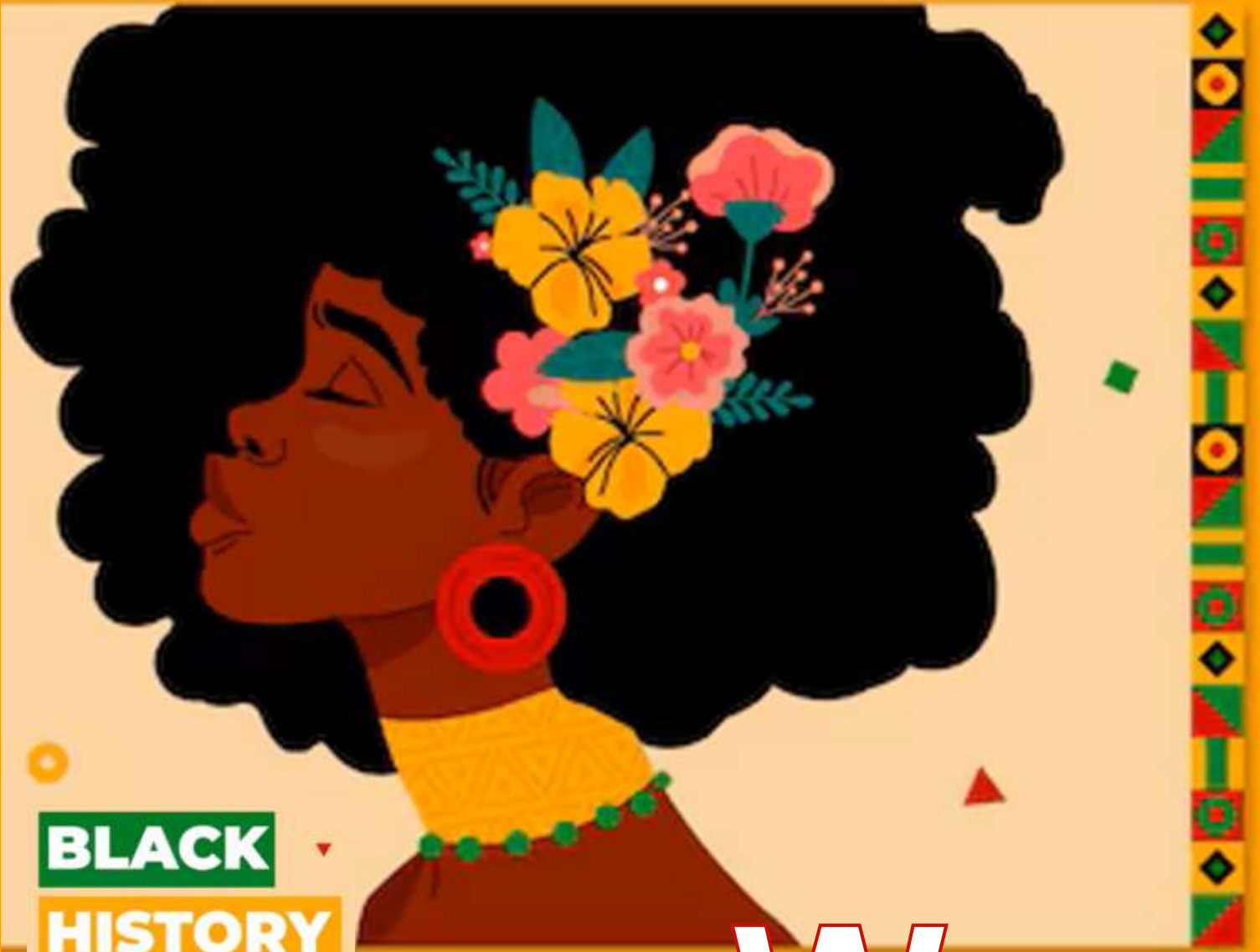


January 30, 2026



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

The Wee Voice

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



Affirming Congregation
United Church of Canada

For Alex Jeffrey Pretti



by **Amanda Gorman**

We wake with no words,
just woe and wound.
Our own country shooting us in
the back is not just brutality;
it's jarring betrayal;
not enforcement, but execution.

A message:

Love your people and you will die.
Yet our greatest threat isn't the
outsiders among us,
but those among us who never
look within.

Fear not the those without papers,
but those without conscience.

Know that to care intensively,
united, is to carry both pain-dark
horror for today and a profound,
daring hope for tomorrow.

We can feel we have nothing to
give, and still belove this world
waiting, trembling to change.

If we cannot find words, may we
find the will;

if we ever lose hope, may we
never lose our humanity.

The only undying thing is mercy,
the courage to open ourselves
like doors, hug our neighbor,
and save one more bright,
impossible life.

Amanda Gorman is a
27 year old American
poet, activist, and
model. Her work
focuses on issues of
oppression, feminism,
race, and



marginalization, as well as the
African diaspora. Gorman was the
first person to be named **National
Youth Poet Laureate**.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**



**"Black History Month"
poster stock image
Freepik**

Prayer Corner

As snow continues to impact our community, we hold in prayer those who are feeling its weight - those who are isolated, struggling, or facing unexpected challenges.

We give thanks for helpers and neighbours who offer care, and we pray for safety, warmth, and connection for all.

May no one feel alone.

May kindness find its way through the snow.

Amen

Rev Lorrie Daly-Price

1st Sunday of the Month is "Food Bank Sunday"

In support of the Community Share Food Bank in our Don Mills neighbourhood

DCUC has been a longtime supporter of the foodbank. The first Sunday of the month has traditionally been **"Food Bank Sunday"**. Your financial donation is greatly appreciated. It can be placed on the offering plate on Sunday in an envelope marked **"Food Bank"** or sent to the church office.



community share FOOD BANK

**Heartfelt
thank you**

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, February 12, 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

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

Isaiah chapter 9: verses 1 ~ 4

Matthew chapter 4: verses 12 ~ 23

"Turning Points in Life - A Few Further Thoughts"

Last week, we pictured Jesus walking along the shoreline - people at work, nets in hand, life moving along as usual. This week, we return to that same moment, not to repeat it, but to notice it more closely.

What stands out is when Jesus calls the fishermen. Not in a moment of crisis or searching, but right in the middle of an ordinary day. They are busy, capable, and settled into their routines.



Jesus doesn't pull them away because their lives lack meaning. He calls them within their lives, inviting them to see familiar work and daily rhythms in a new light. Nothing is dismissed. Nothing is wasted. And yet, everything is opened to change.

There is no urgency here - just presence, invitation, and choice. Holiness appears quietly, woven into everyday life.

So we return to the shoreline once more, listening again - not because the story has changed, but because we might be ready to hear it differently.

Rev Lorrie Daly-Price

JOIN US for **CAKE** at **COFFEE TIME**



after Worship (February 1)

We will be gathering at **Coffee Time** for a piece of "Celebration Cake", as we celebrate all the birthdays, anniversaries, voyages and other special occasions that will be taking place in February



**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



SERVICES for the SEASON of EPIPHANY

Feb 1 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
10:30 am "Turning Points In Life,
A Few Further Thoughts"

Feb 8 **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**
10:30 am "What Is Your Purpose?"

Feb 15 **Transfiguration Sunday**
10:30 am



**Join us for Worship
in our Sanctuary**

The Worship Committee



The Church Office

will be closed from end of day Thursday, **February 5th** and re-open on **February 17th** -after Family Day! The boys and I are off to Italy with my parents!

Emily



I will be taking a study leave from Monday, **February 9th** to Friday, **February 13th**, preparing for the **Lenten Season**. (I will be at both Sunday services, February 8th and 15th)

Then I am on holiday and heading south on Monday, **February 23**, returning to the office on Tuesday, **March 3**.

Lorrie



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 Daly-Price



**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



SOMETHINGS NEVER CHANGE!



From my Balcony,
January 25, 2026
photo by Annie Griffin



The Weather
Network
January 1999



Balsam Avenue
after Heavy Snowfall
William Kurelek 1971



Our Bench 2026
photo by Andrea Sloan



City of Toronto
Archives
January 1944

Footprints In The Snow by Rev Lorrie Daly-Price

After all the snow we've just received, I stepped outside this morning and immediately felt it - the world was quieter somehow. Sounds were softened. Edges blurred. Streets I walk every day looked new again. Even the ordinary seemed to slow me down.

Snow does that. It asks us to pause.

I found myself stepping more carefully, looking more closely. I noticed things I usually rush past: a branch bent low under the weight of snow, footprints crossing a driveway that hadn't been shovelled, the way the light reflected and made everything shine just a little more.

Standing there, it struck me that snow teaches us not to miss the miracle - not because it's dramatic, but because it's

gentle. It doesn't demand attention. It simply offers it.



And I couldn't help but think how much of God's presence is like that. Not loud. Not flashy. Quietly transforming what we thought we already knew. The same streets, the same routines - and yet, if we're paying attention, something feels different.

As I took it all in, I realized that wonder doesn't always arrive with an announcement. Sometimes it falls slowly, steadily, covering the ordinary with grace. The invitation I want to share with you is simply this: notice - and don't miss the miracle right in front of you.

*"Snow was falling, so much like stars
filling the dark trees that one could easily
imagine its reason for being was nothing
more than prettiness."*

Mary Oliver

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



February is **Black History Month**.

Each February, people across Canada participate in **Black History Month** events and celebrations that honour the legacy and contributions of Black people in Canada and their communities.

The 2026 theme for **Black History Month** is: ***“30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations - From Nation Builders to Tomorrow’s Visionaries.”*** This theme acknowledges the diversity of Black Canadians, the importance of Black leadership

and the legacy being built for future generations. Black communities are diverse at many levels. Those with a long history in this country have established a legacy for the newer communities. The theme underscores that Black Canadians have a rightful place in the nation’s narrative, with over 400 years of historical presence on these Indigenous lands, deserving acknowledgment and celebration.

We invite all Canadians to learn more about Black Canadian communities, and how they continue to help shape Canada.

Canada



BLACK LIFE UNTOLD STORIES



 **CBCDOCS**

A documentary series of eight episodes produced in 2023 by the CBC.

Black Life: Untold Stories reframes the rich and complex histories of Black people in Canada, dispelling commonly accepted myths and celebrating the contributions of both famous and lesser-known individuals. The eight-part series spans more than 400 years with an eye toward contemporary issues, culture, politics, music, art and sports.

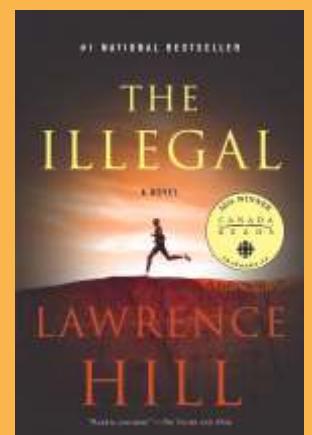
In this article, history professor Christopher Stuart Taylor, who is featured in the episode *Migrations*, tells us why we need to broaden the story of Black migration to Canada.

WATCH ON  **Gem**



Lawrence Hill

If you have read *The Book of Negroes* (2007) and/or *Any Known Blood* (1997), then you should also read *Black Berry, Sweet Juice* (2001) and *The Illegal* (2015). Lawrence grew up in Don Mills, son to Daniel Hill, a sociologist, civil servant and activist, who later became the first director and chairperson of the **Ontario Human Rights Commission**, and author of a still seminal work about Black history in Canada: *The Freedom Seekers: Blacks in Early Canada* (1981)





Minutes for Mission

THE HEART OF WINTER



Credit: Lindsay Glennie

In many places in February, winter persists with its short days and lingering cold. Everything seems to take a little more effort - getting out the door, checking in on one another, and finding energy when the season feels heavy.

This time of year can feel long. But it's also a reminder that care is deeply needed. Through

Mission and Service, that care shows up in practical, meaningful ways.

Through your generosity, **Mission and Service** partners are a consistent presence in the middle of winter - whether there's snow or heat. Partners are supporting people facing food insecurity, displacement, isolation, and uncertainty. Your support becomes warmth, stability, and care where it's needed now.

Hope in winter doesn't have to be dramatic. Sometimes it looks like consistency. Sometimes it looks like staying engaged in the face of enduring hardships. **Mission and Service** partners respond to the needs of their communities with commitment and creativity - and your support is needed to give them the flexibility to do that work well.

Thank you for continuing to walk alongside **Mission and Service** partners. Your generosity makes a difference - steadily and when it matters most.

From the United Church of Canada website

<https://united-church.ca/stories/heart-winter>

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,
February 9th**



Dear members of our Knitting Group,

Thanks a million for creating many, many beautiful knitted articles for the folks at Out of the Cold, at Eastend United Church on the Danforth.

Your colours and variety of articles were uplifting and will be greatly appreciated by the unhoused members of the downtown community.

Since your generous donation was so overwhelming, it was shared with our H.E.N.S. project as well.

Thank you for caring and sharing.

Pastoral Care

Broadview

Live!



Charlie Angus
Former MP Timmins-James Bay



Lloyd Axworthy
Former Foreign Affairs Minister

**Monday, February 2
7 pm Eastern
via Zoom**

Join Us Live on Monday, February 2, from 7 – 8 p.m. Eastern via Zoom, as Broadview Live brings together two prominent Canadian voices to explore the pressures on democracy and Canada's role in a rapidly changing world.



United Church minister and Broadview contributor Christopher White will speak with former MP Charlie Angus and former foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy for a conversation about democracy, the rise of fascism, and Canada's position under U.S. President Trump's demands.

After our guests have spoken, there will be some time for discussion. Here is a question to spark conversation:

What worries you about Canada's future and what gives you hope?



Charlie Angus served as the Member of Parliament for Timmins-James Bay for two decades, first elected in 2004. A passionate advocate for Indigenous rights, education, and social justice, he is also the author of nine books, including his latest, *Dangerous Memory*. Angus is known for exploring how culture and social change intersect. Read his Broadview interview on why he says Canada is in a "fragile moment."



Lloyd Axworthy is a Canadian politician and academic, best known as Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1996 to 2000. A Liberal Party leader on the global stage, he played a key role in efforts to ban landmines and advance human security. In a Broadview interview, Axworthy critiques Canada's deference to U.S. demands under President Trump and calls for a stronger, more independent approach to Canadian sovereignty.

Don't miss out — register now for free to reserve your spot for Monday, Feb. 2, from 7 to 8 p.m. Eastern.

CLICK ON [Register Here](#)



Lunch with Lorrie

Thursday, January 22nd

Dear Amina and fellow volunteers,

Thank you very much for sharing your amazing story of **HENS** with all of us at **Lunch with Lorrie** on Thursday, January 22.

Your dedication to this wonderful project is beyond measure. The newcomers and refugee families that you serve are truly blessed to have you caring about them and helping them transition into their new lives here in Canada.

Our Church family and the community are honoured to be travelling this journey with you and your dedicated volunteers.

Bless you as you continue to care and share your inspirational spirit with our new found friends and neighbours.

With gratitude,
Marian Childerhose

Good Morning,

Thank you from me as well for taking the time to share the work of **HENS** with our group. It is truly an honour to be connected to such meaningful and compassionate work - work that brings hope and practical care to those who need it most.

Your talk was both informative and deeply encouraging. It was heartening to hear about all that is being done through the dedication of so many caring volunteers. Please know how grateful we are for the difference you continue to make in the lives of others.

We hold you and the work of **HENS** in our thoughts and prayers, with gratitude for the many ways love and care are being shared through this ministry.

With thanks,
Rev. Lorrie Daly-Price,
The Donway Covenant United Church



Sunday, January 25th

Dear Marian, Lorrie, and DCUC members,

Hope you are well.

Thank you so much for your kind words and for welcoming us to **Lunch with Lorrie**. It was truly an honour to share the work **HENS** is doing and the impact we have been able to make in the community. None of this would be possible without the generosity, partnership, and encouragement of the **Donway Covenant United Church**.

We are deeply grateful for the 3,500 sq. ft. of space **DCUC** provides, which allows us to display donations with dignity and support families in a meaningful, organized, and welcoming way. Your support has played a vital role in helping newcomer and refugee families begin their new lives in Canada with stability and hope.

I also want to express heartfelt appreciation for all of our dedicated, hard-working volunteers. Without their commitment, compassion, and countless hours of service, we would not be able to carry out this impactful work in the community.

Our volunteers and I feel blessed to walk this journey alongside the **DCUC** community. Thank you for standing with us, believing in this work, and helping us build a more compassionate and connected community. Please thank the wonderful group for the generous donations to **HENS** as well.

Have a wonderful evening,
Amina Khote
Executive Director
HENS: Home Essentials
Newcomer Support



So Much More Than Just Donations.....

Empowering Newcomer Families

At HENS we believe in equipping newcomer families with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in their new environment



Parent-School Collaboration for Children's Success

This workshop, led by an experienced educator, aims to foster effective collaboration between parents and schools to support children's success academically and emotionally.



Strengthening Relationships between Parents, Police, and Resident Leaders

Led by community police officers, this workshop focuses on enhancing relationships between parents, law enforcement, and resident leaders to create safer and more supportive communities for families.



Collaboration between Parents, Social Workers, and Mental Health Professionals

Facilitated by mental health professionals, this workshop provides practical strategies and resources for parents to navigate mental health challenges in their families, fostering a supportive network between parents, social workers, and mental health professionals.

CLICK HERE to discover

<https://henstoronto.com/workshops>



Thursday, February 12th, 2026

12 to 2 pm

\$20

Lunch (noon) & Entertainment

"UpBeat & Romantic!"

In the Mood for Valentine's

with Singer/Entertainer

Pamela



Bring Your Friends & Enjoy!

Reservations requested by noon

Tuesday, February 10th

Email 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

Free Admission
\$2 suggested donation

GET THE JUMP ON SPRING

February 21, 2026
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**Where the
Plant People
Meet**

Edwards Gardens

Lawrence Ave East
at Leslie St

Shake off the winter blues and start the countdown to spring at Toronto Botanical Garden's much-loved Get the Jump on Spring one-day garden extravaganza. Whether you're a seasoned gardener, a curious beginner, or simply dreaming of warmer days, this annual event brings together plant lovers, expert growers, and local makers for a joyful, inspiration-packed kickoff to spring.

What to expect



**Plant
Community
Connections**



**Visit the
Plant Doctor**



**Over 40 Local
Makers & Eco-
Vendors**



**Free Plant
and Seed
Swap**

.....and MUCH more!!

**CLICK HERE
to see the full listing of exhibitors**

[https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/
event/get-the-jump-on-spring-2026/](https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/event/get-the-jump-on-spring-2026/)

MILANO CORTINA 2026



February 6th ~ 22nd



This will be Canada's 25th appearance at the Winter Olympics, having competed at every edition since the inaugural games in 1924.

Canada is sending 207 athletes - 99 men and 108 women who will compete in 14 sports.

Congrats to Kirsten Welsh, an AHA official on being named a linesperson for the 2026 Winter Olympics!

Kristen is the grand-daughter of Frank and Nina Saunders.



COOL RUNNINGS

The Jamaicans are back! Qualifying for women's mono, men's two man and men's four man bobsleigh events.
"Cool Runnings means Peace be the Journey"



YOU'RE *join us!* WELCOME TO Please let us know if you are coming.

Dance Performance:
**Black in Canada -
Truth, Resilience, Reflection**

Thursday February 5th at 2:00 pm
(In-person event)

Join Artists in Motion as they share powerful stories of Black Canadian history through movement, spoken word, and archival voices. Enjoy a beautiful performance and explore resilience, justice, and inclusion in a way that is moving.

**Entertainment: Magic Show
with Ron The Magician**

Friday February 6th at 2:15 pm
(In-person event)

Prepare to be amazed and mystified with a magical experience with Ron The Magician. Ron is a master entertainer who blends magic, comedy, music, and storytelling into a highly interactive show. Join us for an afternoon of big laughs, jaw-dropping surprises, and fun! This is a show you won't want to miss!

RSVP REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

Presentation:
William Shakespeare by Paul Dias

Tuesday February 10th at 2:15 pm
(In-person event)

Join us for an engaging and entertaining presentation by Paul Dias as he brings Shakespeare to life in a humorous, heartfelt, and accessible way. Through some of Shakespeare's most enduring characters, this presentation explores the playwright's profound understanding of love - proving that human nature hasn't changed at all. Whether you're a longtime Shakespeare fan or new to his work, you'll come away enlightened, amused, and inspired.

**Presentation: Winter Olympic
Games by Bill Anderson**

Tuesday February 24th at 2:15 pm
(In-person event)

Join Bill Anderson as he explore the fascinating history of the Winter Olympics! Discover the stories, sports, and unforgettable moments that have shaped the Games over the years. Let's celebrate and cheer on our favourites during the 25th Winter Olympics in Italy.

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

187 WYNFORD DRIVE
TORONTO
416-331-9797
DELMANOR.COM

RSVP at (416) 331 - 9797

DELMANOR
Wynford
Inspired Retirement Living™

Programs you might find of interest!



Maintaining Cognitive Health And Managing Stress With Aging

Monday February 2nd
from 2:00 to 3:30 pm

This presentation will discuss the latest research on the relationship between stress, lifestyle (such as exercise, social engagement, eating well, managing stress, and getting good quality sleep), and cognitive health to improve quality of life and facilitate healthy aging. Tips and tricks for incorporating recommendations into the daily life will be discussed and there will be time for group discussion and a Q&A period with the speaker, Dr. Danielle D'Amico.

TPL Website Basics

How to navigate our NEW website

Wednesday February 11th
from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

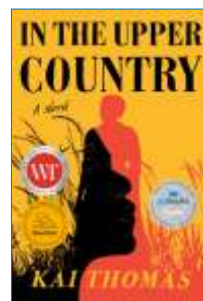
TPL has a new website! This class is a demo, intended to help get you started and explain some of the new and updated features.



February's Book "In The Upper Country" by Kai Thomas

Tuesday, February 17th
from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Thursday, February 19th
from 2:00 to 3:00 pm



Wednesday Night Movie "Dream Scenario" 2023

Wednesday February 4th
from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

A family man finds his life turned upside down when millions of strangers suddenly start seeing him in their dreams. However,

when his nighttime appearances take a nightmarish turn, he's forced to navigate the consequences of his newfound stardom.



The Starving Artist Myth: Practical Career Strategies for Creatives

Wednesday February 18th
from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

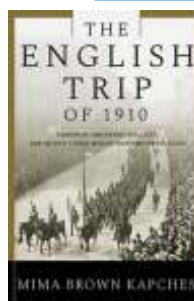
Join Mark Jones, the author of "The Starving Artist Myth: bust the stereotype and find success in creative careers" for an interactive talk that challenges the 'starving artist' stereotype and explores actionable career strategies for students and pros in creative fields. Participants will reflect on their skills, career aspirations, and income opportunities, leaving with a clearer path to success in the creative economy.



Tea & Movies: "An American in Paris" 1951

Monday February 9th
from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Jerry Mulligan, a struggling American painter in Paris, is "discovered" by an influential heiress with an interest in more than Jerry's art. Jerry in turn falls for Lise, a young French girl already engaged to a cabaret singer. Jerry jokes, sings and dances with his best friend, an acerbic would-be concert pianist, while romantic complications abound.

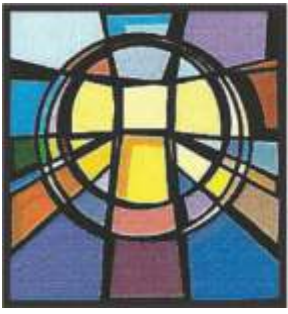


Dr. Mima Brown Kapch: Sir Henry Pellatt and the English Trip of 1910

Wednesday February 25th
from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Dr. Mima Brown Kapches presents and discusses her Canadian historical non-fiction book, "The English Trip of 1910". Sir Henry Pellatt (of Casa Loma fame) was the Commanding Officer of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto in 1910, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. Pellatt organized for over 600 young men from Toronto in the QOR to travel to England on a fully paid trip. This is the story of that adventure.

**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



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website: www.donwaycovenant.com