

The Face of Hunger

By Denise Gracias

"Is he actually shoplifting in plain sight?" I wondered.

I was in the checkout line at a grocery store when he brushed passed me. He had a knapsack on his back and a bottle of something non-alcoholic in his hands. Nonchalantly, he strolled by the checkout line, looked right at the cashiers, and walked out.

He was about six years old.

As I drove away with my own groceries in trunk, I had already forgotten about him. With a few more items on my list, I headed to another store across the street. Perusing the aisles, I saw him again. He was too small to be alone, too quiet, and too still not to raise my suspicions. His body was pressed up against the shelf. Keeping my distance, I approached by his periphery, not wanting to surprise him. His knapsack was open, and a few noodle soup packages were shoved in. When he saw me, he quickly put back the one in his hand.

"Where is your mother?" I asked pretending to look around him.

"She stayed home and asked me to buy the groceries today", he lied.

"Do you need some help to pay for the groceries?" He seemed relieved.

"Yes", he piped up with big brown eyes looking hopeful. "If you could give me ten dollars, it would help a lot".

"Here is a twenty for today and next time", I told him. It was the only cash I had.

"Thank you so much!" He beamed, taking it eagerly. I knew he may pocket it but I had to do something. I told him to tell his mother that there was help available and provided a few

WHO'S HUNGRY 2023 PROFILE REPORT

- THE TORONTO DAILY BREAD FOOD BANK HAD 2.53 MILLION VISITS SO FAR THIS YEAR — 1,000,000 MORE THAN PREVIOUS YEARS.
- ONE IN TEN PEOPLE NOW RELY ON FOOD BANKS — THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT YOU MAY KNOW SOMEONE.
- NEW FOOD CLIENTS ARE UP 154% WITH A STAGGERING 52% OF THOSE BEING EMPLOYED.
- ONE OUT OF FOUR SPEND 100% ON HOUSING WITH NO MONEY LEFT FOR FOOD.
- AFTER RENT AND UTILITIES, FOOD CLIENTS ARE LEFT WITH \$6.67 — A TTC ROUND TRIP COST \$6.60.
- 31% OF FOOD BANK CLIENTS GO A DAY WITHOUT EATING.
- THOSE MOST VULNERABLE ARE SINGLE MOTHERS.

suggestions. Hoping he would remember some of them, we parted.

While checking out, I alerted the cashier of this hungry child, hoping he would not be arrested.

"Oh, him", she seemed unimpressed. "He already left", and after further questioning, she confirmed he had bypassed the cashier. I sighed. Her colleague joined us and explained it was a common occurrence and they turned a blind eye to it.

"What can you do?" she shrugged her shoulders. "It's March Break. Parents are working. Children are home alone with no food." Their compassion was clear, but I voiced my fears. Shoplifting may not be met with such mercy at other places, and they may move on to greater crimes. There must be something we can do. They had no answer and neither did I.

I have shared this experience with friends and family. Some say they would have done the same as me. Others would have done something different. It doesn't matter. Bottomline is that while most children look forward to school breaks, for some it is a week of humiliating daily struggles to fight hunger, boredom, and loneliness. We can turn a blind eye out of compassion, or we can open our eyes and find a way to deal with it.

I still don't have any answers, but I know Christmas is around the corner. Maybe we can all open our eyes and hearts and find a solution, so every child enjoys school breaks.

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IF YOU'RE ABLE TO JOIN US, PLEASE EMAIL: MYHIGHLANDCREEKCOMMUNITY@GMAIL.COM

A Message From Our HCCA President Joy Loewen

I hope everyone enjoyed that great fall weather we had and found time to connect with your inner child during Halloween.

Our Annual Festival of Lights is Friday, December 1st at the Wesleyan Cemetery. Support those less fortunate by bringing non-perishable food items to the event between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The festivities get started at 6:30 p.m. with the tree lighting at 7:00 p.m. As Buddy the Elf said, “The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear”, so tune up your vocal cords and bundle up. All the information is in this edition of The Villager.

If you’ve enjoyed the Highland Creek Heritage Festival or are planning on taking advantage of the Festival of Lights, you may

be asking how you can help. You can support the Highland Creek Community Association by joining as a member for only \$10 a year. Come to a meeting to see what it’s all about – we get together at 6:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month and our meetings are usually held at the Legion on Morrish Road. But if you are interested, do reach out to myhighlandcreekcommunity@gmail.com to confirm time and place for the next meeting or to become a supporting member of the Highland Creek Community Association.

We welcome your content and ideas for inclusion in The Villager. They can be sent to highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com. Make your voice heard! The Highland Creek Community Association, along with our Wesleyan Cemetery grounds crew and Villager deliverers, are Highland Creek resi-

dents that are passionate about keeping Highland Creek the best neighbourhood in which to reside. If you have any ideas on how to make that happen, please reach out to me at myhighlandcreekcommunity@gmail.com.

After a few years that have been anything but normal and with the current situation across the world, this season may continue to be challenging. Whatever is beautiful. Whatever is meaningful. Whatever brings you happiness. May it be yours this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Look after yourselves, your families, and your friends and neighbours.

Joy



What Happened? — The Scarborough Mirror

By Mike Adler

Some of you may still be wondering where the Scarborough Mirror went.

It’s kind of a long story.

Working for Metroland, which owned the Mirror and still runs Toronto.com, is a job I’ve given half my life to.

That job will end by December 31. The people I’ve worked with at the Mirror and Toronto.com – those who hadn’t left already – are being laid off, too.

The Mirror, published from 1962 until this September, is another casualty of the long and now rapid decline of local journalism in Canada.

We knew something like this was coming, but we didn’t know exactly how or when it would end.

Our newspaper once landed on Scarborough doorsteps three times a week, wrapped around flyers as thick as a brick sometimes.

I’ve been on the Scarborough beat for about 17 years, and the last half-dozen or so were very difficult. The papers had shrunk, the flyers were scarce.

We said goodbye to our office. We said goodbye to most of our colleagues.

The pandemic and Facebook’s ban on Canadian news links have hurt local media badly. I could tell you more about Metroland and its owner, the Toronto Star’s parent company, and how their corporate decisions affected the outcome, but what does it matter? The Mirror is gone.

You can – for now, at least – still find news about Scarborough on Toronto.com, though it may seem hard to find at times.

I’ll still post items about Scarborough on X (I still call it Twitter), through the @SCMirror account, until the company tells me to stop.

I’m still writing about Scarborough, but now it feels like what I’m really doing is saying

goodbye.

As for what the plan for what Toronto.com might be next year, I haven’t heard. I only know their plans don’t include me.

If you ever miss the Mirror, Toronto Public Library’s Cedarbrae branch should have close to our entire set of back issues on microfilm, and many of our bound volumes are at the Scarborough Archives in Highland Creek.

I’m grateful to everyone who thanked me or wished me well since the Mirror stopped publishing. You told me the newspaper was a part of your lives and you appreciated that.

This has been a great job; one I’m hoping somebody else can do some day. There is so much happening in Scarborough, good and bad, that needs to be written about.

But who will write news about Scarborough and get paid to do it, that I don’t know.

The Villager newspaper, whether you read it each time or not, is a treasure. It does for your neighbourhood what I tried to do for Scarborough. It speaks to you about people you might see and places you might go in your community. It responds

to you, since you are the reason it’s being published. And it’s free.

That’s what I believe local news should be, and that’s what the Mirror was, for a long, long time.

But now that’s over.



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NEW BUSINESS — EV2 Salon

A new hair salon has opened in the Highland Creek Village. EV2 Salon features all hair services for women and men. Children of all ages are welcome. The owners are two sisters who also have an existing salon in the west end of Toronto.



All four stylists have many years of experience. No harsh chemicals are used for a clean environment and to make for healthy hair. Canadian made products and ammonia free colours are used.

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- ♦ Tuesday and Wednesday — 9:30 – 5:00
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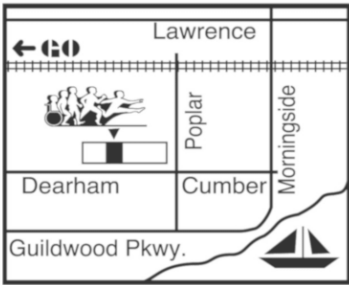


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Highland Creek Development

1650 Military Trail—Resident's Letter to the City Planner

Thank you for arranging and leading the meeting last week (October 19th) for the subject development. While I had originally planned on submitting my comments to you in advance of the meeting, I am glad that I held off until afterwards. Some of the comments made during the meeting require me to comment further than I would have otherwise. I have several thoughts regarding the meeting and, of course, the proposal itself.

Firstly, I see no reason why this meeting was not done in person. We are long past using COVID as an excuse for virtual-only meetings. While virtual meetings may be easier for some participants, more community involvement can be obtained by doing these in-person. I note that the public consultation meeting for the development of the Malvern Town Center (31 Tapscott) is scheduled for next Thursday (November 2nd) and is in-person (as an option), so clearly this could have been done. The RC Legion site is ideal for this, and I expect an available date could have been found.

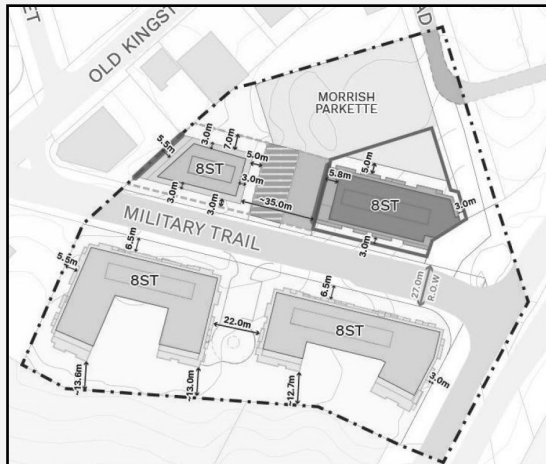
I was disappointed by the number of attendees – about 13, I believe – aside from City staff and those of the applicant. While we tried to communicate this to the community, I expect the notification mailing from the City was limited to the standard radius from the subject site. That distance does not hit many residences and therefore an expanded notification area would have been appreciated. That was done at the request of the local councillor for the 1625 Military Trail development. I don't recall if that request was for expanding the radius or expanded to all of Highland Creek, but I think it is appropriate to do so for this development too. And that further information and notifications be shared with that broader audience.

Regarding the development proposal itself, I am not in favour of it as it currently stands.

As I asked on the call, I do not understand how this building is noted as being 8 storeys. It is clearly 9 storeys based on all the documentation submitted by the applicant. The ground floor units are 2 storeys, with an additional 7 storeys of residential units beyond that. The applicant's explanation on the call that the ground floor units have a second mezzanine level that do not encompass the full floor, and are therefore still counted as 1 storey, defies logic. Their additional comment during this questioning was that this building is the same height as their development at 1625 currently under construction and therefore shouldn't be a problem. There in lies the rub!

This site is currently zoned for 5 storeys – 1625 was for 6 storeys at the time. It is clear that the applicant is using the height and density approvals for 1625 as a precedent for any future development – 1650 Military Trail being next. But it's clear they are not stopping there. Their Planning Pro-

positional document submitted with their application notes that they envision another 8-storey building at 1610/1614 Military Trail in the future. Again, hoping to build on prior approval(s) as a precedent for doing so. I have no knowledge as to the current own-



ership of those properties, but it is well known throughout the community that Al-tree is working to purchase additional property across the Highland Creek Village area.

The City needs to take a stand and not allow 1625 to be used a precedent for any future development – even if that means future appeals at TLAB. In my view, all future development that moves east and north from 1625 Military Trail needs to decrease in height towards the main Village area where heights were not to exceed 3 storeys. This is in keeping with the plans for the Highland Creek Village area, as well as the views of the community, and these need to be respected. A line needs to be drawn!

Aside from the height, it is apparent that the footprint of the building is simply too big for the site. Surprisingly, the applicant's representative effectively said that was true. The question was raised as to why the required setbacks were not being met. The applicant stated that it was not possible to do so while at the same time designing appropriately sized living units. The solution is obvious – design an appropriately sized building for the lot. That may mean fewer storeys and less units – and, yes, less profit for the developer. So be it.

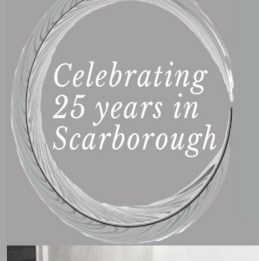
Any argument that the additional height and therefore additional units is required to contribute to dealing with a housing crisis is questionable. Designing and constructing

an appropriately sized building for the size of the lot, with whatever number of units that might include, will contribute to that goal. The City is already at an annual rate of 90% towards it's 10-year new home building target. And there are numerous buildings across Scarborough developments that include plans for multiple towers with some in excess of 30 storeys (Guildwood GO, Markham/Ellesmere, Malvern Town Center, Scarborough Town Center). These will more than make up for any perceived loss of opportunity, while still maintaining the Village and community feel in this area. Afterall, that's why we live here!

Additionally, I am aware that changes have been, or will shortly be made to the Section 37 requirements and that these funds will no longer be applicable. I don't know whether this development will still qualify for this funding. Further, I am aware that should the applicant ultimately appeal to TLAB, that any S37 monies would be lost. While improvements to the community made possible by these funds are beneficial, they should not be the driving force in the decision-making process. I would have to question what my (ever increasing) property tax dollars are paying for if, at the end of the day, developers are simply allowed to do whatever they want.

Thank you for your time and do reach out if you wish to discuss.

D. Atlas




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Jennifer McKelvie
Deputy Mayor, Scarborough
Councillor, Scarborough—Rouge Park



You can Skate with Santa at Heron Park Arena!

Skate with Santa
On Sunday, December 10th, join me for a community skate with Santa at Heron Park Arena (292 Manse Road) from 2:30 to 4:00 PM! Drop in to meet Santa, enjoy some hot chocolate and connect with other residents of Scarborough—Rouge Park. I hope to see you there!

Colonel Danforth Dogs Off-Leash Area has Now Reopened
The Colonel Danforth Dogs Off-Leash Area (240 Old Kingston Road) has been expand-



Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the opening of the newly expanded Dogs Off-Leash Area at Colonel Danforth Park!

ed with a new grass and woodchip area. Last month, residents came together to celebrate the opening with a dog party! The dog park is located on the north side of Old

Kingston Road between Military Trail and Manse Road. Thank you to everyone who brought their furry friends out to enjoy the new park!

Developments in Highland Creek
In October, the City hosted a community consultation to discuss an application that has been received for 1650 Military Trail. The application proposes the construction of an 8-storey residential building with 152 units at that location. At this stage, the applicant is revising their application and will resubmit it to City staff using the feedback they've received. The revised application will be reviewed by City staff, and they will submit a recommendation to Scarborough Community Council and Toronto City Council.

For more information about this application, including contact information for planning staff working on this development, visit the City of Toronto's website at: toronto.ca/application-information-centre.

A New Trail at The Meadoway
In October, I joined Minister Gary Anandasangaree and Councillor Paul Ainslie alongside members of the Toronto and Re-

gion Conservation Authority and the Weston Family Foundation to announce the opening of a new section of trail in The Meadoway, between Neilson Avenue and Military Trail.

The City is proud to work closely with the TRCA on the implementation of Toronto's Ravine Strategy. Once The Meadoway is completed, it will become a network of natural corridors for urban wildlife, while also making it easier for Torontonians to access, navigate, and appreciate these vital natural and re-naturalized spaces.

Following the announcement, I had the pleasure of joining Minister Gary Anandasangaree and Scarborough residents for a day of planting wildflowers in The Meadoway near Conlins Road. Thank you to everyone who came out to help revitalize this important greenspace in our community.

The Meadoway remains one of my favourite places in Scarborough, and I am thankful that it continues to grow and thrive, thanks to the hard work and dedication of all the partners involved. You can learn more at themeadoway.ca.

We're Working for You
For assistance with municipal issues, to stay up to date on local projects, and/or to receive my newsletter, please email councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca.

Highland Creek MedSpa Fire

On September 7, disaster struck the Highland Creek MedSpa in the Village. Someone broke into the spa and started a fire inside. Actually, there were 2 fires set. Extensive damage was done, and all products had to be thrown out as well as some equipment. Fire fighters also had to smash the doors of the neighbouring stores (Stormy Stones and In the Spirit Yoga Studio) to be sure the fire had not spread.

The police forensic unit investigated and determined that the fire was arson. Cameras were checked but it was too dark to see who did this and the other cameras faced their stores.

The spa will reopen once they have permission to proceed with a rebuild.

For now, the MedSpa has temporarily relocated just around the corner at 221 Morrish Road.

They still offer medical grade facials, fillers and botox done by a nurse, registered massage therapy, manicures and pedicures, laser hair removal, waxing, microblading and eyelash lift tints and extensions.

The Med Spa can be reached at 416-284-0008.



Merry Christmas

From Deputy Mayor McKelvie!

Join us for a Skate with Santa!

Sunday, December 10th
2:30 PM - 4 PM
Heron Park Arena (292 Manse Road)

Deputy Mayor
Jennifer McKelvie
Councillor, Scarborough-Rouge Park

Highland Creek History: *The Scarboro Oil Company*

When one thinks of the discovery of oil, or “The Black Gold” as it was noted, our mind may move towards locations such as Alberta, Texas or perhaps Pennsylvania, yet our own Highland Creek Valley was the scene of a local enterprise that searched for the lucrative resource back in the 1860’s. At this time, oil was selling at over 40 cents per gallon.

Oil was first discovered in Canada at an Ontario location known as Black Creek (later named Oil Springs), Ontario in 1858. By the mid-1860’s, oil had been found in many Ontario locations such as Bothwell, Delaware, and London, to name a few.

Our story starts with a circular posted to the Highland Creek and surrounding areas. In response to the poster shown in this article, a meeting was held at Keeler’s Hotel in Highland Creek on November 3rd, 1865, for the purpose of attracting financial support for this newly proposed venture.

The “Prospectus” of the company stated as follows: Scarborough Oil Company (Limited) for forming of a company under the 24th Vic. Cap 18, for the purpose of boring for oil or other minerals in Scarborough. The capital Stock to be \$4,000 in 160 shares of \$25 each. Shareholders to be subject to the rules and regulations, as set forth in the Act of Parliament above referred to.

The Directors of said company to select the place where the test well shall be made, and one share shall be allowed to the proprietor of the land where so selected, for the privileges of boring and sufficient land to work the well to advantage. If the company should be so fortunate as to obtain oil or other minerals, but in the event of failure, and no oil or other mineral to be found, then the said company shall have no further claim on said premises other than the right to remove any and all fixtures or other property they may have put there in the prosecution of their work of boring. That every person signing this document shall by so doing bind himself or herself to abide by the conditions herein before written that the whole amount of stock to be subscribed for before commencing operations.

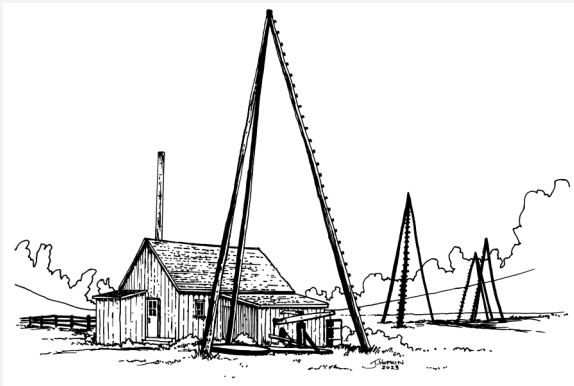
At the first meeting Mr. William Helliwell was appointed Chairman and the following gentlemen Provisional Directors. William Norris - Captain, Stephen Closson - Yeoman, Thomas Elliot - Gentleman, Donald Stephenson Esq.

The original intention was to offer 160 Shares to be sold at \$25 per share. This would raise the \$4,000 Capital the company needed to begin their venture. By the middle of November of 1865, 64 Shares had been subscribed for. At a December 11th, 1865, meeting of the Board of Directors, Mr. William Helliwell was appointed President of The Scarboro Oil Company.

A suitable location was secured with a 40-year lease at Lot No. 8 in the 1st Concession, “between the Kingston Road and the Mill Dam and between the hogsback (an

unusual naturally occurring geographic mound of soil) and the millrace”. Today this would be south of Old Kingston Road just east of the creek, the flat area was later used as Helliwell’s Park in the 1930’s. A test well was undertaken, although the drilling log has been lost to time, the complete record from the “Minutes” book clearly states the progress made over a number of months.

Mr. James Hood was offered the sum of \$2,500 to sink a well 4-1/2” in diameter to a depth of 700 ft., payable at every 100-foot progression. To date, the results recorded 9 ft. of sand and gravel, 63 ft. of blue clay, 10 ft. of duck sand, 75 ft. of blue shale and soap stone and 543 ft. of lime rock.



When the well was approximately 600 in depth, folklore says that a Mr. Harry Key, a local wagon maker would occasionally pour a gallon of oil into the well during the dark of night, causing some local excitement. No one seemed to question how refined oil could be found in the well. The official minute book merely states the directors pay “Mr. Hood for removing any material that may by possibility have been put into the well by any evil-disposed party”.

As per the Minute Book of the Scarboro Oil Company “On the completion of the well to a depth of 700 ft., and for some time before the indication of oil were considered good, the boring and water brought up by the sand pump having a strong odour of petroleum and readily ignited”. Along with a good supply of salt that was found in the brine that was believed at paying levels to

procure a profit.

During December of 1866 Mr.

Hood’s contract was extended for a further 200 feet of

drilling at a cost of \$5 per foot. The well had now reached the 903-foot level at total cost of \$3,504 to date. As the funds of the Company were almost exhausted with little success, the board sent a delegation to petition the Scarboro Township Corporation for financial assistance to aid in the venture that the shareholders believed would benefit all citizens. When this request was refused, a last-ditch attempt was made to 39 of the shareholders to place \$10 each into the account of the company, but it was realized that considerably more funds would be required to achieve the stated goal.

Finally, at a depth of 1002 ft. the drilling ceased with no financial success of finding oil. At a December 2, 1867, meeting, it was moved by the Board “That the Scarboro Oil well be sold by public auction after being duly advertised”. The engine, pump, tools and assorted apparatus were listed for \$1,050 with unknown results of any auction taking place.

The last entry into the Minute Book occurred on Feb 18th, 1869, stating: “That in the opinion of this Board, The Scarborough Oil Well Company has forfeited all claim and title to the said well and premises in pursuance of the condition of the lease granted of said grounds to said company that we hereby declare the company dissolved and our occupation as directors of said company gone”.

This was the sad ending to a two-year venture by a small group of local people with a vision to bring prosperity to the Village of Highland Creek.

Great thanks to Bill Helliwell for his invaluable information regarding this article and to Jeremy Hopkin for his artistic assistance.



Don Allen, *Historian*

OIL IN SCARBORO’.

Every person acquainted with the Oil Regions of the United States and Canada, who has seen the Indications in this Neighborhood, expresses the utmost Confidence in the belief that OIL is to be found at the HIGHLAND CREEK and VICINITY, but to reach the Oil Producing Strata requires a larger amount of Capital than the Subscriber is in a position to expend from his own resources, and as the benefits arising from the discovery of OIL would be shared by every person in this Community, and as in all enterprises of this nature there is more or less of risk, it is but just that the Public, under such circumstances, should share the liability to any loss that might accrue from failure, the Subscriber therefore invites his Friends and Neighbours, and the Public generally, to meet him at WILLIAM KEELES’ HOTEL, HIGHLAND CREEK, on *Friday Evening 6 October (3 Nov. 1865)* to discuss the subject, and to take such steps as may be deemed advisable for the further testing the probability of finding OIL, and also towards forming a JOINT STOCK COMPANY, as may be found desirable, in order that the untold wealth now lying dormant beneath the Soil of Scarborough may be brought to light, for the benefit of the Inhabitants.

WILLIAM HELLIWELL.

Highland Creek, Scarboro, October 30th, 1865.



Anu Sriskandarajah
Trustee, Ward 22
Toronto District School Board
Anu.Sriskandarajah@tdsb.on.ca

Dear Highland Creek Community Members,

Early French Immersion (Junior Kindergarten Entry) Application Deadline

If your family is interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Immersion Program, we are pleased to offer an online process to apply for Early French Immersion (which begins in Junior Kindergarten). To apply to the Early French Immersion Program for September 2024, please complete the online applications between **November 6 and December 1, 2023**. Families with an older sibling currently in an Early French Immersion program are still required to complete an online application for the new student. For more information, please visit: [Early French Immersion](#) or the [Application Process](#).

Professional Activity (PA) Days Update

As you know, during the school year, school staff participate in a number of Professional Activity (PA) Days. Starting this school year, boards of education are now required to publicly share detailed information about PA Days, as outlined in [Policy and Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 151](#). <https://ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction/policyprogram-memorandum-151>. Please note, all information and details will be posted to www.tdsb.on.ca/PADays at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled PA Day.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

As we enter a new school year, I want to share a reminder about pedestrian safety tips. I encourage you to teach your children the rules of the road - starting when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the time your child reaches age ten, and can act independently, the road safety rules will be second nature. Children under ten should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Learn more by visiting the City's [Vision Zero Road Safety Plan webpage](#). <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/streets-parking-transportation/road-safety/vision-zero/>

TDSB Recognizes National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

We commemorated National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls on October 4. Each year, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) holds a Sisters in Spirit Vigil to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. [To learn more about this year's Sisters in Spirit Vigil, visit their website.](#) <https://nwac.ca/>

Islamic Heritage Month at the TDSB

The TDSB proudly recognized Islamic Heritage Month (IHM) during the month of Oc-

tober. This year's theme was **Salaam: Joy, Excellence, Belonging**. We are thrilled to offer several educational opportunities that are being organized for all TDSB students to further learn about Islamic traditions and customs. To learn more about Islamic Heritage Month [visit the Islamic Heritage Month webpage](#). <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemId/167>

Somali Heritage Month at the TDSB

We recognized Somali Heritage Month during the month of October. This year the committee expanded on the selected theme **Educate. Elevate. Excel**. Several educational opportunities were organized for all TDSB students to further learn about Somali traditions and customs. To learn more, [visit the Somali Heritage Month webpage](#). <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemId/168>

Celebrating Good News

I encourage you to read about some of the recent events, initiatives and great things happening across the Toronto District School Board, including:

[TDSB Grad Wins National Your Voice is Power Competition](#) <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemId/169>

[TDSB Students Ask Orange Shirt Day founder Phyllis Webstad questions](#) <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemId/170>

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Highland Creek Wesleyan Cemetery Update

There have been some changes in our cemetery recently. Most of the trees are



very old and some have become dangerous. In June, a large part of the Manitoba Maple fell down and

was removed. It damaged a bench which sat under the tree. Don Allen took the bench rebuilt and painted it. It now looks brand new. Thank you, Don.

A tall Walnut tree just inside the front



fence hung over the sidewalk. It had a huge number of walnuts this year. We had it trimmed twice and then applied to the city to remove the tree as it posed a danger to pedestrians and cars parked in front of the gates.

The remaining part of the very tall Manitoba Maple was leaning over Fratelli's restaurant. This was removed at the same time by Lakeside Tree Service and the wood was quickly taken away by passers by. As required by the City, two new trees will be planted in the spring to replace the ones removed.

The Highland Creek Community Association owns the cemetery but is not responsible for any costs involved in the upkeep. When the Centennial Rouge United Church closed, the HCCA agreed to assume ownership rather than have it

declared an abandoned cemetery. The United Church of Canada provided funds (from the sale of the church property) to be dedicated to the upkeep of our cemetery.

Many hours are spent by our volunteer group in new plantings, weeding, grass cutting and general upkeep to provide Highland Creek with a beautiful garden setting.

Our annual Festival of Lights will be held on Friday, December 1 in the cemetery.

Please join us around 6:30 p.m. for hot chocolate or cider and carol singing. The lights will go on at 7:00 p.m. and Santa will arrive right after that.

Remember to bring items for our local food bank. Cash donations to the food bank are also welcome.



Annual Pumpkin Parade

The CCRA hosted their 6th annual Pumpkin Parade on Wednesday, November 1st at the Port Union Community Recreation Centre. The paved pathway on the centre's grounds was lined with over 200 well-carved jack-o-lanterns to enjoy. As you walked along the path one couldn't help but be awed by some spooky and very creative carvings. It is clear that some folks have a real talent for carving a pumpkin!



Hats off to Kathy Rowe, president of the CCRA, and her team for setting up this fun event each year. It is nice to see such an event bring hundreds of residents together from our neighbouring communities.

Volunteers from the Highland Creek Community Association

were on hand to assist throughout the evening and with the clean up when the clock struck 8:00 p.m. It was then time for the little Goblins to head for home as this was a school night.



Highland Creek's Local Butcher, assisting in everything meat, whether it be the day-to-day or a special occasion we are always here to help!!





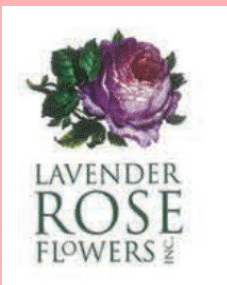
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HIGHLAND FESTIVAL OF HOLIDAY FOOD

**WESLEYAN CEMETERY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
TREE LIGHTING
ACCEPTING FOOD DONATIONS**

**PLEASE BRING NON-
PERISHABLE FOOD
ITEMS FOR OUR LUNCH
TOGETHER, WITH YOUR
WORK TO FEED OUR
HOLIDAY HOMELESS**

**DONATION BIN
DECEMBER 1ST
(IN FRONT OF THE
CEMETERY)**



**JOIN IN LIGHTING UP
JOY AND GIVING**

HOUSE OF ORION
Presents

Sip, Savor & Shop

Holiday Pop-Up Market

JOIN US

Tis' the season for unity in our community. Donate to the Highland Creek food drive, enjoy the beautiful tree lighting and support local artisans at our holiday pop up market.

**Friday, December 1st
2023/2- 10pm**

**@
candlesandpalms cafe**

400 Old Kingston Rd,
Toronto, Ontario, M1C1B6

**HIGHLAND
CREEK**

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE
@ 6:30 AND FESTIVAL
OF LIGHTS @ 7:00 @
Wesleyan Cemetery

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Gary Anandasangaree
Member of Parliament
Scarborough—Rouge Park



Connecting Highland Creek via The Meadoway

In October, Highland Creek was connected to The Meadoway by the creation of a new trailhead at Ellesmere and Orton Park Road. On this beautiful trail, visitors can traverse a new pedestrian bridge overlooking the annual salmon run or cross an elevated boardwalk over wetlands, taking in the beauty of the surrounding valley.

The Meadoway Project transforms an underutilized hydro corridor into a 16-kilometre linear park spanning from the Rouge National Urban Park to downtown Toronto. Once fully completed, The Meadoway will weave through Scarborough’s neighbourhoods and offer over 200 hectares of greenspace and meadowland for residents.

The Meadoway is proudly funded by the Government of Canada, the City of Toronto, and the Weston Family Foundation.

Spurring Rental Construction in Toronto:

The federal government is using every available tool to get shovels in the ground on more affordable and rental housing projects. With this increase in housing construction, builders and developers will need access to low-cost financing to construct much-needed rental apartments. Last month, the federal government committed \$1.2 billion in low-interest loans to build

2,644 rental homes in seven projects across Toronto:

- ♦ 855 rental homes at 373 Front Street East, with an investment of \$444 million.
- ♦ 484 rental homes at 94 Eastdale Avenue, with an investment of \$215 million.
- ♦ 389 rental homes at 55 Broadway Avenue, with an investment of \$165.4 million.
- ♦ 390 rental homes at 325 Moriyama Drive, with an investment of \$130 million.
- ♦ 233 rental homes at 1555 Queen Street East, with an investment of \$126 million.
- ♦ 225 rental homes at 610 Martin Grove Road, with an investment of \$93.7 million.
- ♦ 68 rental homes at 650 Kingston Road, with an investment of \$34.1 million.

We are working hard to deliver real solutions to the housing crisis, including the removal of GST from new rental housing, transforming federal properties into housing, and investing in affordable and rental housing projects.

Remembering Our Soldiers, Past and Present:

On Remembrance Day, I joined Canadians in honouring those who served, fought, and

and witnessing the harsh realities of war. Despite shouldering this immense burden, they continue to serve with courage and unwavering resolve.

I was especially thankful to our service-members for battling this year’s ferocious wildfires and rescuing Canadians from armed conflicts overseas. Their actions have saved lives and represent the very best of Canada and its values.



MP Gary Anandasangaree speaking at the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258 on November 11, 2023.

It was an honour to lay a wreath on behalf of the Government of Canada and to pay my respects at Queen’s Park and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258. I also joined our country in remembering the thousands of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis who served and continue to serve proudly in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Connect With Us:

My team and I are always happy to hear your thoughts, answer any questions, and assist you with any federal matters you may have. I encourage you to contact my office at 416-283-1414 or Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca.

GARY ANANDASANGAREE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
SCARBOROUGH-ROUGE PARK



My office is here to assist you with any Federal issues



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Saturday, December 16, 2023

Choose either 2:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.

Scarborough Bluffs United Church, 3739 Kingston Road, Scarborough

Tickets \$25/adult \$5/child

For tickets, please call Kam at 647-831-3245 or book on Eventbrite.ca.

Love to sing? Care to join us? Visit our website at www.belcantosingers.ca or call Michael at 647-564-6873.

Highland Creek History: The W.J. Morrish Building’s New Life

By Rick Schofield , Scarborough Historical Society

In the summer issue of the Villager, we outlined the history of the W.J. Morrish building at Kingston Road and Meadowvale, from its construction in 1890 and its General Store business from 1891 to 1967 when the family run business ended.

For the next three years, the Morrish’s leased the store out privately as a hardware and dry goods business, but the new tenant was unable to compete with the major chain stores operating in Scarborough. In keeping with the idea of a heritage business, the store area was then leased to Old China Patterns until they moved to large facilities in 1981. During this time, in 1978, a by-law was passed designating the property under the Ontario Heritage Act. Godiva Antiques followed until 1986, leasing the main floor. When the last of the W.J. Morrish’s children, Florence Morrish, passed away two years later, the estate sold the property to a developer.

Fortunately, the heritage designation created problems for demolition plans and the building remained vacant for the next ten years. Unfortunately, during this time, the new owner was unable to find a suitable use and the building fell into disrepair. By 2000, most of the windows were vandalized and the building boarded up. A century of history awaited an uncertain future.



The Scarborough Historical Society, operating an archives facility in three rooms at Golf Road school, then approached the local Councillor, the late Ron Moeser, with a restoration plan. If the City would expropriate the property and bring the building up to code, the Society would restore the interior, move the Archives to the building and open it once again to the general public.

City Council eventually agreed, and the building was expropriated in October 2000.

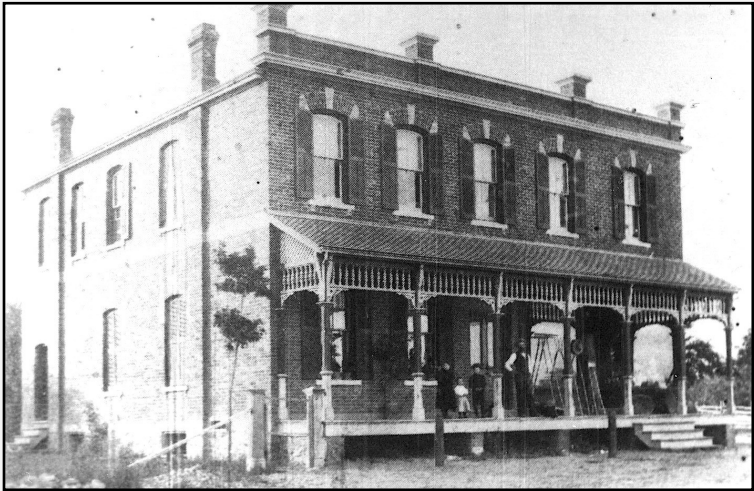
As funding became available, the exterior was restored. The roof was replaced, windows reglazed, a small room and verandah attached on the west were removed as they were not part of the original building. The City then added a furnace and re-wired the building to bring the hydro up to code. Some structural additions were made to stabilize the century old floors and a small washroom added for use by staff and the visiting public.

Finally, in 2006 it became the job of the Scarborough Historical Society and its volunteers to restore and refurbish the interior and create an adaptive reuse for the designated heritage property.

This took many months of sanding, plastering, and painting, not the mention sixty or more hours required to restore the floors by hand. In all, over 700 volunteer hours were spent in bringing the site back to life. It is now open to the public for research, community meetings and, occasionally, brief tours. Donations from Society members helped to cover the restoration costs.

The former store area on the main level was quickly refurbished as the main room for researchers and visitors to the Scarborough Archives. Here visitors can access the local Scarborough newspapers dating primarily from 1947 to the present, our reference library collection, and thousands of early ground level and aerial photographs. The rear of the building has become the main entrance, opening into the former kitchen area. The original dining room now houses the Society’s educational collection and aerial maps while the former parlour now serves as a small meeting room.

The basement houses a massive collection of original Toronto newspapers dating from 1880s to 1950 as well as a large collection of records and documents.



The numerous bedrooms upstairs provide additional storage area for the archival materials as well as space for the Society staff to sort, catalogue and document the collections.

The now refurbished Scarborough Archives and Research facility, is located at 6282 Kingston Road, on the NW corner of Kingston Road and Meadowvale. Researchers



must make an appointment to access the collection at any time (Monday - Saturday) and the building is also open to the public every Thursday evening from 7-9 p.m. for general visits and short tours. The Archives primarily functions like a reference library rather than a museum although there are several interesting artifacts on display which relate specifically to the collection of documents.

The Society is now responsible for the cost of all utilities, maintenance, grass cutting, snow removal etc., which can average as much as \$12,000 annually, as well as staffing.

For further information about the archives, visit the Scarborough Historical Society’s website <scarboroughhistorical.ca>.



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Dear Highland Creek Community,

Recently, I was humbled to be sworn in as Ontario's Associate Minister of Transportation.



MPP Thanigasalam alongside Premier Doug Ford and Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell after being appointed Associate Minister of Transportation.

In September of 2003, I came to Canada at the age of 14 just a week before starting high school. I owe everything that I've accomplished to my family, friends, teachers, and this very community in Scarborough that has welcomed me with open arms.

This year marks 20 years since coming to Canada, and it comes with the honour of serving in Ontario's cabinet.

I could not have done this without the support of my constituents in Scarborough - Rouge Park. These past five years, I have been able to learn from your feedback, while understanding the many needs in our community and across the province. I look forward to continuing to serve you as your voice at Queen's Park.

Building a Strong Ontario Together

Ontario is rapidly growing, which is why we are working for you by putting money back into your pockets, building highways, transit, infrastructure and keeping costs down.

Ontario's Plan to Build is the most ambitious capital plan in Ontario's history with an investment of \$185 billion over 10 years to build highways, transit, and critical infrastructure projects.

We are also:

- ◆ Extending the current gas and fuel tax rate cuts through to June 30, 2024
- ◆ Removing the full 8% provincial portion of the HST on qualifying new purpose-built rental housing
- ◆ Expanding access to breast cancer screening for women ages 40 to 49
- ◆ Launching the Ontario Infrastructure Bank to help build more infrastructure.

Making Transit More Affordable with One-Fare

Just a quick reminder for everyone to stay safe this respiratory illness season and prevent unnecessary visits to the hospital by staying up to date on your vaccinations, including flu, RSV and COVID-19.

You can now get free flu shots for the general public aged six months and older!

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.

J. Vijayadithayan

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Garry Tanuan
Trustee, Ward 8
Toronto Catholic District School Board

garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org

Dear Family and Friends,

The season of Advent begins on November 27 this year. It reminds us about what is truly important: our faith, our family, and our friends. Advent provides a wonderful opportunity for us to clear away all the clutter and calls us to embark on the straight and simple path that will strengthen our relationship with God and each other. May the peace and joy of Christ’s birth bring blessings to you and your loved ones throughout the season and in the New Year to come!

Lest we Forget – 2023 Remembrance Day

On behalf of TCDSB, it was my honour and privilege to attend the Toronto Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Scarborough War Memorial Cenotaph on November 11.

On this day, Canadians pause to honour the dedicated brave men and women who have given their very lives for our freedom, those who served, and continue to serve Canada during times of war, conflict, and peace.

Remembrance Day marks the signing of the armistice (peace agreement) between the Allies and Germany in Compiegne, France. It took effect at eleven o’clock in the morning – the “*eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month*”.

2023 Rosalinda C. Javier Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) Outstanding Student Award

The submission deadline for FCT’s 2023 Filipino Outstanding Student Award is extended to **November 24, 2023**. For more information, visit <https://www.filipinocentretoronto.com/>. Questions? Call (416) 335-0485 or Email: filipinocentreinfo@gmail.com.

OCSTA Short Video Contest

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA) invites schools and students in Grades 4-12 to create a 2-minute video highlighting acts of Christian service to others that give witness to our faith.

Submit a 2-minute video highlighting acts of Christian service to others that give witness to our faith and win exciting prizes.

The submission deadline is **December 8, 2023**. The submission form can be downloaded from the following URL: <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/ocsta/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-submission-form-short-video-contest.pdf>

AFL Student Scholarship for Filipino Youth Education Bursary

Two (2) bursaries of \$5,000 each are available to two graduating Filipino students who are registered students in the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and require financial assistance to pursue post-secondary studies in Education studies at a college or university and have made outstanding contributions to their school community. Priority consideration will be given to students who have applied and been accepted to a Concur-

rent Bachelor of Education program at an Ontario university or college.

For the criteria and application process, email Iris Martinez at Iris.Martinez@tcdsb.org or mail to **The Angel Foundation for Learning**, CEC, 80 Sheppard Ave. East, Toronto, ON, M2N 6E8. Application Deadline: **Friday, April 21, 2024**

The Catholic Register’s 2023 Christmas Drawing Contest

Students in **Grades 1 to 8** are invited to submit original drawings depicting the birth of Jesus for a chance to be featured in The *Register’s* Christmas edition. Winners will receive a \$75 Amazon gift certificate. **Submission deadline is December 15, 2023, at noon.** Read full rules.

Spelling Bee of Canada Registration

Registration is now open. Families are encouraged to sign up their child(ren) before January 15, 2024. Questions? Email: info@spellingbeeofcanada.ca.

2023-24 School Year Calendar

View important dates such as upcoming Professional Activity (PA) days, statutory holidays, exam dates and more on the updated School Calendar Resources page. <https://www.tcdsb.org/page/school-year-calendar>

Wishing one and all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

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END THE MESS OF ROCK SALT**

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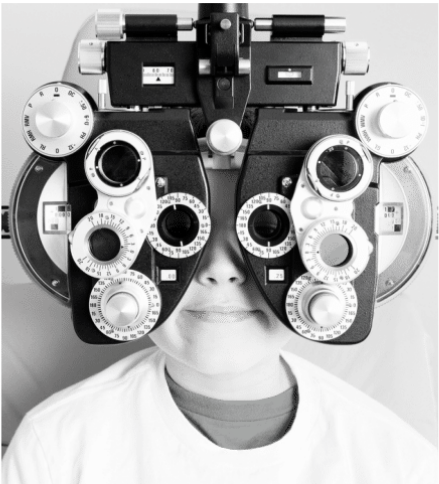
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What’s New at The Toronto Zoo

With spooky season behind us, we’re pleased to announce we have a new exhibit for guests to experience that will help re-shape peoples’ ideas about a very misunderstood Ontario species: bats!

Ontario bats are facing a critical time: four out of eight species are designated as endangered provincially, and three of these are also endangered federally in Canada. They play a vital role in maintaining the balance in the ecosystems, and we hope educating our guests and our community about their importance will help change people’s perception of this amazing species so they will help protect them.

Sponsored by our partners at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) this exhibit (which does not contain any live bats) takes a positive perspective on bats to counter their often-negative portrayal and will introduce guests to the diversity of bats in Ontario, the threats they face, and the work our Zoo is doing to keep them on the map. The exhibit includes graphics, interactives, video and audio, and some beautiful Indigenous artworks.

Nine Indigenous artists from across Ontario contributed their talents to this exhibit. The mural on the outside of the exhibit depicts the Anishnaabe bat creation story, created by Anishnaabe artist Angela Benedict. The eight Ontario native bat species were each

created by an Indigenous artist, skillfully capturing the essence of each species, allowing us to truly understand and appreciate their unique characteristics and importance within our ecosystem.

With over 1.3 million guests visiting each year, we have a unique opportunity to help educate our community about the importance of saving and protecting the species we have right here in our great city. We know the more people learn about and connect with a species, the more likely they are to help save it and we’re hoping this exhibit contributes to that by putting a group of hidden and misunderstood species front and center for our guests.

That’s why the Toronto Zoo’s Bat Conservation Program (BCP), in partnership with the NWMO, is conducting research to close knowledge gaps in the ecology of Ontario’s bat population. In the early stages of this partnership the support of NWMO allowed us to explore different aspects of bat ecology. Because of their continued support, we have since identified several focal research narratives where we are aiming to achieve measurable conservation impact for bats in Ontario and produce peer-reviewed science



to support that. Collaborating with NWMO opened the door to monitoring bats in Northern Ontario. This work has produced a growing understanding of species’ presence and activity through acoustic monitoring, and two trapping expeditions that are helping to fill in basic knowledge for almost unstudied bat populations. In addition to this, the Community Science bat monitoring project, started with support from NWMO, has engaged volunteers to monitor more than 100 locations in Southwestern Ontario. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to welcoming you to learning more about Ontario bats at our new exhibit this fall!

NEW BUSINESS — Chromatic Studios

Have you been walking in Highland Creek Villager and noticed the windows covered on the former coffee shop beside the cemetery? And then the sign finally went up and the inside was revealed and wondered what it was about.

I know that I have.

I met with Chelsea, the owner recently and she explained. Chelsea is a photographer and she will be doing family and creative photos and portraits in one of the studio settings. As well, the space may be rented for content creation, social media or to do advertising promotion. Events and interactive music videos are other possible uses.

Chelsea would like to host small events for the community and is willing to collaborate with other businesses to host events. Some events would be birthday celebrations, anniversary parties and pop-up shops.

Website: www.chromaticstudiosinc.com

Email: info@chromaticstudios

30% discount off all purchases or services until December 31st



WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!

HIGHLAND CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Be part of a community of fellow volunteers!

JOIN US AS WE DO WHAT WE CAN FOR OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD!

HCCA is a volunteer-based, charitable non-profit organization, we gratefully accept volunteers from all backgrounds!

Visit the HCCA official website at www.myhighlandcreek.org to learn more. For inquiries or concerns, please contact: myhighlandcreekcommunity@gmail.com

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Sign up as a volunteer!

We need you!

- Event planning and organizing
- Food drives
- Community Event Support
- Newsletter Reporter
- Newsletter Photography
- Newsletter Carrier
- Community cleanups
- Social Media, Web support

Poetry & Puzzles



Local Poet and Author Vienna Bombardieri, aka Mystic Rose, has contributed her original works to *The Villager* over the past 5 years.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to our neighbourhood newsletter!

Am I Not Human

A Monoku by: Ink Empress The ink of my skin doesn't define me
nor does it construe my poetry.

Am I not human to your eyes? Do you not see my soul inside that
streaky mirror of yours ?

Have you forgotten that I have a story too?

Beneath the canopy of heaven God has Bisqued me and left you
white,

some he even inked them yellow.

We each have our own unique skin tone, bone is bone I wasn't
meant to be alone.

Bigotry is not acceptable in a world where our heritage is some-
thing we are born in,

not something we chose.

Love me as if I were your neighbour, treat me as a brother and a
sister,

for I hunger just like you and I dream just like you.

Am I not human to your eyes?

When you look at the color of my skin, do you see me, ...as your
next of kin?

Written by Vienna Bombardieri aka Mystic Rose

Types of Dog

N	R	S	C	F	F	I	T	S	A	M	O	T	H
H	N	I	O	C	B	U	L	L	D	O	G	T	E
S	R	N	L	H	R	W	E	E	L	G	A	E	B
N	E	A	L	I	P	E	B	G	D	T	I	D	I
U	L	I	I	H	E	A	I	O	O	L	R	R	O
H	I	T	E	U	D	C	E	R	X	P	I	E	M
C	E	A	U	A	P	N	O	O	R	E	D	H	E
O	W	M	D	H	S	I	U	R	E	E	R	P	T
D	T	L	A	U	E	O	N	H	G	D	T	E	C
I	T	A	B	A	T	N	I	S	S	I	A	H	R
L	O	D	B	S	T	C	A	H	C	H	E	S	U
M	R	P	O	I	E	C	T	G	L	H	C	G	L
D	H	O	S	R	R	R	E	E	N	N	E	A	D
P	B	X	U	S	T	H	O	U	N	D	L	R	D

BULLDOG
PINSCHER
DALMATIAN
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**New Year's Eve
Dinner & Dance**

The Pepper Shakers


7:00pm - 12:00am

Cost \$60.00 Members, \$65.00 Non-members

Tickets will be sold on November 15th and 16th
at the Branch from 2-5 pm




Santa Visits the Legion Saturday December 16th
Magic Show with Face Painting at 4 pm
Hot Dogs and Ice Cream for all the kids



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9:00am till 4:00pm*

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Early

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Donations to the food bank
would be appreciated





December 2nd
7:00 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.

Come on out and sing and
enjoy our members and
friends for an evening of fun
with DJ Robert Neal

Snacks available at the Bar

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting — November 23rd — 5:00 p.m.
Membership Meeting — December 10th — 1:00 p.m.



Pub Sunday
November 26th
3:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Must be 19 years of age or older to attend

Branch opens at 1:00 p.m.
Food Tickets: \$10.00 - Purchase at the Bar one week ahead

Live: Duane Alvares and Fossil Fire

President's Levy—January 1st
3:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.
Enjoy an afternoon of music and dancing featuring
The Pepper Shakers

Weekly / Monthly Activities
All Are Welcome!

Wednesdays
Shuffleboard — 2:00 p.m.

Thursdays
Darts — 2:00 p.m.
\$ East Coast Swing — 7:00 p.m.

Fridays
Euchre — 1:00 p.m.

Community Seniors
Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month
1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Lunch: Last Wednesday of the month
1:00 p.m.
\$10.00, includes dancing

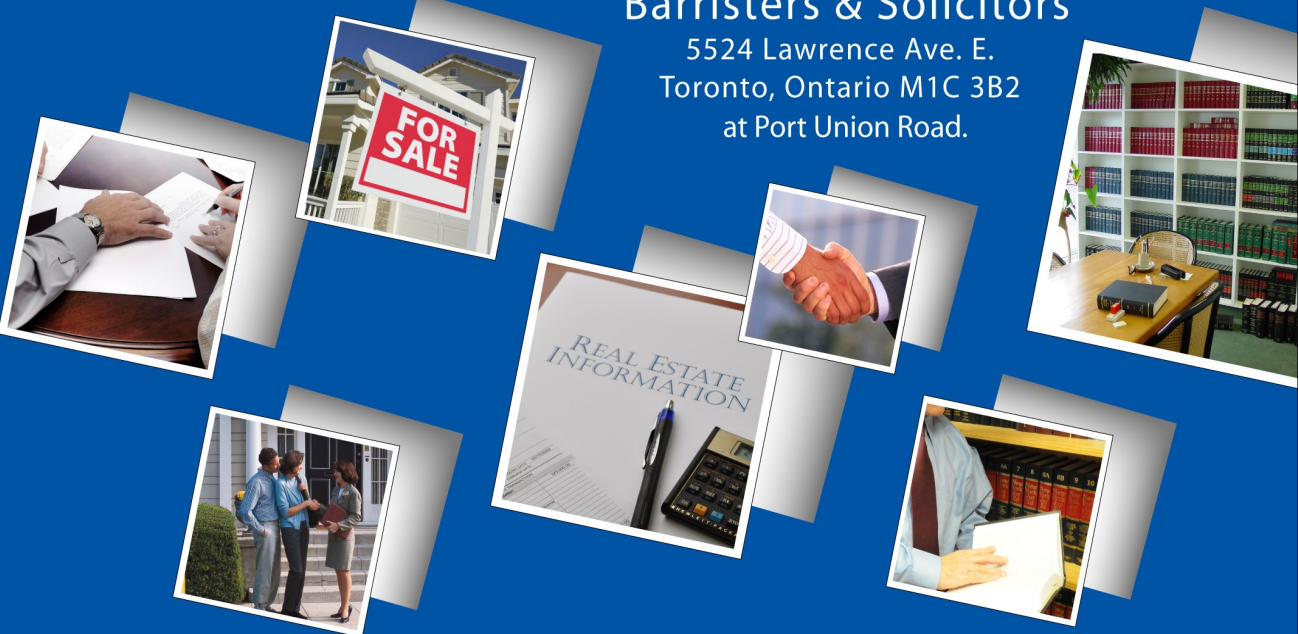
PLEASE VISIT THE LEGION BRANCH FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION

BRANCH HOURS
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1:00 P.M. — 9:00 P.M.
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3:00 P.M. — 9:00 P.M.

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