

Holiday Act prohibits most retail outlets from opening

Consumers and businesses are reminded that most retail outlets must be closed under the Retail Business Holiday Act (RBHA), on Canada Day, Tuesday, July 1.

There are eight days each year when the public is not admitted to retail businesses and no goods or services may be offered for sale.

Included in these is July 1, on whichever day of the week it may fall. A few limited businesses are exempt, including stores that sell handicrafts, book or magazine stores under 2,400 square feet with a maximum of three employees, stores selling flowers or nursery stock and gas stations.

The Retail Business Holidays Act is administered by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. For more information on the Act, contact the ministry's General Inquiry Unit, at (416) 326-8555 or 1-800-268-1142.

In addition to provincially-exempted businesses, some stores may open in municipalities which

Bike tour helps fight against MS

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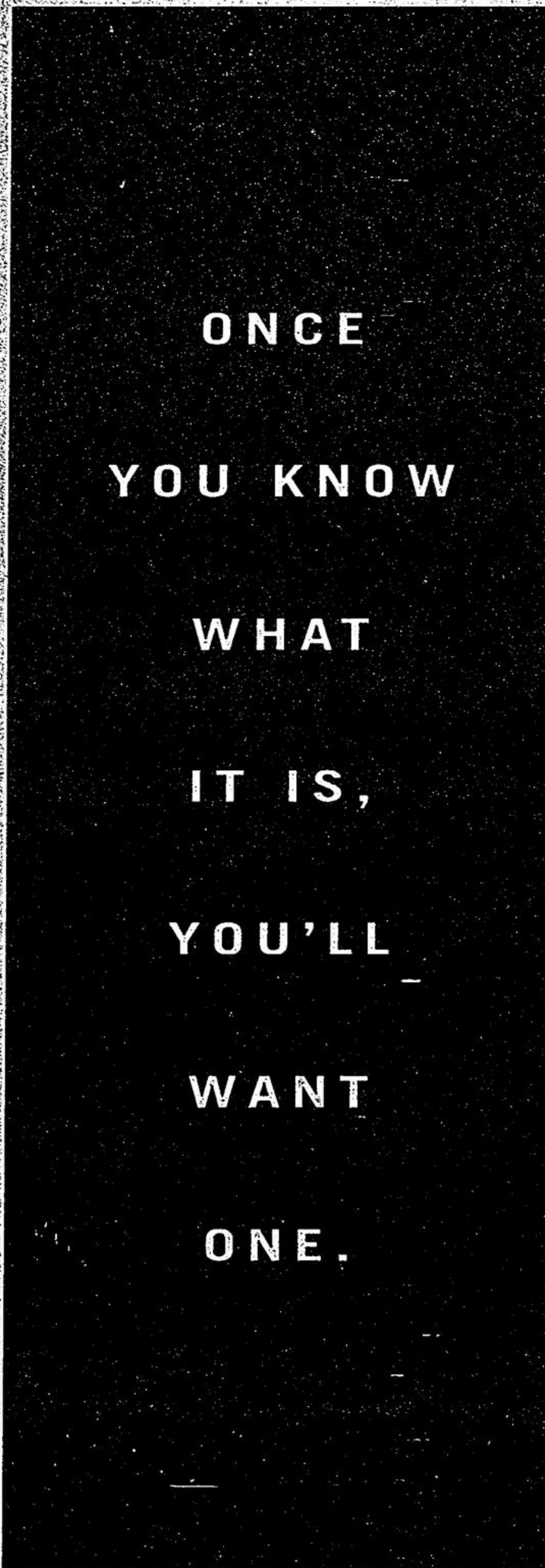
For more information on the Noranda Forest MS Bike Tours, please call the MS Society at 416-967-3038 or 1-800-268-7582.

have enacted bylaws, in accordance with the RBHA, permitting them to do business for tourism purposes. Questions regarding local hours of business operation should be directed to the Municipal Clerk's office

in the appropriate jurisdiction.

Minimum fines for opening on prohibited days of retail operation are \$500 for a first offence, \$2,000 for a second offence and \$5,000 for a third or subsequent

offence. Retail outlets found guilty may be fined up to \$50,000 or the total amount of gross sales for the day, whichever is greater. Enforcement of the Act is the responsibility of local police services.



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