

Toronto Star

The Real Jerk plans to fight its eviction

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Byline: Stephanie Findlay Toronto Star

Illustrations: Real Jerk is a Caribbean institution at Broadview Ave. and Queen St. E.

The owners of the Real Jerk restaurant have hired a lawyer to fight their Jan. 31 eviction date.

Co-owner Ed Pottinger says lawyer **Albert Formosa** is planning to apply for an injunction to delay the eviction from their Queen and Broadview location.

"I'd prefer to sit back and relax and run my restaurant," said 55-year-old Pottinger, "but if it means it may be taken away from me, you've got to get savvy quick and come out swinging."

Since Pottinger received the eviction notice from Bill Mandelbaum, president of Buckingham Properties and owner of the property, on Dec. 30, he has orchestrated an aggressive campaign to stay in the location that has galvanized his patrons and the community.

"The Save Real Jerk campaign is a symbol for how you want your new neighbours to treat old neighbours as they bring change and development to the community," reads the press release issued recently.

As of Friday evening, some 1,900 people had signed a petition urging Mayor Rob Ford and the city council to protect family-run businesses like the Real Jerk.

"We just need time," said Pottinger. "All I'm really asking is a couple months to find the place to relocate, to take the staff and my customers with me."

Mandelbaum, a 60-year-old real estate developer, says he's not threatened by the injunction talk.

"The verdict will be what the law is," he said, "and the law is that proper notice was given to them and they will not get an injunction."

The Caribbean restaurant has been operating since 1984 and at that location for 24 years.

And since the eviction notice, business is booming, Pottinger said. "We've been jam-packed. It's ironic that, now we're being forced to move, that we've been run off our feet."

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The Toronto Sun

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Byline: ALEX CONSIGLIO, TORONTO SUN

Illustrations: photo by Ernest Doroszuk, Toronto Sun ; Edward Pottinger has owned the Real Jerk restaurant on Queen St. for 24 years but was ordered to leave by tomorrow after the building was sold.

The Real Jerk is going to court.

Ed Pottinger, owner of the popular Caribbean eatery at Queen St. and Broadview Ave., has hired lawyer **Albert Formosa** to battle a 30-day eviction notice served to him on Jan. 1.

Pottinger has been running the eatery out of the same building for 24 years.

The eviction notice from Bill Mandelbaum, president of Buckingham Properties, requires him to move out of the building on Tuesday.

Pottinger will take his grievance to court Monday or Tuesday seeking an injunction to delay the eviction.

"Being told to move in a month is just unacceptable," said Pottinger, noting he has 25 employees who depend on their jobs to pay bills.

The Sun was unable to reach Mandelbaum for comment.

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