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New U.S. border boss welcomed

HOMELAND SECURITY If you're a Canadian traveller planning a vacation south of the border or a CEO whose company depends on U.S.-bound exports, learn the name Janet Napolitano. Napolitano is U.S. president-elect Barack Obama's choice to serve as the next secretary of homeland security, the sprawling U.S. government agency responsible for safeguarding America and its borders. The self-styled workaholic faces a confirmation hearing today in Washington. Observers are expressing confidence that the 51-year-old lawyer will herald a new, more pragmatic approach to border security.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Pickup hockey
Winter fun with friends

Andy Olvet, second from right, enjoys a game of pickup hockey with friend Charles Lee, right, and others yesterday at the Kew Gardens outdoor skating rink in the Beaches.

No sign of train? Here comes the e-alert

A new TTC e-mail alert system notifying riders of delays and service interruptions is the latest step in providing the kind of transit service Torontonians expect, says TTC chief general manager Gary Webster.

TTC riders can now go to ttc.ca and sign up for e-alerts that will tell them about trouble on the subway or Scarborough RT.

The alerts, which can be customized to a particular stop or station, will be extended to surface routes later this year. Riders will

More

- An online trip planner that will allow riders to

Style



Makeup good enough for a Dame

Renowned for her lilac hair and rhinestone-encrusted eye glasses, Dame Edna can now add MAC Cosmetics muse to her long list of accomplishments. With packaging as mirthful as the stage icon herself (each item includes a design of her whimsical eye wear), the colours are meant to portray Edna's over-the-top personality as well. The collection includes lipsticks, lip glosses, eye shadows, hi-light powder and nail lacquers, ranging from \$11 to \$39. Available at MAC counters across the country and at maccosmetics.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

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Poverty gets the boot

Celebrities help kick off 13th annual Ron White shoe drive

JOSEPHINE LIM
for Metro Canada

Oscar winner Jeremy Irons and Olympic gold medalist Adam van Koeverden were among the stars gathered at the Ron White flagship store at Bloor and Bay recently to give poverty the boot.

They, along with fashion designer David Dixon, singer Suzie McNeil and Broadway star Louise Pitre, kicked off the 13th annual Shoe Drive for the Homeless last Thursday.

Each of them autographed a pair of gently worn shoes and donated them to the Canadian retailer. They will be displayed during the drive, from Jan. 8 to Feb. 15, and after that will become a part of the Ron White collection.

The shoe drive collects footwear at all six Ron White store locations in Toronto and Oakville. Shoes are cleaned, sorted and then distributed to the homeless.



Celebrities who attended the Ron White shoe drive kick off included (left to right) actress Louise Pitre, Citytv's BT host Dina Pugliese, designer Ron White, musician Suzie McNeil, radio broadcaster Billie from Mad Dog and Billie, and Olympian Adam van Koeverden.

Ron White, the CEO and creator of Ron White shoes, came up with the idea after walking past a "homeless man sitting on the ground near his Yonge and Eglinton store.

"What you do when you're in my business is you look at their eyes, then you look at their feet," says White.

"I saw his toes and they were actually popping out

of the end of his shoes and it was snowing. When I looked there was actually a snowflake that landed on his big toe. I thought, 'This guy is going to get a frost bite.'"

Store locations

Donate your gently worn shoes at these locations:

- 2465 Yonge St., Toronto
- 25 The West Mall, Toronto, Sherway Gardens
- 55 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Manulife Centre (flagship and boutique located here)
- 2901 Bayview Ave., Toronto
- 162 Lakeshore Rd. E., Oakville

Last year, White collected his all-time record of shoes at just over 2,000 pairs and this year he's aiming for 2,500. To date, they've collected about 16,000 pairs of shoes since the drive began.

And the current economic situation isn't dampening his spirit.

"This charity and this event is perfect," says White. "We're not asking for money or their cheque book to be open. Kick off the new year fresh and go clean out your closet and look at your winter shoes."



Biddell designs for Winners

ECO DESIGN Next Tuesday Winners will introduce a limited edition reusable shopping bag designed by Evan Biddell, the winner of the inaugural season of reality TV series Project Runway Canada.

The stylish, shoulder-strap eco bag, \$1.99, will be sold exclusively at Winners stores nationwide, excluding Quebec.

As Project Runway's grand winner, Evan Biddell, 24, won a retail mentorship with Winners. The Saskatoon, Sask., native spent a week with the retailer learning about the "business of fashion."

Season Two of Project Runway Canada will air on Global starting Jan. 27 at 10 p.m. **METRO NEWS SERVICE**