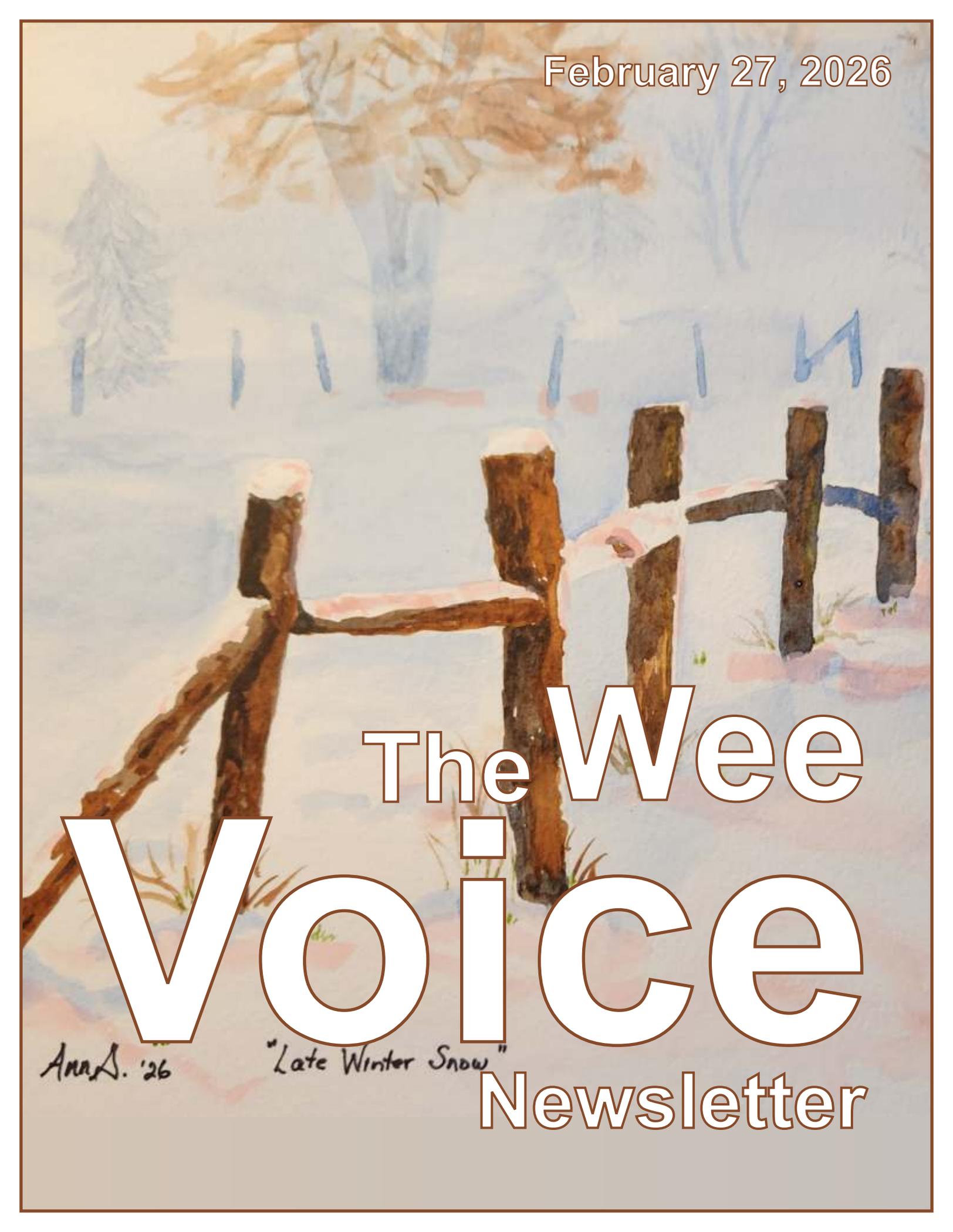


February 27, 2026



The Wee  
Voice

*Anna S. '26*

*"Late Winter Snow"*

Newsletter



The  
**Donway Covenant  
United Church**



## Our Mission

**“To follow Jesus by sharing God’s unconditional love as the Spirit empowers us.”**

## Our Vision

**We will follow Jesus...**

- By being a local Christian church within the United Church of Canada; a community anchor for spiritual exploration and growth where life, worship, knowledge, service and song all contribute to our larger story.
- By welcoming and involving people of diverse faith, ethnicities, abilities, ages and stages of life, economic situations, sexual orientation and gender identities.
- By caring for all members with compassion, empathy and joy.
- By acts of service, reaching out to engage and support our community, the country and the world.
- By building bridges within our community, as a congregation recognizing the variety of religions and spiritualities in the most diverse city in the world.
- By using our facilities for religious, social, cultural, educational, or other programs that reflect our values.

**We are an AFFIRMING  
Congregation**



Cover is a cropped detail from the larger  
*“Late Winter Snow”*  
painting by Annie Griffin

## ***The Lion and the Lamb***

by **Lenore Hetrick**

In like a lion

- and out like a lamb!

So, Mr. March comes and goes,  
they say.

That means at the start  
he is boisterous and rude,  
And then meek and gentle  
upon his last day.

I like him best as a lion, I think,  
It's such fun to hear him  
hammer our door!

He thumps his great paws  
as hard as he can,  
And then he lets out his deep,  
angry roar!

I watch from the window  
and I'm hoping I'll see  
His fierce, hungry jaws  
and his great staring eyes,  
But I guess if you really  
would see him, it's best  
To sneak up and  
take him a bit by surprise

But I can't understand  
how a lion could change  
Into a lamb just as sweet  
as could be

I wonder if anyone  
has ever seen it happen  
What a wonderful sight  
for a child to see!



## *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*

By William Wordsworth

*I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*

*The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:*

*For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.*



## **JOIN US THIS SUNDAY**

Genesis chapter 12: verses 1 ~ 4a

Mark chapter 8: verses 31 ~ 38

### **“Sliding Door Moments”**

### **Welcome Back Cynthia!**

While Lorrie is enjoying her “fun in the sun” down south, we are pleased to welcome back Rev Cynthia Stretton who will lead us in worship this Sunday.

## **March Is Fickle!**

Perhaps you have noticed, or maybe you have not, that the third month of the year is pretty fickle. March is a month of transition from cold temperatures into warmer weather.

One day the temperature might be as high as 25°C and the next it might be snowing or sleeting. Sometimes the temperature can fluctuate during one 24-hour period. You might leave home wearing a coat and by afternoon have to shed it because you are sweating.

It is the month we switch to daylight saving time (March 8th) and welcome Spring (March 20th), yet can still end up shovelling snow.

Charles Dickens said it best when he stated: **“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade”.**

## **DCUC Knitting Group**



Our meetings are on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, from 2:30 ~ 3:30 pm in our Living Room. This season we are knitting scarves, mitts and hats for the unhoused or, you are welcome to bring any project you are working on!

Andrea Sloan

**Our next meeting is  
Monday, March 9th**



## **Ladies' Fellowship**

Our **Ladies' Fellowship** will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10:30 am on ZOOM under the leadership of Maureen Smith.

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 13th, 2026 at 10:30 am.** on ZOOM.

All are welcome to attend. Please contact Emily at the church office for the Zoom link.

**(416) 444 - 8444**

The  
Second Don Mills  
Scout Group



invites you to have a  
piece of cake with us



at **COFFEE TIME**  
after Worship (March 1st)

in celebration of  
**Scouting Week.**

Hope you can join us in the Auditorium,  
for **Coffee Time**, as we celebrate with the  
Scouts as well as celebrate all the birthdays,  
anniversaries, voyages  
and other special  
occasions that will be  
taking place in March



Fellowship Committee

The **Church Office**  
(regular hours)

is open four days a week

**Monday to Thursday,**  
**9:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

**Closed Fridays**

If you plan on visiting it is best to 'phone  
ahead so Emily knows you are coming.  
If you leave a voice message Emily will get  
back to you as soon  
as she is free. **(416) 444 - 8444**



**My Door Is Always  
Open**

Drop by anytime  
during the day,  
**Monday to Thursday**

You should be able to catch me every  
morning and some afternoons. Call  
ahead to ensure I am at the church.  
**Lorrie**

SERVICES  
for  
**LENT**



Mar 1 2nd Sunday of Lent  
10:30 am **"Sliding Door Moments"**  
guest preacher Rev. Cynthia Stretton

Mar. 8 3rd Sunday of Lent  
10:30 am **"A Story Worth Telling"**

Mar. 15 4th Sunday of Lent  
10:30 am **"Seeing Again for  
the First Time"**

Mar 22 5th Sunday of Lent  
10:30 am **"To Wait and Trust"**

Mar 29 Palm Sunday  
10:30 am **"It Started With A Parade"**  
Communion will be served



**Join us for Worship  
in our Sanctuary**

The Worship Committee

I am on holiday, enjoying the sun! I'll  
be back in the office on  
**Tuesday, March 3.**

For Pastoral emergencies please call  
the office

**(416) 444 - 8444**

and Emily will direct  
your call

**Lorrie**



**Want to know what's going on?  
What's coming up?**

**Go to our web site and find out!!!**

<https://www.donwaycovenant.com/>

**WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE?**

Follow us and Like us on

**Facebook**

**Donway Covenant United Church**



# Minutes for Mission

## GRANDMOTHERS LEADING WITH LOVE



Credit: World Council of Churches Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy

In Kenya's Rift Valley, HIV and AIDS have reshaped entire families. More than 200,000 people in the region live with HIV. Many children are being raised not by their parents, but by grandmothers.

Women in their 60s and 70s are burying their own children and then stepping forward to raise grandchildren. They cook, farm, comfort, and pray - often while facing stigma in their own communities.

In some churches, HIV has been preached as punishment. A sign of sin. That stigma isolates families who are already grieving.

Through partnership with leaders at

St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, **Mission and Service** has helped create something simple but transformative: a space for conversation. Grandmothers and pastors gathered in the same room.

One grandmother stood and told her story. She spoke of losing both her children and described the pain of being judged while loving her children fiercely. She spoke of her grandchildren, and her unshakable belief that God's love does not abandon anyone.

Pastors listened. They asked questions, challenged their own assumptions, and made commitments. They pledged to preach compassion, visit homes, and offer pastoral care instead of condemnation.

That is how change begins.

Through **Mission and Service**, we're helping to create spaces like these, where learning replaces stigma, and where churches become places of healing again.

When we give, we help grandmothers carry hope and love instead of shame.

Help love have the final word: make your own commitment today and make a gift for **Mission and Service**.

From the United Church of Canada website <https://united-church.ca/stories/grandmothers-leading-love>

TOTAL  
LUNAR  
ECLIPSE

March 3, 2026



**IF** you happen to be up at 6:04 am on Tuesday, March 3rd, and **IF** the sky is clear of clouds, and **IF** you have a clear sightline to the horizon, you would be in for an event that has mystified humans from the beginning of time! A "**Blood Moon**". But, be quick, the moon is scheduled to start to dip below the horizon by 6:30.

Why is it red? because the light that is illuminating it must pass through Earth's atmosphere, which scatters blue light and bends (or refracts) red light toward the moon.



# The Hindu Festival Holi

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Every spring, people across India and around the world celebrate the Hindu festival **Holi**, throwing coloured water and powders on one another in joyous celebration. On this one day - the full-moon day of the Hindu month of Phalguna - societal rankings such as caste, gender, age, and status are eschewed in the spirit of making merry together, and everyone is fair game to be doused with colour.



**CLICK HERE** to learn more!

<https://www.britannica.com/story/holi-festival-of-colors>



## Join us this Lent for Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator



Featuring guests from across the church, the six-part video series exploring food, faith, and community

In this spirit, coming this Lent we're excited to share with you ***Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator***, a new six-part video series exploring food, faith, and the power of invitation, hosted by the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath.

Drawing inspiration and recipes from the **United Church's Lenten** devotional, ***Bless Break Share: Recipes for Faithful Living***, we'll be cooking with guests from across the church, including book contributors, **United Church** youth, and the Moderator's own family.

The series debued on Shrove Tuesday with a pancake feast in the Moderator's home kitchen (February 17), with new episodes following each Sunday throughout Lent, and concludes with a special Easter message from the Moderator.

Missed Episode 2? **CLICK HERE** to watch ***Frittata with Julez***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIB3RZUX46E>

Episode 3 is launching this Sunday, March 1 - ***A Taste of the Kingdom: A Kitchen Conversation with Aaron Gallegos***.



**CLICK on the arrow for an introduction**

Watch on Sunday by going to the website

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-kimberly-heath-45th-moderator/kitchen-conversations>

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



## “Past, Present, Proud: Stories that move us”



### Black News, Culture, and Connection

**Contrast**, a groundbreaking newspaper that published its first issue on February 9, 1969, was located at 28 Lennox Street in the heart of the

neighbourhood at Bathurst and Bloor streets.

**Contrast** was founded by Al Hamilton, from Edmonton, Alberta, alongside Olivia Grange Walker, (now Jamaica’s minister of culture, gender, entertainment and sport), and Harold Hoyte, an editor and founder of the successful **Nation** newspaper in Barbados.

The newspaper’s tagline was “*the eyes, ears and voice of the Black community.*” Its coverage was local, national and international in scope, taking a hardline on police brutality, immigration, education, employment and race issues facing the Black community.

Initially published biweekly, it became a weekly in 1972. It was an outlet for Black theatre expression and a fertile ground for the emergence of Black Canadian writers and journalists such as Arnold Auguste, publisher of **Share** newspaper; celebrated author Austin

### Spadina Station

Clarke; Royson James, **Toronto Star**; Jojo Chintoh, **Citytv**; Makeda Silvera, publisher, **Sister Vision Press**; Hamlin Grange, president and co-founder of **DiversiPro Inc**; professor and author Cecil Foster; Diane Liverpool, photographer; Al Peabody, photographer; and Cameron Bailey, CEO of the **Toronto International Film Festival**.

“*The newspaper promoted businesses and events in the Black community. Contrast was the source of vital information about Black influencers, scholarships, apartment vacancies, employment opportunities, and also offered free listings to community members for the promotion of their startups. Anyone living in Toronto or visiting who wanted to know where to find Caribbean brands knew that the newspaper was the first stop for perusing advertisements of merchandise within the community,*” writes Norman Otis Richmond in “**Welcome to Blackhurst: An Iconic Toronto Neighbourhood**”.

Al Hamilton managed **Contrast** until he sold it to Denham Jolly in the early 1980s, who later sold it to Horace Gooden in 1983. Gooden stopped publication of the paper in 1986 and a few years later launched an online version which eventually closed in 1991.

### Cedarvale Station

Beginning in the 1970s, Little Jamaica - the area of Eglinton Avenue West stretching from Marlee Avenue to Keele Street - was the centre of economic power for Black and Caribbean businesses as well as a cultural hub for Caribbean immigrants in Toronto.

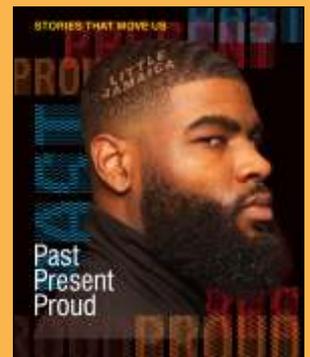
This was the home to many Caribbean immigrants - many from Jamaica - and also where Canadians in search of products from the Caribbean went to shop amid businesses including recording

### Entrepreneurship, Business, Heritage - Little Jamaica

studios, record shops, hair and beauty salons, barbershops, restaurants, and Jamaican patty outlets.

One such business was Monica’s **Cosmetic Supplies Ltd**. Owned by Monica Lewis, a Jamaican who immigrated to Canada in 1968 from England, Lewis had trained as a nurse in

**continued**



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH *continued*

England; in Canada, she opened a hairdressing business, which later expanded to sell other products, including records. Monica and her husband, George Lewis, also owned several commercial real estate properties in the area. Their business was considered a symbol of success in the Black community.

Another business, Spence's **West Indian Bakery, Restaurant and Food Store**, owned by Florizel Spence, was also a neighbourhood staple. *"Happiness is the feeling he gets when he realizes that Spence's is seen by some as a meeting place, almost an institution in the Black community, a place where people can feel comfortable to eat and share memories of old times,"* notes a profile of Florizel

Spence in **"Jamaican Canadians: A Commitment to Excellence,"** published by the Jamaican Canadian Association in 1987.

In September 2015, the **Reggae Lane Mural** was unveiled in the community. Created by artist Adrian Hayles, the **STEPS Initiative** and **The Laneway Project**, the 1,200 square foot mural celebrates local reggae history by depicting local and legendary reggae artists.

Recognized as a community of great cultural heritage, the City of Toronto is undertaking a heritage conservation district understudy, currently in the initiation phase, intended to support and celebrate the area.

## Bathurst Station

From 1955 to 1967, 3,000 women came to Canada from the Caribbean under the **West Indian Domestic Scheme**, an immigration program that was created at a time when non-white immigration to Canada was restricted.

Created by the federal government as part of an effort to improve diplomatic and economic relations across the English-speaking Caribbean, it began with 100 women - 25 from Barbados and 75 from Jamaica - and over 12 years brought women from other countries such as Grenada, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The **West Indian Domestic Scheme** allowed women from the Caribbean to come to Canada for work with the promise of landed immigrant status after one year. This status meant access to education, the ability to work in other fields and the opportunity to sponsor family members.

While some women had trained as teachers, nurses and clerks, in Canada they were tasked with domestic work, paid lower wages than their white counterparts, and faced racial discrimination and isolation. Determined to survive and thrive, they overcame many challenges and injustices, ultimately helping

## The Hands that Shaped Us West Indian Domestic Scheme, 1955-1967

create a future for themselves and their families.



After completing their year of domestic work, many settled in Toronto or Montreal and transitioned to other fields, reshaping the communities where they lived. These women opened doors for others and were the first wave of migration that would continue right through the 1970s, helping transform cities like Toronto into hubs of Caribbean culture and excellence.

In February 2025, the Government of Canada unveiled a plaque commemorating the program at **Blackhurst Cultural Centre** in Toronto; it will later be permanently installed at Bathurst subway station. Among the attendees were Gloria Walcott, one of the first 25 women to come from Barbados in 1955, and former Member of Parliament Jean Augustine, a historical figure in Canadian politics and the first Black woman elected to Canada's House of Commons in 1993, who came from Grenada in 1960.

BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH



# The Lantern Festival: Climax of the New Year Celebration

March 3, 2026



The **Lunar New Year** holiday comes to its climax with the Yuan Xiao (元宵节 / **yuán xiāo jié**), or Lantern Festival, celebrated on March 3rd, 2026.

The festival began over 2000 years ago and has developed many meanings. It celebrates family reunions and society. It features ancient spiritual traditions. Some also call this festival the “true” Chinese Valentine’s Day. The many activities include moon gazing, lighting lanterns, riddles, lion dances and eating rice balls.

The Spring Festival is a time reserved for families. There is the reunion dinner on New Year’s Eve, visits (拜年 / **bài nián**) to in-laws on the second day and neighbours after that. Stores reopen on the fifth day and society basically goes back to normal.

But on the 15th day, everyone, regardless of age or gender, goes out onto the streets to celebrate. Though the **Lantern Festival** symbolizes reunions (more on that later), it’s also a time of socializing and freedom.



In Ancient China, women usually weren’t allowed out of the house. But on this night, they could stroll freely, lighting lanterns, playing games and interacting with men. The wild and romantic stories are why some say the **Lantern Festival** is the true Chinese Valentine’s Day rather than Qixi (七夕).

The **Lantern Festival** also has religious significance. It was an important festival in ancient Chinese paganism and still is in modern day Buddhism and ethnic minority cultures.

The general consensus is that the festival began more than 2000 years ago in the Western Han dynasty.



Emperor Wu (汉武帝 / **hàn wǔ dì**) designated this day for worship rituals for Taiyi (太一神 / **tài yī shén**), one of the universe’s sovereigns.

Intense power play and unrest came after his reign. The new emperor was Emperor Wen (汉文帝 / **hàn wén dì**). To celebrate the return of peace, he made the lunar January 15 a national holiday. Every household would light candles and lanterns. It became known as 闹元宵 (**nào yuán xiāo**). “Nao” can be interpreted as having fun or going wild with excitement.

Emperor Ming of the later Eastern Han was a devout Buddhist. He heard that on the 15th day, monks would light candles for the Buddha. He ordered the palace and temples to light candles and the citizens to hang lanterns.

Both events combined and eventually turned into the **Lantern Festival** we know today.



**JON  
BURNSIDE**  
City Councillor • Don Valley East • Ward 16

# COMMUNITY MEETINGS

**Our City Councillor, Jon Burnside, is hosting two Town Hall meetings. You may have seen these flyers. There is also a City of Toronto Virtual meeting announced.**

**COUNCILLOR BURNSIDE'S  
IN-PERSON DON MILLS TOWN HALL**

Budget	Crime & Safety	Q&A Session
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**Tuesday, March 10th, 2026  
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Japanese Canadian Cultural  
Centre  
6 Sakura Way**

Join Jon at his in-person Town Hall meeting. This is a great opportunity to discuss ward and city issues. There will be a question-and-answer period where you can provide feedback directly to city staff and Jon himself.

We hope you attend, and we look forward to seeing you on March 10th.

416-397-9256   Councillor\_Burnside@toronto.ca   www.Ward16.ca

**COUNCILLOR BURNSIDE'S  
IN-PERSON RANCHDALE TOWN HALL**

Budget	Crime & Safety	Q&A Session
--------	----------------	-------------

**Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Ranchdale Public School, GYM  
60 Ranchdale Crescent.**

Join Jon at his in-person Town Hall meeting. This is a great opportunity to discuss ward and city issues. There will be a question-and-answer period where you can provide feedback directly to city staff and Jon himself.

We hope you attend, and we look forward to seeing you on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

416-397-9256   Councillor\_Burnside@toronto.ca   www.Ward16.ca

**TORONTO** Community Consultation Meeting Virtual

**Don Mills Regeneration Area Study**

15 Gervais Drive, 39 Wynford Drive, 1121 and 1123 Leslie Street and 1200 Eglinton Avenue East

**The Study**

City Planning is undertaking a study to establish a new vision for the Don Mills Regeneration Area lands. This work will build on the Don Mills Crossing Secondary Plan and identify what the future policies should be to guide redevelopment on the lands as they evolve from employment uses to new mixed-use communities.

The study focuses on future land use, parks and open space, streets, built form, community services and facilities needs and development phasing, resulting in a City-initiated amendment to the Official Plan that is tailored to these lands.



Join us at the Virtual Town Hall where staff will make a presentation on the study progress and the draft policies, followed by a Q&A period where you can ask questions and provide feedback.

**Virtual Meeting Details**

**Join online by MS Teams**  
Visit [www.toronto.ca/CPconsultations](http://www.toronto.ca/CPconsultations) for the registration link and instructions on how to join. We encourage you to register in advance to receive the meeting link, and to join ten minutes before 6:30pm to allow time to log on.  
If you are joining from a smartphone you will be prompted to download the MSTeams app.

**Join by Phone**  
Dial 647-749-7152 and enter Meeting ID: 423 925 848#  
If joining by phone, press \*5 to raise/lower your hand and \*6 to mute/unmute.

**Thursday, March 5, 2026 from 6:30 – 8:00pm**

*Why Should I Attend?  
I Am Only One Voice!*

**In virtually every definition of “democracy” two cornerstones are**

- 1) an educated electorate
- 2) the freedom of expression

**These two go “hand in hand”. If we don’t educate ourselves on the issues our opinions may be misguided, and often will be ignored. If we take the time to learn, and don’t speak up our voice will never be heard!**

**If you have questions - maybe on the new TTC routes, or redevelopment and the City Official Plan, or another issue dear to you - ATTEND! Ask your questions, listen to the answers, voice your concerns.**

**- That’s democracy!** **Editor**

Welcome back, fellow travellers. We started our train travels with a ride on the Empire Builder. The Empire Builder is Amtrak's northernmost route at the very top of the United States, so we are travelling from north to south.

Next comes The California Zephyr, which runs roughly across the middle of the western US and if it's epic scenery you're after, this is the route for you. With the longest daily service in the country, we will travel some 2,438 miles in 52 hours, which is 2 full days plus, and covers the full gamut of topographical settings.

You will be treated to such incredible sites as the Upper Colorado River, the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the Rocky Mountains, along with awe-inspiring desert landscapes and, of course, the vast prairies of the Great Plains.



Travelling with Bob (McFadden)

## All Aboard the California Zephyr



We begin our journey once again in the "**Crossroads of America**," Chicago. Having travelled this route from both directions, I don't find it makes any great difference in the "*timing*" for daylight viewing of the wondrous sites we'll find along this route. For example, we go through Salt Lake City in the late evening/early morning, no matter which direction we are travelling from. Denver and the Rockies of Colorado will be in the daylight hours, again, no matter the direction of travel.

So, off we go from Chicago, and we find ourselves very quickly in the vastness of the Illinois prairies and their cultivated fields, interrupted only by farms and small forested areas. As we arrive at Burlington, Iowa, we will

cross the Mighty Mississippi and find ourselves in the land where the West truly begins. Onward we roll across Iowa's fertile land, flat as far as the eye can see. Let your imagination carry you back in time 150 years and try to imagine living among field after field of wheat, corn, soybean, and other cereals with your nearest neighbour several miles away. This is one of the greatest things about train travel for me; all I really need to pack is my imagination. If you have read any of my other writings, you will know that I grew up in Nova Scotia, Canada's second smallest province. You cannot go more than 50 miles in one direction without hitting saltwater. Our neighbours were always within sight. Our schools, merchants, churches, and hospital were, for the most part,

**continued**



always within walking distance; these Prairie folk had no essential services at hand. They were responsible for putting whatever they wanted to eat on the table from what they grew or hunted.

Different seasons meant different eating habits; the Summers, prayerfully, were times of plenty, while the winters could bring times of near starvation. The infant mortality rate would have been approximately 10-15%, hospitals were for the "town-folk". Not a place for the weak or faint of heart to attempt to eke out a living.



Iowa Field

I try my best to write in my journal daily, but with the advent of Google Timeline and similar apps, I can miss a few days or make short notes and take my old, sweet time when I get home and bring it up to date. Actually, I make this a winter chore, it's a terrific way to pass some cold, dark, winter afternoons/evenings with the added bonus of being able to relive my travels, albeit without that "in the moment" feel to it.

Around Osceola, Iowa, we lose the light, so it's time to update our journals or head up to the Lounge Car for a chance to start a conversation with a fellow traveller. This is another one of the many benefits of travelling by rail; it's a chance to discover other people's stories and find out about life in another part of the continent. I think what intrigues me the most is the number of foreign travellers I meet. People come from all over the world to do the same thing that I am doing. I've met folks from England, Scotland,

France, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand. They always marvel at the size of this country and the myriad differences in the landscape as they travel from east to west and north to south. Most, like myself, have taken advantage of Amtrak's incredible US Rail Pass. It would be similar to the "Euro Pass" that they have in Europe, which has many deals available to the price-wary explorer. I am hoping to do a similar tour of Italy next year and will be taking advantage of either the EurRail or Trenitalia Passes. Unlike the US and Canada, the countries of Europe have rail passes available that enable travel from one country to another.

Before we bed down for the night, we will arrive in Omaha, Nebraska and cross the Platte River, a stopping place for wagon trains making their way west back in the 19th century. This was a hub for the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails and a last chance to stock up before heading into what was then the Great Unknown. It's also a last chance for some fresh air as we'll stop for 15-20 minutes, perhaps for a Crew change. Hopefully, by morning, you will have had a peaceful rest, as the train's gentle motion, most of the time, rocks you to sleep and wake up refreshed just as we are pulling into the Mile High City, Denver, Colorado. Here, we will have a close-to-an-hour stopover. If you did a little homework and Google Mapped Denver



Union Station, Denver CO

and have a bit of the daredevil spirit as I do (of course, you do, or you wouldn't be reading this), then you have the perfect opportunity to do a little exploring around the station's neighbourhood. Always keep in

**continued**



mind, though, when you get feeling adventurous, *“the train waits for no one”*. Be sure to ask an Attendant before disembarking how long the train will be here, and make sure to be back on it with 5 minutes to

spare. I have witnessed people being left behind, so unless you wish to spend unexpected money for a Hotel room for however long it will be until the next train comes along, (some routes, although not this one, do not provide daily service, so you could end up being stuck in an unplanned town/city for 2-3 days) get back on your train in time.

So now we’re heading into the Rockies, get your camera ready. From here through to Salt Lake City, we will be moving through the mountains and catching some of the most beautiful landscapes that you’ve ever witnessed. Just before we crest our first mountain around the aptly named Plainview area, take a look back to the East for a stunning view of the Great Plains stretching to the horizon. Over the next 50 miles, we go from an elevation of 5,690 ft. to 9,270 ft. and will go through 31 tunnels, including the 6.2-mile-long Moffat Tunnel. Look for the Winter Park ski fields, which can be seen on our left. We now begin to follow the beautiful canyons and swirling rapids shaped by the Fraser River. We skirt the river for the next several hours, passing impressive rock cliffs, narrow valleys and mountain meadows.

In one of these small meadows, practically in the middle of nowhere, there is a bright yellow schoolhouse, which stands out from the landscape like a lighthouse on an ocean rock. It’s the Tollard School House and was built in 1906. The local community recently refurbished it, and it now stands as a Historical Landmark. Soon, we connect with the Colorado River and



Tollard School House, Nederland CO

will follow it for the next 230 miles. What a journey!! This stretch of our trip passes through Gore Canyon, with walls towering 1,000 feet above us and jaw-dropping rapids beneath us. Check out the vibrant red rocks of Red Canyon, followed by high cliffs for the 12-mile stretch after Dotsero. One of the things that makes this route the *“Jewel”* of the Amtrak fleet is the Attendants on board. The first time I came through, the chap on duty that day gave a running commentary all day long. I learned so much from him and to this day thank him for giving me the knowledge that went along with the splendour of this extraordinary country.



Looking back east towards the plains, Boulder CO

Next up, my favourite place on Earth, Glenwood Springs. This is a little piece of paradise that God carved out of the Colorado Rockies. Not only is its beauty unsurpassed in any place I have found in this



Glenwood Springs CO

country, but it also offers a myriad of great activities for the adventurous soul. You can do a one or two-day jump off here, and it will be one of the grandest adventures of your lifetime. I have stayed twice for 24 hours each time, which is barely enough time to sample

**continued**



everything this little gem has to offer. The only downside of a stopover in Glenwood Springs is trying to fit all of the possibilities that are on offer here into a 24-hour period. To name just a few, there is the Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, the Hot Springs Pool, Doc Halliday's Gravesite and of course, its raw beauty. The scheduling of the California Zephyr is perfect for a 24-hour stay here. Heading west, the train arrives at approximately 2:36 pm., heading east, it arrives at about 11:36 am., so either way, you have a full afternoon to explore this great little mountain town. In the morning, for those heading west, you have plenty of time to roam before your afternoon train



**Doc Halliday's Gravesite**

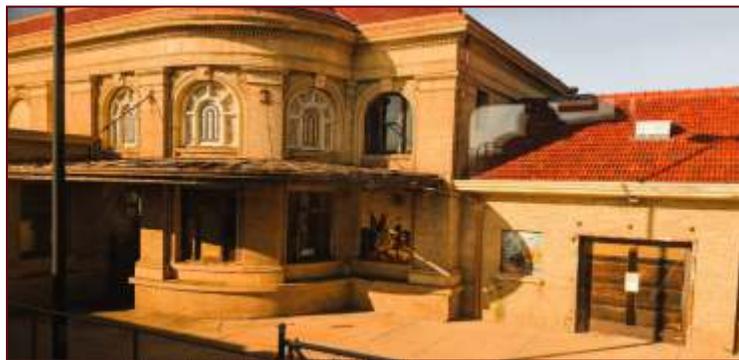
arrives. Just a note of interest, check in with your Amtrak app as the train is often running behind schedule, which allows you even more time to browse. For those of you rock hounds out there, Glenwood Springs has several stores that specialise in crystals, and you're sure to acquire some unique finds to add to your collection.

Leaving Glenwood Springs, we follow the Colorado River for about 2 hours before arriving in another beautiful mountain town, Grand Junction, CO. The Rim Rock Drive provides some awe-inspiring views, and on the left-hand side of the train, the Colorado National Monument can be seen. As we continue west, we pass through Redlands, another beautiful setting full of stark rocky hills and tree-lined river beds. The rich red colours of the sandstone cliffs harken us into Ruby Canyon as we get set to leave Colorado. We now pass through Green River, Utah. This town is situated at the northern entrance to the land of National Parks. Three of them are within easy driving distance: Arches, Canyonlands, and Capitol Reef National Parks. In fact, on my last trip to this part of the country,

on the Southwest Chief, the next train route to the south, I started my journey in Flagstaff, Arizona, drove northeast to Monument Valley, then north into Utah to Green River, west towards Sigurd, then south back towards Arizona, ending back in Flagstaff. It took 2 days and was about the greatest adventure of my 71 years. The beauty of these stark, raw lands is so inspiring. I will be devoting an entire blog to that trip one day soon.

Warning! This is Butch Cassidy country, and many a train has been held up in the desolate rock-strewn valleys which provide ample spots for robbers' hideouts. It was near our next town, Helper, that he and his gang got away with \$7,000 in gold after robbing the Pleasant Valley Coal Company.

Next up, Provo, home to such celebrities as Donnie and Marie and Robert Redford, owner of the Sundance Ski Resort, which is also located here. It's nighttime now, so we don't get to see much of Provo or the next city on our route, Salt Lake City. The train doesn't allow us much of a peek at this city, which is a shame because I would loved to have seen the Temple. Perhaps I'll have to "jump-off" here one day.



**Grand Junction CO**

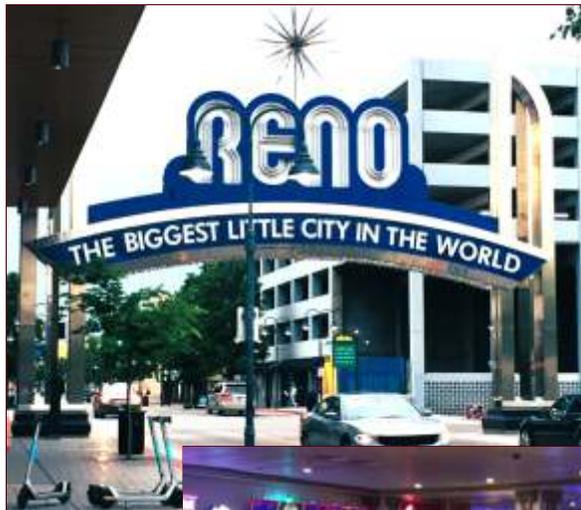
Daylight brings us to Winnemucca, Nevada. Fun fact! Winnemucca is the town named in the first line of Hank Snow's

**continued**



*"I've Been Everywhere":  
"I was totin' my pack along  
the dusty Winnemucca  
road."* I point this out for two  
reasons: 1. I love that song,  
2. Hank's a fellow Nova  
Scotian.

Now we're pulling into Reno, *"The Biggest Little City in the World."* I *"jumped-off"* here on my first trip. Spent a night at Circus Circus and got to wander around in the evening, viewing all the lights and sights. Didn't lose a cent, mainly because I didn't gamble, haha. I thought about playing a little Black Jack, but when I asked the dealer for \$20 worth of chips, and he told me that the minimum was \$25, I politely withdrew and returned to observer status. I did have a very nice room with a view to die for.



Reno NV

The next morning, it's back on the train, and we quickly cross into California at Truckee, which is surrounded by the beauty of the Sierra Nevadas. Truckee and Colfax share the same mountain air, which is amazingly fresh and crisp, especially after the heat of Reno. We're dropping elevation quite quickly now and will soon be out on the flat land leading out to the Pacific. For now, though, with the sharp drop in altitude, we see rocky river canyons, perfect for rafting, fishing and bird watching. Sacramento, the capital of California, has a historically accurate Old Town, which I visited during my "jump off" here. It covers a couple of city blocks and has the feel of having stepped back into the late 1800's. It also holds a great Train Museum. Although this route continues for another hour and a half to Emeryville, Sacramento is the hub for catching trains north and down through the middle of California. So here's where we leave the California Zephyr. Didn't those two and a half days just fly by? The beauty of the land along the way has been nothing short of spectacular. I hope you have enjoyed this trip, and perhaps I have given you a little taste of the thrill I get when travelling this beautiful country.

Now it's up to you to jump on a train and see it first-hand for yourself. If you have enjoyed this travelogue, please join me for more *"travelin' with bob"* adventures at:

**Travelinx27withBob.ca**

Keep a lookout for  
the next "rail"  
adventure in an  
upcoming  
**Wee VOICE.**

**Bob McFadden**



## NEED SOME "TRAIN" SONGS TO INSPIRE YOU?

*Canadian Railroad Trilogy*, Gord Lightfoot

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yzo6Otpgj-E&list=RDYzo6Otpgj-E&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yzo6Otpgj-E&list=RDYzo6Otpgj-E&start_radio=1)

*The Ballad of John Henry*, Harry Belafonte.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydTRk1I0Zql&list=RDYdTRk1I0Zql&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydTRk1I0Zql&list=RDYdTRk1I0Zql&start_radio=1)

*City of New Orleans*, Arlo Guthrie

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF1lqEQFVUo&list=RDfF1lqEQFVUo&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF1lqEQFVUo&list=RDfF1lqEQFVUo&start_radio=1)

**YOU'RE** *join us!*  
**WELCOME TO**

**Please let us know  
if you are coming.**

These events are **FREE**.  
Space is limited!

**Performance: Year of the Fire Horse**

Friday February 27th at 2:15 pm  
(In-person event)

The Lunar New Year falls on February 17th and marks the start of the Year of the Fire Horse. The Fire Horse is considered rare, occurring once every 60 years. The Fire Horse symbolizes passion, energy, and independence. Join Santha Tsang an accomplished singer and celebrity in the Chinese community as she delights us with a dynamic and captivating performance. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a memorable afternoon of music, culture, and community!

**RSVP REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS**

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**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
12 to 2 pm**

**Lunch (noon) & Entertainment**

**\$20**

**“Moving with the Music!”**

**Clapping, dancing, singing along!**

**with Singer/Entertainer**



**Filipa has performed in places such  
as Portugal, Thailand, Indonesia and,  
of course, Canada. Her passion  
shines through in her performances!  
English, Portuguese and Spanish  
- she sings it!**

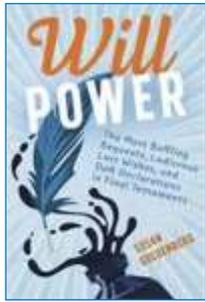
**Filipa Sousa  
Bring Your Friends  
& Enjoy!**

**Reservations requested by noon  
Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>  
Email [cafe65connections@gmail.com](mailto:cafe65connections@gmail.com)  
or call 416 - 444 - 8881**

**A Community Outreach Program of  
Church of the Ascension  
33 Overland Drive, Don Mills, ON, M3C 2C3  
Wheelchair Access**

**Along with the great lunch and musical entertainment, be sure to take in the other regular features of Café 65. Visit the Free BookShare Exchange (bring gently used books and find new literary treasures for yourself), take the opportunity to talk with Community Sponsors about seniors' programs/services and review the many pamphlets at the resource-filled Community Information Table!**

# Programs you might find of interest!



## Author Talk: Susan Goldenberg - Will Power

**Monday March 2nd**  
**from 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

From a one-page will fought over for two decades by three generations to a will that left a mansion and its grounds to a parrot (developers could do nothing until it died – and parrots have long lives) author Susan Goldenberg shares these stories and more in her book, **Will Power** (2026).

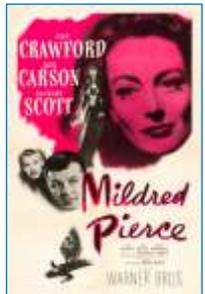
**Will Power** looks at some of the most astonishing and extraordinary bequests and last requests in people's wills, recent and past, highlighting unusually unique, eccentric, vindictive, family conflicts.



## Wednesday Night Movie "Dream Scenario" 2023

**Wednesday March 4th**  
**from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

Aspiring actor Edward undergoes a radical medical procedure to drastically transform his appearance. But his new dream face quickly turns into a nightmare, as he loses out on the role he was born to play and becomes obsessed with reclaiming what was lost.



## Tea & Movies: "Mildred Pierce" 1945

**Monday March 9th**  
**from 2:00 to 4:00 pm**

When Mildred Pierce's out-of-work husband leaves her for another woman, Mildred decides to raise her two daughters on her own. Despite Mildred's financial successes in the restaurant business, her oldest daughter, Veda, resents her mother for degrading their social status. In the midst of a police investigation after the death of her second husband, Mildred must evaluate her own freedom and her complicated relationship with her daughter.

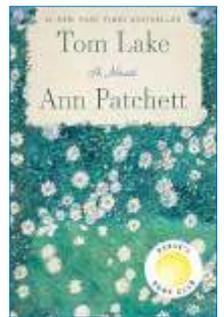
## Get Noticed: How to Share Your Story with Canada's Top Media Outlets

**Wednesday March 11th**  
**from 6:30 to 7:30 pm**

Learn how to get featured in Canada's top media. In this practical session, PR strategist Aleksandra Phelan shares how founders and business owners can craft stories journalists notice, become a trusted media source, and pitch with confidence. Discover what makes a story newsworthy - and how to turn your business journey into media visibility that lasts.



## March's Book "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett



**Tuesday, March 17th**  
**from 7:00 to 8:00 pm**  
**or**  
**Thursday, March 19th**  
**from 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

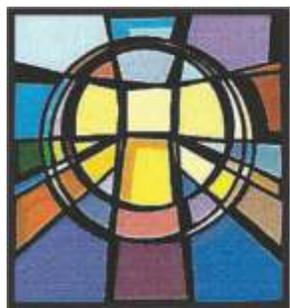


## Digital Life Skills for Seniors: Online Shopping

**Monday March 23rd**  
**from 2:00 to 3:30 pm**

For people who have basic internet skills, and want to learn how to shop online with confidence. Whether you need groceries or home appliances, almost anything can be purchased and delivered to your home. We teach you how to find goods and services online, look for customer reviews or consumer testing results and provide tips and guidelines on how to shop safely, securely and with confidence. Resource handout provided.

**Please call 416-395-5710**  
**for further details**  
**and to reserve your spot!**



# The Donway Covenant United Church



## ***Need pastoral care?***

Call the church office and  
Emily will direct your call.

Minister: Rev. Lorrie Daly-Price

Music Director: Scott Pietrangelo

Church Administrator: Emily McLean

Custodian: Kim Morgan

## **Celebrating 11 years of being an Affirming Congregation**



**230 The Donway West, Toronto, ON M3B 2V8**  
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website: [www.donwaycovenant.com](http://www.donwaycovenant.com)