media provides us with unique stories that reflect our national identity. From achievements in art, sports and science to the everyday experiences of communities across the country, these stories might otherwise go unnoticed if Canadians rely on foreign media outlets.

As Canadian media faces growing competition globally, supporting domestic journalism is vital. Choosing local and national news organizations helps ensure that Canadians remain informed and that our voices and perspectives are represented.

Three river otter pups born in March

By Wanda Wierzbicki

These are exciting times at the Toronto Zoo. On February 22, a baby Masai giraffe calf, now called Imara, was born to mom Mstari. On March 28, three North American river otter pups were born to first-time mom Maybelle. These are the first river otters born at the zoo in over 40 years!

"We are thrilled to announce the birth of three river otter pups, and are monitoring the pups closely as the first weeks are critical with first-time mothers," said CEO Dolf DeJong. "These new additions reflect our commitment to Canadian species in our Guardians of Wild Strategic Plan, and we look forward to sharing updates on Maybelle and her pups with our community as they grow."

"River otters, also known as N'gig in Anishnaabemowin, are special animals to Indigenous people. They are Clan animals present in Creation stories, the Seven Grandfather Teachings where they represent love," adds Crystal Cowie, supervisor of Indigenous Relations at the zoo.

The river otters are the star attraction in the Americas pavilion, where guests love to watch as Maybelle and RJ effortlessly swim, dive, slide and chase each other through the water. They always appear to be having so much fun.

Some of you may have noticed that the zoo had just announced Maybelle's pregnancy and suddenly the pups were born. This is

because river otter reproduction is complex. The team at the zoo observed breeding between Maybelle and RJ in May 2025 (one year ago!). For the last year, they have been carefully monitoring Maybelle's progesterone levels. Earlier this year, increased progesterone levels indicated a possible pregnancy.

River otters have "embryonic diapause," which means delayed implantation. Embryos can remain dormant for seven to 10 months before development begins. Embryonic diapause is a reproductive strategy that allows animals to align birth with favourable environmental conditions, which is a survival advantage for their offspring.

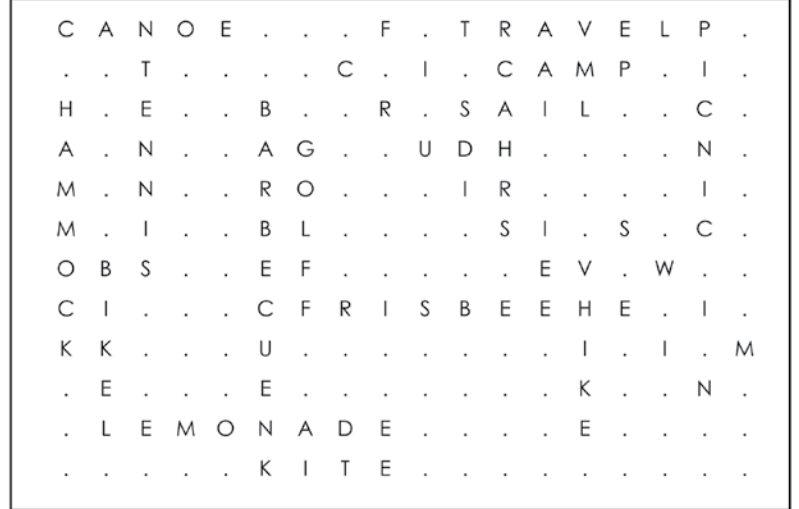
Maybelle has been busy in her den focusing on caring for the pups. They will all be off display until they are ready to come out around the end of April or early in May. Maybelle will be primarily responsible for teaching the pups. Male river otters don't generally play a direct parenting role.

The pups typically start learning to swim at around 10 weeks old. Maybelle will teach them to swim and dive in the Americas Pavilion, gradually introducing them to the water. In the wild, river otter pups typically stay with their mom for about eight months. During this time, they learn essential survival skills, like swimming, hunting and fishing.

Keep an eye on the Toronto Zoo's Facebook page for updates on RJ, Maybelle and the new otter pups.

Continued from page 12

Correct solution for the Warm Weather Activities Word Search on page 12.



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Nature

Don't feed wild animals!

By Denise Bacon

We know that residents enjoy feeding those cute wild animals and birds from the littlest hummingbirds to large deer. It can even give you a sense of purpose to provide sustenance to those hungry animals. Or, it can be very exciting to have a chipmunk eat out of your hand, to see rabbits returning for carrots, or to have deer come right into your backyards to eat treats. Seeing wild animals up close is an understandable thrill.

Unfortunately, the thrill for humans can be a tremendous ill for those very same animals.

Feeding Wildlife Creates Conflict

If animals start to associate people with food, they may become more visible, bolder or more likely to approach humans. Some people may be annoyed or frightened by this behaviour, and act on it in a way that harms the animal – from trapping and relocating a mother to setting dangerous traps or baits in the yard, to physically injuring or killing the animal themselves. Further, larger and larger predators will be attracted closer to human dwellings where wild animals gather to be fed.

Feeding Wildlife Can Be Unhealthy

Feeding wild animals can discourage them from foraging for their natural food sources. This can lead to health problems, since the foods we choose to feed them are usually not as diverse or nutritionally complete as what they'd find in the wild.

Take the example of feeding bread to ducks and geese. White bread isn't good for them, but it's very filling – like junk food. Waterfowl who are fed bread feel full, so they don't go looking for the plants and micro-organisms that usually make up their diet. For growing babies this can lead to nutritional deficiencies that affect their development, like a deformity called "Angel Wing." It also causes birds to produce more waste, which ultimately leads to more human conflict.

Feeding Wildlife Can Make Them Sick

Feeding wildlife encourages larger numbers of animals to group together than would happen naturally. If one of them is sick, the disease can easily spread through the group.

To protect wildlife and to reduce conflicts, the City of Toronto prohibits feeding wildlife on both public and private property under Municipal Code Chapters 349 and 608 as of April 1, 2023. Exceptions are in place for sanitary bird feeders and managed feral cat colonies. Residents may call 311 to report any concerns.

Toronto Wildlife Services has strong advice against feeding wildlife: torontowildlifecentre.com

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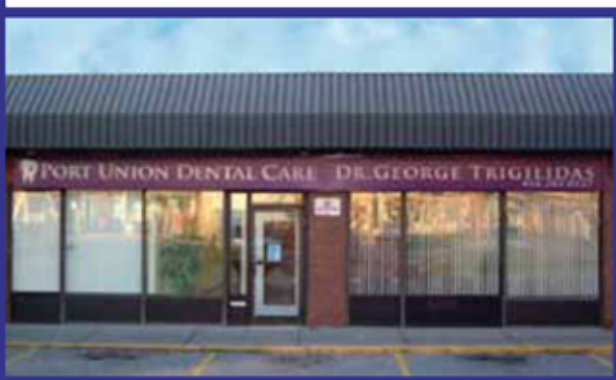
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