

Saving on gasoline has never been so easy!

By Yoram Shalmon

TORONTO – As the price of gasoline went up, so did the opportunities to save money on fueling the car. Moreover, with increased economic difficulties came a heightened sense that the best dollar is a saved dollar. Frequent and rapid fluctuation in gasoline prices, and the sense that gasoline providers were not transferring all the cost savings to consumers added to the drivers urge that united they may enjoy some cost saving.

Here comes some technological help. The internet, social networks and mobile communication add to consumers' ability to share critical information and help each other find the best prices. Several organizations created free systems to share gasoline price information and here is a quick summary of some of them with their pros and cons.

GasBuddy provides gas stations and gasoline price information all over North America. With over 200 websites and thousands of members, GasBuddy is the leader in this area. Location and price information is collected and entered on their sites by volunteers (spotters) and is accessible, free of charge via the web.

The GTA site www.torontogasprices.com is the second largest in North America and covers a region from Oshawa (east) to Oakville (west) and Aurora

(north). With thousands of loyal members and viewers, it has massive coverage.

Additional sites exist for London, Hamilton and Ontario. Similar initiatives have been set over the years with limited success; GasBuddy is by far the largest and most successful organization.

Pro: Comprehensive accurate information in well-organized and easy to use websites, complemented by members forum, statistics, reviews and more.

Con: Availability, you need access to the internet and "pre-plan" when and where to fuel. Lacks Tomorrow's Gas Price information.

Dan McTeague (MPP) Liberal Member of Parliament for Pickering-Scarborough has been a consistent and strong advocate for implementing measure of control over gasoline prices. His website www.mcteague.ca/WebPages/gas_price_today.htm includes a portion dedicated to gasoline prices titled "Rip-Off Alert".

It sums up how he feels about the situation and includes tomorrow's expected gasoline and diesel prices, for GTA and other Canadian urban centers.

These forecast prices are updated every afternoon with tomorrow's prices and have consistently been proven correct. The calculation is proprietary and likely

based on closing spot prices for crude oil, exchange rate and other parameters.

Pro: Provides accurate prediction of tomorrow's gas prices.

Cons: Inconvenient access to the

Looking for the cheapest GAS nearby?



information. You need internet access to check the prices before fueling.

AskKinjo is a Canadian mobile search provider. Information is available to all mobile phone users in the GTA and does not require any subscription. The caller can hear Tomorrow's Gas Price which is the information provided by Dan McTeague; the caller can also search for the cheapest and closest gas stations, as provided by TorontoGasPrices. AskKinjo uses several location technologies to identify the user's location. Bell Mobility, Telus, Koodo, Solo, and Virgin callers access this free service by dialing #KINJO (#54656); Rogers, Fido and landline callers dial 647-476-6468.

As a bonus, AskKinjo's registered users receive a text message alert when the price of gasoline goes up or down by over 3 cents, which happens frequently.

For example, on Feb. 3rd, AskKinjo users received a text message advising them that the next day the price of gasoline will decrease by 4.8 cents. A typical user, who thus delayed refueling, saved money and had a sense of control over cost. For more information, call the above numbers and visit www.AskKinjo.com

Pros: Immediate access to current and future gas prices. Voice activated and audio delivery of information for a safe search

while driving.

Cons: User pays for airtime. Currently, only covers the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Tomorrow's Gas Price information is also provided by several radio and TV stations, for example AM680, Breakfast Television and CTV.

Pro: On-air free information. **Cons:** Timeliness or lack thereof; you need to be listening when the information is broadcasted.

We cannot change gasoline prices but you can save money by making informed choices. Information is available, free of charge, which can help consumer fuel at the best time and at the cheapest location. The best dollar is a saved dollar. *Good Luck.*

Good news for agency workers

TORONTO – The introduction of Bill 139 has boosted hopes of temp agency workers across the province to get more benefits.

This is the first draft of a new law that could make a big difference in the lives of temp agency workers if passed this year. Indeed, the regulatory change that came into effect January 2nd, 2009 clearly entitling temp agency workers to public holiday pay, will most definitely make a difference for temp agency workers who should now receive the nine days of public holiday pay.

(Continued on page 15)

U Condos, the latest new project at the established Bay Street by Pemberton Group. U Condominium consists with two towers. Tower 1 has 45 storeys and Tower 2 has 55 storeys. The complex, immediately South of St Mary Street, West of Bay Street and North of St Joseph Street. It is the most exciting and eclectic neighbourhoods in Toronto.

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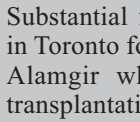
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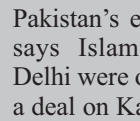
Pakistan's cricket hero Imran Khan writes an open letter to Barack Obama making some useful suggestions. - Page 25



Substantial funds were raised in Toronto for Pakistani singer Alamgir who needs kidney transplantation. - Page 12



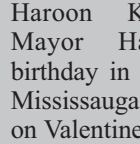
Pretty Preity Zinta nominated for Genie Awards for her performance in *Heaven on Earth*. - P.32



Pakistan's ex-foreign minister says Islamabad and New Delhi were once close to strike a deal on Kashmir. - Page 9



Younus Khan is now considered as one of the top batsmen in the world and he proved so by cracking a century against Lanka. - P. 29



Haroon Khan celebrated Mayor Hazel McCallion birthday in grand style at his Mississauga as she turned 88 on Valentine day. - Details on Page 19

Obama's new challenges from pro-status quo forces

Peace plans for economy

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama, who has vision and capability to implement his plans, is facing new challenges from within and outside America, knowledgeable sources says here.

Obama, according to these sources, is keen on implementing his 'peace plans' to improve country's battered economy. The president holds a firm view that wars in past years have put America in a very difficult situation and the country's economy can only be improved with bold initiatives. The Obama administration is giving clear messages that now peace should prevail in all 'hot spots' and American should no longer face isolation. But then the pro-status quo forces have their own agenda. They are making every effort to put Obama's plans on hold -- at least for a year. But at the same they are realizing that Obama, a political genius, who is known for his dynamism, is unstoppable.

"Obama has identified his priorities and he knows the obstacles that will come to his way but he is determined to deliver," said the sources. (Continued on Page 25)

Guess: It's pic or painting?



For sure, it's an Iman Maleki's painting. - Details on Back Page

Sharif story about arrest, military coup!

LAHORE - Using tough language against his foes, Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, raised finger at former military commanders who toppled his elected government and thus violated country's constitution. Addressing a political rally in Lahore, his hometown, Sharif recalled how military commanders arrested him from the Prime Minister's House. "Our telephone connections were snapped. We were arrested and taken to some unknown destination. A TV was kept there. We switched on the TV and it was airing news that the Nawaz Sharif government had been dismissed." Sharif said: "Three generals - Gen. Mehmood, Gen. Orakzai and Gen. Ehsan came up to me at midnight and forced me to sign my resignation papers. I refused to do so saying death was acceptable to me but I would not sign. General Mehmood implored me and then again I refused. I knew it well what treatment they would mete out to me. I had already seen what fate a prime minister had met earlier".

- (Details on Page 9)



Nawaz Sharif

Afghanistan: It's from horses mouth

WASHINGTON - The top diplomats of Pakistan and Afghanistan were invited here for consultations on "war on terror." The talks came as part of a reassessment of US strategy by President Barack Obama, who plans to deploy another 17,000 US troops to Afghanistan and to put further focus on fighting extremism in Pakistan. The foreign ministers of Afghanistan and Pakistan met the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. "Hillary heard their views, and of course sharing our views on what we believe is going

on, on the ground," State Department spokesman Robert Woods was quoted as saying.

The Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, found the United States has spent 12.3 billion dollars since 2002 aiming to end the "terrorist threat" on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan. Despite six years of US and Pakistani government efforts, the Taliban are still strong. According to a report here more than 70 per cent of the US assistance was military spending, mostly funding for operations. Senator

Robert Menendez, who heads the Foreign Relations subcommittee on international assistance, said the report showed US aid to Pakistan was not working.

"It's clear that the strategy in place over the past seven years must be rethought if we are to improve our security," said Menendez, a member of Obama's Democratic Party. "I look forward to working on a policy that focuses assistance on institutions that help ensure long-term stability and minimize the threat in Pakistan," he said.

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