

Cost questions

Toronto police have already spent \$1.5M on World Cup A3

Market boost?

Interest rate cut could spark buying frenzy, real estate analysts say B1



TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH 23 C | MIX OF SUN AND CLOUDS | MAP A18

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024

Pomp and protests at U of T

School's convocation ceremonies begin with encampment as backdrop A8



Graduates pose for photos on Monday outside the pro-Palestinian encampment that has been in place for a month on King's College Circle. The school's bid to remove the protesters through a court injunction won't be heard until June 19 and 20.

STEVE RUSSELL TORONTO STAR

Over 50 bullets fired in fatal shooting

One dead and four injured in attack on group of men at Etobicoke school

EMILY FAGAN AND ASMA SAHEBZADA
STAFF REPORTERS

Bullet casings still littered the ground behind an Etobicoke school a day after a shooting that left a man dead and others with serious injuries on Sunday night.

Residents say that prior to the shooting, it was a typical night for the group of men who were grilling food and playing dominoes after a soccer game. With few other community spaces to gather, friends and family of the victims say they've been using the space at North Albion Collegiate Institute for decades.

Shortly before 11 p.m., a dark-coloured pickup truck pulled up behind the school and two men got out, shooting a torrent of bullets toward the group of 15 to 20 people gathered behind the school.

In a news conference Monday, Det. Sgt. Phillip Campbell from the Toronto police homicide unit said the shooting "happened within a fraction of a minute."

The shooting fatally wounded one man, and four others in their 40s to 60s were injured, police say. On Monday morning, police said the four men remained in hospital — one with "serious, life altering" injuries and three others who were being treated for gunshot wounds.

More than 50 bullets were fired at the scene, Supt. Ron Taverner told a news conference Monday.

SEE SHOOTING, A2

TTC strike would make even bigger mess of our streets



EDWARD KEENAN
OPINION

If you've got an old 10-speed gathering dust in the garage, it might be time to take it for a tune-up. It wouldn't hurt to check the tread on your most comfortable walking shoes, either. And maybe find out if any co-workers who live near you are up for carpooling. Personally, I checked in today to make sure my Bikeshare membership was up to date.

Because it's time to figure out how you're going to get where you need to go if the TTC suddenly shuts down. The city's largest transit union is in a position to strike as of this Friday.

SEE KEENAN, A9

LITTLE PROGRESS IN TTC TALKS A9

FULL INDEX, A2 ONO



7 71412 00002 4

Senior cop facing misconduct charges

Unit commander accused of interfering with investigation of nephew's crash

WENDY GILLIS
CRIME REPORTER

A high-ranking Toronto police unit commander "blurred her role" between police officer and family member when she rushed to the scene of a collision caused by her nephew and "inserted" herself in the investigation, preventing colleagues from determining if alcohol was a factor, a police prosecutor told a misconduct tribunal Monday.

Insp. Joyce Schertzer drove to a May 1, 2022 crash involving her nephew, dispatched a cop from her station to the collision — outside her division's jurisdiction — and circumvented police protocol "to the benefit of my family," according to a police document outlining misconduct allegations under Ontario's police legislation.

As a result, the nephew, identified

only as "Calvin" at the tribunal Monday, was cleared to leave within 10 minutes of Schertzer's arrival, the tribunal heard. By the time he was summoned back to the scene by the Traffic Services unit, more than three hours had passed and "there's no ability to make a demand for a breathalyzer," said police prosecutor Scott Hutchison in his opening statements.

"The conduct here was problematic at the least because it blurred her role between the inspector — the unit commander for the officer doing the investigation — and her role as advocate for her nephew," Hutchison said, adding her behaviour "impaired" the probe and was a conflict of interest.

Schertzer has pleaded not guilty to three counts of professional misconduct.

SEE TRIBUNAL, A4

4 more hostages dead, Israel says



Government under increasing pressure to accept ceasefire deal proposed by U.S. A10



CRITIC'S PICK
"DELIRIOUSLY FUN"
"SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER"

"A BEDAZZLING SPECTACLE" ★★★★★/4

TORONTO STAR

GLOBE AND MAIL

"HILARIOUS"

BROADWAY WORLD

Ottawa clears way for foreign caregivers

Government announces two new pathways to permanent residency

RAISA PATEL
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA The federal government has announced two new pathways that would give caregivers from abroad permanent residence upon arrival in Canada, a step that advocates and the Liberals say has been decades in the making.

“Caregivers have a long legacy here in Canada as they’re instrumental in helping families take care of loved ones,” Immigration Minister Marc Miller said Monday during a news conference in Toronto. “They help us raise our kids so that we as parents can go to work. When we struggle to find necessary care for our seniors, they’re here to support us.

“I believe these changes will provide families with the services they need and continue to advance protections for home care workers. This is something that’s long overdue, and this is one of our ways to tell home care workers that we see you and we’ve heard you.”

The new streams are intended to replace two existing programs that are set to wind down June 17: the Home Child Care Provider Pilot and the Home Support Worker Pilot.

The five-year pilots first launched in 2019 and were aimed at bringing foreign caregivers into the country to care for children, seniors and people with disabilities.

The new pilots, which the government says are a move toward establishing a permanent caregiver program in Canada, address some long-held concerns that critics of the country’s approach to foreign caregivers have spent years highlighting.

“People have been working for decades on the demand to ensure that migrant workers arrive with permanent resident status to Canada,” said Amanda Aziz, an immigration and refugee lawyer with the Migrant Worker Centre in Vancouver.

“That is for the most part because caregivers and care workers are faced with such abuse and exploitation in the context of their employment.”

Previously, applicants to the existing programs needed 12 months of Canadian work experience to qualify for permanent residence, something Aziz said forced some caregivers to stay trapped in unsafe working conditions. Miller also announced other highly anticipated changes to language and education requirements to qualify for the new pilots, which are set to launch sometime between this fall and early 2025.

Where applicants previously needed to demonstrate a lan-

guage proficiency of Level 5 in either English or French, that requirement has now been dropped to Level 4.

Education requirements have also been lowered: Caregivers previously needed to have the equivalent of at least one year of post-secondary education or a foreign educational credential equivalent. Under the incoming pilots, the equivalent of a Canadian high school diploma will suffice, along with “recent and relevant” work experience.

An offer for a full-time home care job is also required.

Through the streams, caregivers will also be able to work for organizations that offer part-time care for people who are recovering from injury or illness and those who are not fully independent.

New Democrat MP and immigration critic Jenny Kwan told the Star the changes — which she said she has pushed Ottawa to adopt — will also stop caregivers from being separated from their families by opening up more ways for them to bring relatives to Canada.

“I’ve been advocating for this for over 30 years now, and so today’s announcement that they will finally respect and honour caregivers and value their work ... is extremely welcome,” Kwan said.

The Liberals did not address several of Kwan’s other demands, such as imposing a six-month limit on processing applications because of backlogs in existing programs.

“One of the things we do not want to see is for the government to make a new announcement, a new program, and all the people in the previous stream (are) just forgotten,” Kwan said.

Miller said that in 2023, Canada admitted more than 3,000 caregivers and their families under the current pilots and that this year, 2,000 more became permanent residents.

“We still do have a backlog under the pilots,” he said. “There’s an issue of fairness in there.

“Today, we’re pointing out that there will have to be a look at some of the rules currently in place, particularly the language rules that are putting people up against the wall of permanent residency, because they can’t pass their language Level 5. So there’s a fairness aspect that my team needs to attack.”

It is expected the new streams will be capped by a maximum number of applicants per year, though Miller’s office was not able to provide specific numbers. The existing programs were capped at 2,750 applicants annually apiece.

WITH FILES FROM
NICHOLAS KEUNG



STEVE RUSSELL TORONTO STAR

The aftermath of Sunday night’s shooting at North Albion Collegiate Institute, where neighbours say people in the community often gather to play dominoes and other activities.

Area has seen rise in violence

SHOOTING FROM A1

Taverner said the men were “completely innocent victims.” In addition to those killed and injured, three cars were hit, and some bullets entered the empty building.

Taverner said that although police are increasing their presence in the area, they are struggling with the limitations of that prevention method with the high volume of gun violence.

“A lot of it is having that police presence out there, being visible and letting people see it,” Taverner said. “But having said that, we can drive away after being there and something can happen — that’s the reality.”

As of June 2, there had been 193 shootings in the city this year — with 18 people killed and 50 injured, according to Toronto police data.

Campbell said it’s too early to tell if the Etobicoke shooters knew the victims, and said it didn’t appear to be the result of a shootout.

The victims were a regular fixture of the neighbourhood, according to residents who say the deceased man has been part of domino games and other activities behind the school for more than 35 years.

“They always come here, socialize, they play their football and barbecue. Last night they were just hanging out,” said Sophia Dunn, a family member of those killed and injured in the shooting.

Dunn said her cousin George was killed in the shooting, and her son-in-law Seymour Gibbs is in hospital after being shot in both feet. The family, including Dunn’s daughter and grandchildren, rushed to the hospital in the early hours of Monday morning. When they got there, Gibbs didn’t know that George had died — Dunn said her daughter had to tell him, and it caused his blood pressure to spike.

Due to the severity of his gunshot wounds, she says her son-

in-law is expected to need physical therapy to walk again.

“But thank God he’s alive,” said Dunn, who said her grandchildren would often play in the area.

White chips dotted the brick exterior of the school where bullets struck the night before, and dozens of shell casings littered the ground near Mount Olive Drive. Red disposable cups, blue paramedics gloves and evidence markers were visible at the scene Monday.

A field command station was set up by police around noon, which Taverner said will remain for at least the next week.

Police are searching for a black or dark coloured newer pickup truck, which they say two suspects in dark clothing used to make their escape.

The school where the shooting took place is located across the road from a public housing community that has been struggling over the past year with an increase of violent incidents, officials say. At a meeting of Toronto Community Housing Corp.’s community safety advisory subcommittee on Monday morning, the agency’s programs and partnerships director Arsema Berhane noted the uptick within their Rexdale community of Kipling-Mount Olive, a lowrise complex.

Councillor Vincent Crisanti, who represents the Etobicoke North ward, said the community he also calls home feels “terrorized” by recent events.

“They’re frightened for their lives, for their children,” he said after speaking with residents Monday morning.

“It’s shocking that something like this can happen in a normal, regular community.”

“There’s a lot of shootings (here), it’s not good,” said Trisha Smith, who lives across the street from the school with her two teenage sons. “They take the guns off the street, and there’s more guns.”

On Saturday evening, police found a man in his 20s seriously injured with gunshot wounds,

in the area of Albion Road and Martin Grove Road. Early Sunday morning, another shooting occurred in the area of Richgrove Drive and Martingrove Road where a 14-year-old victim was “randomly” shot after walking out of his apartment.

The teen victim sustained serious but non life-threatening injuries and is recovering in hospital. Taverner said the victims are believed to have been “totally innocent.”

P. Gordon, a 70-year-old woman who was walking by the school with other residents on Monday morning, said she wasn’t surprised to hear about another shooting in the area — although she was shocked by the number of those affected.

She said police have met with the community in the past and maintain a significant presence, but it doesn’t stop incidents like this. However, that doesn’t change how Gordon feels about her area.

“I’ve been here a long time,” she said. “I’m not scared of it, like it doesn’t hold me back from going out.”

Dunn took the day off work and stopped by the school to lay a bouquet of flowers, before returning to the hospital to be with family.

“When is this thing going to stop? We need help,” said an emotional Dunn, her voice shaking, adding that she lost her son to a shooting in Jamaica. “It’s hard to see (this violence), this can’t go on ... it’s not good for the community, it’s very terrifying and scary.”

WITH FILES BY DANIEL RAMOS,
VICTORIA GIBSON AND
JENNIFER PAGLIARO

CORRECTION

Peel police have charged a 39-year-old Toronto man with attempted murder following an investigation into a March 10 shooting. The headline on a May 31 article about the investigation incorrectly said he faced murder charges.



TORONTO STAR
Children's Charities

Kindness Above All

The Toronto Star
Fresh Air Fund
GOAL \$650,000
How to donate:



With your gift, the Fresh Air Fund can help send thousands of kids to camp. These children will get to take part in a camp experience they will cherish for a lifetime.

■ **Online:**
To donate by Visa, Mastercard or Amex, scan this QR code or use our secure form at thestar.com/faf

■ **By cheque:**
Mail to The Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund, 8 Spadina Ave., Toronto, ON M5V 0S8

■ **By phone:**
647-250-8282
Tax receipts will be issued.

■ **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL:**
Instagram: [@torontostarchildrenscharities](https://www.instagram.com/torontostarchildrenscharities)
Facebook: [@thetorontostarchildrenscharities](https://www.facebook.com/thetorontostarchildrenscharities)
X: [@TStarCharities](https://twitter.com/TStarCharities)
LinkedIn: The Toronto Star Children's Charities
TikTok: [@torstarchildrenscharity](https://www.tiktok.com/@torstarchildrenscharity)
#StarFreshAirFund

INDEX

Sections
A News & Sports
B Business & Culture

Regular features, puzzles
Bridge, **B5**
Comics, **B7**
Crossword, **B8**
Deaths, **B10**
Horoscope, **A18**
Markets, **B1**
Opinion, **A13**
Scoreboard, **A17**
Sudoku, **B8**
TV listings, **B5**
Weather, **A18**

Columnists
Chisholm, **A14**
Elliott, **A9**
Feschuk, **A15**
Giustra, **B1**
Keenan, **A1**
Levitt, **A13**
Lisi, **A18**
Phillips, **A12**
Raj, **A5**
Steward, **A13**

HOW TO REACH US

MAIN RECEPTION
416-367-2000

CIRCULATION
Customer Service and Accounts Receivable: 416-367-4500
Toll-free: 1-800-268-9213
Email: circmail@thestar.ca
Manage your subscription online at thestar.com/mysubscription
View terms and conditions of your subscription at thestar.com/homedeliveryterms
Digital Access Customers email: starsupport@torstar.ca toll-free: 1-855-687-5915

EDITORIAL
Newsroom: 416-869-4300
News Tips: If you have a news tip for the Star, please call us at 1-800-331-8127

or e-mail us at newstips@thestar.ca.
Visit thestar.com/tips or scan this code for additional ways to send news tips, news photos or videos.



To send our journalists confidential documents more securely, visit thestar.com/securedrop

ADVERTISING
Advertise your business: 416-869-4242
Toll-free: 1-855-922-0371
Email: adinfo@thestar.ca
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
Classified: 416-777-7777
Toll-free: 1-800-268-8323
email: starad@thestar.ca
Death Notices: 416-869-4229
Email: deathnotices@thestar.ca

STAR ADVISERS READER PANEL
Join our Star Advisers reader panel at www.thestaradvisers.com

ADDRESS
Toronto Star, 8 Spadina Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M5V 0S8

ACCURACY
The Star’s Public Editor welcomes reader comments and information about factual errors in news and feature content in the Star’s print and online editions.
If you see a possible error, please

email publiced@thestar.ca, telephone: 416-869-4949
NEWSMEDIA COUNCIL
The Toronto Star is a member of the National Newsmedia Council, which is an independent ethical organization established to deal with editorial concerns.
For more information or to file a complaint go to www.mediacouncil.ca or call 1-844-877-1163 or 416-340-1981.

LOTTERIES

Monday midday
Pick 2: 9 6
Pick 3: 0 7 2
Pick 4: 9 2 18
Encore: 3022935
Keno: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23, 30, 34, 53, 59, 61, 62, 66, 68

Numbers are unofficial.
Full results at lottery.olg.ca

STAR EXCLUSIVE

Police have spent \$1.5M so far on 2026 World Cup

Expenditures include salaries, commemorative coins, Apple headphones

BEN SPURR
CITY HALL BUREAU CHIEF

With two years still to go until the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Toronto police have spent more than \$1.5 million preparing for the tournament, according to new figures obtained by the Star.

The Toronto Police Service (TPS) says the expenditures — which include officer salaries, security conferences, new police cars, commemorative medallions, computers and Apple AirPods — are all essential to their vital work ensuring Toronto safely hosts the World Cup. The city is staging six games for the global soccer tournament between June 12 and July 2, 2026.

But critics charge that details of the costs, which are paid for out of a city reserve fund and are separate from the annual net budget of the TPS, show troubling signs the tournament is being used to inflate already bloated police spending at the expense of other city priorities.

“You worry that it becomes a supplementary fund for the police ... to dip into to purchase want-to-haves, not need-to-haves,” said Anna Willats, a member of the Toronto Police Accountability Coalition. She called for more transparency around the force’s FIFA spending.

Willats said the expenditures warrant particular public scrutiny in light of the bitter fight over the 2024 TPS budget, when police leaders warned city officials that failing to approve an extra \$12-million increase to their \$1.2-billion operating budget would jeopardize public safety.

“We just went through this huge battle where they said every single dollar absolutely counts and is needed,” Willats said. “And it’s like, well, what is the need for these things?”

In an emailed response to the Star’s questions, TPS spokesperson Natalie Clancy stressed the enormous challenge of staging a security operation for a large-scale event like the World Cup, which requires rigorous planning and close co-ordination with domestic and international partners.

She noted that hundreds of thousands of fans are expected to descend on Toronto for the tournament, which will overlap with Pride and Canada Day. Through it all, TPS will have to continue providing day-to-day policing, while meeting security standards organizers expect of all 16 host cities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Every spending decision goes through “multiple layers of approval” and the force is ensuring “that all investments provide value in ensuring the safety and security of the World Cup,” Clancy said.

“We are committed to controlling costs, while ensuring a high level of preparedness.”

Toronto was officially named a World Cup host in June 2022. The



city has estimated the cost of staging six matches at \$380 million. Of that, about \$90 million is expected to be spent on safety and security.

The federal and provincial governments have pledged a total of just over \$200 million toward Toronto’s costs, and are expected to help pay for security, which will involve not only the TPS but also provincial and federal agencies.

Details of the TPS budget for the event haven’t been made public. The service said it has submitted yearly World Cup budgets to the city until the end of 2026, but the documents contain operational information and releasing them would compromise public safety.

The figures for the force’s spending to date, which the Star obtained through a freedom of information request, show TPS spent \$1.54 million on World Cup preparations in less than 18 months between November 2022 and mid-April 2024.

The majority of the spending, or more than \$1.2 million, was on salaries, benefits and premium pay for the TPS FIFA planning team, which now has eight full-time members.

One of the largest non-salary costs was the purchase in 2023 of three cars — two unmarked Chevrolet Equinoxes and a hybrid cruiser — at a cost of almost \$131,000.

Clancy, the police spokesperson, said the vehicles are used “for transport to meetings, site visits and other FIFA-related activities.” She said the force needed to buy new cars because all of its fleet was already committed to day-to-day duties. Like other equipment listed in the spending documents, she said the cars will be repurposed for daily TPS operations after the World Cup.

The police FIFA team also spent more than \$130,000 on conferences, business travel, training and development. That included a trip to Qatar during the 2022 World Cup, where TPS officers served as security observers, and a sport security conference in South Bend, Ind., earlier this year.

In February, two members of the team attended the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show in Las Vegas, which is put on by the U.S.-based Firearm Industry Trade Association. Clancy said the members went “to preview new and upcoming equipment and technology relevant to World Cup security.”

Smaller ticket items listed in the documents included about \$910 for an unspecified number of Apple AirPods — “To use with phones and computers while participating in FIFA meetings,” Clancy said — part of a larger spend of more than \$50,000 on computers and related hardware that will also be used for regular police duties once the tournament is done.

The TPS FIFA team also spent more than \$3,700 on “challenge coins,” or commemorative medallions popular in policing circles. In addition, the expenses list almost \$500 in purchases at the TPS museum, which Clancy suggested were for items like police mugs.

She said TPS members give such items to partner agencies as “standard gestures of goodwill.”

David Soknacki, the former city budget chief Mayor Olivia Chow has tapped to serve as her FIFA envoy, said it’s important to note that the \$1.5 million the police have spent so far is only a fraction of the games’ overall security budget.

But he said the documents show the importance of proactively controlling tournament spending because “we need to make sure that any warning signs that we’re seeing early are caught.”

Soknacki didn’t take issue with many of the expenses, much of which he said appeared justified, but he wondered whether it was necessary to buy new cars for meetings and site visits. “Can the meetings not be done remotely? Are there not cars available?” he asked.

He said he expected the TPS would offset the costs of any equipment purchased for the World Cup and later repurposed by reducing the force’s budget by an equivalent amount in the future.

The Toronto Police Service said every spending decision goes through “multiple layers of approval” and that the force is ensuring “that all investments provide value in ensuring the safety and security of the World Cup.”

NICK LACHANCE
TORONTO STAR
FILE PHOTO

HEALTH CARE

Ford calls on private clinics to help ease MRI, CT backlogs

ROB FERGUSON
QUEEN’S PARK BUREAU

Wanted: more MRI and CT clinics to ease waiting lists.

Eleven months after unveiling a controversial plan to move thousands more surgeries and diagnostic procedures out of hospitals, Premier Doug Ford’s government has put out a call for applications from private clinics.

Job one is applications for CT and MRI clinic licences to be issued in the fall, with separate calls for applications from clinics to provide gastrointestinal endoscopies and orthopedic surgeries to come this summer and fall.

Health Minister Sylvia Jones said the aim is to provide an extra 100,000 diagnostic scans annually, all paid for with patients’ OHIP cards.

“Increasing the number of MRI and CT scans being done each year is the next step we’re taking to reduce wait times ... ensuring people get the care they need, when they need it,” she said in a statement.

Opposition parties raised concerns the Progressive Conservatives are pushing more privatization in the health-care system instead of investing money in public hospitals, leaving room for investors to profit from medical treatments.

“I still hear (of) hospitals that are desperately fundraising ... to try to get an MRI,” said New Democrat Leader Marit Stiles, warning “we are seeing the dismantling of our health-care system.”

“We shouldn’t have a system like this, right? We should have a system where people can know they can show up and get the kind of care they need,” she added, referring in part to regular emergency room closures at smaller hospitals with severe staff shortages.

“People are showing up at emergency rooms only to find the doors closed.”

Liberal Leader Bonnie Crombie said the move is “just one more step in the privatization of our health-care system” amid increasing fears that “people will be going into these clinics with their credit cards.”

Her party’s health critic, MPP Adil Shamji (Don Valley East), cautioned there is the risk of patients being “upsold” in private clinics for scans or surgeries to the point where they will have to pay out of pocket for some services or extras they may not need but feel under pressure to buy at a vulnerable time.

Jones said Ontarians have been going to private X-ray and other clinics for years and said the goal is to shorten wait-lists for CTs and MRIs to 28 days. Applications for the clinics close Aug. 12.

MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

Little progress on calls for justice, critics charge

Indigenous leaders slam Ottawa, while federal report touts work on 88 initiatives in past year

JOY SPEARCHIEF-MORRIS
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA Five years after the release of a landmark report on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, the federal government continues to show little commitment to ending the crisis, Indigenous leaders told a news conference Monday.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) released that report, “Reclaiming Power and Place,” on June 3, 2019. Since then, only two of its 231 calls for justice have been fully implemented, said Assembly of First Nations National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, and there has been

“minimal to no progress” on the majority of the others.

Woodhouse Nepinak called that a “historic low point” in the federal government’s relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

“This failure is not acceptable to our people. I hope it is not acceptable to other Canadians either,” Woodhouse Nepinak said as the AFN released its assessment of the government’s progress on implementing the calls for justice. “Today, we are calling upon all governments to increase resources and recommit to these calls for justice.”

According to the AFN, only two of the final report’s 231 calls for justice have been fully implemented: adding Indigenous-specific provisions to the Corrections and Conditional

Release Act, and the creation of a deputy commissioner for Indigenous corrections.

On Monday, the federal government released its annual progress report for implementing the calls for justice.

That report said 20 government departments and agencies made progress on 88 initiatives and programs over the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024. It noted that the 2024 federal budget also proposed \$1.3 million over three years to co-developing a regional “Red Dress Alert System” that would alert the public when an Indigenous woman, girl or Two-Spirit person goes missing. That funding is in addition to \$2.2 billion committed by the government in its 2021 budget.

“This failure is not acceptable to our people. I hope it is not acceptable to other Canadians.”

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
NATIONAL CHIEF

Crown Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree said 215 of the 231 calls for justice are the responsibility of the federal government; of those, he said 107 have been “advanced” and 53 have been “broadly advanced.”

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh called the pace of the government’s progress “heartbreaking.”

“The Liberals have again and again showed a lack of urgency and a lack of response to these really important demands,” Singh said.

AFN Regional Chief for New Brunswick Joanne Bernard said the federal government has failed to provide the funding needed to implement the calls for justice, and that survivors and their families are demanding “meaningful action.”

Officer pleads not guilty

TRIBUNAL FROM A1

Throughout the day Monday, she sat quietly in her senior officer's uniform, at times covering her face with her hands.

If found guilty, she faces a penalty ranging from a reprimand to demotion or dismissal.

Calvin was not criminally charged for the collision but was ticketed for careless driving by a Traffic Services officer, whose body-worn camera captured him asking Calvin why he'd left the scene of a collision and telling him he'd "made a big mistake today."

"Like I said, you're very fortunate that you have family members who have helped this go away in the big scheme of things, right?" the officer can be heard saying.

The incident stems from a single-vehicle collision on Lake Shore Boulevard West, while Calvin was pulling out of The Boulevard Club, a sports and recreation facility, around noon on May 1, 2022. It was a rainy Sunday, and foot traffic was busier than usual because of a marathon, which had closed a west-bound lane of traffic on Lake Shore Boulevard West.

Surveillance video played Monday showed Calvin, in a white pick-up truck, turning left across several lanes of traffic into the eastbound lanes of Lake Shore Boulevard West. At the last minute, he appears to accelerate to avoid a fast-approaching westbound car; he then loses control of the truck, which slams hard into a light standard on the north side of Lake Shore Boulevard West. The truck was heavily damaged and the airbags had deployed, the tribunal heard.

Shortly after the collision, Schertzer — who was at west-end Toronto police 11 division, the station she headed — received a call from her daughter, also a Toronto police officer, advising that Calvin had been in a bad accident. Moments later, Schertzer arranged for an officer from 11 division to go to the scene and investigate the collision, which happened in neighbouring 14 division. She also drove to the collision herself.

The tribunal heard it is unusual for an officer to be dispatched to a call outside their division. When called to the witness stand Monday, the officer who attended the call, Const. Braden Doherty, said it was an "unorthodox" manner of being dispatched.

"Generally speaking, we handle incidents that occur within 11 division," the officer testified, later acknowledging that the incident was right on the border between 11 and 14 division.

Body-worn camera footage played at the tribunal shows that immediately after arriving on scene, Doherty was greeted by Schertzer. She quickly gave Doherty a rundown of



what Calvin said happened: a private security guard had waved him through to turn left but he'd had to suddenly speed up to avoid another vehicle, then lost control on the slick roadway, crashing into the light standard.

The account aligns with the surveillance footage captured by the Boulevard Club.

Doherty then briefly questioned Calvin, who had been sitting in Schertzer's car. He gave his account of the collision and told Doherty he is not injured but was rattled.

"I have to ask this, you haven't been drinking or anything?" Doherty asked.

Calvin replied he had not.

On the witness stand, Doherty said he was, all the while, observing Calvin specifically for signs of impairment and hadn't seen any, nor had he seen open liquor bottles in the truck.

In his opening statement, Hutchison had said he wanted to be clear that his position was not that Calvin was impaired at the time of the collision; the issue is instead whether impairment as a factor in the collision was able to be properly investigated.

After Doherty's brief questioning of Calvin, his body-worn camera then captured the officer saying to Schertzer that he was going to switch off his camera.

When he turns it back on, Doherty can be heard stating he has determined there was "no criminality" involved and that Calvin could leave the scene.

According to a police document outlining misconduct allegations, Insp. Joyce Schertzer, shown above in 2013, circumvented police protocol "to the benefit" of her family when she rushed to the scene of a collision caused by her nephew and "inserted" herself in the investigation.

ANDREW PALAMARCHUK
CITY CENTRE MIRROR/
METROLAND FILE PHOTO

Asked by Hutchison why he'd turned off his body-word camera in that moment, Doherty said it was simply to discuss the next-step logistics with Schertzer — specifically, that they needed to call in the Traffic Services unit. That was required because city property had been damaged in the collision.

Doherty said he believed he was allowed to stop recording for such conversations, but said "in hindsight I wish I hadn't" turned off the device, because it would show there was nothing nefarious discussed.

"There was no collusion," Doherty said.

Doherty later added, under cross-examination by Schertzer's defence lawyer, Joanne Mulcahy, that he hadn't been directed to come to any conclusion by Schertzer, who was his boss.

"She didn't influence you in any way, right?" Mulcahy asked.

"No, she did not," he replied, later adding that he would have charged Calvin if there were grounds.

Hours after the collision, Calvin was summoned back to the scene by Toronto police's Traffic Services, which had launched its own investigation.

"I have to ask: Why did you leave?" Const. Michael Clarke asked. "Why did you leave the scene after a crash?"

Calvin said he'd provided information to another officer and had been cleared to go home.

The hearing, expected to last through the week, continues Tuesday.

COURTS

Man jailed for refusing to implicate boy's killer

Defendant claimed his life would be at risk if he testified

BETSY POWELL
COURTS REPORTER

Less than a week after a jury acquitted a Toronto man of the first-degree murder of a 16-year-old, he is heading to the penitentiary anyway for refusing to identify the boy's killer while testifying in his own defence.

Salman Jogiyat, now 22, repeatedly explained in court that he wouldn't name names because he was afraid someone would order a transcript of his testimony and send it to jail, and that he would eventually be killed or badly hurt for being a "rat."

Superior Court Justice Ken Campbell was unmoved.

"By refusing to follow my direct orders about questions properly put to him, he was clearly guilty of contempt of court," Campbell said Monday reading his decision in a downtown courtroom.

"Indeed, his refusal to follow those orders strikes at the very heart of the justice system, and now compels the imposition of a significant penitentiary term of imprisonment for his blatant contempt of court."

The reluctance of witnesses to come forward and identify violent criminals has long baffled the criminal justice system, resulting in unsolved cases and leaving the families of victims in anguish.

And then there are also those who come to court and recant, or outright refuse to answer questions, such as the ex-girlfriend, mother and sister of a young man who shot up his infant son's birthday party in June 2021.

They're still before the courts facing perjury charges.

In the last few years, several accused men on trial for murder in Toronto have purported to identify the "real" killers by either naming someone who is dead, or by claiming to only know the perpetrator's street name.

In this case, after a six-week trial, a Toronto jury deliberated for approximately a day last week and acquitted Jogiyat of the murder of Nazirullah Abdulrashid. The teenager was seated in the front passenger seat of a white Honda Civic and was fatally shot multiple times by two assailants.

The car was stationed near the outdoor pool at 1 Leaside Park Drive around 10:40 p.m. on April 5, 2020.

The prosecution during the trial claimed Jogiyat, 18 at the time, orchestrated the murder. Jogiyat conceded while testifying that he was in the back seat and fired at the deceased twice in self-defence after an unsuccessful attempt on his life by the victim. He stated he fled the scene post-shooting.

Defence attorneys Hussein Aly and Humza Hussain contended, supported by a pathologist's testimony, that their client's shots were not the cause of death, and that Abdulrashid was killed by a third shooter outside the car.

When questioned about the identity of the other assailant and individuals involved, Jogiyat acknowledged his awareness of their identities but declined to reveal them, citing fears of being marked as a "rat" and concerns for his safety and potential harm in prison.

He also expressed concern for his family's safety and refrained from commenting on whether he had received any threats or had been assaulted.

"I cannot answer that question for you ma'am, I'm afraid for my life," Jogiyat responded to a Crown attorney asking if anyone had specifically threatened him in relation to his testimony.

Jogiyat is still awaiting sentencing on other matters. Last year, he was found guilty of conspiracy to unlawfully confine another person, possession of a prohibited firearm, robbery and attempted murder.

QUEEN'S PARK

Watchdog to probe ServiceOntario deal

Review prompted by Liberal MPP's concerns over financial arrangements

ROB FERGUSON
QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU

The government's move of nine ServiceOntario centres into Staples stores to offer longer hours and easy parking is being reviewed by the province's independent Financial Accountability Office.

Prompted by Liberal MPP Stephanie Bowman over concerns about the financial arrangements, the effort will compare "the costs and benefits" of the Staples deal compared with the alternative of continuing contracts with independent private operators, the office said.

"We welcome this," Public and Business Service Delivery Minister Todd McCarthy told reporters Monday.

"We're saving a million dollars over three years, and we're getting more convenience, more access, longer hours, weeknights to eight or nine ... all day Saturdays."

Liberal Leader Bonnie Crombie said she hopes the Financial Accountability Office can shed some light on the sole-sourced deal that was sealed without competitive



DOUG IVES THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

bidding. "We're wondering who benefits ... and why we're driving business into American big box international stores at the expense of small franchise, mom-and-pop businesses," she added in a reference to independent operators whose contracts were not renewed.

"This is very concerning."

Bowman (Don Valley West) said more information is needed on what she calls a "backroom deal" between Premier Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative government and Staples, which will benefit from increased foot traffic in its stores

The province's independent Financial Accountability Office says it will review the Ford government's decision to move nine ServiceOntario centres into Staples stores.

and possibly from taxpayer-funded renovations.

"We really don't know who's benefitting," said Bowman.

McCarthy has defended the contract as a pilot project and noted it is not a new concept because the province — even under a previous Liberal government — has been using retail partners such as Canadian Tire, IDA and Home Hardware for ServiceOntario locations for years to provide more convenience for customers.

Government officials said the savings in the deal are the difference between the estimated cost of \$10.2 million in operating the ServiceOntario outlets in Staples over three years versus \$11.1 million at their previous locations under independent operators.

No details or assumptions behind those calculations have been released by the government.

The Financial Accountability Office said it expects to report back early next year, but warned it may not be able to disclose some information about the deal if it is deemed "commercially sensitive."

Byelection may determine PM's future



**ALTHIA
RAJ**
OPINION

Conventional wisdom suggests byelections are a consequence-free way for voters to send a message to the governing party that they are unhappy. But the results of a contest this month in the riding of Toronto—St. Paul's may prove quite consequential.

If the Liberals do not win this riding on June 24, and it looks increasingly like that's a possibility, there will be immense pressure on Justin Trudeau to resign as their leader immediately — “within days,” a well-known Liberal suggested to me over the weekend.

So far, Liberal MPs have demonstrated no desire to show Trudeau the door, believing they are better off with him than without him. No one is organizing a putsch.

But a loss in Toronto—St. Paul's might change that calculation. “If we lose St. Paul's, maybe the knives come out,” a Liberal caucus member said of his colleagues.

Both Trudeau and Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre have spent time in the riding. Cabinet ministers have flocked there to knock on doors and make phone calls. Conservative shadow ministers have pounded the pavement, hoping to drive the vote out for the Tories.

What they've heard isn't pretty, for any of the leaders, and may reflect the general mood of the country.

People are tired of Trudeau. They dislike Poilievre. One person who knocked on doors reported Liberal voters feeling betrayed, and noted some planned to spoil their ballot. Others planned to vote Conservatives despite their disdain for Poi-



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Liberal candidate for Toronto—St. Paul's Leslie Church greet supporters last week. Insiders say Trudeau will be pressured to step down if they lose this month's byelection, Althia Raj writes.

lievre, who they see as “too partisan” and “too mean.”

Many didn't want to talk. In my 57 phone calls to the riding Monday, no one was ecstatic to chat.

“It would not at all be a surprise to see the Tories win,” Innovative Research Group president Greg Lyle told me, although “not by a large amount.”

Toronto—St. Paul's was once considered a bellwether riding. Barbara McDougall held the seat for the Progressive Conservatives in the 1980s under Brian Mulroney, but since 1993 it's been solidly Liberal. The outgoing MP, Carolyn Bennett, won the last nine elections with more than 40 per cent of the vote — including during the near wipeout experience known as Michael Ignatieff in 2011 when Liberal support dipped below 19 per cent nation-

wide. In seven of those contests, Bennett won by more than 50 per cent. In her most recent campaign, she won with 49.2 per cent; the runner-up, a Conservative, received just 25.3 per cent support.

But last summer, after more than 26 years in Parliament and eight as a cabinet minister, Bennett, then 72, announced she wasn't running again. In January, Trudeau appointed her ambassador to Denmark.

Leslie Church is now running to replace her. A former chief of staff to Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, Church doesn't have Bennett's deep roots in the riding, but her biography notes she went to law school at the University of Toronto, began her legal career in the city, got married and started her family there (she and her husband have

Fatigue with Justin Trudeau and the war in Gaza have made Toronto—St. Paul's a contest to watch

three children).

The Conservative candidate, Don Stewart, has lived in the riding with his two daughters since 2016. He works for the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization, according to his biography. His LinkedIn profile notes he spent one year working for Poilievre's key adviser Jenni Byrne's lobbying and government relations company as managing director.

With national polls showing a big double-digit lead for the Conservatives, this was always going to be a riding to watch.

Despite then having three — and now four — vacancies in the House of Commons, Trudeau called a byelection only for this riding. That meant the parties could throw all their efforts — and money and attention — into one contest.

But fatigue with Trudeau and the war in Gaza have made Toronto—St. Paul's a contest to watch.

“The Jewish community is pretty unhappy with the way the Liberals have been reacting to the war in Gaza,” Lyle believes. Census data from 2021 estimates 10 to 15 per cent of the riding identifies as Jewish.

Philippe Fournier, who runs the polling aggregator website 338Canada.com, said he hasn't seen any local polling that's been made public. While he thinks the Liberals should still be able to win the byelection by a four- to eight-point margin, he also believes it could all come down to turnout. “If Liberal voters stay home, they have no chance,” he said.

The Liberals seem concerned, with cabinet ministers tweeting out repeated reminders to vote at the residents of Toronto—St. Paul's.

Unmotivated voters are a hard group to bring out to the polls — especially when who forms the government isn't at stake.

But, in this case, who leads the Liberals might be.



tripcentral.ca

Travel Now

PAY LATER

- Pay in fixed monthly installments.
- Great interest rates!
- Pay off balance at any time
- No late fees



tripc.ca/paylater

877-230-8787
or visit us at **tripcentral.ca**

tripcentral.ca
The smarter way to book travel



Healthy is always on hand.

Open your freezer to many healthy meals made especially for seniors, delivered for free*.

Get your **free** menu!

Get your **FREE** Menu
1-888-444-1639
HeartToHomeMeals.ca

*Some conditions may apply.

HEART TO HOME MEALS
DELICIOUS MEALS MADE FOR SENIORS™

Federal Tories furious at MP's podcast remarks

Alberta member spoke on key social issues despite Poilievre's order to avoid topics

STEPHANIE LEVITZ
DEPUTY OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives are furious at a member of their own caucus for going off-side the leader's positions on hot button social issues — but also because Alberta Conservative MP Arnold Viersen spoke out about them at all.

Viersen's decision to discuss his long-standing positions against abortion, same sex-marriage and the legalization of cannabis on a podcast hosted by a Liberal MP is being described as just short of treasonous by fellow MPs, who've been told for months by Poilievre that any discussion of issues outside of the "core priorities" is off-limits without express approval from on high.

Why? The party is 20 points ahead in most polls, which many credit to a disciplined focus on economic themes. And although support may not remain that high through until the next scheduled election in 2025, the prospect of a so-called "bozo eruption" by one of the party's own ranks high among Conservative MPs and advisers' list of fears. Off-message outbursts on sensitive subjects were believed to have cost the Conservatives the 2004 election against a weakened Liberal government.

No Conservative MPs would go on the record with the Star to discuss Viersen's remarks, or to share their thoughts on his future with their team. But in response to questions about him, profanities, insults, heavy sighs, eye rolls and a fair bit of venting emerged — as did a statement from Poilievre that directly contradicted Viersen's positions and restated that none of them are now or ever will be party policy.

Poilievre also sought to remind the socially conservative wing of the party that he doesn't need it in his corner, unlike past Tory leaders who had counted on that voting bloc for support.

"I disagree with Arnold Viersen's statements and the positions he took on this podcast. They do not represent the positions of the Conservative party, or myself as leader," Poilievre's statement said.

"When I am prime minister, no laws or rules will be passed that restrict women's reproductive choices. Period. Canadians are free to love and marry who they choose. Same sex marriage is legal and it will remain legal when I am prime minister, full stop."

Poilievre pointed out that during his party's 2022 leadership race, he made numerous comments in support of same-sex marriage and

against any laws restricting abortion — and won the contest decisively.

Viersen made the comments on Liberal MP Nate Erskine-Smith's podcast Uncommons, ostensibly to discuss his work on protecting people from exploitation by pornographic platforms, which the pair have worked on together.

But about halfway through, Erskine-Smith switched to a probe of Viersen's well-documented socially conservative positions, among other things presenting him with hypothetical bills and asking how he'd vote. Viersen said he'd vote down gay marriage, and also against the legalization of cannabis.

He also restated his opposition to abortion. Viersen has introduced petitions in support of tighter controls on abortion and attended this year's anti-abortion rally on Parliament Hill, despite Poilievre's request to stay away.

After recording the podcast, Viersen told Erskine-Smith in an email that he felt ambushed by the interview and it wasn't a good faith discussion, a message Erskine-Smith read off the top of the podcast. The Liberal MP said he felt raising the issues was fair game, given Viersen's history of advocating against abortion in particular.

Nevertheless, the internal blowback against Viersen — and externally from the Liberals and New Democrats, who touted his comments as examples of what a Conservative government would do — came within hours of Erskine-Smith posting the podcast Friday.

The Liberals in particular have been pressing Poilievre recently on abortion, repeatedly accusing him of being against women's rights. Viersen's remarks added new fodder for those attacks.

By midday Saturday, Viersen had issued a statement noting his comments did not reflect Poilievre's policies, nor those of the party. He did not return a request for comment from the Star on Monday.

Viersen voted virtually on Monday on the Tories' latest motion against the carbon levy. Whether he will show up in person for what could be an exceptionally tense caucus meeting Wednesday remains to be seen.

It's also uncertain if Poilievre will mete out any punishment.

A few options are available, several Conservatives told the Star: Tory MPs could eject Viersen from their caucus using legislation known as the Reform Act; Poilievre could prevent Viersen from seeking reelection as a Conservative; or he could simply become a political pariah.

QUEEN'S PARK



Ford slammed over price of booze deal

Opposition leaders question premier's decision to spend \$225M despite health-care concerns

ROBERT BENZIE
QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU CHIEF

While Doug Ford maintains it will cost \$225 million to end the "master framework agreement" this fall with the Beer Store, critics argue the tab could ultimately be three or four times higher.

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE
TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

Under fire for what opposition rivals charge is a "billion-dollar booze boondoggle," Premier Doug Ford is firing back.

Ford is defending his decision to spend hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to liberalize alcohol sales a little more than a year earlier than scheduled.

While Ford maintains it will cost \$225 million to end the "master framework agreement" this fall with The Beer Store, owned by Labatt, Molson and Sleeman, critics argue the tab could ultimately be three or four times higher.

That's due to an additional \$375 million in rebates to the Beer Store as well as foregone tax revenue and a 10 per cent discount for the retailers that will buy products from the LCBO, which could cost the provincial liquor monopoly \$150 million a year.

"Everyone from the wine growers to the wine producers, the beer producers, they're all for it. The only people who aren't for it are the NDP and the Liberals," the Progressive Conservative premier told the legislature Monday.

"Each and every one of you, why don't you give us your word you'll never show up to a convenience store, you'll never show up to a retail store," he said, goading New Democratic and Liberal MPPs across the chamber floor.

"Never going to happen — never, ever going to happen."

NDP Leader Marit Stiles said "people are shaking their heads at this terrible deal" at a time when more than 2.3 million Ontarians can't find a family doctor.

"A billion dollars to get out of a deal that was going to expire in a year? Something doesn't smell right about this. We know it, the

people of Ontario know it. We're not going to stop fighting to find out more," said Stiles.

"This smells just like the Greenbelt," she said, referring to the Tories' \$8.28-billion land swap scandal now under investigation by the RCMP.

Liberal Leader Bonnie Crombie said all Ontarians should be paying attention to Ford's booze gambit since they are footing the bill.

"Let's be very clear what's happening here ... taxpayers' money is being used to expedite a deal one year," said Crombie, adding Ford is "using your money whether you believe the numbers are \$225 million (and) I think they're closer to \$1 billion ... it's your money."

"This is a billion-dollar booze boondoggle. This is a significant problem when we have priorities of Ontarians that are not being addressed," she said, pointing to the need for more doctors and other health-care professionals.

"Nobody is asking for more access to beer and spirits at the corner store. What they're asking for is access to a family doctor. Let's get our priorities right."

Green Leader Mike Schreiner said "the premier's putting booze before beds for hospitals."

"I mean, the fact you have 2.3 million Ontarians without lack access to a family doctor and this guy ... is wasting a billion dollars to put booze in corner stores one year early — it's outrageous."

With buzz about an early election next spring, a year ahead of the scheduled June 2026 vote, Schreiner said Ford is clearly under the gun.

"He's feeling the pressure of delivering on a promise that he's failed to deliver on for six years — and now he's willing to spend a billion dollars of our money to further his own political ends."

JEWISH SCHOOL ATTACK

Crombie slams premier for 'intolerant behaviour'

Liberal leader says it was 'wrong-headed' of Ford to suggest immigrants were behind shooting

ROBERT BENZIE
QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU CHIEF

Liberal Leader Bonnie Crombie is imploring Premier Doug Ford to be "a statesman" instead of rushing to judgment about who is to blame for an attack on a Jewish girls' school.

Ford has been criticized after suggesting immigrants were to blame for the pre-dawn May 25 shooting at North York's Bais Chaya Mushka Elementary School.

"You know something, I stick with what I said. We're tired of lawlessness from ... anyone, it doesn't matter if you're here, you're new, whatever," the premier said Friday.

That was the day after he had said "you're bringing your problems from everywhere else in the world, you're bringing them to Ontario and you're going after other Canadians," even though Toronto police have not yet identified two people sought in connection with the

shooting. Police have said it is still too early to determine if the shooting was hate-motivated.

Still, Ford said he was buoyed by calls and texts from the public in support of what he said.

"It's very, very clear. My phone is blowing up from every community saying you're bang on — 99.9 per cent of everyone gets along and that's what I believe in."

But Crombie said "the premier should be a statesman and should bring people together rather than divide people."

"This is a terrible tragedy and we are seeing a rise in antisemitism, which we should all be taking very seriously," she said, pointing out Ford has erred in the past by jumping to conclusions.

"I thought he would have learned about prejudging a situation from the Umar Zameer case. So once again, he's stepping beyond himself when he should be bringing com-

“Fighting hate with hate has never worked. Fighting anti-semitism with xenophobia won't keep communities safe.”

MARIT STILES
NDP LEADER

munities together and in times of heightened tension."

That was a reference to the premier's controversial denouncement of bail being granted for the man charged in the death of Toronto police Const. Jeffrey Northrup in the underground parking lot below Nathan Phillips Square in July 2021.

Zameer was acquitted by a jury in April of all charges. Ford did not apologize for his comments, but he said he was working with "limited information" when he made them.

Crombie said it's "wrong-headed" of him to be exhibiting "very intolerant behaviour" when hate crimes reported to Toronto police have risen sharply in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war.

Police said Friday antisemitic incidents jumped by 37 per cent last year with anti-Muslim incidents up seven per cent.

NDP Leader Marit Stiles said

Thursday she was "appalled by the premier's racist remarks" by suggesting immigrants were to blame for the shooting.

"Fighting hate with hate has never worked. Fighting antisemitism with xenophobia won't keep communities safe," said Stiles.

Green Leader Mike Schreiner said it was "dangerous and unacceptable rhetoric" from Ford in the wake of "an alarming and unacceptable act of antisemitism."

Amira Elghawaby, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's special representative for combating Islamophobia, said "legitimizing irrational fears, scapegoating or spreading unfounded conspiracies about immigrants, or any group, undermines social cohesion and safety."

"We can and should condemn antisemitism and the heinous acts against Jewish schools without fuelling further hate and division," said Elghawaby.

COURTS

Attacks on justices put democracy at risk, top judge says

Canadian Judicial Council head delivers stark warning regarding unfair criticism

TONDA MACCHARLES
OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA Canada’s top judge didn’t utter Donald Trump’s name when asked if he fears a spillover effect of his anti-judicial tirades on Canadians’ trust in courts. But he clearly does.

In an hour-long annual news conference, Richard Wagner, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and head of the Canadian Judicial Council, delivered a stark warning Monday about the risk to democracy of political attacks on the independence and impartiality of courts and judges.

Specifically, he took aim at politicians, media and social media commentators who criticize judges personally, or don’t read rulings before offering what he portrayed as lazy hot takes which fuel “disinformation” about courts and their decisions.

“Today, we are witnessing attacks on our judges and our institutions, something that we used to only see abroad,” he said.

“Even elected officials might participate in disinformation,” he said. “We did not see this before, elected officials criticizing decisions just because one specific federal government appointed the judge in question.”

Asked specifically about the impact of Trump, Wagner said only that he’s given up trying to make sense of political events unfolding south of the border during a presidential election year in which Trump — both the presumptive Republican nominee and now a convicted felon — rails against judges, prosecutors and anyone who opposes him.

“I will rely on you, the media, I will rely on elected officials, on specialists, experts, sociologists, psychiatrists maybe, to try to understand ... what we’re witnessing in some countries very close to us,” Wagner said.

Wagner noted there are differences in the ways American and Canadian judges are appointed and in the “ethical principles” that govern their legal systems. While he did not say the U.S. system is more politicized, he called on Canadian opinion leaders and influencers to protect judicial independence from unfair criticism and unwarranted attacks.

He was asked about a controversy in March, when a media report wrongly suggested the high court had advocated replacing the word “woman” with “person with a vagina” in its ruling on a sexual assault case — a notion that Quebec’s National Assembly then condemned and Conservative deputy leader Melissa Lantsman ridiculed in a social



Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice Richard Wagner took aim at politicians, media and social media commentators who fuel “disinformation” about courts and their decisions.

media post as “complete nonsense.” Wagner called it a “good example of disinformation” being spread.

“Someone, an elected official, saw an article, perhaps without checking out the original, and commented about a Supreme Court decision and gave it an incorrect meaning,” he said. Had they read it properly, they would have “understood that the Supreme Court would have never, in any circumstance, devalued the notion” of womanhood, Wagner said, speaking in French.

In that case, the high court had to rely on other traditional media outlets to set the record straight, he said.

Wagner could not say whether there has been an increase in threats against judges like himself, saying he’s not always informed of them and that he, like the governor general and prime minister, has personal security protection when he’s out in public.

But he noted a changed “climate,” including more security for cabinet ministers, and said since the so-called “Freedom Convoy” in 2022, “verbal violence has gone up, sometimes even physical violence that we didn’t see before.”

Wagner said he hoped the level of polarization and violence in the U.S. would not bleed across the border, and believes the rule of law and judicial independence remain respected in Canada, “but we should still pay close attention.”

Wagner listed other factors he worries will undermine public confidence in the courts, including ongoing judicial vacancies, lack of provincial funding to support the work of judges who juggle crushing case-loads and are facing burnout, and how the use of artificial intelligence has led to citing false precedents in cases before the courts — which has occurred in Canada and Europe.

On Monday, Wagner said he has seen “some improvements” in the pace of federal judicial appointments. As of June 1, he said, there were 57 vacant positions, compared to nearly 90 vacancies at the same time last year.

Update Downsview Study

Integrated Planning Act and Environmental Assessment Study - Notice of Study Completion



Issue Date: June 4, 2024

Notice Translation:

- French: Pour obtenir une traduction, veuillez composer le 3-1-1.
- Spanish: Por favor, llame al 3-1-1 para obtener una traducción.
- Italian: Chiama il 3-1-1 per la traduzione.
- Tagalog: Mangyaring tumawag sa 3-1-1 para sa pagsasalin.

The City of Toronto, Canada Lands Company and Northcrest Developments completed an Integrated Planning Act and Environmental Assessment Study (“EA Study”) to identify the location and requirements for transportation and servicing infrastructure to support the Downsview area (**For more information visit toronto.ca/UpdateDownsview**).

The EA Study followed the Municipal Class EA (2023) process and included three rounds of public consultation between June 2022 and October 2023. The EA Study informed the Master Environmental Servicing Plan (MESP), which supports the updated Downsview Secondary Plan and the Official Plan Amendment application submitted by Northcrest Developments and Canada Lands Company (lands shown on the map).

The recommended network identified by the EA Study includes:

- A connected, multi-modal transportation network for all transportation users;
- Two new east/west and two new north/south major complete streets, including two new crossings of the GO Barrie Rail Line;
- Safe walking and cycling connections, including two separate active transportation crossings of the GO Barrie Rail Line;
- Improved community access to the GO Transit and Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) networks;
- Water, sanitary and stormwater infrastructure that supports the long-term build out of the Downsview lands.

This EA Study addresses Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class EA process, and identifies projects that will require further study through additional Municipal Class EA phases.

In addition to the recommended network, the available capacities in the servicing network were analyzed and a potential upgrade option to the sanitary system surrounding the Downsview lands was identified along Wilson Avenue. Alternative upgrade options will be further studied and evaluated in the District Planning stage, which will include public consultation.

Opportunities for Review

The MESP has been placed on public record for a 30-day review period starting June 4 and ending July 4, 2024. **The full MESP and MESP EA Summary Report are available at toronto.ca/UpdateDownsview or by calling the City staff listed on this notice. A printed copy of the full MESP is also available at Metro Hall (22nd Floor Lobby), Downsview and York Woods Toronto Public Library branches.** Interested persons may provide written comments to our project team by July 4, 2024, addressed to City staff listed below on this notice, and we will attempt to find a mutually acceptable resolution.

Andrew Au
5100 Yonge St., Ground Floor
North York Civic Centre

Tel: 416-395-7163
Email:
Andrew.Au@toronto.ca

A request may be made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for an order requiring a higher level of study, or that conditions be imposed, only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered. Requests must include your contact information and be received by July 4, 2024.

Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (request for conditions or a request for an individual/comprehensive environmental assessment), how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights, and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request.

The request should be sent in writing or by email to:
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor, Toronto ON, M7A 2J3
minister.mecp@ontario.ca
AND
Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor, Toronto ON, M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

Requests should also be copied to the City staff listed on this notice by mail or e-mail. For more information on requests for orders under section 16 of the Environmental Assessment Act visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-part-ii-order>.

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. All comments will become part of the public record. Unless you request that your personal information remain confidential, all personal information included in a request for an order, may be made available to the general public by the Ministry under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act and/or s.37 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

GET UP TO

\$1500

Same Day Loan

in 4 hours or less

APPLY TODAY

Brokers Lamina

FEATURES

- Pay over 3 - 7 months
- Paperless | No credit checks
- 15 minutes to apply

Lamina.ca

1-844-356-5097

CAMPUS PROTESTS

Pomp and circumstance and a student encampment

U of T convocation goes forward despite ongoing demonstrations

RAJU MUDHAR
AND JENNIFER PAGLIARO
STAFF REPORTERS

It was a day of pomp and ceremony — but also protest.

On Monday, amid a major and ongoing demonstration on its campus related to the war in the Middle East, the University of Toronto welcomed graduating students and their loved ones for a ceremony to recognize their academic achievements.

It was a scene the school's administration had hoped to avoid.

U of T has more than 13,000 graduating students this year, with 34 planned ceremonies to take place at Convocation Hall between Monday and June 21. The university is in the process, meanwhile, of seeking a court injunction to clear protesters from the encampment that's now been in place for a full month at the university's King's College Circle.

The protesters are demanding the school divest from Israel.

The school had hoped to see an end to the protest before the beginning of convocation, but the court has chosen to move at a slower pace, with a hearing currently set for June 19.

On Monday, the first students to receive their diplomas were bachelor of arts graduates from the University of Toronto Mississauga.

UTM's acting vice-president and principal, Ian Orchard, acknowledged the ongoing conflict that had brought protesters to the school's doors while asking that the ceremony not be disrupted.

"We acknowledge the pain and suffering felt by those impacted by the conflict in the Middle East and yet today's ceremony is a time for celebration and a time for hope," he said.

The ceremony indeed went ahead without significant disruption, but that didn't mean there weren't signs of protest.

Several students walked the stage holding Palestinian flags big and small, wearing kaffiyehs and special stoles with the flag over their black gowns. One woman unveiled a handmade "Disclose & Divest" sign. Another's read "Free Palestine." Both turned them toward the school's chancellor and other dignitaries on stage as they passed, to cheers from the audience.

There were also a few professors wearing Palestinian flag pins on their robes, and many students expressed support for the protesters.

"I appreciate a lot of students who came and they wore their kaffiyeh and also a few had banners saying 'disclose and divest,'" said new graduate Jasmine Aden, 23, who had a Palestinian flag in her bouquet of flowers as she took pictures after the ceremony.

"There was a lot of support, and it's good to know people aren't alone in these times."

Derek Doan, 55, who works at U of T's registrar's office, was watching the graduates and families entering the building and noted some of the changes.

"Usually when it's nice, the graduates walk outside in the circle, but the last four years this area has been under construction, so this time, you know, I guess we were expecting going back to before the construction," said Doan.

"This is the first time I think they have used this entrance. It's the back door."

Outside the main door of Convocation Hall is Alumni Square, and the school had erected some fencing to obscure the view of the encampment and the grounds, where, usually, most students and families would be spilling out to take pictures after the ceremony.

"I think it's a bit sad that we can't take pictures on the grass, but we respect their freedom of speech and we can still take pictures elsewhere, so it's pretty fine for us," said Chermaine Liung, who had just graduated.

Families still took plenty of photos around Convocation Hall — and some took photos with the encampment in the backdrop.



COURT CASE

Video shows incident that led to encampment charge

ALLAN WOODS
STAFF REPORTER

Video of an incident at the University of Toronto that led to a pro-Palestinian protester being charged with assault casts new light on the encounter and, according to the man's lawyer, raises questions about the charges laid against him.

Hesham Aly, 36, was charged after another man tried last month to force his way past metal fencing erected around a protest camp on the grounds of the University of Toronto.

The incident took place May 9, about a week after the encampment protest had begun, and a report was filed by the university's campus security agents.

Aly was charged on May 24, and was publicly identified in a Toronto police news release last Wednesday.

The university's security report appears to attribute to Aly some actions taken by another individual involved in the encounter.

That other individual is seen in the video brandishing a glass liquor bottle and shouting obscenities at the alleged victim.

The encounter took place on a Thursday afternoon.

A father and his grown son arrived on bicycles at the University of Toronto's main campus, saying they intended to play football on

the grass field, according to a campus security report.

The report noted the father and son were not allowed past the blue metal fencing.

The video of the incident was taken by a protester and shared with the Star by the man's lawyer. It shows the father holding his telephone in front of him, recording the scene.

The fencing is guarded by Aly.

The father then holds his telephone in front of the faces of Aly and other protesters, saying: "All your faces are going on artificial intelligence ... Do you have anything else to say before you take this to another level?"

Aly is pushed off balance by the father's attempt to open the gates. In response, Aly is seen pushing the father backwards two times.

Two other people rush forward in reaction to the scuffle. One is a young man who wears a black hooded sweater and a black face mask. In his right hand, that young man carries an empty glass liquor bottle.

While walking away, the man with the bottle shouts at the father angrily. "Who the f--- asked you to be here, you Zionist c---sucker? Get out of here! You should be ashamed of yourself!"

A few seconds later, the man with the bottle walks away.

Aly is scheduled to appear in court July 9 at 2 p.m.

A graduating student chooses a spot for a photo following her convocation ceremony for U of T grads Monday. The event is being held against the backdrop of a pro-Palestinian protest encampment by students and faculty members, which has persisted for weeks despite a trespass notice and looming legal action.

CHRIS YOUNG
THE CANADIAN PRESS

ISLAMOPHOBIA

Muslims tell MPs about fear of living in Canada

'Heartbreaking to know that we are not supported'

MARK RAMZY
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA Following the 2021 terrorist attack that killed four members of a Muslim family in London, Ont., Liberal MP Shafqat Ali no longer felt it was safe enough for his hijab-wearing daughter to walk to school alone.

"That incident has put a lasting impact on every Muslim in Canada," the Brampton MP told parliamentarians Monday.

"I never felt that way before and my kids and family never felt that prior to that event."

Ali was speaking at a meeting of the House of Commons Justice and Human Rights Committee as it held its first hearing on a study of Islamophobia in Canada.

Witnesses, who included university students and a close relative of the Afzaal family — four members of which were killed in the gruesome truck assault — detailed the immense fear Muslims in Canada have felt since the terror attack, and how tensions over the Israel-Hamas war have exposed hatred for the Muslim community they say has not been adequately addressed by Canadian political leaders.

The study comes as MPs examine antisemitism and Islamophobia in Canada against the backdrop of the war in Gaza.

On Oct. 7, Hamas militants breached the border with Israel, killing around 1,200 Israelis and taking more than 200 hostages. In the months since, Israel's military campaign has killed more than 35,000 Palestinians and displaced around two million, spurring protests in Canada and an increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crimes.

On Monday, Muslim youth warned little was being done to address the hate their community has faced, as they warned against rhetoric vilifying pro-Palestinian voices that they argue is inextricably linked with the othering of Muslims.

"It's really heartbreaking to know that we are not supported, we are not protected," said Dareen Shilbayeh, who is a member of the Youth Coalition Combating Islamophobia.

Omar Babili, a student at the University of Victoria, said he was attacked at a demonstration in support of Palestinians by a counter-protester who shouted racist comments and told protesters to "go back to your country."

The experience left him with immense anxiety, he said.

"The whole experience has made me feel like I lost my right to express my beliefs freely and safely," he told MPs. "The lack of support from our elected officials and universities has reinforced this feeling."

Ali Islam, a relative of the Afzaal family, repeated calls for reforms to how the justice system deals with those who commit hate-motivated killings.

He also said the government's proposed Online Harms Act — which seeks to regulate harmful content on the internet — is an "overdue" step to tackle hate in the deeply polarized online world.

He said he often deals with hateful messages following media appearances to talk about his family — an experience witnesses who appeared at the committee to discuss antisemitism said they faced as well.

"I don't think putting out more facts is going to sway people who think otherwise," he said.

"There has to be a much more compelling reason for bringing all Canadians together, and that's the government's job to do," Islam added.

"We acknowledge the pain and suffering felt by those impacted by the conflict in the Middle East and yet today's ceremony is a time for celebration and a time for hope."

IAN ORCHARD
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA'S ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRINCIPAL

who died in Gaza. The vigil included a number of U of T faculty members who wore ceremonial robes. Encampment spokesperson Sara Rasikh said graduating students who are part of the encampment were "thinking about their friends and their families in Gaza."

"It doesn't feel like a joyous time to us," she said.

A number of high-profile Jewish organizations that said they've been granted intervenor status at the injunction court proceedings voiced their opposition to the encampment, meanwhile, at a news conference near campus earlier in the day.

"We would have hoped that Jewish students would be able to participate in convocation free from having an encampment that intrudes on their sense of joy and their sense of celebration — as all members of the University of Toronto community should be able to do," said Rabbi Seth Goren, chief executive of Hillel Ontario.

The University of Toronto has said it is taking extra precautions over the next three weeks to ensure the safety of grads and their guests.

The university has offered to use committees to study the prospect of divesting, but protesters have said the toll in Gaza of the current war demands swifter action.

WITH FILES FROM
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Let's not repeat the same old cycle



MATT ELLIOTT

OPINION

Big number: 75 kilometres, the total length of new bike lanes expected to be installed under Toronto city hall's 2022-2024 cycling network plan. The target was 100 kilometres.

June is Bike Month in Toronto, but city hall isn't necessarily giving cyclists a reason to shift their celebrations into high gear this year.

Sure, a new report on a plan for growing the city's network of bike lanes over the next three years tries to put a positive spin on things, but, by the numbers, the plan comes up short of real ambition. The 2025-27 bike lane plan approved last week by city hall's infrastructure committee and set to be considered by city council at their meeting later this month is, quantitatively, the same as the old plan, maintaining the same three-year target of 100 kilometres of new bike lanes installed over three years.

Also coming up short? The transportation department's work to install bike infrastructure approved in 2021 under the previous three-year bike network plan. The report says they're "on track to deliver 75 kilometres of the 100 kilometres of new bikeways committed by the end of 2024."

The report implies that's an achievement, noting that it represents an upward trend over the previous rate of installation, but, well, let's be real. In school, scoring 75 out of 100 generally earns you a B. It's not a failure. But it's not great either. It's just ... OK.

But then this is a report that seems OK with remaining on the



just-OK, "B" grade tier. There's no real sign of a different approach in the new plan. No major change to the slow and bureaucratic process for installing new bike infrastructure. And no greater ambition, like an increase to the 100 kilometres of new lanes over three years target.

And even that number is a bit misleading, because remember those 25 kilometres of bike lanes that were part of the previous plan but not built for whatever reason? They've been carried over and included in the new plan. So a full quarter of the new three-year plan is just parts of the old three-year plan that the city never got around to finishing.

It turns out there's a lot of recycling in this cycling plan.

And if it passes through council without any major changes, Mayor Olivia Chow's bike plan will be basically the same as former mayor John Tory's bike plan. Both will have targeted the installation of about 33 kilometres of new bike lanes per year.

Look, there's no denying that city hall has made some real progress

Toronto's new bike lane plan calls for the same three-year target as the old plan. There's no denying that city hall has made some real progress on installing bike infrastructure over the past few years, Matt Elliott writes, but there's also no denying that there is room to be more ambitious.

LANCE MCMILLAN
TORONTO STAR

on installing bike infrastructure over the last few years, but there's also no denying that there is room to be more ambitious — and to move faster.

And there should also be no denying that there are darn good reasons to be ambitious and move faster, like the mega-growth of Bike Share use, the need for commuter alternatives during Toronto's current extended construction chaos, and the fact that, tragically, four cyclists have already been killed on the road this year.

But the new bike plan rules out the sensible notion of looking at installing bike lanes whenever a street is due to be torn up for major reconstruction. Not possible, the report says, because "current capital funding and staffing levels" aren't high enough.

It also acknowledges that the scale of this bike plan will "fall below" the commitment council made in their TransformTO Net Zero climate change mitigation plan to increase the share of people who use their bikes to make short trips to work or

school to 14 per cent by 2030. (It was last measured at 5.6 per cent in 2016.)

The targets attached to that environmental plan were supposed to instil a sense of urgency across all city hall departments, but municipal staffers still seem reluctant to recommend plans that are truly bold to the mayor and council. I don't really blame them for it. Under Tory and former mayor Rob Ford, extra money was never available for truly ambitious plans. Muddling through with meagre resources was the reality. A "B" grade really was in fact a serious achievement under those conditions.

But there's a new mayor now, and she's an avid cyclist herself. Chow has an opportunity to create a bike plan bigger and bolder than the status quo. And the cyclists who supported her campaign have good reason to expect it.

So as Bike Month rolls on, there are lots of dates cyclists should have on their calendar. There's Bike to Work day on Thursday with a group ride to Nathan Phillips Square, where you can ride alongside the mayor. There's a waterfront ride on June 22. There are a bunch of pop-ups where you can get a basic bike tune-up, for free.

We may want to circle this Friday, June 7, too — that's the date when the TTC could go on strike, which I'd bet would inspire a lot of people to give bicycle commuting a try. That influx could make the gaps in Toronto's current cycling network even more glaring than usual.

But the most important date on the Bike Month calendar will be June 26. That's when Toronto council will start its meeting to debate this bike plan. That's when Chow and others have a chance to push for a plan — and a follow-through — that could get Toronto to better than a B grade.

'Expect delays' is the city way

OPINION: KEENAN FROM A1

As the Star reported Monday, while both sides are expressing hope that a resolution will be reached, a source with knowledge of the negotiations estimates there's a 50/50 chance of a total or near-total shutdown of the city's buses, streetcars and subways.

It's been a while — 16 years — since Toronto has experienced a transit strike. For a time, it seemed like one was always just ahead of us or just behind us — there were two in the 1990s and two in the '00s, frequently enough that the Star once asked if TTC union president Bob Kinnear was "Toronto's most hated man." But then transit workers were prevented from striking for more than a decade by a provincial "essential service" designation.

That was struck down by the courts last year, meaning the possibility of a strike is back. And we're out of practice.

People in Toronto like to complain about transit service at the best of times, but we might soon learn just how big a job the TTC is doing every day despite its shortcomings. The TTC provides about 2.5 million rides a day. That's a lot of people to suddenly be scrambling for another way to work or school or sporting events or medical appointments.

It isn't just the regular TTC riders who are affected, either. If a huge chunk of them suddenly try to get on GO transit, or hail cabs, or flood onto the roads in their own cars, it's likely to gum up everything. A 2008 city report estimated that back then, a TTC strike would cost Toronto's economy about \$50 million per day. We already have a tough time in this town getting from A to B. The nightmare could get exponentially worse.

As of early this week, authorities from the TTC, the city and GO Transit were claiming to have contingency plans in the event of a strike, but they weren't sharing exactly what they are. It's hard to expect that any such plans could be adequate to the challenge. Indeed, the TTC deputy CEO talking to the Star acknowledged a full walkout would be "devastating for this city."

So, be prepared for devastation.

But how? The uncertainty makes it hard for us regular folks to come up with our own personal contingency plans.

One silver lining of our horrific collective pandemic experience is that many of us have recent experience with figuring out how to get things done without having to travel anywhere. Just five years ago, video conferencing was something still kind of exotic. Now, Zoom and such remain part of our regular working lives. Wise workers and office managers who have the option are advised to think about scheduling some work-from-home days later this week and early next, to be safe.

If there is a strike, some of us may get off fairly lucky. I live in the central-ish part of the city and already have bike-able routes I sometimes take to work in a reasonable amount of time. If I'm forced to walk a bit more and a bit farther, it will be a hassle but it might even be good for me.

But I worry for any student, say, who lives in the west end and is attending summer classes at U of T Scarborough. Or a senior living in north Etobicoke who might have a long-scheduled medical specialist appointment downtown. Or a student with a summer job interview across the city. How can they plan to get where they're going in a reasonable amount of time?

One answer is whatever travel method they come up with, they should bank on the trip taking an absolutely unreasonable amount of time.

That isn't terrible advice even in Toronto's labour-peace status quo these days. A reader named Anita recently shared her experience of encountering a road sign advising people to "expect delays."

"It really was a perfect slogan for the city," she wrote. Indeed. "Expect delays" is what we do, nowadays: a way of life.

But as we hope for some 11th-hour negotiation breakthrough, we'd all better expect delays even more than usual. As we make alternate plans around the Toronto Rocket, best to build into them the wisdom of Elton John's "Rocket Man": "I think it's gonna be a long, long time."

People in Toronto like to complain about transit service at the best of times, but we might soon learn just how big a job the TTC is doing every day

TTC STRIKE Commuters urged to prepare as talks stall

DAVID RIDER
SENIOR POLITICS REPORTER

The union representing TTC workers says Torontonians need to prepare for a possible transit system shutdown Friday after little progress at the bargaining table Monday.

Marvin Alfred, president of Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, told the Star late Monday afternoon that his team continued to work toward a new collective agreement with TTC management but "we have not yet made the progress we need in order to prevent a strike."

"Negotiations are ongoing but we continue to prepare to go on strike ... people should be preparing to have us withdraw our services on Friday."

Alfred said the union is in "extreme preparation" for a work stoppage so that roughly 12,000 frontline staff, including streetcar, bus and subway drivers, can stop carrying as many as 2.5 million commuters per day and start carrying picket signs outside stations. There is nothing to prevent talks continuing Friday and beyond unless the union declares a strike or, in an extremely unlikely scenario, management locks out the workers.

Coun. Jamaal Myers, the TTC chair, did not respond to a request for comment Monday afternoon but earlier said he remained "very

confident" that a new contract will be struck before the system is shut down and Toronto is thrown into commuter chaos.

Torontonians haven't faced a TTC strike since 2008. The Ontario government, at the city's urging, made the TTC an essential service in 2011, removing workers' right to strike and sending contract disputes to arbitration. A court, however, last year struck down the strike ban saying it violated workers' charter rights. Previous TTC strikes saw the provincial government quickly pass legislation to force workers back on the job.

The two sides have bargained since February to replace the previous agreement that expired March 31. Alfred said Monday that job security remains a sticking point. The two sides have also been unable to agree on wages.

Shelagh Pizey-Allen, executive director of transit advocacy group TTCriders, said nobody wants to see a strike but, given recent service disruptions due to equipment problems, "it's not that TTC users aren't used to big unexpected disruptions." TTCriders is preparing contingency advice for commuters in case of a strike, covering everything from car pools to finding alternative child-care arrangements and switching to GO Transit where possible.

WITH FILES FROM BEN SPURR AND MAHDIS HABIBINIA

FAIRFAX FINANCIAL HOLDINGS LIMITED Notice of Dividend

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of C\$0.294313 per Series C Preferred Share, C\$0.198938 per Series E Preferred Share, C\$0.185125 per Series G Preferred Share, C\$0.207938 per Series I Preferred Share, C\$0.315313 per Series K Preferred Share and C\$0.312688 per Series M Preferred Share has been declared payable on June 28, 2024 to shareholders of record at the close of business on June 14, 2024.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of C\$0.51558 per Series D Preferred Share, C\$0.45320 per Series F Preferred Share, C\$0.47840 per Series H Preferred Share and C\$0.49667 per Series J Preferred Share has been declared payable on June 27, 2024 to shareholders of record at the close of business on June 14, 2024.

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

More hostages killed, Israel says

Military confirms deaths of four captives as government faces pressure to accept U.S. truce deal

JULIA FRANKEL

JERUSALEM Four more hostages kidnapped on Oct. 7 were declared dead by the Israeli military — including three older men seen in a Hamas video begging to be released. Monday’s announcement heightens pressure on the Israeli government to agree to a U.S. ceasefire proposal that could secure the return of the hostages still held in Gaza and end the eight-month war.

About 80 hostages in Gaza are believed to be alive, alongside the remains of 43 others. In the days since U.S. President Joe Biden announced the ceasefire proposal Friday, Israel has seen some of its largest protests calling on the government to bring them home. Although Biden said the proposal was Israeli, the Israeli leadership has appeared to distance itself from the plan, vowing to keep conducting military operations against Hamas until the militant group is destroyed.

All four of the men declared dead Monday night — Nadav Popplewell, Amiram Cooper, Yoram Metzger and Haim Peri — were kidnapped and taken into Gaza still alive, according to the Hostages Forum, a grassroots group representing the families of the hostages.

“It is time to end this cycle of sacrifice and neglect,” the group said following the announcement. “Their murder in captivity is a mark of disgrace and a sad reflection on the significance of delaying previous deals.”

The group called on the government to immediately approve the new ceasefire plan.

Hundreds of people, including relatives of the captives, gathered outside Israel’s Defence Ministry and military headquarters in central Tel Aviv late Monday, calling for a deal. Smaller protests took place across the country.

About 100 captives were released during a weeklong exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners in November. Three of the men declared dead Monday had female relatives who were released during



the exchange.

Israel’s military spokesperson, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the four hostages were killed while they were together, during the army’s operation in Khan Younis in southern Gaza. He said the four were killed months ago, but that recent operations allowed the military to gather enough intelligence to confirm the deaths.

Their bodies are still being held by Hamas, and the cause of death was not immediately known. Hamas claimed in May that the other hostage pronounced deceased, Nadav Popplewell, died after being wounded in an Israeli airstrike, but provided no evidence. Popplewell was over 50.

“We are checking all of the options. There are a lot of questions,” Hagari said.

Cooper, Metzger and Peri were all age 80 or older. They appeared in a video in December released by Ha-

mas under the title, “Don’t let us grow old here.” In the video, the three men appear gaunt, wearing thin white T-shirts.

“We are the generation who built the foundation for the state of Israel,” Peri said, noting that all the men had chronic illnesses. “We do not understand why we have been abandoned here.”

Cooper was an economist and one of the founders of Kibbutz Nir Oz, according to the hostages forum. Metzger helped to found the kibbutz winery and Peri built the community’s art gallery and sculpture garden.

Nir Oz was among the hardest-hit towns near the border with Gaza during the Hamas attack Oct. 7, when Palestinian militants stormed Israel, killing some 1,200 people and hauling around 250 hostages back to Gaza.

The news late Monday came after an announcement earlier in the day

A ball of fire and black smoke rises moments after an Israeli airstrike targeted a residential building in the city of Bureij, in the central Gaza Strip, on Monday.

AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

that the body of a presumed hostage, Dolev Yehud, 35, was found in a community near the Gaza border that Hamas militants had attacked on Oct. 7. Yehud was thought to be among scores of hostages held in Gaza until Monday, when the military announced the discovery of his body and said he had been killed in the initial attack.

Israeli bombardments and ground operations in Gaza have killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

Israel has been expanding its offensive in the southern city of Rafah, once the main hub of humanitarian aid operations. The Israeli invasion of Rafah has largely cut off the flow of food, medicine and other supplies to Palestinians facing widespread hunger.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO

Peso takes hit after election win

Potential constitutional changes by new president raising fears, expert says

MARÍA VERZA AND MARK STEVENSON

MEXICO CITY Hours after declaring victory, Mexico’s newly elected president, the first woman to win the job, faced a market meltdown Monday and a tough path toward reconciling a country deeply divided by outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Claudia Sheinbaum has promised to continue the political course set by her populist predecessor despite widespread discontent with persistent cartel violence, the weakening of democratic institutions and fears among investors that an already hostile environment might become much worse.

Hours after the election results were announced, the Mexican peso dropped over four per cent in value to close at 17.71 to \$1 (U.S.), and the Mexican stock exchange took a dive to close off six per cent.

Gabriela Siller, director of analysis at Nuevo Leon-based Banco Base, noted that Sheinbaum’s victory, along with an apparent supermajority in Congress for her Morena party, raised fears.

It “opened the possibility of changes in the constitution, which alters, or better put, deteriorates the risk balance of Mexico, causing capital to leave the country,” Siller said.

The strong peso — which has gained steadily against the dollar on the back of increased remittances in the last year — was something López Obrador counted as his own achievement. But analysts have suggested for some time the Mexican currency is overvalued.

With words like “capital flight”



Hours after Claudia Sheinbaum won the presidential election on Sunday, Mexico’s peso dropped more than four per cent.

MARCO UGARTE THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

and “black Monday” flying around financial markets, quick action to calm markets was urgently needed. But Sheinbaum’s team’s immediate reaction appeared muddled; they announced — and then quickly cancelled — plans for her to hold a news conference.

López Obrador appeared determined Monday to push through his highly divisive constitutional changes — many of which opponents fear will fatally weaken Mexico’s democracy — before he leaves office on Sept. 30.

The Morena party that López Obrador founded and in which he remains far more personally popular than Sheinbaum, appeared to be on track to win the two-thirds majority needed to change the constitution. López Obrador has already laid out 20 constitutional changes he plans to submit, including the elimination of independent oversight agencies and stricter lim-

its on private investment.

That worries foreign investors. López Obrador has already cracked down on private and foreign investment in the energy sector, and now wants to ban new industrial sites in any area of Mexico suffering water stress — essentially the whole, economically vibrant north of the country.

But other political provisions also worry and divide Mexicans.

“The climate of political polarization has gotten worse during the current administration,” Moody’s Analytics Director Alfredo Coutiño wrote in a report Monday. “The country is significantly divided and will require the new president’s political leadership to restore national unity.”

Sheinbaum appeared conscious of the need to heal divisions, but it was unclear how she might go about achieving it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“The possibility of changes in the Constitution ... deteriorates the risk balance of Mexico, causing capital to leave the country.”

GABRIELA SILLER DIRECTOR OF ANALYSIS AT BANCO BASE

WORLD BRIEFS

CUBA

Canadians hurt in bus crash

A bus carrying Canadian tourists was involved in a collision in Cuba near Santa Clara Airport on Sunday that left one dead and 26 injured, Air Transat said. The airline confirmed that a bus from one of their transport partners, carrying 38 people who were to board a flight to Montreal, crashed into a vehicle that lost control causing the bus to overturn.

UNITED STATES

Senators won’t back Biden picks

Eight U.S. Republican senators say they won’t vote to confirm any of U.S. President Joe Biden’s nominations for federal judges in retaliation for a New York jury finding Donald Trump guilty of falsifying business records to hide hush money payments to a porn star. Their declaration, issued Friday after the Manhattan jury’s verdict against Trump, could spell doom for Biden’s nomination of a widely respected Florida attorney, Detra Shaw-Wilder, as a federal judge in Miami.

Alex Jones keeps show amid cases

After a weekend in which conspiracy theorist Alex Jones warned that his media company faced an imminent shutdown by the government because of his bankruptcy cases, a judge on Monday allowed Jones to keep operating for the next two weeks while it is decided whether his assets should be liquidated.

STAR WIRE SERVICES

WHERE NEW
DISCOVERIES
CREATE NEW
POSSIBILITIES.

» TORONTO STAR «

FRESH AIR FUND

SINCE 1901



Help send kids to camp.



You'd be surprised how big an impression camp can make. It's an experience that lasts a lifetime that many kids don't have access to. With your support, the Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund provides opportunities for financially vulnerable children to build life-changing friendships and civic bonds while learning invaluable life skills. Not to mention igniting a lifelong love for adventure. Above all, your kindness makes it happen.



Donate today.



2024 Goal: \$650,000

Online: to donate by credit card, scan the QR code or visit thestar.com/faf

By Cheque: mail to: Toronto Star Children's Charities, 8 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, ON M5V 0S8

By Phone: call 647-250-8282



TORONTO STAR
Children's Charities

Kindness Above All

OPINION

TORONTO STAR, ESTABLISHED 1892 — JOSEPH E. ATKINSON, PUBLISHER 1899 - 1948

JORDAN BITOVE PUBLISHER

ANNE MARIE OWENS EDITOR JORDAN HIMELFARB OPINION EDITOR

NICOLE MACINTYRE DEPUTY EDITOR

GRANT ELLIS MANAGING EDITOR, DIGITAL & MULTIMEDIA

DONOVAN VINCENT PUBLIC EDITOR

IRENE GENTLE VP INCLUSION & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Mexico leapfrogs U.S. and Canada in electing women



ANDREW PHILLIPS
OPINION

With the politics of the United States in disarray, to say the least, let's look a bit further for a glimmer of hope.

Mexico, renowned (and sometimes stereotyped) for its macho culture, has just elected a woman as president. Claudia Sheinbaum, who will take office on Oct. 1, is Jewish to boot.

How does it happen that Mexico, of all places, where women didn't even win the right to vote until 1953, has chosen a woman as president before the United States, where women have had many more rights for much longer? (Canada, of course, has had a female prime minister but there's a big asterisk by Kim Campbell's name. Her 132 days in office in 1993, let's face it, were more of a footnote than a true breakthrough.)

In fact, Mexico has leapfrogged both its northern neighbours in sheer numbers of women in elected office in the past decade or so.

Sheinbaum's main rival for the presidency, Xóchitl Gálvez, was also a woman. Mexicans had gotten used to the idea of a female president and gender didn't play much of a role in the campaign. Fifty per cent of the members of Mexico's Congress are female and 10 of the country's 32 states are governed by women.

In the U.S., by contrast, only 27 per cent of the House of Representatives is female, as are 12 out of 50 state governors. Canada does a touch better in the House of Commons, where 30 per cent of MPs are women. But these days there's just one lonely female premier (Danielle Smith in Alberta) — a big decline from that brief moment in 2013 when six out of 10 premiers were women.

I'm no expert in Mexican politics but I did cover the presidential election there in 2000 when an opposition candidate, Vicente Fox, won for the first time since the country's revolution almost a century before. The pent-up demand for change was palpable. Old political barriers began to crumble and women pushed for a share of power.

They convinced their Congress to set quotas for female candidates for elected office, starting at 30 per cent. By 2019, under outgoing president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Mexico adopted a constitutional amendment mandating "parity in everything" — not just elected positions but key posts in the government and judiciary as well. It makes Justin Trudeau's gender-parity cabinet look a lot less revolutionary by comparison.

Still, her gender is likely to be the least controversial thing about Sheinbaum. She's 61, a climate scientist with a doctorate in energy engineering, and a contributor to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that won a Nobel Prize in 2007.

She was mayor of Mexico City and a close supporter of López Obrador, to the point where the biggest question that seems to be asked about her presidency is how different from him she'll turn out to be once she takes office.

That's far from clear. López Obrador (universally known as AMLO) created his own party, Morena, in 2014 and governed mainly from the left by rejecting so-called "neo-liberalism." Under him minimum wages were doubled and millions of Mexicans were lifted out of poverty.

But AMLO's record was decidedly mixed. He disappointed leftists by embracing fiscal austerity and put the military in charge of important parts of the economy in the name of fighting corruption. He undermined the independence of the judiciary and displayed what his critics call a troubling tendency toward authoritarianism.

At the same time, he failed to bring Mexico's soaring crime and murder rate under control or to tame the country's powerful drug cartels. Dozens of candidates for political office have been murdered over the past year, many because they fell foul of the cartels. Dozens of journalists have also been killed for trying to expose cartel power. AMLO tackled crime by focusing on root causes rather than enforcement — a policy he famously labelled "abrazos, no balazos" (hugs, not bullets). It's been mostly a failure.

Now it's Sheinbaum's turn to show if she can do better. By all appearances her gender won't play much of a role. And that, perhaps, is true progress.

ANDREW PHILLIPS IS A TORONTO-BASED STAFF COLUMNIST. REACH HIM VIA EMAIL: APHILLIPS@THESTAR.CA



YURI CORTEZ AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES
A passer-by takes a photo of newspaper front pages Monday in Mexico City showing Claudia Sheinbaum's victory in Sunday's presidential election.



THEO MOUDAKIS FOR THE TORONTO STAR

LETTERS

Remember the victims, not just the monster

Robert Pickton, one of Canada's most notorious serial killers, dead at age 74, May 31

There have been many headlines with Robert Pickton's name. But we must remember his known victims, for which he was convicted of second-degree murder: Sereena Abotsway, Mona Lee Wilson, Andrea Joesbury, Brenda Ann Wolfe, Georgina Faith Papin and Mar-nie Lee Anne Frey. He was also charged with first-degree murder (though these were stayed) of: Jacqueline Michelle McDonnell, Dianne Rosemary Rock, Heather Kathleen Bottomley, Jennifer Lynn Furminger, Helen Mae Hallmark, Patricia Rose Johnson, Heather Gabri-elle Chinnock, Tanya Holyk, Sherry Leigh Irving, Inga Mo-nique Hall, Tiffany Louise Drew, Sarah Jean de Vries, Cynthia "Cindy" Feliks, Angela Rebecca Jardine, Diana Mel-nick, Debra Lynne Jones, Wendy Crawford, Kerry Lynn Koski, Andrea Fay Borhaven and Cara Louise Ellis. Pickton was also implicated, but not charged, in the deaths of Mary Ann Clark, Yvonne Marie Boen and Dawn Teresa Crey. They can now rest in peace.

Trucilla Macedo, Thornhill

Tinted plates are just more 'shady' police behaviour

Toronto cop allegedly initiated off-duty 'road rage' incident, threatened criminal investigation, May 25

Your article states the Toronto police officer's private vehicle was a "black BMW with heavily tinted windows and tinted li-cence plate cover." Tinted li-cence plate covers are illegal in Ontario. Const. Michael Kiproff must believe he is above the law and thus, should not be a police officer.

Grant Seifred, Burlington

Mixed reaction to Carney as next Liberal leader

Some Liberals think Mark Carney could succeed Justin Trudeau, June 1

Mark Carney is a business per-son. He has no political experi-ence. If he wants to get into politics he should probably work his way up, rather than starting right at the top. With his background he could be a

possible future finance minis-ter, as long as he doesn't turn out to be another Bill Morneau. Carney should take the stairs and learn the political process, not just hop on the elevator up to the political penthouse.

Douglas Cornish, Ottawa

It made my heart sing when I read about the possibility of Mark Carney being the next Liberal leader and hopefully, prime minister. The country needs somebody of Carney's calibre and character. He got England through Brexit so I am sure he can bring Canada back from the brink of total disaster. We need somebody with com-mon sense to get things back to the way they were when I came here in 1969, like our immigra-tion policies. We also need a prime minister who knows that the books don't balance them-selves. I wish Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had been taught that trick. There is not one person in the present Lib-eral government that I would vote for.

Marian Hogan, Mississauga

I would like to submit Chrystia Freeland as a potential candi-date for the post of Liberal lead-er, if she is interested in the job. I believe that she is qualified and would be a good choice.

Randall Warren, Ajax

There is increasing public pres-sure for Justin Trudeau to re-sign his post as Liberal leader and be replaced by a Liberal who could overcome Conserva-tive Leader Pierre Poilievre's substantial polling leadership before the next election. To suc-ceed, the replacement will need to have previous parliamentary leadership and the debating skills to overcome those of Poi-lievre and his deeply troubling agenda.

There is no one with greater skills in both areas than Bob Rae, the federal Liberals' for-mer interim leader, who in 2011 was voted as Parliamentarian of the Year. Despite the need to cease his outstanding work in elevating Canada's internation-al standing as at the UN, his capacities to achieve a Liberal victory in the forthcoming elec-tion remain unmatched.

Tim Armstrong, former deputy minister

Columnist shows banker's vision for better Canada

Five things we learned from a new book about Justin Tru-deau: Delacourt, June 2

Thanks to columnist Susan De-lacourt for an inspiring, thought-provoking article. Mark Carney is presenting an

inclusive, equitable solution demonstrating what life in Can-ada could be. This is a sustain-able approach to dealing with a conglomerate of crises (hous-ing, climate, health care) that we are facing today. Bravo for Carney's vision for a better Canada!

Shari Baker, Toronto

Mississauga confused on lawn and order

This Mississauga man fought the city's weeding bylaws in court. He's part of Ontario's growing fight against lawn enforcement, June 1

The province of Ontario has a list of noxious weeds which can lead to enforcement if the land owner doesn't take steps to con-trol them. Among them are rag-weed, bull thistle and Canada thistle. Ragweed in particular is a real problem for the many people who are allergic to the pollen. I challenge the City of Mississauga to send a horticul-turist around their own proper-ties, checking for ragweed and thistles. Our cities should look to the plank in their own eye before harassing those with a piece of sawdust in theirs. As a dedicated gardener who is building a pollinator habitat at home and at my community garden, I hope that Wolf Ruck wins and doesn't go broke in the process!

Fiona Hill, Burlington

Cheers and bravo to Wolf Ruck, who is way ahead of most of us. We need natural areas, not pes-ticides and "perfect lawns." How can so many not realize that what Ruck is doing is something that needs to hap-pen? Amazing how even in To-ronto they roll out plastic lawns with zeal. Something is very wrong with the thinking.

Marjut Nousiainen, Toronto

Graffiti is a real problem across city of Toronto

I'd like to make a complaint about the epidemic of graffiti and tags defacing the city's walls and public structures. I have had visitors from other cities say they feel that graffiti and tags have destroyed the city's beauty. Stronger laws are re-quired or at least a permitting process. People that refuse to obey the law could be fined or forced to repaint the walls or structures that have been de-faced. It would be difficult to police but existing surveillance technology could be used.

Ted Shewchuk, Toronto

U.S. finally facing a residential school reckoning

CINDY BLACKSTOCK
CONTRIBUTOR

Deb Haaland, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and first Native American to oversee the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has spent millions in recent years on projects to uncover and expose the legacy of Indian boarding schools in the U.S.

Like residential schools in Canada, the Indian boarding schools stripped generations of Indigenous children from their families, robbed them of their native languages, and exposed them to rampant physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Many children died.

According to a recent investigation by the Washington Post, Haaland's efforts are partially inspired by the Canadian government's recent work on residential schools.

That's ironic because the Canadian residential school system was originally inspired by the American boarding school system.

In 1879, John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, sent MP Nicholas Davin to Pennsylvania to investigate the Carlisle Indian Industrial School for Native American children. The "school," headed by Richard Henry Pratt, a Civil War general who coined the adage "kill the Indian in him and save the man," took much from Pratt's experience running military prisons. It was more like a re-education camp than a school. Conditions were brutal, abuse was rampant.

Pratt separated children from their families. He stripped them of their names, cut their hair, forcibly converted them to Christianity and banned all vestiges of their Native American cultures and languages. Davin was impressed. His subsequent report was warmly received by Macdonald and set the stage for the opening of Canada's first three residential schools.

So the U.S. was the birthplace of the residential school system, but it was Canada that took the first steps toward truth and reconciliation. That's not because of bold government action. It's because courageous residential school survivors sued the Canadian government and the churches that ran the schools and eventually forced the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

Thousands of survivors testified at the TRC about the sexual, physical and spiritual abuse they suffered in residential schools. The subsequent TRC report included 94 calls to action, a plan for Canada to learn from the past while addressing contemporary injustices.

The U.S. is now looking to that process as a guide. That is mostly a good thing. But there are lessons from the Canadian process Haaland should heed.

For one thing, survivors should not have to force the U.S. government to accept accountability. A full ventilation of the historical record before the American people, in the schools and in the media, should be a given, not a fight.

The estates of children who died at boarding schools should be compensated and the repatriation of their remains supported. (The Canadian government has consistently refused to compensate the relatives of children who died in residential schools, instead offering payments only to those who survived.)

Financial compensation is crucial, but it must be accompanied by proper supports, so the money is life enhancing, not life ending.

Class action lawyers should be closely monitored to ensure there is no exploitation or cashing in on the suffering of survivors. (Frankly, lawyers should represent boarding school survivors on a pro-bono basis because the legal profession was, and remains, one of the chief architects of the colonial system.)

More than 35,000 Native American children attended U.S. boarding schools like Carlisle. Native American communities are beginning to repatriate the children who died there back to their homelands. But the \$21 million (U.S.) pledged by Haaland, whose own great-grandfather was taken to the Carlisle, is not enough to ensure a meaningful process led by Native American people and boarding school survivors.

Haaland and Native American communities face an additional challenge — the deafening silence of most American politicians, mainstream media and school curriculums on the histories, contributions and rights of American Indians.

My plea to Secretary Haaland: the Indian residential school survivors courageously shared their truths so their grandchildren would not have to suffer. The residential schools are closed, but that suffering continues. Any process aimed at righting the wrongs of the Indian boarding school era must be comprehensive and aimed as much at the present and the future as at the past.

Clean drinking water is reconciliation. Proper funding for health, education and social services is reconciliation. Recognition and affirmation of Native American rights is reconciliation.

The U.S. has a chance to make sure that the Indian boarding school survivors' calls to action are, well, actioned. That would set a great example for Canada to follow.

CINDY BLACKSTOCK IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY CARING SOCIETY OF CANADA.



JEFF MCINTOSH THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Of course, the petroleum industry isn't keen on reducing its output and putting itself out of business, Gillian Steward writes, just as the tobacco industry wasn't keen on letting people know that cigarette smokers were likely to die from lung cancer or heart disease.

Big Oil, Alberta fight ad ruling



GILLIAN STEWARD
OPINION

If you are old enough to remember when smoking was allowed in theatres, airplanes and restaurants you might also remember the tobacco industry's advertising campaigns.

Some ads claimed smoking could actually be good for a person. There were even ads claiming pregnant women "craved" cigarettes; that doctors preferred Camels. No mention of lung cancer or heart disease, even though the industry knew smoking could kill you.

When medical science publicly fought back with evidence that proved the link between smoking and lung cancer, the tobacco industry claimed it wasn't "sound" science. Only their science was "sound" science.

It's this kind of dangerous propaganda that the federal government is no doubt hoping to curtail with amendments to the Competition Act, which will establish policing of

claims made by businesses that stretch the truth or downright lie about their "green" credentials.

Not surprisingly, the Alberta government is outraged because it sees the legislation as an attack on the oil and gas industry.

But there is good reason to doubt some of the industry's claims.

Just last week a leaked investigation by Ads Standards Canada, a self-regulatory organization, unanimously found that two wrap-around newspaper ads sponsored by Canada Action Coalition gave an "overall misleading impression that B.C. LNG is good for the environment, amounting to greenwashing"

Canada Action Coalition is a non-profit that describes itself as grassroots supporters of the oil and gas industry, although it has received large donations from industry players.

It's been well documented that many of the same people who devised those misleading propaganda campaigns for the tobacco industry later moved on to work for the petroleum industry. In the 1990s it was desperate to downplay emerg-

ing evidence that carbon emissions from fossil fuels were causing the planet to heat up.

As part of the campaign U.S.-based ExxonMobil paid for front organizations that had official sounding names such as The Advancement of Sound Science Coalition to question the science, seed doubt, or completely deny climate change was even a real thing.

In 2007, the U.S.-based Union of Concerned Scientists released the results of an investigation that showed "ExxonMobil has adopted the tobacco industry's disinformation tactics, as well as some of the same organizations and personnel, to cloud the scientific understanding of climate change and delay action on the issue."

In April, Democrats on a U.S. congressional committee investigating the oil industry revealed documents that showed it is still using those same tactics.

Maybe Rebecca Schulz, Alberta's environment minister, has never heard about any of this. Or maybe she thinks Canada's oil industry is somehow different. Or that it is her job to defend the petroleum industry no matter what, even though she is the *environment* minister. She called the greenwashing rules "an undemocratic gag order" that must be stopped even if the government has to use the Alberta Sovereignty Act.

The jargon, data, and science of global warming are complicated enough. Throw in some half-truths or complete fabrications and it's no wonder many people are confused about the actions that need to be taken if we are to drive down the carbon emissions that are turning the planet into a hothouse.

Reducing our dependence on oil and natural gas is top of the list. Burning those fossil fuels in our cars or furnaces means we keep spewing more and more carbon into the atmosphere. If we keep doing that we can expect heat waves, wildfires, droughts and floods to plague the planet and all living things well into the future.

Of course, the petroleum industry isn't keen on reducing its output and putting itself out of business, even if that would save the planet. Just as the tobacco industry wasn't keen on letting people know that cigarette smokers were likely to die from lung cancer or heart disease.

Despite its deceit, we all know what happened to the tobacco industry.

GILLIAN STEWARD IS A CALGARY WRITER AND JOURNALIST, AND FORMER MANAGING EDITOR OF THE CALGARY HERALD. SHE IS A FREELANCE COLUMNIST FOR THE STAR.

Canada not immune to antisemitism



MICHAEL LEVITT
OPINION

When will it stop? Is an end in sight? Just when we want to believe we've seen the worst in antisemitism in Canada and hope that the surge in anti-Jewish hate crimes and related incidents that began after Oct. 7 will subside, we're hit with a fresh reality check.

Indeed, it's now almost as if each new day brings more troubling headlines for Canada's Jewish community about yet another disturbing antisemitic action.

Events of recent days are a stark example. Last Thursday night, a synagogue in Vancouver became one of the latest Jewish targets to be violently attacked. Vancouver police are now looking for the person who set fire to the front doors of the Schara Tzedeck Synagogue, one of the city's oldest Jewish congregations. Fortunately no injuries were reported and little damage was caused. However, the arson attack's significance and the danger it represents shouldn't be minimized, especially as it comes amid an unprecedented level of anti-Jewish rhetoric and hate incidents in Canada since Oct. 7.

As Canada's Special Envoy for Combating Antisemitism, Deborah Lyons, so aptly said in response to the synagogue attack: "Incendiary rhetoric leads to incendiary violence."

Just think of what easily could have happened had the flames spread and burned the Vancouver synagogue to the ground. Just think of the other firebombing and shooting attacks against Jewish buildings in Canada over the past eight months alone, not to mention the torrent of other antisemitic incidents across the country.

Add them all up and you have a litany of heinous actions of dizzying proportion that reflects poorly on what we want to believe about our country.

Such is the current frequency of anti-Jewish actions that each new incident is soon overtaken by news of the next.

Case in point: The May 25 shooting that targeted the Bais Chaya Mushka Elementary School in Toronto followed 72 hours later by a similar attack against Montreal's Belz Yeshiva Ketana, a school housed in a synagogue, are now both overshadowed by last Thursday's firebombing of the Vancouver synagogue. I shudder to think what's next.

Worryingly, the fact that antisemitic attacks have now become so common makes them, on one level, less "shocking" to some people. Heaven forbid non-Jewish Canadians become desensitized to such heinous acts and that antisemitism becomes almost normalized.

In such a situation, we would be facing an even more ominous reality than we're living through today.

To be sure, we must remain clear-

eyed. One never wants to overreact but it's anything but hyperbole to say that what's happening now on our streets and on university campuses is nothing short of alarming, made even worse by the lack of response from those in positions of authority to this vile scourge of antisemitism.

As a Jewish community, we've spent years, if not generations, looking at other places in the world and thinking, my goodness, thank God we live in Canada, as we viewed with dismay unabashed, even deadly, anti-Jewish hate in the streets of Europe and elsewhere.

But now we see similar antisemitism happening here, in our own backyard. For us, it's no longer distant or theoretical. Clearly, Canada has no immunity from this age-old virus. We too have become a global hot spot for antisemitism.

Our country is now part of the cautionary tale of antisemitism going unchecked. Whatever fear and anxiety the Jewish community may be feeling, we cannot and will not be quiet, neither collectively nor as individuals. Silence is not an option, especially given the void in leadership of so many public officials.

It's the responsibility of Jews and non-Jews alike to demand from our political and civic leaders urgent, concrete actions to fight antisemitism before it leads to more dire, even tragic, consequences.

What's at stake for our country cannot be overstated. If you think I'm exaggerating, I urge you to reflect on the dark lessons history has taught us.

MICHAEL LEVITT, A TORONTO-BASED FREELANCE CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST FOR THE STAR, IS THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES (FSWC) AND THE FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR YORK CENTRE.

SPORTS

NHL PLAYOFFS, A16
CFL, A16
FRENCH OPEN, A17

BLUE JAYS



Orioles ride early home runs to victory

Gausman lit up three times over 6 1/3 innings

MIKE WILNER
BASEBALL COLUMNIST

The Blue Jays didn't give the visiting Baltimore Orioles much of a fight Monday night, opening up what could be a pivotal four-game series with a 7-2 loss to their division rivals.

The Jays and Orioles put on a show over a two-game split in Baltimore last month. Each game was decided by one run, with Toronto taking the opener in extra innings and the Orioles coming from behind in the bottom of the ninth in the second game.

Orioles	Blue Jays
7	2

There was no such tension this time. The visitors took an early lead and never let it go.

Anthony Santander, who hit five home runs against the Jays in 12 games last season, got things started with a two-run shot off Kevin Gausman in the second inning, the first of three round-trippers the Jays right-hander would allow on a night in which he gave up plenty of loud contact over 6 1/3 innings.

A two-out throwing error by shortstop Gunnar Henderson opened the door a crack in the bottom of the second and Daulton Varsho followed with an RBI triple to halve the deficit, but that was as close as the Jays would get.

Baltimore rookie Colton Cowser restored the two-run lead with an RBI double high off the wall in left-centre in the fourth. Gausman then fell behind Austin Hays — a ball call by home plate umpire Phil Cuzzi led to Jays pitching coach Pete Walker being ejected — and Hays wound up hitting the first of his two homers on the night.

The Jays' only answer was a Vladimir Guerrero Jr. solo shot in the bottom of the fourth, his sixth of the season. After that, they only managed to get two runners past first base.

After going 0-for-13 in the weekend series against Pittsburgh, Bo Bichette was dropped from the cleanup spot, where he had hit for the past 15 games, to fifth in the order. The shortstop lined out, grounded out and flied out before starting the bottom of the ninth with a double to right-centre.

The game drew just 23,842 fans, the second-smallest crowd of the season, despite a Guerrero bobblehead giveaway.

Tough and crucial test

Facing mostly winning teams, a solid stretch in June could save season



GREGOR CHISHOLM
OPINION

The soft spot of the schedule has come to an end for the Blue Jays. It was back to reality Monday night with one of Major League Baseball's top teams in town.

The arrival of the Baltimore Orioles marked the start of a difficult June slate that will see the Jays play all but three of their remaining games this month against teams with records of at least .500.

That includes series against the Yankees and Red Sox, a pair of matchups with the AL-Central leading Guardians and another against the NL-Central leading Brewers. The only below-average team is the Oakland A's, who will travel here later this week.

It's a stretch that has the potential to make or break the Jays' season. If they perform well, they'll have a chance to gain ground in the race for the final wild-card spot. If they stumble again, it will be lights out on a season teetering on the edge.

The Orioles are one of the bigger obstacles. They hit four home runs Monday — two by Austin Hays, one each by Anthony Santander and Ramon Urias — to beat the Jays 7-2.

"Whenever you're playing within the division, I think everyone is a little more tuned in to what's going on," Jays manager John Schneider said before the loss.

"I like the way we've been playing over the last couple weeks. Take a couple games in Detroit out of it,

but hopefully it's a little bit of momentum going into a big four-game series against a damn good team."

The momentum didn't last. The Orioles have owned the Jays for awhile, going 12-4 dating back to the start of last season. Then again, that's no different than how they treat most opponents.

Baltimore has gone 19 consecutive sets against AL East opponents without a series loss. Since the start of 2023, their 221-160 record is third in the majors, trailing only the Dodgers and Braves.

Baltimore's lineup gets most of the attention but its pitching staff has been just as vital. While the Orioles entered the series fourth in the majors with 5.04 runs per game, their rotation had the fourth-best ERA for starters at 3.12. Even their banded-up bullpen was 11th at 3.65.

The Jays were 14th in starters' ERA (3.91) and 27th in bullpen ERA (4.56). On offence, the Jays were averaging a full run less per game than the Orioles (3.98, 23rd in the majors).

"Pitching against AL East opponents is something we couldn't do my first few years here," said Orioles manager Brandon Hyde, who got 6 2/3 quality innings from Grayson Rodriguez on Monday.

"We've done a lot better job of that the last couple years, of being able to pitch to these types of lineups and in these types of environments. The pitching has improved tremendously to give us a chance offensively."

The Jays went 8-5 during the stretch against weak opponents, which included the White Sox, Tigers and Pirates. That sounds decent enough until one considers they didn't gain any ground in the standings.

The Jays were 11 1/2 games back of first-place New York on May 23, and 3 1/2 games back of Minnesota for the third wild-card spot. Entering Monday, they trailed the Yankees by the same number and were 4 1/2 back of the Twins.

The vibes have been better of late, but the season-long outlook remains dim for a franchise that entered Monday with a 21.2 per cent chance of making the playoffs, per FanGraphs, and an even lower 7.2, per Baseball Reference.

"I thought we played really well, I thought we played good defence, we pitched really well," Schneider said of a series split with Baltimore earlier this season.

"That's what you have to do against this team because they can score and they have some really talented players. I like the way we played against them and hopefully we can continue to do that over the next four days."

They didn't Monday. Kevin Gausman served up three homers and most of his outs came with hard contact. The defence, which included an error by Bo Bichette, wasn't sharp. The offence was almost nonexistent.

None of that should come as a surprise. The Orioles, once an afterthought, possess better hitters and better pitching. There is no debate about which club is better.

This is shaping up to be a very difficult series for the Jays. And that's just the start of what figures to become an extremely challenging month.

Bo Bichette can't get the tag on Jordan Westburg as the Orioles infielder steals second base in the first inning. If the Jays aim to make the playoffs, they'll have to better than they were on Monday, writes Gregor Chisholm.

RICHARD LAUTENS
TORONTO STAR



SCAN THIS CODE FOR MIKE WILNER'S BASEBALL PODCAST



TONIGHT
Orioles at Blue Jays
7 p.m.
(Sportsnet, SN1)

MLB NOTEBOOK

Acuña's injured knee has left Atlanta reeling

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Atlanta Braves were already in a bit of a hole in the National League East before they got the type of news every team dreads — a season-ending injury to their top player.

The torn anterior cruciate ligament in Ronald Acuña Jr.'s knee left the Braves reeling last week, and perhaps it was no surprise that they lost three of four games to Washington before rebounding a bit against lowly Oakland.

Atlanta now trails first-place Philadelphia by 6 1/2 games, and the Braves have their work cut out for them if they're going to win a seventh consecutive NL East title.

All six divisions have at least a three-game gap at the top, with FanGraphs favouring the current first-place team — the Yankees, Guardians and Mariners in the American League; the Phillies, Brewers and Dodgers in the NL — to win each.

Seattle? In June?
It has been 21 years since the Seattle Mariners started June in first place

in the AL West.

Seattle (34-27 entering the week) has taken advantage of a lacklustre division in which Houston and defending champion Texas both have underperformed. The Mariners had won seven of eight games through Sunday.

They are still a flawed team, especially on the offensive side where they rank near the bottom of the league in many categories. But the Mariners have had some of the best pitching in baseball and are off to the second-best home start in franchise history.



The Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuña Jr. is out for the season after tearing his ACL.

"We've pitched very well here. No question about it," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "But the key thing on the road is you've got to hit better on the road, be more consistent. We have not done so. We have a lot of season left. We need to get better on the road."

The Mariners' likelihood of staying atop of the division rests mostly with an elite set of starting pitchers. Seattle leads baseball with 37 quality starts from its starting pitchers, is tied for second in opponents' batting average and tied for sixth in staff ERA.

WNBA

Clark drawing fans, opponents' ire

Star rookie has caught the attention of fellow players. She seems to have a target on her back



DAVE FESCHUK
OPINION

If you're Larry Tanenbaum, Toronto's leading sports bankroller, it's possible you're making a concerned phone call this week.

It's possible you're dialing WNBA commissioner Cathy Engelbert and asking a simple question. As in: What's going on with Caitlin Clark?

If you're Tanenbaum, after all, you just made an estimated \$150-million commitment to bring the WNBA to Toronto beginning in 2026. And there are plenty of good reasons why it's a promising investment, top among them the star power of Clark, the two-time U.S. national collegiate player of the year and No. 1 overall draft pick who has attracted eyeballs to women's hoops in unprecedented quantities.

For all that, her first three weeks as a professional haven't exactly been a seamless showcase for her eye-popping talent. That's understandable, to a degree. As much as Clark became a transcendent figure by dominating the NCAA ranks, earning a \$28-million (U.S.) Nike deal and appearing in a litany of commercials, she's finding out that the pro game can be an unforgiving slog.

As Diana Taurasi, the 41-year-old legend with the Phoenix Mercury, prophesied during Clark's run with Iowa during the NCAA's March Madness: "Reality is coming. You look superhuman playing against some 18-year-olds ... but (in the WNBA) there is going to be a transition period where you're going to have to give yourself some grace as a rookie."

The problem, of late, is that the league has been awfully stingy with the grace. In putting the WNBA on her modest shoulders, Clark has simultaneously placed a target on her back.

We're coming off a weekend that was set up to be a showcase for the league. There were no NBA games, with the Finals not starting until Thursday. The competing products on sports TV weren't exactly nu-



merous. And the schedule had Clark's Indiana Fever playing twice. But rather than Clark turning heads, the games left viewers shaking theirs.

On Saturday, Clark was felled by a now-viral bodycheck from Chenedy Carter of the Chicago Sky. And while reactions varied — and while Clark no doubt has a well-earned reputation as a flopper in the grand tradition of LeBron James, one of her staunchest advocates — there was no disputing the offence. Unless, that is, you were among the officials on the floor who somehow deemed it a "common foul."

The league retroactively upgraded the call to flagrant 1 status, recognizing it as the gratuitous cheap shot it was. Still, a one-game suspension would have better relayed an important message: The sellout crowds are coming to see Clark take shots, not body blows.

Sky coach Teresa Weatherspoon said Monday that Carter's foul "was not appropriate." Never mind that Angel Reese, Carter's teammate and Clark's college rival, cheered it on with considerable enthusiasm.

It wasn't only Reese's reaction, and Reese's refusal to meet with the media after the game, that garnered attention. It was the utter lack of

Caitlin Clark had a rough weekend with the Indiana Fever, taking a flagrant body check on Saturday and managing just three points on Sunday.

LUKE HALES
GETTY IMAGES

pushback from Clark's teammates.

The Fever's collective shrug in the wake of Clark's decking was concerning enough that Draymond Green, the Golden State Warriors defensive wizard and pot stirrer, chimed in to suggest the Fever acquire an "enforcer." Lost in the fuss about foul play was the game's result: Indiana's first home win of the season.

On Sunday, Clark's team was dealt a difficult hand — the second game of a back-to-back set against an opponent who had enjoyed a previous day of rest. Clark went 1-for-10 from the field in a 36-point loss. The rookie famous for mind-blowing three-point performances scored precisely three points.

Clark, who eventually left the game complaining of an ear injury, looked worn out. And why wouldn't she? Indiana, 2-9, has played 11 games in 20 days to start the season, the most in the league. The defending champion Las Vegas Aces, by comparison, have played six games over that span. Sensible scheduling isn't easy. But it can't be this hard.

Add in the fact Clark joined a demonstrably bad Indiana team and it's not shocking she is averaging an underwhelming 15.6 points a game while shooting 30 per cent from three-point range and coughing up 5.4 turnovers a night.

Maybe all of this is a tough-love gauntlet laid down by uber-competitive veterans protecting their turf. Maybe it's a blip in a long career that will ultimately make Clark stronger. Odds are it's both.

And, hey, rivalries are good. Maybe Chicago-Indiana becomes a blood feud of the best kind. For all the purists whose stomachs turn at the too-friendly cosiness of NBA stars, some WNBA hate could be something to celebrate.

But if you just invested \$150 million, you might want to be assured by the commissioner that this isn't something else entirely. You might want to be assured this isn't a league that's never employed a megastar of Clark's stature and is a long way from figuring out how to maximize her shine. Luckily, there's still plenty of time to prove otherwise.

NBA FINALS

Boston coach is Celtics' cup of Joe

Eastern Conference champs have bought into Mazzulla's 'weird energy'

KYLE HIGHTOWER

BOSTON When Boston Celtics guard Derrick White stood in the corner behind the three-point line late in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference final as teammate Jaylen Brown drove into the lane, drew defenders and flipped a pass toward him, White felt prepared for the moment. That's because Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla had simulated scenarios just like it throughout the season.

"It starts in practice with them championship stations that Joe loves to do," White said. "It starts there and then (we) just continue to trust one another."

White trusted Brown would make the correct basketball play, and it ended with White connecting on a tiebreaking three that ultimately secured Boston's place in the NBA Finals and a matchup with the Dallas Mavericks.

The play may also be a perfect example of how, in his second year as coach, Mazzulla has managed to help the Celtics recover from the disappointment of a season that ended on the cusp of the Finals a year ago. He has them four wins away from capturing the franchise's 18th championship.

White's shot, Mazzulla said, is a microcosm of the kind of team culture he has tried to cultivate over the past two years, one that puts details first.

"Things that you can't take for granted," said Mazzulla, who at age 35, is the youngest head coach to reach the NBA Finals since Bill



Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla went viral after he sprinted to contest an opponent's practice basket heading into a timeout.

Russell (also 35) did it in 1969. "Sometimes it's as small as getting the ball inbound. But just try to pick little things that we see on a nightly basis that can impact winning and can affect losing. And we just practice them over, over and over again until they become second nature."

The Celtics have bought in to an egoless, team-first philosophy in which individual credit is secondary on a roster loaded with current and past all-stars like Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Jrue Holiday, along with White, seven-footer Kristaps Porzingis, and a deep bench.

Mazzulla has benefited from working alongside a coaching staff he was able to choose this off-season. That's something he didn't have last season after being thrust into a job he didn't expect to have following predecessor Ime Udoka's suspension just days before the start of training camp. Lead assistant Charles Lee and Sam Cassell have helped Mazzulla tweak a system built around three-point shooting and defence, which saw the Celtics rank first and third, respectively, in offensive and defensive rating during the regular sea-

son. Those rankings have remained the same this post-season for a team that is 6-0 on the road and 3-0 in close-out games.

In addition to Xs and Os, Mazzulla and his staff have continued to focus on the mental aspects of the game. He began film sessions last season by showing the team images of sand castles, which he used as a metaphor that even the best castles get washed away by the daily tide — requiring them to be rebuilt. It was something Tatum said was "a little cheesy" but "something we bought into."

Mazzulla's tactics were on display again during a blowout win back in March over Phoenix. He went viral after he sprinted to contest Phoenix's Royce O'Neale's practice basket heading into a timeout.

"I saw a guy going in to get a shot and he hadn't made one and I didn't want him to feel good about himself going to the bench," Mazzulla said at the time. "That's the bench rule. ... If I'm going to ask the guys to contest, staff's going to do the same thing."

Holiday acknowledged that Mazzulla's style is unique, but one that he's come to appreciate during his first season in Boston.

"You go with it. You go with the craziness," Holiday said. "I think maybe it's controlled madness. I think it's definitely his way of preparing us and I feel like preparing himself. And I feel like it's been working. It's fun. It's different ... Joe definitely brings a spark and some weird energy."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA FINALS

- Best-of-seven series
- Game 1** at Boston Thursday, 8:30 p.m.
- Game 2** at Boston Sunday, 8 p.m.
- Game 3** at Dallas June 12, 8:30 p.m.
- Game 4** at Dallas June 14, 8:30 p.m.
- x-Game 5** at Boston June 17, 8:30 p.m.
- x-Game 6** at Dallas June 20, 8:30 p.m.
- x-Game 7** at Boston June 23, 8 p.m.
- x - if necessary

NBA NOTEBOOK

Edey to have workout with Raptors

STAR STAFF AND WIRE SERVICES

Zach Edey, the two-time NCAA basketball player of the year, will be working out for his hometown Raptors on Tuesday.

The team also announced that five other prospects will work out at the Raptors practice facility along with the seven-foot-four Purdue centre: forward Keion Brooks Jr. (Washington), guard Joseph Girard III (Clemson), guard Jahmir Young (Maryland) and two Canadian forwards: Emanuel Miller (TCU) and Tyrese Samuel (Florida).

Mock NBA drafts have a wide range on where Edey is projected to land, anywhere from No. 9 to the Memphis Grizzlies to No. 31 with the Raptors. Toronto also has the No. 19 pick in the June 26-27 draft.

Money is on Mavericks

The Boston Celtics are prohibitive favourites to win Thursday's Game 1 of the NBA Finals and the odds are on them to win the title. But the money, at least at BetMGM Sportsbook, is pouring in on Dallas.

Senior trader Halvor Egeland said Monday that 80 per cent of the bets were coming on Luka Doncic, Kyrie Irving and the Mavericks to win the championship. Boston is a -225 favourite, meaning you would need to wager \$225 to win \$100.

As for the opener, the Celtics are 6½-point favourites, but 63 per cent of the money has been on the Mavs to cover the spread. Dallas is receiving 70 per cent of the bets to win the game outright at +200.

STANLEY CUP FINAL



CODIE MCLACHLAN GETTY IMAGES

Connor McDavid leads all scorers with 31 points in 18 post-season games, while Edmonton teammate Zach Hyman has netted a playoff-best 14 goals.

WHO WILL TAKE THE CUP?

In tight series, having world’s best player could be the difference for Edmonton

Bobrovsky, depth and an ability to hold late leads could net Florida its first title

STEPHEN WHYNO

Connor McDavid is the best hockey player in the world and the biggest reason the Edmonton Oilers are in the Stanley Cup final. The reigning NHL MVP is also the Oilers’ best hope of winning a championship for the first time since 1990.

McDavid leads all playoff scorers with 31 points in 18 games and is among the top candidates for the Conn Smythe Trophy. But he has had help along the way from long-time running mate Leon Draisaitl, breakout defenceman Evan Bouchard and goaltender Stuart Skinner.

An early-season coaching change from Jay Woodcroft to Kris Knoblauch also paved the way for Edmonton’s run to the final. Knoblauch’s coaching has already paid off this post-season and gives the Oilers a boost against seasoned Paul Maurice and the Panthers.

■ **Forwards** While McDavid is the league’s best player, Draisaitl might also be in the top five. The imposing 28-year-old German can skate alongside McDavid or run his own line. It does not hurt that Zach Hyman is having the most productive stretch of his career with a playoff-best 14 goals. Go deeper into the lineup and Edmonton has grit in winger Corey Perry, who is in the final for the fourth time in five years.

■ **Defence** Bouchard has been a revelation, putting up 27 post-season points. His 21 assists are the fourth-

most in a single playoffs by a defenceman, behind only Hall of Famers Paul Coffey, Al MacInnis and Brian Leetch. A bugaboo for the Oilers has been the struggles of Darnell Nurse, which the rest of the team has been able to compensate for. Knoblauch also switched out Vincent Desharnais for Philip Broberg down 2-1 in the West final, and his team has not lost since.

■ **Goaltending** The position that has doomed so many recent Oilers runs has again been eventful, with Stuart Skinner looking unbeatable at times and unplayable at others. Knoblauch went to journeyman backup Calvin Pickard in the second round against Vancouver before putting Skinner back in net. Against Dallas, Skinner posted a .923 save percentage and allowed just 12 goals in the six-game series.

■ **Coaching** Knoblauch is a first-time NHL head coach, hired in November after the Oilers lost 10 of their first 13 games. He won the Western Hockey League championship in 2011 and the Ontario Hockey League championship in 2017. He’s also familiar with McDavid, having coached him in the OHL for three seasons. The coaching change also brought Coffey on as an assistant, and the former defenceman has had an impact.

■ **Intangibles** Florida has home-ice advantage, but it will be hard to match the atmosphere in Edmonton for Games 3 and 4.

■ **The pick** Oilers in six.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL BUMPS ELKS OPENER TO CLEAR WAY FOR GAME 1

The CFL has moved the Elks’ season opener against the Saskatchewan on Saturday to an earlier start to allow fans in Edmonton to watch Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final. The game, originally scheduled for Saturday at 5 p.m. mountain time (7 p.m. eastern) will now start three hours earlier. Game 1 of the NHL final is scheduled for Saturday at 8 p.m. eastern in Sunrise, Fla.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TIM REYNOLDS

The Florida Panthers are in the Stanley Cup final for the third time. The first two didn’t go as planned, they were swept by Colorado in 1996, and beaten in five games by Vegas last year.

This trip feels different.

The Panthers are a different team than they were a year ago, healthier and better for the experience of getting to the final and falling short.

They have had to beat three strong teams to get here: a state rival in Tampa Bay, a real contender in Boston, and a Presidents’ Trophy winner in the New York Rangers.

■ **Forwards** The Oilers are loaded up front but the edge Florida has here is depth. There are 14 forwards in this Cup final with more than 45 points this season, including playoffs. The Panthers have eight of them. The Oilers lost 24 of the 35 games this season when neither Connor McDavid nor Leon Draisaitl has scored a goal. Florida seems to have more balance, meaning it’s not all on Matthew Tkachuk, Aleksander Barkov or Sam Reinhart to carry the load. And Barkov, the Panthers will argue, has been the best two-way player in these playoffs.

■ **Defence** Gustav Forsling got an eight-year, \$46-million (U.S.) extension this season and it looks like an absolute steal. The Panthers believe he’s the best defenceman in the league in a corps that already

had Aaron Ekblad and Brandon Montour, plus added depth in Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Dmitry Kulikov. The Panthers know how to slam the door: They’re an NHL-best 42-0-3 when leading after two periods this season, including playoffs.

■ **Goaltending** There may not be a more beloved active athlete in South Florida at this very moment than Sergei Bobrovsky, who has outdueled three incredible goalies to get back to the Cup final. Bob — he’s just Bob at this time of year — led Florida past Andrei Vasilevskiy, Jeremy Swayman and Igor Shesterkin. Oilers goalie Stuart Skinner has been great, for certain. But Bob has been a wall, with no signs of slowing down.

■ **Coaching** Let’s put Paul Maurice’s work in his two Florida seasons into perspective. He has won 25 playoff games with the Panthers. That matches the total of all other Panthers coaches in the first 28 seasons of franchise history. Maurice has waited forever for his first Cup. This team is determined to get his name etched on it.

■ **Intangibles** Playoff games, by nature, are close contests. The attention to detail is off the charts, the buy-in for the tough moments is ramped up well beyond regular-season levels. Florida is 17-5 in one-goal games the last two post-seasons, the best winning percentage in the NHL in that span.

■ **The pick** Panthers in seven.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Bethel-Thompson brought in to stabilize Elks

DAN RALPH

McLeod Bethel-Thompson is back in the CFL, tasked with solidifying the Edmonton Elks’ present while providing for their future.

The 35-year-old quarterback signed a one-year deal with Edmonton in January after leading the USFL in passing in 2023 and guiding the Boston Breakers to a 7-3 record. The year before, Bethel-Thompson was the CFL’s top passer and helped the Toronto Argonauts win the Grey Cup.

Edmonton’s last playoff appearance was in 2019. It has finished fifth in the West Division the past three seasons, winning a combined 11 regular-season games.

The Elks are counting on Bethel-Thompson to mentor Canadian Tre Ford, who led the team to its four wins last season after starting the year as a third stringer. Ford, the 2021 Hec Crighton Trophy winner while at Waterloo, completed 153 of 227 passes (67.4 per cent) for 2,069 yards and ran for 622 yards,

averaging 9.4 yards a carry.

Ford, 26, is in the final year of his rookie deal. He’s eligible to become a free agent this winter but could sign an extension beforehand.

Here’s a look at the other CFL starters:

B.C. Lions
Vernon Adams Jr. threw for a CFL-high 4,769 yards last season as the Lions posted a second straight 12-6 record. B.C. has lost to Winnipeg in the West final the last two seasons but there’s added incentive to break through this year as Vancouver hosts the Grey Cup. Jake Dolegala and Chase Brice are the backups.

Calgary Stampeders
Incumbent Jake Maier threw for 4,244 yards, third in the CFL, but had nearly as many interceptions (15) as touchdowns (19). Calgary, 6-12 last year, added veteran Matt Shiltz in the off-season. Shiltz made four starts last year with Hamilton, including its East semifinal loss to Montreal.



New Elks quarterback McLeod Bethel-Thompson led the CFL and USFL in passing yards in back-to-back seasons.

Saskatchewan Roughriders
Trevor Harris returns after missing most of 2023 with a tibial plateau fracture in his right knee. The Riders were 3-1 when Harris, 38, was hurt but managed just three wins the rest of the way. Shea Patterson and Jack Coan are the backups.

Winnipeg Blue Bombers
Zach Collaros had a career-high 4,252 passing yards, second in the CFL, with a league-leading 33 touchdown passes last season. He’s been named the CFL’s top player twice and has guided Winnipeg to four straight Grey Cup appearances. Veteran Chris Streveler returns as the backup.

Hamilton Tiger-Cats
Bo Levi Mitchell begins his second season in Hamilton after injuries limited the 34-year-old Texan to just six starts last year. The two-time CFL MVP completed just 59.1 per cent of his passes with six touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Taylor Powell, who made nine

starts as a rookie, is the backup.

Montreal Alouettes
Cody Fajardo led Montreal to its first CFL title since 2009, earning an extension through 2025. Veteran Caleb Evans, who ran for eight touchdowns last season, and Davis Alexander are the backups.

Ottawa Redblacks
After three seasons in Winnipeg, Dru Brown gets his shot to be a CFL starter. He completed 62 of 89 passes for 983 yards with nine touchdowns and no picks last season. Dustin Crum offers a change of pace coming off the bench.

Toronto Argonauts
Cameron Dukes gets the nod with Chad Kelly, the 2023 outstanding player, suspended for at least the first nine regular-season games for violating the league’s gender-based violence policy. If Duke is hurt or struggles, Toronto re-signed Ar-buckle during training camp.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRENCH OPEN

Hurt Djokovic goes distance

World No. 1 reaches quarterfinals after completing five-set comeback

HOWARD FENDRICH

PARIS Novak Djokovic was not sure whether he would be able to play in the French Open quarterfinals after injuring his right knee and needing anti-inflammatory pills to be able to finish a five-set win over No. 23 Francisco Cerundolo in the fourth round Monday. Djokovic won 6-1, 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 for his record 370th victory in a Grand Slam match.

“Good thing about the Slam is that you have a day between that will allow hopefully the healing process to happen more efficiently for me,” Djokovic said. “That’s it. I don’t know what will happen (Tuesday) — or after (Tuesday) if I’ll be able to step out on the court and play.”

Djokovic said he has been bothered by the knee for a couple of weeks, but it got worse after he tweaked it early in the second set Monday. He took a medical timeout and was visited a few other times by a trainer and a doctor, who gave him the medicine that Djokovic said eventually helped him feel better and move without restrictions. According to Djokovic, the doctor said he was taking the maximum number of anti-inflammatories allowed.

This was the second consecutive five-set comeback victory that lasted about 4½ hours for Djokovic, who is ranked No. 1 and the defending champion in Paris. He said that accumulation of time on court was not a problem; his knee was, however. It was painful enough that Djokovic considered quitting against Cerundolo.

“I didn’t know, to be honest, whether I should continue or not,” he said.

He is supposed to meet No. 7 seed Casper Ruud in the quarterfinals on Wednesday. Ruud, who eliminated No. 12 Taylor Fritz in four sets Monday, lost to Djokovic in the



BERTRAND GUAY AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Novak Djokovic said he has been bothered by his knee for a couple of weeks, but it got worse after he tweaked it early in Monday’s second set against Francisco Cerundolo.

French Open final last year.

Djokovic broke a tie with Roger Federer for the most match wins at major tournaments — and for the most Slam quarterfinals for a man by reaching the 59th of his career. But just barely.

“I was maybe three or four points away from losing this match,” Djokovic said.

Still, he came through in ways he has so often over his years of dominance and 24 major trophies, a total that includes three at the French Open. He is 40-11 in fifth sets over his career.

“Really, the toughest guy ever to play tennis,” Cerundolo said. “He always finds a way to come back and play his best tennis at the toughest moments and at the end of every match.”

While Djokovic will face Ruud on

Wednesday, Alex de Minaur will play Alexander Zverev, a five-set winner over Holger Rune, in the day’s other quarterfinal. De Minaur defeated Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 to become the first Australian man in the French Open quarterfinals since Lleyton Hewitt in 2004.

On the women’s side, 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva knocked out Varvara Gracheva, the last Frenchwoman in the draw, 7-5, 6-2, and said playing against Gracheva and a pro-Gracheva crowd “put the fire inside me.”

Andreeva will face Aryna Sabalenka in the quarterfinals after Sabalenka, the No. 2 seed, powered past American Emma Navarro 6-2, 6-2. Sabalenka has yet to drop a set in the tournament.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TONIGHT

French Open Quarterfinals
5 a.m., 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m.
(TSN 1, 4)

SPORTS BRIEFS

CRICKET

South Africa beats Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka was blown away for a record-low 77 runs and South Africa won its T20 World Cup opener by six wickets on Monday. South Africa overcame its own hiccups on the two-paced pitch to score 80-4 as it crossed the finish line with 3.4 overs to spare. South Africa’s best bowling performance in tournament history included pace bowler Anrich Nortje’s career-best 4-7 in four overs.

HORSE RACING

Seize the Grey draws post No. 1

Preakness winner Seize the Grey drew post position No. 1 on Monday, and Kentucky Derby champion Mystik Dan will start in post No. 3 for Saturday’s Belmont Stakes at Saratoga Race Course. The Kenny McPeck-trained Mystik Dan, who finished second in the Preakness, is the only horse in the field for all three Triple Crown races. He is the third choice in the 10-horse field at 5-1, behind favourite Sierra Leone (9-5) and Mindframe (7-2).

SOCCER

Real Madrid signs Mbappé

Kylian Mbappé is finally a Real Madrid player. Madrid said Monday it reached a deal with the France star for the next five seasons, bringing together one of soccer’s top talents and its most successful club. Madrid did not release any financial details. The announcement came after years of flirtation by Madrid with the player who inherited the status of the best in the game from Lionel Messi. “A dream come true,” Mbappé said on X.

STAR WIRE SERVICES

NHL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

DALLAS (C1) VS. EDMONTON (P2)

(Edmonton wins series 4-2)

Sunday’s result

Edmonton 2 Dallas 1

STANLEY CUP FINAL

(Best-of-7)

FLORIDA (E) VS. EDMONTON (W)

Saturday, June 8

Edmonton at Florida, 8 p.m.

Monday, June 10

Edmonton at Florida, 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 13

Florida at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 15

Florida at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18

x-Edmonton at Florida, 8 p.m.

Friday, June 21

x-Florida at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

Monday, June 24

x-Edmonton at Florida, 8 p.m.

x — played only if necessary

LATE SUNDAY

OILERS 2, STARS 1

First Period

1. Edmonton, McDavid 5 (Draisaitl, Bouchard) 4:17 (pp).

2. Edmonton, Hyman 14 (McDavid, Bouchard) 15:42 (pp).

Penalties — Tanev Dal (tripping) 3:35; Edmonton bench (too many men, served by Hyman) 7:14; Suter Dal (slashing) 14:22; Kulak Edm (high-sticking) 17:21.

Second Period

No Scoring.

Penalties — None.

Third Period

3. Dallas, Marchment 3 (Seguin, Tanev) 9:18.

Penalty — Draisaitl Edm (delay of game) 4:32.

Shots

Dallas 12 9 14–35

Edmonton 3 5 2–10

Goal — Dallas: Oettinger (L, 10-9); Edmonton: Skinner (W, 11-5).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Dallas: 0-3; Edmonton: 2-2.

Attendance — 18,347.

NHL PLAYOFF SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, Edm	5	26	31
Leon Draisaitl, Edm	10	18	28
Eván Bouchard, Edm	6	21	27
Vincent Trocheck, NYR	8	12	20
Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	6	14	20
Matthew Tkachuk, Fla	5	14	19
Zach Hyman, Edm	14	4	18

BETTING

MLB

TUESDAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE

FAVOURITE

Kansas City -122

LA Dodgers -188

Baltimore -162

Detroit -118

Seattle -162

NATIONAL LEAGUE

PHILADELPHIA -168

LA Dodgers -188

NY Mets -126

Cincinnati -144

San Francisco -112

INTERLEAGUE

Tampa Bay -120

Atlanta -158

CHICAGO CUBS -290

HOUSTON -148

San Diego -116

LA ANGELS -102

Note: Home teams in capitals.

HOCKEY

MEMORIAL CUP

CANADIAN MAJOR JUNIOR

CHAMPIONSHIP

At Saginaw, Mich.

Sunday’s result

CHAMPIONSHIP

Saginaw (OHL/host) 4 London (OHL) 3

Friday’s result

SEMIFINAL

Saginaw 7 Moose Jaw (WHL) 1

LATE SUNDAY

SAGINAW 4, LONDON 3

First Period

1. Saginaw, Beck 3 (Bloom) 9:07.

2. Saginaw, Beck 4 (Bloom, Willis) 19:15 (pp).

Penalties — George Ldn (delay of game) 4:37; Sim Ldn (check to the head major, game misconduct) 18:58.

Second Period

3. Saginaw, Willis 2, 7:47.

4. London, Haltunen 4 (Cowan, Bonk) 9:45.

Penalties — None.

Third Period

5. London, Cowan 3 (Dickinson, Bonk) 7:48.

6. London, Dickinson 2 (McCue) 10:16.

7. Saginaw, Bloom 2 (Donovan) 19:38.

Penalties — None.

Shots

Saginaw 13 11 7–31

London 1 5 7–13

Goal — Saginaw: Oke (W, 4-1); London: Simpson (L, 3-1).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Saginaw: 1-2; London: 0-0.

Attendance — 5,373 at Saginaw, Mich.

FINAL SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PTS
E. Cowan, Ldn	3	4	7
D. Mateychuk, MJ	3	4	7
J. Bloom, Sag	2	4	6
O. Bonk, Ldn	1	5	6
O. Beck, Sag	4	1	5
K. Haltunen, Ldn	4	1	5
B. Yager, MJ	2	3	5
R. Dionicio, Sag	1	4	5

AHL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

HERSHEY (A1) VS. CLEVELAND (N1)

(Hershey leads series 2-0)

Saturday’s result

Hershey 3 Cleveland 2 (OT)

Tuesday’s game

Hershey at Cleveland, 7 p.m.

Thursday’s game

Hershey at Cleveland, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 8

x-Hershey at Cleveland, 7 p.m.

Monday, June 10

x-Cleveland at Hershey, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12

x-Cleveland at Hershey, 7 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

COACHELLA VALLEY (P1) VS. MILWAUKEE (C1)

(Coachella Valley leads series 2-0)

Friday’s result

Coachella Valley 3 Milwaukee 1

Tuesday’s game

Coachella Valley at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

Thursday’s game

Coachella Valley at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 8

x-Coachella Valley at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.

Monday, June 10

x-Milwaukee at Coachella Valley, 10 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12

x-Milwaukee at Coachella Valley, 10 p.m.

x — played only if necessary

NBA PLAYOFFS

NBA FINALS

(Best-of-7)

BOSTON (E1) VS. DALLAS (W5)

Thursday’s game

Dallas at Boston, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 9

Dallas at Boston, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12

Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 14

Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, June 17

x-Dallas at Boston, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 20

x-Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 23

x-Dallas at Boston, 8 p.m.

x — played only if necessary

NBA PLAYOFF SCORING LEADERS

SCORING AVERAGE

	GP	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Embiid, Pha	6	59	67	198	33.0
Brunson, NY	13	151	93	421	32.4
Gigs-Alxnrd, OC	10	111	64	302	30.2
Maxe, Pha	6	66	25	179	29.8
Mitchell, Cle	10	107	53	296	29.6
Donic, Dal	17	166	100	489	28.8
Jokic, Den	12	133	64	344	28.7
Davis, LAL	5	59	21	139	27.8
James, LAL	5	56	17	139	27.8
Edwards, Minn	16	156	83	441	27.6
Booker, Phx	4	32	39	110	27.5
Banchero, Orl	7	68	37	189	27.0
Durant, Phx	4	37	28	107	26.8
Tatum, Bos	14	121	93	364	26.0
Brown, Bos	14	138	46	350	25.0
Middleton, Mil	6	55	27	148	24.7
Irving, Dal	17	145	53	388	22.8

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Miami	18	10	3	5	42	27	35
Cincinnati	16	10	3	3	23	16	33
N.Y. City FC	16	9	5	2	24	17	29
N.Y. Red Bulls	16	8	3	5	29	22	29
Charlotte	17	7	6	4	18	18	25
Toronto	17	7	7	3	26	26	25
Columbus	14	6	2	6	21	13	24
Philadelphia	16	4	4	8	27	23	20
Nashville	16	4	5	7	20	22	19
D.C.	17	4	6	7	25	31	19
Orlando	16	4	7	5	16	24	17
Montreal	16	4	7	5	23	35	17
Atlanta	16	4	8	4	22	21	16
Chicago	17	3	8	6	17	29	15
New England	14	3	10	1	11	27	10

Sunday’s result

Charlotte 3 Atlanta 2

Saturday, June 8

N.Y. Red Bulls at New England, 7:30 p.m.

Seattle at Kansas City, 8:30 p.m.

Dallas at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

Portland at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.

NEXT TFC GAME

Saturday, June 15

Chicago at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

CPL

Victoria	8	3	2	3	7	
York	8	3	4	1	11	1
Calgary	8	1	1	6	10	
Winnipeg	8	2	5	1	8	1
Halifax	7	0	5	2	6	1

A18

WEATHER

TODAY'S FORECAST:

High: 23

Low: 17

P.O.P: 30%

Mix, sun and clouds.

Wind: E, 11kmh

Feels Like: 27

Sunlight Hours: 5

Feels Like: 27

P.O.P: Probability of Precipitation

Air Quality

Toronto downtown today

Good 1-3 Moderate 4-6 Poor 7-8 Very Poor 9-10 Hazard 11+

4

Good Mod. Poor V. Poor Hazard

Barrie	3	Hamilton	4	Mississauga	4
Brampton	4	Kitchener	4	Newmarket	4
Burlington	4	Niagara Falls	4	Oakville	4
Guelph	4	St. Catharines	4	Oshawa	4

UV Index

Toronto downtown peak today

Low 0-2 Moderate 3-5 High 6-7 Very High 8-10 Extreme 11+

7

Low Mod. High V. High Extreme

Barrie	7	Hamilton	7	Mississauga	7
Brampton	7	Kitchener	7	Newmarket	7
Burlington	7	Niagara Falls	6	Oakville	7
Guelph	7	St. Catharines	7	Oshawa	7

Barometer

Toronto downtown today

CHANGING... CLEARING... STEADY: NO CHANGE

Pressure [kpa]: 101.6

Humidity [%]: 100

Barometer is RISING compared to yesterday.

Local Almanac

Temperature Trend

Today is about AVERAGE.

Today's Average [°C]: 22

Expected [at 3pm ET]: 23

Difference: +1

Precipitation

June

Normal, Month [mm]: 78.7

Current: 0.0

Difference: -78.7

Percent of Normal: 0%

Moon and Sun

Today: Waxing Crescent

Last Qtr May 30

New Jun 06

1st Qtr Jun 14

Full Jun 22

Sunrise: 5:35am

Sunset: 8:56pm

Moonrise: 3:57am

Moonset: 7:18pm

LOCAL FIVE-DAY FORECAST:

Tomorrow

23 18

P.O.P: 40%

Thunderstorms.

Wind: E, 17kmh

Feels Like: 27

Sunlight Hours: 3

Thursday

21 15

P.O.P: 70%

Chance of a shower.

Wind: SW, 22kmh

Feels Like: 23

Sunlight Hours: 7

Friday

18 13

P.O.P: 70%

Light rain.

Wind: SW, 13kmh

Feels Like: 20

Sunlight Hours: 2

Saturday

20 14

P.O.P: 40%

Cloudy, showers.

Wind: W, 25kmh

Feels Like: 21

Sunlight Hours: 3

Sunday

20 14

P.O.P: 40%

A few showers.

Wind: W, 27kmh

Feels Like: 21

Sunlight Hours: 6

www.theweathernetwork.com

The Weather Network

ONTARIO TODAY

Sudbury 27/16/PC

North Bay 27/16/PC

Parry Sound 27/18/PC

Huntsville 28/15/PC

Gravenhurst 27/16/PC

Bancroft 28/14/PC

Peterborough 27/16/PC

Oshawa 23/16/PC

Kingston 26/19/PC

Richmond Hill 26/17/PC

Barrie 28/16/PC

Toronto 23/17/PC

St. Catharines 25/18/PC

Niagara Falls 27/19/PC

London 28/19/PC

Windsor 30/21/PC

Winnipeg 20/14/R

Regina 19/10/SH

Calgary 18/8/S

Edmonton 16/9/SH

Saskatoon 15/10/R

Yellowknife 12/5/S

Whitehorse 14/4/R

Seattle 15/9/R

Vancouver 16/8/SH

San Francisco 23/14/S

Los Angeles 23/18/PC

Phoenix 39/27/PC

Houston 32/25/S

New Orleans 31/25/S

Atlanta 30/19/SH

Chicago 27/19/PC

Detroit 07/22/PC

Washington 30/20/PC

Miami 31/26/S

Tampa 34/25/S

Salt Lake City 23/14/S

Pittsburgh 29/18/PC

Philadelphia 30/18/S

San Francisco 23/14/S

Los Angeles 23/18/PC

Phoenix 39/27/PC

Houston 32/25/S

New Orleans 31/25/S

Atlanta 30/19/SH

Chicago 27/19/PC

Detroit 07/22/PC

Washington 30/20/PC

Miami 31/26/S

Tampa 34/25/S

Salt Lake City 23/14/S

Pittsburgh 29/18/PC

Philadelphia 30/18/S

TWO-DAY FORECASTS

Ontario	TODAY	TOMORROW	Canada	TODAY	TOMORROW
Bancroft	28/14 PC	29/17 T	Banff	12/2 SH	12/1 S
Barrie	28/16 PC	28/16 T	Calgary	18/8 S	18/4 S
Bracebridge	27/15 PC	28/15 T	Charlottetown	15/9 PC	13/9 PC
Brantford	28/17 PC	26/16 T	Churchill	3/1 SH	2/2 R
Cornwall	29/17 PC	31/19 T	Edmonton	18/9 SH	18/7 S
Dryden	24/13 T	19/10 SH	Fredericton	22/11 PC	25/12 S
Goderich	26/20 PC	24/15 T	Goose Bay	24/10 S	24/12 S
Hamilton	26/16 PC	27/16 T	Halifax	19/11 PC	21/11 PC
Huntsville	28/15 PC	29/16 T	Iqaluit	1/0 RS	1/0 RS
Kenora	19/12 T	18/10 T	Kamloops	18/5 SH	20/7 S
Kingston	26/19 PC	27/18 PC	Kelowna	15/5 SH	20/7 S
Kitchener	28/16 PC	26/15 T	Moncton	18/9 C	21/10 S
London	28/19 PC	25/16 T	Montréal	30/17 PC	31/19 S
Niagara Falls	27/19 PC	28/17 T	Prince George	13/6 T	16/5 PC
North Bay	27/16 PC	29/15 T	Québec	26/14 S	27/16 PC
Ottawa	29/17 PC	30/19 T	Regina	16/10 SH	18/11 S
Owen Sound	27/19 PC	28/15 T	Saint John	20/10 PC	20/11 S
Parry Sound	27/18 PC	28/15 T	St John's	8/7 R	9/6 SH
Pembroke	29/16 PC	30/18 T	Saskatoon	15/10 R	17/10 PC
Peterborough	27/16 PC	28/17 T	Vancouver	16/8 SH	17/9 PC
Sudbury	27/16 PC	28/14 T	Victoria	14/9 SH	16/10 S
Sault Ste Marie	26/16 R	23/12 T	Whistler	10/5 R	12/2 SH
Thunder Bay	16/13 C	19/13 R	Whitehorse	14/4 R	13/3 PC
Timmins	28/18 PC	30/14 S	Winnipeg	20/14 R	19/11 SH
Trenton	27/16 PC	29/18 T	Yarmouth	19/11 S	18/11 S
Windsor	30/21 PC	25/17 T	Yellowknife	12/5 S	11/6 PC

NORTH AMERICA TODAY

Whitehorse 14/4/R

Yellowknife 12/5/S

Edmonton 16/9/SH

Saskatoon 15/10/R

Winnipeg 20/14/R

Regina 19/10/SH

Calgary 18/8/S

Seattle 15/9/R

Vancouver 16/8/SH

San Francisco 23/14/S

Los Angeles 23/18/PC

Phoenix 39/27/PC

Houston 32/25/S

New Orleans 31/25/S

Atlanta 30/19/SH

Chicago 27/19/PC

Detroit 07/22/PC

Washington 30/20/PC

Miami 31/26/S

Tampa 34/25/S

Salt Lake City 23/14/S

Pittsburgh 29/18/PC

Philadelphia 30/18/S

San Francisco 23/14/S

Los Angeles 23/18/PC

Phoenix 39/27/PC

Houston 32/25/S

New Orleans 31/25/S

Atlanta 30/19/SH

Chicago 27/19/PC

Detroit 07/22/PC

Washington 30/20/PC

Miami 31/26/S

Tampa 34/25/S

Salt Lake City 23/14/S

Pittsburgh 29/18/PC

Philadelphia 30/18/S

U. S. A

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Anchorage	15/10 PC	12/8 R
Aspen	22/6 PC	24/10 S
Atlanta	30/19 SH	31/20 T
Atlantic City	20/18 S	20/20 PC
Baltimore	31/21 S	30/24 SH
Boston	22/15 S	29/18 PC
Chicago	27/19 PC	24/18 SH
Dallas	33/25 PC	32/24 PC
Honolulu	29/23 T	30/23 S
Houston	32/25 S	33/25 PC
Las Vegas	39/27 S	41/29 S
Los Angeles	23/18 PC	23/19 S
Miami	31/26 S	31/25 T
Myrtle Beach	28/22 SH	29/24 SH
New Orleans	31/25 S	32/25 S
New York	25/17 S	24/19 R
Orlando	33/22 S	33/24 SH
Palm Springs	39/27 S	42/28 S
Philadelphia	30/18 S	26/20 SH
Pittsburgh	29/18 PC	25/17 SH
Salt Lake City	23/14 S	29/17 S
San Francisco	23/14 S	19/12 S
Saint Louis	29/21 T	28/20 SH
Tampa	34/25 S	34/26 T
Washington	30/20 PC	28/22 T

Europe

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Amsterdam	20/13 SH	16/10 S
Aspen	22/6 PC	24/10 S
Belfast	15/7 SH	14/8 SH
Belgrade	25/16 S	25/16 T
Berlin	20/14 SH	21/12 SH
Brussels	20/13 SH	16/8 SH
Budapest	23/15 R	25/17 T
Copenhagen	17/15 PC	17/9 R
Dublin	17/6 SH	14/6 PC
Frankfurt	21/12 S	20/13 SH
Geneva	23/12 SH	25/14 T
Glasgow	14/6 SH	13/6 SH
Helsinki	19/13 S	19/14 S
Kyiv	25/17 T	24/16 T
Lisbon	28/17 S	26/16 PC
London	21/11 PC	17/9 PC
Madrid	31/19 S	33/21 S
Moscow	24/16 SH	27/17 PC
Oslo	18/12 SH	17/8 SH
Paris	22/13 SH	20/10 PC
Prague	20/12 PC	23/13 S
Rome	26/15 S	27/16 S
Stockholm	23/14 S	20/11 SH
Vienna	24/14 SH	26/15 SH
Warsaw	23/14 PC	25/15 S

Asia-Pacific

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Auckland	15/11 C	15/11 S
Bangkok	31/27 SH	32/28 R
Beijing	34/21 PC	31/22 SH
Hong Kong	26/24 SH	26/25 SH
Jakarta	33/26 SH	34/26 S
Karachi	32/28 PC	32/28 PC
Manila	34/28 T	34/27 T
Mumbai	32/29 PC	31/28 T
New Delhi	45/33 S	42/32 T
Seoul	29/17 S	30/17 PC
Singapore	29/27 T	30/26 C
Sydney	17/10 PC	17/13 PC
Tokyo	24/16 S	25/16 S

Africa - Middle East

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Amman	37/22 S	34/22 S
Ankara	31/20 PC	33/19 S
Baghdad	45/31 S	46/31 S
Beirut	30/25 S	30/24 S
Cairo	42/23 S	43/23 S
Dakar	45/29 S	45/30 S
Harare	28/13 S	28/15 S
Jerusalem	33/22 S	32/22 S
Johannesburg	13/3 S	17/6 S
Nairobi	26/16 T	26/16 PC
Riyadh	44/30 S	44/31 S

Caribbean & Latin America

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Acapulco	29/25 S	29/25 S
Bermuda	23/22 S	22/22 S
Belize City	30/29 S	30/29 PC
Bogota	19/11 SH	20/11 SH
Bridgetown	28/27 T	30/27 T
Buenos Aires	12/11 PC	15/14 C
Cancun	31/27 S	31/27 T
Caracas	27/20 SH	28/20 T
Havana	31/26 T	32/26 T
Kingston	32/28 T	32/29 T
Mexico City	31/17 SH	31/16 S
Nassau	28/27 T	28/26 T
Puerto Plata	30/25 T	30/24 T
Rio de Janeiro	24/20 SH	23/19 SH
Santiago	19/13 C	16/13 C

Mother-in-law won't let go of long ago slight

LISI TESHER

ADVICE

My mother-in-law holds a grudge like nobody's business. Thankfully, I have always been on her good side. My brother-in-law is not so lucky. The poor guy can't catch a break with her. She doesn't like the way he hugs her whenever they greet each other, she doesn't like the way he eats his soup at a restaurant and she especially doesn't like the way he is so strict when it comes to certain areas of parenting.

Meanwhile, my sister-in-law (her daughter) hugs her the exact same way, has terrible table manners and the parenting rules stem more from her than from him, though he agrees with most things she recommends. The main grudge comes from something he supposedly did on their wedding night. As the story goes — I wasn't on the scene at the time — he was dancing with his bride when her father came to cut in. He passed her off to her father and simultaneously reached out for his own mother, inadvertently leaving our mother-in-law standing alone on the dance floor.

This was almost a decade ago and she hasn't let it go. How can I help both of them get past this? It makes for uncomfortable dinners and family get-togethers.

Grudgefudge

Though I strongly appreciate your desire to smooth the waters and help everyone get past this moment of awkward history, I would advise you not to get involved. Thus far you have a clean sheet, which I'm sure your partner is grateful for. He obviously knows what his mother is capable of and would rather not be the recipient of her negativity.

If anything, you could let your brother-in-law know you recognize he's getting a hard time and perhaps give him some coping mechanisms, as well as letting him know he shouldn't take it to heart.

My friend is passing judgment on me and I'm not sure how to handle it. She thinks I don't treat my boyfriend well enough and is constantly telling me what I did wrong, insisting I'm going to lose him, and how I should behave.

Her suggestions are Stepford-wife syndrome style, which is not how I live my life or what I desire for a relationship.

But she's getting into my head and under my skin and I wonder if my boyfriend is going to leave me. What do I do?

Judge Judy

First, I would talk to your boyfriend. There's nothing wrong with checking in on your relationship. Ask him how he feels, if anything is bothering him, if he'd like to talk about anything. If he's fine, you could discuss the matter in detail with him about what your friend is suggesting and how you feel about that. Hopefully, he'll laugh with you and you two can go back to living your lives as it works for you.

Second, I would talk to your friend and tell her to mind her own business. That your relationship is solid, that you are not a submissive pleaser and to back off and out of your relationship.

Dear Readers Every once in a while, I receive an email that is not someone looking for my advice, nor wanting to discuss advice I have given. Sometimes I just receive messages from people saying nasty things, making rude comments or trying to pick a fight.

Here is an email I recently received: "Sometimes I'm tempted to read your column, but the photo of mother and daughter clutching each other is so annoying that I just can't. I suggest you forgo the mother-daughter drama and make a clean transition, if that's what you intend. Otherwise, I'll just pass over your column."

How would you respond to this?

Feedback Regarding the woman afraid of visiting her friend in New York City because she was mugged (April 25):

Reader "But that (can happen) in any city, even where (ever) she presently lives. I strongly suggest she gets the full details regarding the mugging. Was there something different that her friend did that made herself appear as a vulnerable, isolated female? Had she been consuming alcohol? Basically, did she do something 'stupid' she wouldn't normally have done?"

"I live in Toronto, and there are places I would never walk at night, even with buddies."

ELLIE TESHER AND LISI TESHER ARE ADVICE COLUMNISTS FOR THE STAR AND BASED IN TORONTO. SEND YOUR RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONS VIA EMAIL: ELLIE@THESTAR.CA OR LISI@THESTAR.CA.

STARS

MECCA WOODS

HOROSCOPES

The atmosphere is abuzz with enthusiasm and inspiration. It's the perfect day for anything that sparks the imagination and encourages a love for learning. If there's a problem to fix, the current cosmic weather should make it easy to find a solution. We can expect the lines of communication to be open, making conversation and connection a breeze. The power of serendipity will also be strong, which could lead to some magical opportunities and new friendships. Pooling our talent and skills with others can get us closer to our goals.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Follow the creative spark; you're on the cusp of something good. An important conversation or meeting could lead to a promising opportunity.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your intuition is spot-on, so make sure to trust it. It could aid you in magnetizing money.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Wear something that makes you feel confident because you will grab everyone's attention. Shine like the star you are!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You can make a very positive impact on others through your kindness and compassion.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You'll win people over with your honesty and integrity today. Having a great sense of humour won't hurt either.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You may get the opportunity to share your knowledge, ideas or expertise with others. You are an inspiration.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Perhaps it's time to enrol in a course or a workshop since your mind is hungry for information. Meanwhile, travelling could be advantageous for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Heartfelt connection is just what you need. Reach out to someone you love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A potential partnership or contract agreement could be very worthwhile for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) If there's an idea or a creative project that you're busy working on, expect success with it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your love life looks bright. Also, if you want more joy in your life, now's the time to go and find it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Today could bring positive developments in relation to your home or family.

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY For you, variety is the spice of life. You have a deep appreciation for new experiences and anything that's fresh, cutting-edge or unconventional. You may even consider yourself a nonconformist. You're too versatile and sophisticated to be put into a box. You're cerebral, imaginative and acutely perceptive. Wherever you go, you often command attention because of your natural charm. When you write or speak, you captivate people with your words. This year, take time to tune in to what you're feeling. Pay attention to what your heart is saying.

BIRTHDATE OF Angelina Jolie, actor/filmmaker; Noah Wyle, actor/producer; Keith David, actor.

THEATRE REVIEW

Full of feelings

Solo show ‘Age Is a Feeling’ has something for everyone B6

DANCE REVIEW

High praise

‘Don Quixote’ is full of good humour, dazzling dancing B4



BUSINESS

TV LISTINGS, B5

ECONOMY

Real estate market awaits BoC move

Analysts believe an interest rate cut could spark a buying frenzy after months of stagnant prices

JOSH RUBIN
BUSINESS REPORTER

The wait is almost over. The Bank of Canada is set to announce Wednesday whether it’s going to finally start cutting interest rates for the first time in more than four years.

Traders — and some economists — are betting that the answer is yes. Real estate analysts are also looking forward to Wednesday’s announcement, saying that it could spark a buying frenzy after months of stagnant prices. “If we do see a rate cut this week, it’s going to really, really jump-start

the market and I think you’re going to see a lot more offers being made, and that inventory starting to come down,” said real estate consultant and former Queen’s University professor John Andrew, who estimated that residential real estate prices in the Greater Toronto Area could rise by up to six per cent by the end

The Bank of Canada will announce its decision Wednesday

of the year. Andrew expects the bank to cut its key overnight lending rate by 25 basis points (a quarter of a percentage point), to 4.75 per cent. Since last July, the bank’s key overnight lending rate has sat at five per cent. The bank raised rates 10 SEE INTEREST, B3

IMMIGRATION



Report finds small loans can boost migrants’ lifetime earnings

NICHOLAS KEUNG
IMMIGRATION REPORTER

A small loan can give anyone in financial stress a leg up, but how far would it go for a newcomer in Canada trying to make ends meet while struggling to get back to their professional field? A new report sheds light on how such an investment can help not only the immigrants on the receiving end, but also Canada’s tax coffers, aside from the injection of new blood into the labour market. The study by PricewaterhouseCoopers examined the social and economic impacts of Windmill Microlending based on the national charity’s client data. It estimated a borrower’s lifetime income would increase by \$364,000 with a corresponding rise in tax contributions of \$188,000. “I was very happy to see that,” said Claudia Hepburn, CEO of Wind-

mill, which was started in 2005 by the late Calgary psychologist Dr. Maria Eriksen, who saw that many of the janitorial staff at her hospital were foreign-trained professionals. “The taxes paid is one thing. It’s the ability (for Canadians) to see a doctor or have a nurse care for you when you’re ill that wouldn’t have been there.” The income is pretax, indexed to 2023. Since its inception, Windmill — through donations and a community bond — has doled out \$105 million in loans to 11,300 newcomers from 150 countries. Currently, it has 4,700 active clients and \$45 million loaned in its book, and it’s growing. Through the years, the charity has extended its program from the initial loans to get credentials reaccredited to lending money to newcomers in professional development and career changes, and most recently providing loans to refu-

gees resettled by Canada based on their education and skills. Clients are required to pay interest during their study plan, and must start repaying interest plus principal upon the completion of their skill upgrades. Graduates have a loan repayment rate of 97 per cent, the report said. Since January 2023, Windmill has cut its interest rate to prime minus half a percentage point, from prime plus 1.5 points, to support clients struggling with rising cost of living. Clients’ study plans are vetted and each is assigned a coach to help with budgeting. The report, conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers for Windmill on a pro bono basis, found more than half of the agency’s active clients are involved in health-care professions like nursing, pharmacy, medicine and dentistry that are experiencing some of the most acute SEE LOANS, B3

Dr. Binal Patel, a single mother, received a \$10,000 loan from Windmill Microlending so she could take a dentistry course full time to get her Canadian licence. “I thought I would never make it,” she said.

BINAL PATEL
PHOTO

FISCAL ARMAGEDDON
PART TWO

How to get ready for financial turmoil

FRANK GIUSTRA
OPINION

“In politics it is necessary either to betray one’s country or the electorate. I prefer to betray the electorate.” — CHARLES DE GAULLE

In the opinion piece I wrote last week, I warned of a looming financial crisis in the U.S. (and other western nations) fuelled by spiralling debt, money printing and a broken political system — and that most people will be unprepared. Although much of the population is anxious, no one can imagine a worst-case scenario, simply because unlike my parents’ generation, our generation has never experienced the effects of a depression, hyperinflation or war. The sad reality is that history has shown us that these cycles occur every 70 to 100 years and the patterns leading up to these crises are recognizable. Unlike most individuals in the West, the rest of the world is preparing for a worst-case outcome. The Ukraine and Gaza wars have split the global community into competing camps: the West and the East, the G7 and the BRICS Plus nations. The Global South is trying to stay neutral but increasingly, Russia and China are pulling ahead in the war for the hearts and minds of many poorer nations. The biggest battle in this East versus West confrontation will be over the U.S. dollar’s reserve status. The idea that the dollar will remain the supreme currency no matter what because “there is no alternative” (TINA) is being quickly disproven, and the U.S. is now witnessing “the ugly new alternatives” (TUNA). Nations around the world are increasingly turning to other mechanisms to trade outside the U.S. dollar system and replacing U.S. dollar reserves with gold bullion. SEE GIUSTRA, B3

MARKETS

S&P/TSX	S&P 500	DJIA	NASDAQ	DOLLAR	GOLD	OIL	NATURAL GAS
▼ 22,116.69 -152.43	▲ 5,283.40 +5.89	▼ 38,571.03 -115.29	▲ 16,828.67 +93.65	▲ 73.34¢ +0.01	▲ US\$2,369.30 +US\$23.50	▼ US\$74.22 -US\$2.77	▲ US\$2.76 +US\$0.17

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Ontario eyes another battery plant

Minister says province is in talks with three more parties in push to bolster auto sector’s future

STEPHANIE HUGHES
AND MONIQUE MULIMA

Ontario expects to land another major electric vehicle battery plant, its economy minister said, as Canada’s most populous province tries to capitalize on what it views as a short-lived opportunity to secure the future of its auto sector.

It has already lured commitments for major plants from Stellantis NV, Volkswagen AG and Honda Motor Co., with the help of promises of billions of dollars from government. Ontario has its eyes on three more prospects and is confident it will land at least one, said Vic Fedeli, its minister of economic development and trade.

“The window in EV is going to close very, very shortly,” Fedeli said, explaining he believes new facilities need to be opened by 2027 or 2028. “It’s starting to close now, meaning that everybody needs a dance partner.”

Ontario has jumped into the global race to use public money to attract investment from EV manufacturers, making the case that it must act quickly to keep a share of the auto-assembly business amid aggressive competition from the U.S. and China. It’s also a strategy to ensure the long-term future of existing factories where automakers might wind down production of gasoline-powered cars and trucks.

Fedeli wouldn’t disclose which companies he’s speaking with, though his team has concentrated much of its time and attention on major automaking countries including the U.S., Japan and Germany.

Canada got Volkswagen and Stellantis to sign on to new EV battery plants in Ontario by promising to match the enormous subsidies available in the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act. For the Honda deal, which is an estimated \$15 billion in total investment, the federal and provincial governments relied on a financial package — including tax credits and capital cost subsidies — worth as much as \$5 billion.

Canada has leaned into these investments even as demand for EVs is slowing. Global sales of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles grew 62 per cent in 2022, 31 per cent last year and are forecast to rise at a slower rate again this year, according to Bloomberg NEF data. The vast majority of Canada’s vehicle production is exported to the U.S.

Ontario’s auto industry has hit those speed bumps. In April, Ford Motor Co. pushed back the start of electric vehicle production in Oakville, its lone Canadian assembly plant, by two years to 2027. The automaker said it needed more time to see the consumer market pick up.

Fedeli, however, argues there’s “long-term life” in electric vehicle investments.

Though the provincial government is still chasing EV deals, Fedeli said the “closing window” for these projects means it’s starting to focus more on attracting foreign investment in the life sciences sector.

Ontario has already landed \$4 billion in investments from companies like the vaccine-making division of France’s Sanofi SA, U.K.-based AstraZeneca Plc, Swiss health care company Roche Holding AG and U.S.-based Omni International, he said.

BLOOMBERG

IN BRIEF

AIRLINES

Air Canada making more flights to India

Air Canada says it is ramping up its flights to India this year including new non-stop service from Toronto to Mumbai. The airline says the flights between Toronto and Mumbai will run four times a week starting Oct. 27. In addition, Air Canada says it will boost its service from Montreal to Delhi to daily flights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MINING



Alberta ranchers object to coal exploration plan

Community says energy regulator was wrong to approve Northback project for Grassy Mountain

BOB WEBER

An Alberta ranching community is fighting a planned hearing on proposed coal exploration in the Rocky Mountains, saying the province’s arm’s-length energy regulator shouldn’t have heeded a letter from its energy minister suggesting an application from Northback Holdings be accepted.

The information is contained in documents released last week by the Alberta Energy Regulator. They outline the Municipal District of Ranchland’s request to appeal the regulator’s ruling that Northback’s plans for Grassy Mountain in southwest Alberta are exempt from an order blocking such development.

“(Ranchland) submits that the (regulator) abdicated its decision-making responsibilities in reaching the decision by improperly fettering its discretion in the face of a non-binding letter from the minister of energy,” say the municipality’s court filings.

Northback has applied for three licences on Grassy Mountain near the community of Crowsnest Pass. Northback wants approval for exploratory drilling and water diversion as part of the Australian company’s plans for an open-pit steelmaking coal mine.

The project, under the name Ben-

ga Mining, has previously been denied by federal and provincial environmental reviews. As well, Alberta has enacted a ministerial order blocking all coal development in the Rockies, save for those considered “advanced projects” that have submitted a project summary to the regulator.

However, Northback argues the project summary submitted by Benga qualifies it as an advanced project, even though the proposal was rejected.

In a Nov. 16, 2023, letter to the regulator, Alberta Energy Minister Brian Jean sided with Northback. The regulator subsequently accepted Northback’s applications and promised public hearings on them.

But Ranchland, in documents filed March 21 with the Alberta Court of Appeal, argues Jean had no right to make that suggestion and the regulator was wrong to follow it.

It says the regulator, in effect, delegated its decision-making power to the minister, contrary to law.

Northback has asked the regulator to schedule hearings in June, with a decision to follow within 30 days.

Regulator spokesperson Renato Gandia said in an email that while no date for the hearings has been set, they are being planned.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Northback Holdings has applied for three licences on Alberta’s Grassy Mountain and is seeking approval for exploratory drilling and water diversion as part of the Australian company’s plans for an open-pit steelmaking coal mine.

RIVERSDALE
RESOURCES
THE CANADIAN
PRESS

AUTOS

Toyota halts production of 3 models in testing scandal

YURI KAGEYAMA

TOKYO Toyota chair Akio Toyoda apologized Monday for massive cheating on certification tests for seven vehicle models as the automaker suspended production of three of them.

The wide-ranging fraudulent testing at Japan’s top automaker involved the use of inadequate or outdated data in collision tests, and incorrect testing of airbag inflation and rear-seat damage in crashes. Engine power tests were also found to have been falsified.

Toyota Motor Corp. suspended production in Japan of the Corolla Fielder, Corolla Axio and Yaris Cross.

The company said the wrongdoing does not affect the safety of the vehicles already on roads, which include the Corolla subcompact and Lexus luxury vehicles.

A Japanese government investi-

gation into Toyota began in January. The issue does not affect Toyota’s overseas production.

Also Monday, Toyota’s Japanese rival Mazda Motor Corp. reported similar irregular certification testing, and halted production of two models, the Roadster and Mazda 2. It said incorrect engine control software was used in the tests.

Mazda, based in the southwestern city of Hiroshima, also acknowledged violations on crash tests on three discontinued models. None of the violations affect the vehicles’ safety.

Tokyo-based Honda Motor Co. also apologized Monday for improper tests, such as those on noise levels and torque, on a range of models. Honda said affected older models — the Accord, Odyssey and Fit — are no longer in production. The safety of the vehicles is not affected, it said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toyota, Mazda and Honda apologized on Monday for cheating on vehicle certification tests. The companies said the safety of the vehicles are unaffected

EMISSIONS

Plastics plant seeks more time to meet regulations

Factory has been leaking dangerous levels of benzene

SARAH RITCHIE

OTTAWA The owners of a Sarnia, Ont., plastics plant that has been emitting dangerous levels of the cancer-causing chemical benzene for years say they need more time to comply with tougher federal rules.

In mid-May, Environment Canada set out new air quality standards in the Sarnia area in a move targeted at Ineos Styrolution. The order signed by Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault would affect any plant that had levels of benzene pollution above 29 micrograms per cubic metre of air between March 1, 2023, and Feb. 29, 2024.

The German-owned styrene maker Ineos is the only one in the area to exceed that level.

The Ineos plant was shut down on April 20 after air monitors picked up a massive spike in benzene levels on April 16. Levels measured by the Clean Air Sarnia and Area Monitoring Network near the Aamjiwnaang First Nation band office peaked at 115 micrograms per cubic metre of air.

In a statement sent to media on Saturday, Ineos said the company has made “significant investments to comply with increasingly stringent emissions limits” and said its site will stay closed until it can meet the new targets.

Ineos also said there are potential safety risks with what it called “a rushed program to destock benzene” from the site, and it has asked the federal government for more time.

The company said emptying and cleaning all benzene from its tanks will require meticulous planning and could result in more emissions.

“While we understand (Environment Canada’s) urgency, we are clear: safety, not speed, must be the primary consideration,” Ineos representative Brian Lucas said in the statement.

Ineos also claims it has always operated within emissions limits.

The statement does not indicate how much more time the company is asking for, but does say it has agreed to delay the start of the work until after a community event at Aamjiwnaang on June 22 and 23.

Benzene is a clear, mostly colourless liquid that is part of the make-up of crude oil.

It’s used to make styrene, a lightweight plastic used in everything from auto parts and food containers to toys.

The Ontario government launched a project to review benzene levels and other pollutants in Sarnia in 2020.

Its findings, published earlier this year, concluded something had to be done to reduce the pollution, particularly around the Aamjiwnaang band office.

The Ontario Environment Ministry has issued four orders to fix Ineos’s benzene levels since 2019.

On May 1, the province suspended Ineos’s operating permit until it complies with multiple conditions including repairing leaky equipment, installing full vapour control on vessels containing benzene, and implementing a comprehensive benzene monitoring plan and community notification system.

The federal order requires the company to install vapour control systems and fully closed vent systems on benzene storage tanks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Migrants say loans help them find their professional footing

LOANS FROM B1

skill shortages.

On average, their income increased by \$32,000 or 40 per cent annually following a Windmill loan.

“If they have a really tough exam we know has a high failure rate, we encourage them to borrow the money that they’re going to need to pay for their cost of living the month before the exam,” said Hepburn.

“We don’t want you driving Uber 60 hours a week. Some people need to get a babysitter so they can study and go to their courses. We had one client in Edmonton and his car didn’t have snow tires and it was the wintertime. So we lent him the money to buy snow tires so he could get to his course.”

The loan is life-changing for Binal Patel, who was sponsored to Canada from India by her then husband in 2014 and was licensed as a dentist in Canada in 2019.

While preparing for costly licensing exams, she was working full time at a fast-food joint making sandwiches, earning minimum wage, until 2017, when she had her daughter. Amid a marriage breakdown, she had no money and knocked on the doors of multiple banks to try to get a loan for a \$6,000 course and another \$7,000 for a final exam.

“I thought I would never make it,” said the now single mother, who got a \$10,000 loan from Windmill so she could attend the course full time while her parents from India came to care for her newborn.

Today, Patel makes more than \$150,000 at a dental office and plans to upgrade her skills to start doing implants.

Psychotherapist Elda Almario said she started her professional registration process in Ontario before she arrived in Canada from the Philippines in early 2018. She was required to enrol in a career bridg-

ing program at Toronto’s Mennonite New Life Centre.

And if not for the \$2,500 loan from Windmill to cover the fee for the year-long, full-time course, she said she wouldn’t have been able to return to her field because she and her husband, a telecommunication field technician, were living paycheque to paycheque.

“We don’t qualify for OSAP. We don’t have credit history in Canada. That’s our only option,” said Almario, who is now a sole practitioner after working two years for a community mental health organization.

After she found her professional footing in Canada, her engineer husband took out a \$10,000 Windmill loan to upgrade his education to study cybersecurity. She said the investment is a win-win for newcomers and Canada.

“Not only has it benefitted me and helped me get back to my profession, but I get to serve the community with my skills.”

Elda Almario, a registered psychotherapist originally from the Philippines, said a \$2,500 loan from Windmill Microlending was crucial for her to return to work in her field in Canada.

When all else fails, gold still shines on

OPINION: GIUSTRA FROM B1

So, how will a major crisis manifest itself? Firstly, as the U.S. runs out of foreign buyers for its Treasuries, the Federal Reserve will need to step in as it has in the past and become the buyer of last resort, but this time in much greater quantities. To do this it will have to print money — a lot of money.

Further money printing will scare away remaining buyers of U.S. debt, which will require higher long-term rates to compensate for the additional risk, which will in-turn require even more money printing by the Fed to keep rates down becoming a vicious and uncontrollable cycle.

Once it is evident the spiral is uncontrollable, panic will set in and that’s when hyperinflation will come into play. What happens after that is difficult to predict and almost too scary to talk about: Societal implosion and external conflicts are just a couple of possible outcomes. None of it is pretty.

Once U.S. policymakers sense an impending crisis, they will move swiftly to protect the system. And that means sacrificing the individual. Every nation has rolled out the same playbook throughout history. We will see capital controls, meaning you cannot convert your U.S. dollars to other currencies or export your money outside the country.

Even scarier, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Act passed by Congress in 2010 eliminated the option of bank bail-outs, but opened the door for bank bail-ins. Simply put, bail-ins means the banks can confiscate your deposits if they run into financial trouble.

Finding ways to protect yourself from an impending crisis is not an easy task as there are so many variables to consider, and each one might require a different action. That said, it’s fair to say that the 60/40 traditional stock/bond portfolio is no longer valid.

Owning bonds is a guaranteed losing proposition in an inflationary environment. Stock picking will be a lot trickier than the passive ETF investing strategy many are accustomed to. I would rotate out of overpriced tech stocks and move into more defensive stocks. Your portfolio should be heavily skewed to hard assets, including commodities such as metals, energy and food which have traditionally done well in inflationary times.

Geography is important as well. U.S. stocks are extremely overvalued as compared to emerging markets. It’s also perfectly legal to have bank accounts in other jurisdictions denominated in other currencies. This might provide protection in the event of capital controls.

That said, owning other currencies is not the best way to store value. Most fiat currencies are in a devaluation race to the bottom. Choosing one currency over another is like choosing between a cruise on the Bismarck or the Titanic. Of course, you need to have some cash in your portfolio in the event of a severe market crash which may precede or follow high inflation.

Which leads us to gold.

I may sound like a broken record, but I have not been wrong during the past two decades. Gold has outperformed stocks and bonds since 2001 and it will continue to perform, only now at an accelerated rate. When all else fails, gold is, and

always has been, the last man standing — hedge against human stupidity.

Non-Western central banks and individual investors in BRICS nations have been buying large quantities of physical gold at an accelerating rate. They see the writing on the wall. In our part of the world, we are warned off gold by Wall Street and the financial media that is their mouthpiece.

How high gold can go is anyone’s guess. It is a function of how far fiat currencies will fall. Here are a few data points to consider as a reminder of how gold performs against failing currencies. In Turkey, the gold price has gone up sevenfold in three years in lira terms.

In Argentina, it’s gone up 10-fold. Even in yen terms, it has doubled. Furthermore, had I told you in 1971 that gold would go up 27-fold in 10 years, would you have believed me? Well, it did. Ditto, if in 2001 I predicted it would go up eightfold in the next decade? The past is a powerful teacher.

For ultimate security, I recommend investing in physical gold, whether in bars or coins. The fine print in gold ETFs’ prospectuses ensure that in a crisis, your gold will not be available when you need it most.

If you are willing to take on additional risk, own some gold mining shares with a low cost of production.

All of this may make me sound like Chicken Little, but I urge you to dust off your history books. It’s all there in black and white. Technology may advance, but human nature stays the same. It would be prudent to prepare yourself. Anything less is reckless.

Gold has outperformed stocks and bonds since 2001 and it will continue to perform, only now at an accelerated rate

GDP data has many betting on a rate cut

INTEREST FROM B1

times between March 2022 and last summer in a bid to wrestle inflation down to its two per cent target.

The theory is that by making it more expensive to borrow money, consumers and businesses will spend less, driving down prices and slowing the economy.

In April, the annual inflation rate fell to 2.7 per cent, considerably lower than its peak of 8.1 per cent in June 2022.

Last week, Statistics Canada released gross domestic product data showing that the Canadian economy grew at an annualized rate of just 1.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2024, slower than the 2.2 per cent expected by a consensus of economists, and substantially slower than the Bank of Canada’s projections of 2.8 per cent.

That less than stellar GDP figure had an almost immediate impact in trading on the overnight interest swap market. Before the GDP release, trading on the OIS market was pricing in a slightly less than 50 per cent chance of an interest-rate cut this week. By midday Monday, that figure had jumped to 83 per cent.

“It seems like since the GDP release last week, that there has been a big change in sentiment about what the bank is going to do,” said Peter Norman, chief economist at Altus Group, a real estate data and economics consultancy.

Central banks in Switzerland and Sweden have already started cutting interest rates, and the European Central Bank is widely expected to start cutting this week.

Norman agreed that the psychological impact of a first rate cut could give some impetus to a market that has been stagnant for the last year, but says a real boost won’t come unless it becomes clear the Bank of Canada will be cutting a number of times.

“Once the narrative changes, that will fuel a little bit of optimism. I’m just a little skeptical about whether we’re going to see much in terms of frothy prices,” said Norman. “I think it’s going to be a while before this rate-cutting cycle really settles in.”

At RBC, economists Nathan Janzen and Claire Fan argued that between the GDP numbers and the fact inflation has been coming down, the bank is likely to start cutting Wednesday.

“All ducks appear to be in a row for the Bank of Canada to kick-start the policy easing cycle and lower the overnight rate by 25 basis points to 4.75 per cent,” Janzen and Fan wrote in a research note.

And, they added, a slowing economy is likely to keep pushing inflation lower, meaning that the bank will need to cut rates again.

“Contingent on that outlook, we look for 100 basis points of interest rate cuts this year that will leave the overnight rate at a still restrictive four per cent by the end of 2024,” Janzen and Fan wrote.

While inflation data has been pointing toward a rate cut for months, argued TD economist James Orlando, the Bank of Canada still hasn’t firmly signalled that it’s on the verge of cutting.

That means, he suggested, that the bank could hold off until its July 24 announcement date to start cutting.

“If it wants to keep up this effort of transparency and forward guidance, we expect the BoC will hold rates steady ... and use the meeting to tee up a rate cut in July,” Orlando wrote.

“Expect fireworks as the BoC could go either way with this one,” Orlando wrote.

“It seems like since the GDP release last week, that there has been a big change in sentiment about what the bank is going to do.”

PETER NORMAN, CHIEF ECONOMIST AT ALTUS GROUP

DANCE REVIEW

‘Don Quixote’ dazzles in dancing and design



KAROLINA KURAS NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA
Genevieve Penn Nabity as Kitri and Harrison James as Basilio in the National Ballet of Canada’s “Don Quixote.” Basilio, a young barber, is determined to wed Kitri, the local the inn-keeper’s vivacious daughter.

Production brings a modern feel to story without rejecting tradition

Don Quixote
★★★★ (out of 4)
Choreographed by Carlos Acosta after Marius Petipa; music by Ludwig Minkus with a new arrangement by Hans Vercauteren. At the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen St. W., until June 9.

MICHAEL CRABB
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

It’s hard to imagine a more wildly enthusiastic audience than the one that greeted the National Ballet of Canada’s new production of “Don Quixote” on Saturday night. There were moments when unbridled applause almost drowned out the orchestra. It’s not difficult to understand why.

The company — and North American — premiere of Cuban-British ballet superstar Carlos Acosta’s 2022 staging of the 19th-century, three-act comedic warhorse was a triumph on several levels. In itself, without rejecting tradition, the production feels alive and of today. The dancers meet the ballet’s fearsome technical challenges and demands on stamina with almost nonchalant gusto. Even first time out, they looked as if they were having tremendous fun.

“Don Quixote” is theoretically a narrative ballet, but in truth there’s little drama.

What exists comes from one of the many stories embedded in Miguel Cervantes’ famous 17th-century epic novel. Even the title is misleading because the ballet’s romantically delusional hidalgo — ever in search of his idolized Dulcinea — and his gluttonous servant Sancho Panza are mimed roles, in the case of the latter slapstick and clownishly so.

The real action belongs to Basilio and Kitri. Basilio is a young barber determined to wed Kitri, the local innkeeper’s vivacious daughter. Her mercenary father, Lorenzo, intends to marry her off to Gamache, a rich pseudo-grandee. If the overdressed gentleman in canary yellow and a blue wig were as handsome and manly as he is rich, Kitri might reasonably be tempted, but Gamache is a charmless dandified

fop. We know, of course, that true love will ultimately prevail, but the couple’s adventures along the way to the third act offer ample excuse to dance up a storm both in the “real” world and in the fevered Act II dream world of the Don.

Acosta had already staged a very successful full-length “Don Quixote” in 2013 for the Royal Ballet in London. Having later been appointed as artistic director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, Acosta decided to take another run at it, tweaking it to better suit a smaller touring company.

This 2022 production, whose sets and costumes are currently on loan to the National Ballet, has an overall lighter feel with fewer moving parts and a fresh, airier orchestration of the Ludwig Minkus score by Belgian composer Hans Vercauteren.

That said, Tim Hatley, the Tony and Olivier Award-winning designer of both productions, offers a colourful feast for the eye, aided in the second act especially by Nina Dunn’s video design. Wait until you see what she does with the famous windmill that the Don mistakes for an adversary.

Peter Mumford’s atmospheric lighting design is as appropriate to the sunny outdoor scenes as it is to a moonlit Roma encampment where the young lovers find refuge and the smoky bowels of Act III’s tavern. There, with the Don’s crucial intervention, Basilio hilariously outwits the money-grubbing Lorenzo to win Kitri’s hand; cue the glorious final wedding celebration where joy abounds and everyone dances as if there’s no tomorrow.

Among so many excellently danced featured roles it would nevertheless seem remiss not to mention Christopher Gerty’s swaggering, testosterone supercharged matador Espada or Alexandra MacDonald’s serene Dulcinea, wafting in and out of the action to remind us of the Don’s obsession.

In Act II’s supernatural “vision” scene, a standard feature of many Russian ballet classics, Calley Skalnik was nothing short of sensational as the Queen of the Dryads while the mercurial David Preciado in his cute gold cupid costume in the role

of Amour danced with such speed and precision that he had the audience cheering. Interestingly, in a nod perhaps to our gender flexible times, the role is being shared by two men and two women.

And then there was Genevieve Penn Nabity and Harrison James as the very-much-in-love central couple. James, possibly the first moustached Basilio ever, is a famously solid partner. Those one-arm overhead lifts almost brought the house down.

Some of the choreography put James outside his natural comfort zone. He’s not a circus-tricks kind of dancer. Even so, James launched unflinching into the minefield of devilish steps required of Basilio and acquitted himself with honour.

As for Nabity, a formidable technician but, like James, not by nature an in-your-face showy dancer, she discovered an inner Iberian fire that, with accumulating intensity, exploded into an effervescent, at times almost coquettishly beguiling Kitri.

In the title role, former National Ballet reigning prince Rex Harrington, now a sexagenarian, brought a pathos to the Don that made for a deeply affecting characterization. Acosta has deliberately given the Don a more integrated place in the ballet, offering a back-story prologue that explains the nature of his deluded idealism. This Don Quixote is not a figure to be laughed at, as Harrington clearly understands.

A nine-performance run allows plenty of casting options, of which Acosta has taken generous advantage by featuring four different Basilio’s variously paired with five Kitris. Since Acosta’s “Don Quixote” is new to the company, everyone is making a role debut, except two guest artists in the lead roles, Momoko Hirata and Mathias Dingman. Both are principal dancers with the Acosta-directed Birmingham Royal Ballet and appear in Toronto as part of a cross-company dancer exchange. Usually paired as Kitri and Basilio with their home company, here each is dancing with a local partner.

It’s hard to argue with Acosta’s assertion that “Don Quixote” appeals as much to novices as to seasoned balletomanes. What it may lack in dramatic depth is fully compensated for by such an abundance of good humour and dazzling dancing that only the hardest of hearts could leave the theatre without a smile on their face.

THEATRE REVIEW

Compelling concept gets dull interpretation

JOSHUA CHONG
CULTURE REPORTER

STRATFORD, ONT. Hedda Gabler, playwright Henrik Ibsen’s titular female heroine who torpedoes the lives of those around her before turning on herself, may be one of theatre’s most polarizing characters.

When the Norwegian playwright’s tragedy premiered in 1891, Hedda disgusted conservative critics, who saw her as nothing more than an evil and selfish hedonist. Today, with our historical hindsight, many audiences now deeply sympathize with Ibsen’s anti-hero, viewing her not as the play’s villain but rather as its flawed protagonist, a woman trapped in a confined society in which she does not belong.

Loathe or admire her, however, she’s a character that should elicit a strong reaction. But the Stratford Festival’s deflating new production of “Hedda Gabler,” now running at the Tom Patterson Theatre, 111 Lakeside Dr., Stratford, Ont. stratford-festival.ca or 1-800-567-1600

Loathe or admire her, however, she’s a character that should elicit a strong reaction. But the Stratford Festival’s deflating new production of “Hedda Gabler,” now running at the Tom Patterson Theatre, commits a cardinal sin: for me, at least, it elicited nothing but apathy.

That’s certainly not the fault of Broadway veteran Sara Topham, who delivers a convincing performance in the role often described as “the female Hamlet.” From Hedda’s first entrance, Topham sensibly conveys her character’s lingering restlessness. She paces listlessly, arms swinging beside her torso, like a ship’s masts bobbing aimlessly in a barren sea.

In the rare moments when she’s alone, Topham’s Hedda wears a blank expression, as if the remaining life within her is slowly being eaten away by her loveless marriage. In the company of others, she sports a fake avatar of conformity.

There’s an aching melancholy to Topham’s performance. “I needed to settle. I settled for him,” her Hedda quietly admits when asked why she chose to marry her academic husband, Tesman (Gordon S. Miller), who’s unsuitable for her in almost every regard.

Topham has all the ingredients for an astonishing star turn, a Hedda with whom the audience can immensely sympathize. But she’s held back by a production that does her few favours.

Lorenzo Savoini’s period set is spare. Upstage, a fireplace glows with orange embers. Further down, a Victorian-style chaise longue sits idly in the middle of the stage. It’s a picture that evokes a sense of barrenness, an appropriate reflection of Hedda’s barren existence.

SEE HEDDA GABLER, B5

From her first entrance, Sara Topham sensibly conveys her character’s lingering restlessness in “Hedda Gabler” at the Stratford Festival.

DAVID HOU
STRATFORD
FESTIVAL



Comedic moments feel misplaced

HEDDA GABLER FROM B4

But practically, director Molly Atkinson struggles to effectively use Savoini's setup on the elongated thrust stage. Her blocking always seems stilted, with performers moving about like chess pieces on a near-empty board. She also relies too heavily on a pair of up-stage exits when there are two others downstage that lead into the vomitorium. The result is scene transitions that feel unnecessarily long, siphoning any momentum there is to Patrick Marber's brisk and economical adaptation, which should hurtle relentlessly toward the play's shocking finale. The emptiness of the stage also does little to depict the stifling repressiveness of Hedda's life. And Kaileigh Krysztofak's lighting designs rarely focus the audience's eye where it needs to be. Most frustrating, however, is that Atkinson initially overlays her production with a compelling concept, before abandoning it for a more dull and conventional interpretation. Michelle Cuttler's haunting compositions for solo piano, paired with scene transitions that bask Topham's Hedda in a shadowy light, suggest that Atkinson wants to render the play as a psychological thriller, drilling into the depths of Hedda's tormented mind, yearning for a sense of power and control of her life and that of others. But there's little followup to this fascinating idea in the scenes themselves. Without a clear idea on which to rest her performance, Topham is at least surrounded by an experienced cast. Miller is appropriately earnest and ner-



DAVID HOU STRATFORD FESTIVAL

Sara Topham is surrounded by an experienced cast, including Gordon S. Miller as Tesman.

dy as Tesman, while Brad Hodder plays up the instability of Hedda's freewheeling former lover, Lovborg. Joella Crichton is also sympathetic as Mrs. Elvsted, Hedda's former schoolmate and Lovborg's current lover. It's Tom McCamus, however, who delivers the most thrilling supporting performance as the mercurial Judge Brack, whose true intentions always seem shrouded.

Hedda and Tesman's maid, Bertha, is a character often played for comic relief, and Kim Horsman's portrayal is such. But the comedy in this production feels largely misplaced, particularly in the final scenes. Bits of humour woven into Marber's adaptation — or added by Atkinson in her staging — deflate key moments of tension, creating a curious air of folly in what should firmly be a tragedy.

In the end, Hedda's final act of protest in the dying seconds of the play still comes as a shock — no matter how many times you've seen Ibsen's work. And when well executed, it's an ending that should provoke something: anger, disgust, disappointment, empathy. But here, it's an ending that left me cold, much like the rest of this disappointingly blunt production.

BRIDGE BY DAVE WILLIS

A Miss Dealer: West			
None vulnerable			
NORTH			
♠Q752			
♥A65			
♦8			
♣AQ942			
WEST			
♠K864			
♥43			
♦QJ43			
♣J53			
EAST			
♠J9			
♥J97			
♦K9652			
♣876			
SOUTH			
♠A103			
♥KQ1082			
♦A107			
♣K10			
W	N	E	S
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
* 4th suit forcing			
Opening Lead: ♦Q			

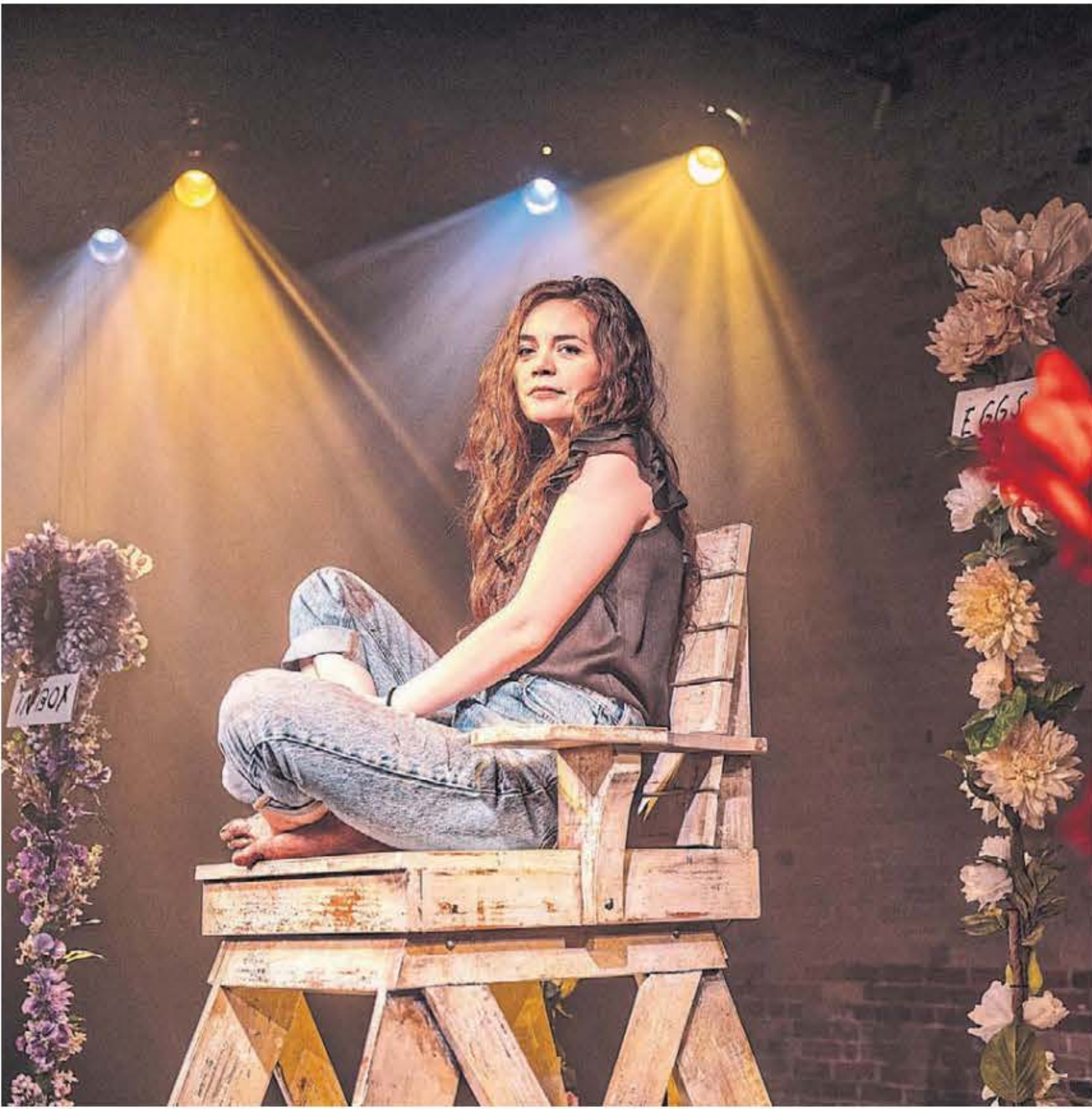
Declarer won the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, returned to hand with a club and trumped another diamond. The ace of hearts was unblocked and followed by a spade to the ace. South drew trump and reverted to clubs and was able to dispose of two spades to finish with thirteen tricks, N-S +510. The singleton diamond was just what was required for a slam to be a viable undertaking. South should advance to three hearts, disclosing slam interest, instead of rocketing into game. North could look favorably at the singleton diamond and cuebid the ace of clubs on the way to game. In this scenario, South would reciprocate with a four diamond cuebid and subsequently ask for controls when partner signs off at four hearts. The reply would reveal two aces without the trump queen and South would advance to the excellent small slam. The heart slam would be in jeopardy when there was a trump loser but declarer could still prevail as long as the defender with heart length held three clubs. Author: Dave Willis - visit his website at www.insidebridge.ca Questions can be sent with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The New Canadian Bridge c/o Torstar Syndication Services, One Yonge St., Toronto, M5E 1E6

PRIME TIME TONIGHT (N) New Show Content

MOVIES

R1: Etob./Miss./Toronto/York R2: Ajax/Whitby/Oshawa R3: Markham/Pickering/Rich. Hill/Scarborough C: Burlington/Oakville BE: Bell TV SD: Shaw Direct															
R1	R2	R3	C	BE	SD		7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	
17	17	10	11	-	-	(2) 33	Ent. Tonight	Blast	America's Got Talent (N)				Password (N)		
20	20	20	25	219	134	(3) 9	Big Bang	etalk (N)	Rookie Blue		Rookie Blue		Criminal Minds		
16	15	16	5	-	-	(4) 36	Wheel	Jeopardy!	FBI		FBI: International		FBI: Most Wanted		
6	6	6	6	210	132	(5) 20	To Be Announced		NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Dallas Stars (L) (N)						
18	18	18	9	-	-	(7) 34	7 News at	Extra (N)	Celebrity Wheel of Fortune		Celebrity Jeopardy!		The \$100,000 Pyramid		
8	8	8	13	212	133	(9) 13	etalk (N)	Big Bang	Celebrity Wheel of Fortune		Celebrity Jeopardy!		Password (N)		
11	11	11	10	218	141	(11) 15	Trending	Inside Ed.	Dynasty		Acceptable Risk		Club 54		
9	9	9	26	651	153	(14)	Wheel	Jeopardy!	Bull		Huntley Your Story		Robison	Living Local	
61	61	61	31	-	236	(17) 31	6:30 NewsHo..	Canada Files	Now We're Gardening Live!		Ken Burns: The Civil War				
166	166	166	-	-	-	(23) 36	News 4 at 7PM (N)		Police 24/7 (N)		Hostage Rescue (N)		News 4 at 10	News	
12	12	13	12	99	728	(25)	Question	Gars	Meurtres au paradis (N)		Bonsoir bonsoir! (N)		Le téléjournal (D) (N)		
28	28	21	24	-	-	(29) 32	Judge Judy	Family Feud	Beat Shazam (N)		The Quiz With Balls (N)		National	National	
3	3	3	3	211	131	(41) 17	Ent. Tonight	Goldbergs	FBI		FBI: International		FBI: Most Wanted		
167	167	167	116	-	-	(49) 16	Big Bang	Sheldon	Law & Order: SVU		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		
7	7	7	7	214	135	(57) 18	Family Feud	Family Feud	America's Got Talent (N)				Hudson & Rex		
31	31	31	20	615	422	(A&E)	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Customer	Neighbor.	
32	32	39	189	293	494	(AMC)	(4:00) ★★★ The Green Mile		★★★ Tombstone ('93) Val Kilmer, Kurt Russell.						
70	70	70	74	269	253	(APTN)	Corner Gas	Pow Wow Ch	Moosemeat	Chuck and	Bears' (SP)	Acting Good	Acting Good	On the Fro	
49	49	57	117	576	474	(BET)	Movie	(c:25) A Royal Surprise Jennifer Freeman.		(c:10) Dear Best Friend ('22) Asia'h Epperson.					
38	38	38	19	575	473	(CMT)	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers	Cheers	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
33	33	33	16	500	258	(CNN)	E. B. OutFront (L) (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (L)		The Source With (L) (N)		CNN NewsNight (L) (N)		
301	301	301	201	300	511	(CRV1)	(c:10) ★ Rocky V ('90) Talia Shire, Sylvester Stallone.		Hacks		(c:35) Thirst-Shay		(c:25) Thirst		
44	44	50	44	625	426	(CTVCOM)	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	
40	40	40	38	30	425	(CTVDR)	Chicago Med		Chicago Med		Three Women (SF) (N)		(c:10) Chicago Med		
36	36	64	21	619	405	(CTVLIFE)	MasterChef Canada		Hunters (N)	Hunters (N)	Escape to the Country		MasterChef Australia (N)		
50	50	55	40	627	423	(CTVSCI)	Star Trek: Next		Star Trek: Next		Snowpiercer (SP) (N)		(c:10) Star Trek: Next		
42	42	42	35	520	445	(DISC)	Mayday		Mayday (N)		Gold Rush WW (SF) (N)		Yellowstone Wardens (N)		
54	54	58	46	618	432	(DTOUR)	Spooked Ireland		Border	Border	When Ghosts Attack (N)		Help! My House Is Haunted		
63	71	71	110	31	417	(E)	Elementary		Elementary		Million.	Million.	Bob Heart	Bob Heart	
51	51	48	45	556	367	(FAM)	Beyond Bla	Louise	Goldbergs	Life Derek	Matters	Matters	Timescape Sofian Oleniuk.		
56	56	52	39	603	401	(FOOD)	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped (SF) (N)		Chopped		
73	73	73	118	274	483	(GAMETV)	The Price Is Right		Pictionary	Jeopardy!	★★ MacGruber ('10) Kristen Wiig, Will Forte.				
78	78	78	103	416	316	(GOLF)	Lessons	Lessons	PGA TOUR	PGA TOUR	GOLF Films Jack - Prodigy		GOLF Films Jack - Prime		
46	46	35	32	600	403	(HGTV)	Dream Home	Dream Home	Property Brothers		Dream Home	Zillow	Who's Afraid (N)		
43	43	54	43	522	441	(HIST)	Toys-America		Mega-Brands		Built America		How Disney (N)		
29	29	30	17	570	427	(MM)	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Simpsons	Futurama	Clone High	Clone High	
52	52	56	114	581	471	(MTV)	How/Made	How/Made	Catfish: The TV Show (N)		Help! I'm In (N)		Ridiculous	Ridiculous	
85	85	85	137	524	447	(NGC)	Life Below Zero		Gordon Ramsay: Uncharted		World Eats Bread (N)		Drain the Oceans		
26	26	23	28	502	255	(NN)	Canada Tonight With Travis		Dhanraj (N)		The National (N)		The National (N)		
37	37	45	75	411	431	(OLN)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	
4	4	4	4	215	156	(OMNI1)	Posto Sole	Il paradi	Ora Qui (N)		Cucinare	Serbian TV	Noi Romanii		
14	14	14	29	216	157	(OMNI2)	News	Punjabi	News	News: Arabic	OMNI News	Cantonese	News	Mandarin	
72	72	72	69	526	414	(OWN)	Ready to Love		Love & Marriage		Shattered Hearts		Dark Nights in the City		
47	47	49	-	294	-	(PEACH)	Bury the H	Bury the H	Police 24/7 (N)		Hostage Rescue (N)		Atlanta News (N)		
39	39	29	37	616	424	(SHOW)	NCIS		NCIS		Joe vs Carole		(c:05) NCIS		
41	41	37	57	601	416	(SLICE)	Below Deck Mediterranean		The Valley		The Valley (N)		(c:15) Housewives of Dubai		
21	21	17	426	409	305	(SN1)	MLB Baseball Baltimore Orioles at Toronto Blue Jays (L) (N)				Sportsnet		Stanley Cup		
22	22	32	48	405	302	(SNO)	NHL in 30	NHL in 30	Central	NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Dallas Stars (L) (N)					
48	48	46	-	292	491	(TCM)	(6:00) ★★ The Velvet Touch		★★ Bright Eyes ('34) Shirley Temple.			(c:45) ★★★ Moon Over Miami Don Ameche.			
13	16	13	71	137	729	(TFO)	Hors Québec	180/ Les inco	Canada : Plus grand		Play, le film de notre vie Max Boublil.		:50 Être noir		
34	34	34	15	521	421	(TLC)	Doubling Down		Doubling Down (N)		OutDaughtered (N)		7 Little Johnstons (N)		
35	35	28	18	700	801	(TLN)	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Dr Eva's Escape		Solo ('16) Laura Morante.			
45	45	47	41	554	372	(TOON)	Looney	Scooby-Doo	Teen/:15 Teen	Teen/:45 Teen	Superman	Superman	Superman	Superman	
494	494	494	416	400	311	(TSN1)	(6:00) Sports	2024 CFL	2024 CFL T		CFL Season (N)		SportsCentre (L) (N)		
30	30	26	59	403	314	(TSN4)	(6:00) Sports	2024 CFL	2024 CFL T		CFL Season (L) (N)		SportsCentre (L) (N)		
103	103	103	78	145	737	(TV5)	Les maîtres du feu (P)		Immigra	Sur les murs	Les routes les		Baron Noir (N)		
2	2	2	2	265	155	(TVO)	Coast New	:45 TVO Arts	Agenda-Steve Paikin (N)		Art Detectives		Beautiful Scars ('22)		
60	60	60	58	261	281	(VISION)	Murder, She Wrote		Shakespa		Shetland		Silent Witness		
27	27	27	33	602	411	(W)	Superstore	Superstore	★★ Irresistible ('20) Rose Byrne, Steve Carell.						Mom
343	343	343	212	296	243	(WSBK)	Big Bang	Big Bang	WBZ News 8p (N)		News	Jeopardy	48 Hours (N)		
25	25	25	27	551	362	(YTV)	6:00 Scooby-Doo! Moon Mo...		Young Dylan	Young Dylan	Scooby-Doo! Moon Monster Madness ('15) Mindy Cohn.				

THEATRE REVIEW



In “Age Is a Feeling,” Haley McGee delivers convincing details about everything from heartbreak over not becoming a mother to resentments over unresolved family issues.

A special show fit for everyone

Haley McGee’s solo piece demonstrates an astonishing emotional and artistic maturity

GLENN SUMI
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Occasionally a show comes along that I want to recommend to everyone: both avid theatregoers and those who haven’t seen a play since high school, or perhaps ever.

It’s not that there’s anything broad or unsophisticated about these works, which include “Kim’s Convenience,” “Every Brilliant Thing” and “Come From Away.” Rather, their presentation and themes are so entertaining and universal that I’m convinced everyone will get something profound and lasting from them.

Haley McGee’s “Age Is a Feeling” is one of those special shows.

Developed and written for London’s Soho Theatre, where it received an Olivier Award nomination after selling out houses at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2022, the solo piece — McGee’s fifth — covers nothing less than one woman’s adult life.

We don’t know her name, but as McGee introduces her to us at the top of the show, she’s celebrating her 25th birthday. This is the age, she tells us, at which neurological research has proven that a child’s brain has finished developing. From this age on, one’s decisions are totally their own.

That fact becomes important as we witness her life unfold in a series of vivid vignettes. As the play opens, McGee sits atop a wooden life-guard’s chair, surrounded by a dozen sprays of flowers suspended from the ceiling by invisible wires. Each flower arrangement has an envelope attached to it with a word.

One of the play’s clever ideas is that the audience chooses which stories to hear based on those words. At the performance I attended, an audience member chose the words “heart” and “oyster,” not “bus” or “hospital.”

McGee’s point, which becomes clearer and more resonant as the play progresses, is that randomness and chance play a part in every life. Beyond that, everyone you know has memories they take with them to the grave.

McGee, Canadian-born but now living in the U.K., has made us ponder big questions before, especially in her Dora Award-winning solo show “The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale,” which attempted to put a price tag on her failed romantic relationships. This new work demonstrates an astonishing emotional and artistic maturity.

Relating her protagonist’s story in

Age Is a Feeling
★★★★ (out of 4)
By Haley McGee, directed by Mitchell Cushman, with original direction by Adam Brace. Runs to June 23 at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts, 50 Tank House Lane. soulpepper.ca or 416-866-8666

the second person — which, like the narrator’s lack of name, lets us project whatever we want onto her — McGee delivers convincing details about everything from heartbreak over not becoming a mother to resentments over unresolved issues about one’s parents. One of the play’s most trenchant lines, at least at the version of the show I saw, was that “the problem with families is they’re too close to ever see you.”

There’s also lots of humour in this production, directed by Mitchell Cushman after the play’s original direction by Adam Brace (who died last year). As her narrator gets older, McGee repeats her mantra to “drink more water, eat more vegetables and exercise more,” which she follows, but only for a time. And when she recounts the signs of aging — discovering lines on her face, finding a single, white pubic hair, experiencing menopause — she strikes a metal cup in her chair’s cup holder as if it’s a gong and she’s trying to stay Zen about it all.

Every part of the production, presented by Soulpepper in association with the Luminato Festival — from Daniel Carter-Brennan’s lighting to Robert Moutrey’s sound design — plays a key role in establishing this liminal theatrical space. Even the raised chair from which McGee tells most of the story takes on significance later in the show, but not in an obvious or contrived way.

Like a lifeguard on humanity’s beach, McGee’s narrator, with the perspective of time and age, can see things she couldn’t before. Some events, like sudden deaths and accidents, she won’t be able to prevent. Others she can. And there’s always the chance that tomorrow will be clear and sunny.

Throughout the 75-minute show, McGee is open, spontaneous and radiant, at times responding so emotionally to the material that her eyes well up with tears. She repeats her show’s title periodically, and the aphorism takes on more and more layers as it goes on.

Yes, age is a feeling. And I guarantee you’ll have lots of feelings while watching this unforgettable show.



STEVE RUSSELL TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO
The hit Canadian musical “Come From Away” will return to the Royal Alexandra Theatre beginning in September.

‘Come From Away’ welcomes back old faces

JOSHUA CHONG
CULTURE REPORTER

“Come From Away” will feature both new and familiar faces when it returns to the Royal Alexandra Theatre this fall for an open-ended run.

The all-Canadian company, announced last week by Mirvish Productions, will feature 18 actors, including 15 performers who were part of the previous Toronto production, which opened in 2018 and abruptly shuttered in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All 12 members of the onstage company are returning to the show, with many reprising their previous roles: Kyle Brown as Bob, Saccha Dennis as Hannah, Steffi Didomenicantonio as Janice, Barbara Fulton as Diane, Lisa Horner as Beulah, James Kall as Nick/Doug, Jeff Madden as Kevin T./Garth, Ali Momen as Kevin J./Ali, Cory O’Brien as Oz, Kristen Peace as Bonnie, David Silvestri as Claude and Cailin Stadnyk as Beverley/Annette. (All the actors also play other roles in addition to their main characters.)

The production’s six standbys, who will each cover multiple roles,

include returning cast members Clint Butler, Kate Etienne and Sarah Nairne. They’ll be joined by new company members Barbara Johnston, Jawon Mapp and Aaron Walpole.

The new Canadian production is slated to open in Toronto on Sept. 22 after playing a limited run in Ottawa from Aug. 14 to Sept. 1. Irene Sankoff, who co-wrote the musical with her husband, David Hein, will play Bonnie and others for the show’s Ottawa engagement.

“Come From Away,” which opened on Broadway in 2017, tells the true story of when Newfoundlanders welcomed thousands of stranded plane passengers after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The musical, helmed by Christopher Ashley, won a Tony Award for best direction in 2017 and later earned the 2018 Olivier Award for best new musical in London’s West End.

This new Canadian production marks the third time that “Come From Away” has run in Toronto. Besides the previous Mirvish run, the musical also played a pre-Broadway engagement at the Royal Alexandra Theatre from November 2016 to January 2017.

LUMINATO
FESTIVAL
TORONTO

HOME by Geoff Sobelle

An Evening of Theatre You Won't Soon Forget.
“...expect continual surprise, with characters magically appearing from everywhere it seems...”
“If tickets are still available, catch it before the rest of the world sees it.”
DC METRO THEATRE ARTS

Luminato on Stage,
St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts
27 Front St. E • June 13 - 16

MEDIA PARTNER TORONTO STAR

FOUNDING GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Ontario

MAJOR PARTNERS

TORONTO

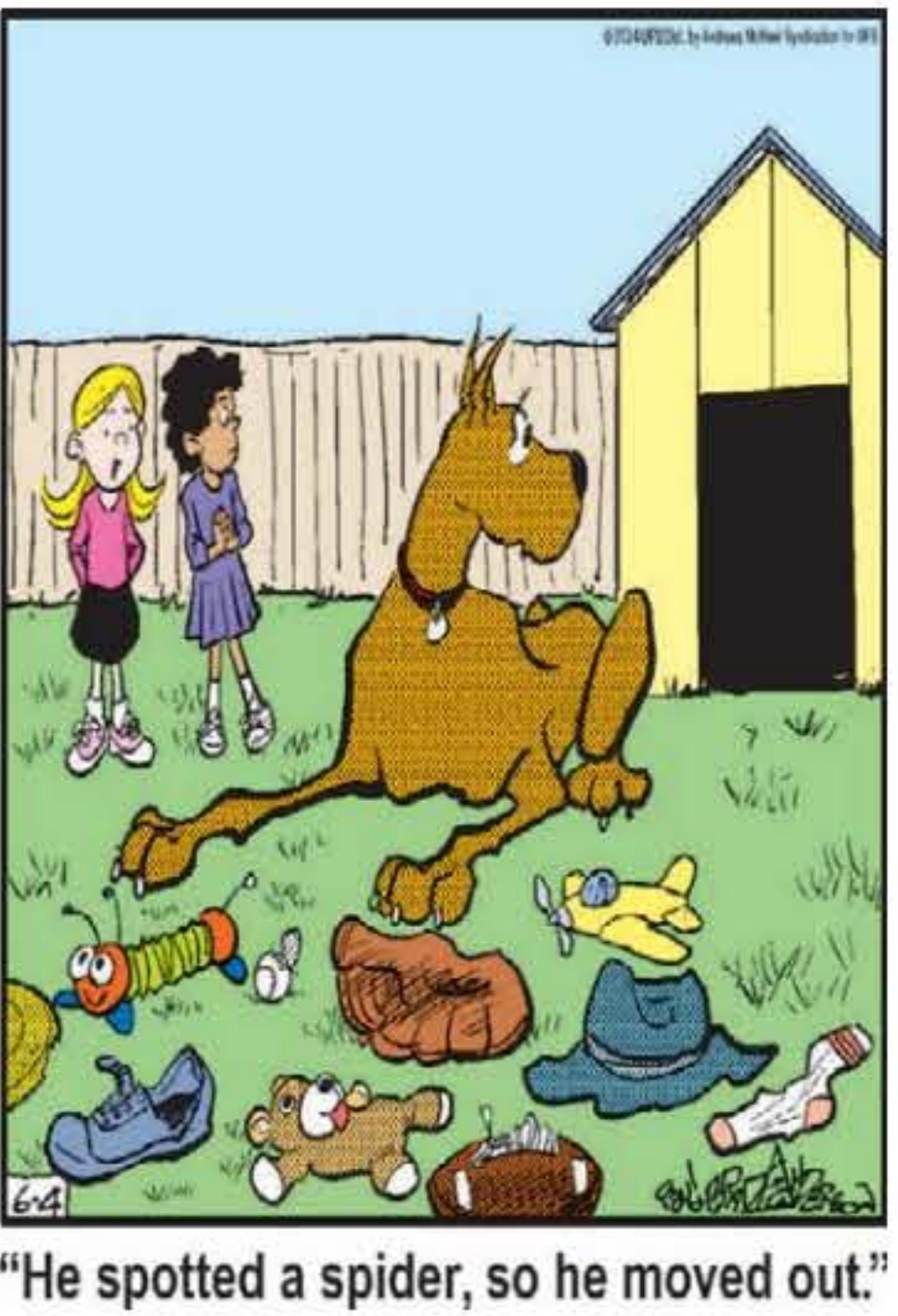
Canada

For tickets:
luminatofestival.com
BUY HOME BY PHONE: 416-366-7723
*STAR READERS: GET 25% OFF WITH CODE L24STAR

Family Circus



Marmaduke



For Better Or For Worse



Dustin



Zits



Six Chix



Curtis



Rhymes With Orange



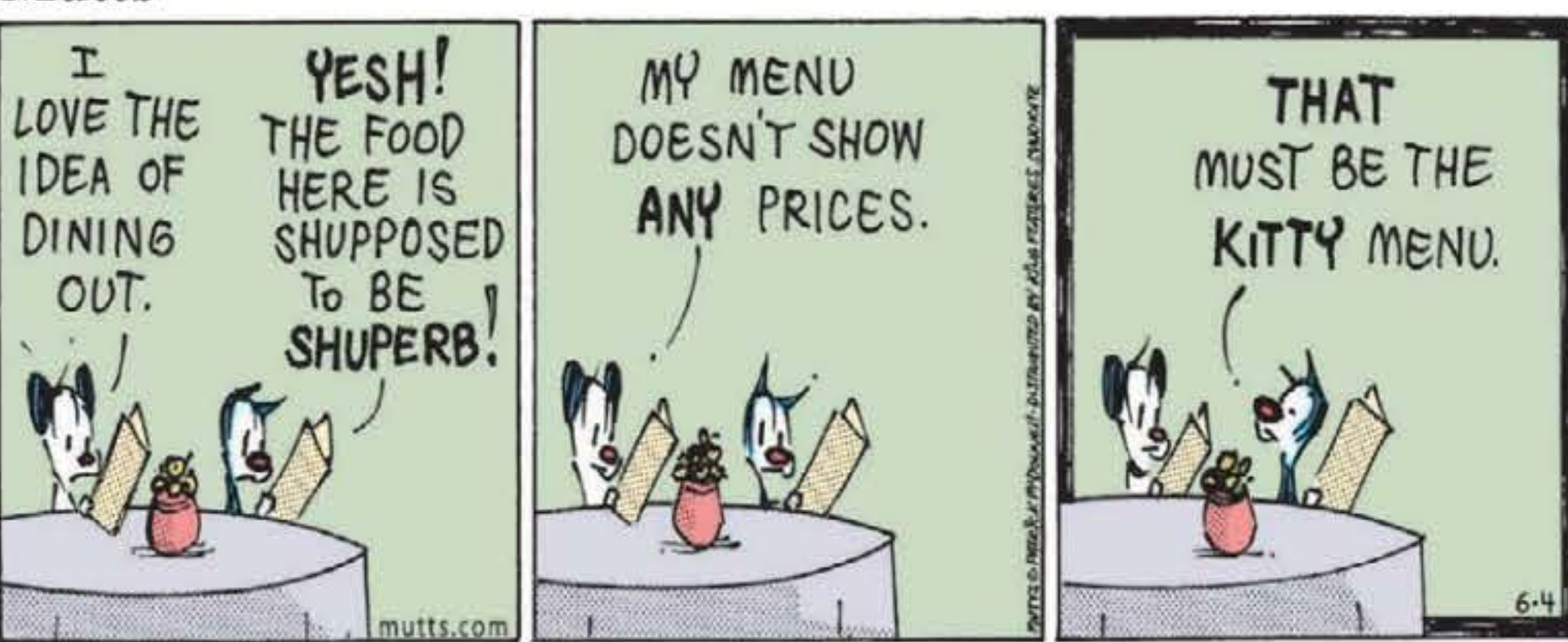
Hagar the Horrible



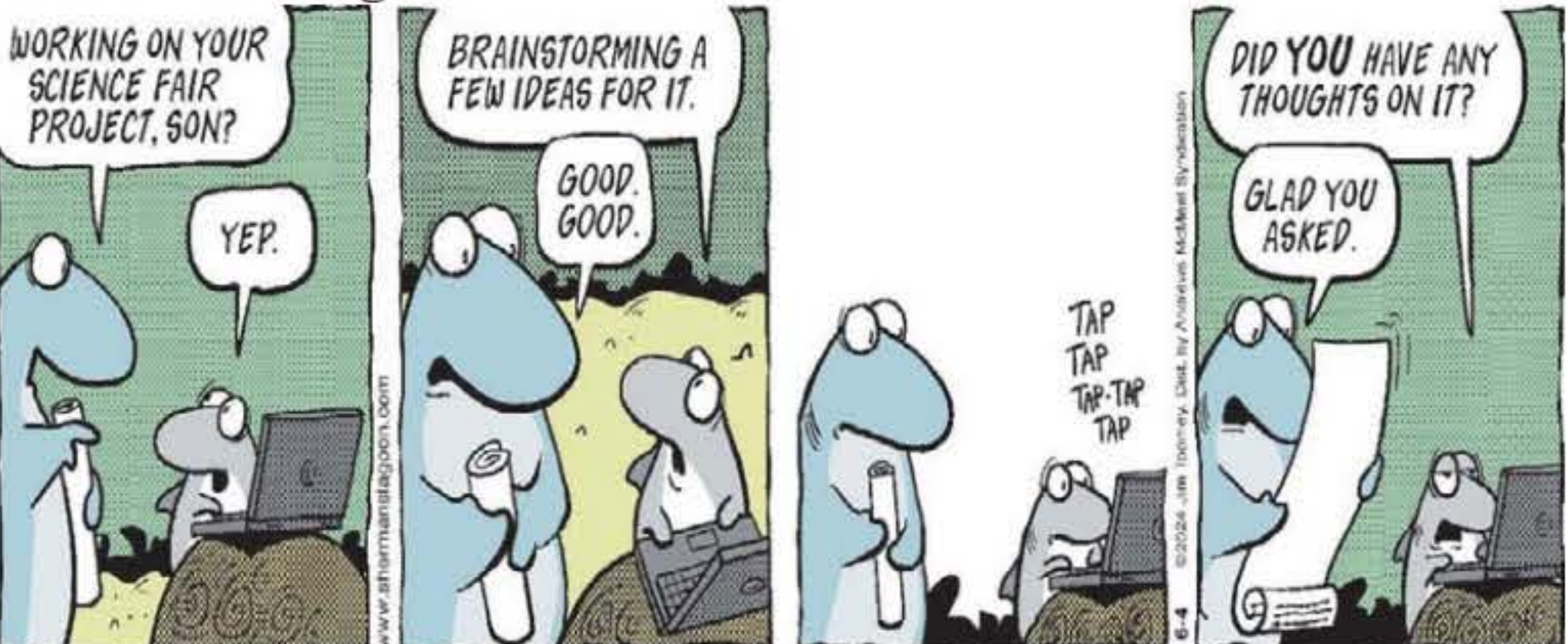
Adam @ Home



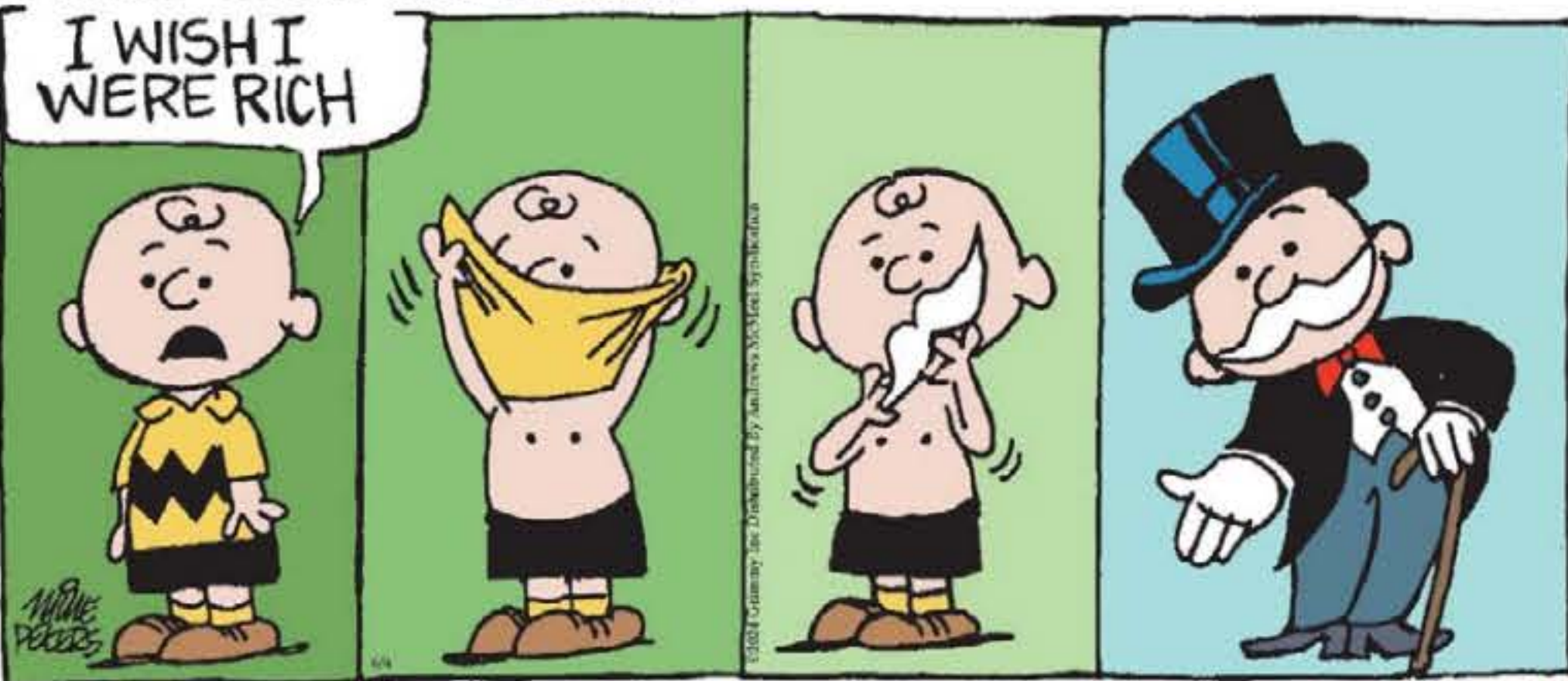
Mutts



Sherman's Lagoon



Mother Goose and Grimm



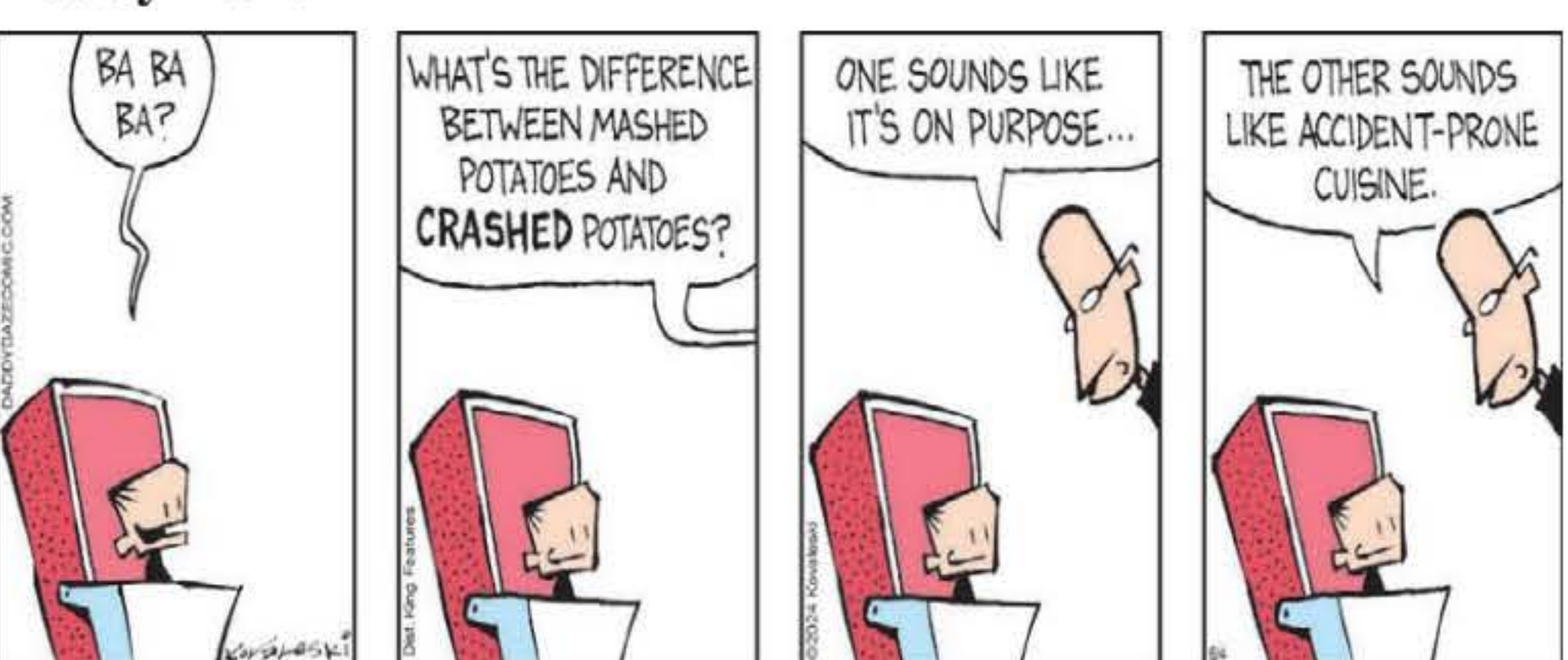
Between Friends



Pardon My Planet



Daddy Daze



NEW EXCLUSIVE FOR STAR SUBSCRIBERS

The Toronto Star Archives

100+ years of the Toronto Star at your fingertips!

Visit thestar.com/archives to learn more.

TORONTO STAR

Brought to you by [Subscribe with Google](#)

B8

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD FOR TUESDAY

- ACROSS
- 1

Speak in a throaty voice
- 5

Tempo
- 9

Stuff to eat
- 13

Hurt
- 14

Moon of Saturn
- 15

Wash against
- 16

Poke
- 17

Tin Man's need
- 18

Toward shelter
- 19

Tranquil
- 21

Pencil end
- 23

Nothing
- 24

Low platform for a panel
- 25

Disdain
- 30

Man of the cloth
- 34

Compass pt.
- 35

Was reckless enough
- 37

Talon
- 38

Brake part
- 40

Make fun of
- 41

Bristle
- 42

Opposed
- 43

Give way
- 46

Can. province
- 47

Slept
- 50

"I'm — of a white Christmas ..."

52

Currier and —

54

Cuckoo

55

Garden pavilion

57

Mile High City

61

"By —!"

62

Bear

65

River in Africa

66

Soon

67

Wyoming range

68

Greek mountain

69

Alley with stables

70

Gaelic

71

Sob

4

Stuffy scholar

5

Chart shape

6

— —

7

Showed

8

Snare

9

Greek literary

10

Healthy

11

Past

12

— small

14

"— & Louise"

20

Knotted

22

Melody

25

Fragrant wood

26

Cat- — — -tails

27

Cozy places

28

Say grace

29

Neither hot nor cold

31

Tropical resin

32

Beelzebub

33

Nasal resonance

36

Caribou

39

Nation's populace

44

Heavy

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

C	O	A	T			H	O	P	S			G	P	S			
H	A	R	E			B	E	R	E	T		A	L	O	E		
I	T	E	M			E	X	T	R	A		M	I	R	E		
C	H	A	P	E	L					R	O	B	B	E	R		
						T	A	L	E			A	C	M	E		
A	D	V	I	S	E	S				C	H	A	R	M	E	R	
P	R	I	N	T			P	E	T	E	R		E	R	A		
R	I	N	G			H	O	A	R	D		F	R	A	T		
I	V	E				H	A	U	T	E		N	O	I	S	E	
L	E	S	S	O	N	S				S	P	O	R	T	E	D	
						C	O	D	E			S	L	U	E		
P	O	T	A	T	O							U	N	S	A	F	E
A	R	I	L			U	B	O	A	T		T	I	E	R		
W	A	D	E			T	O	R	S	O		E	D	A	M		
S	L	Y				S	A	C	K			D	A	T	A		

- 45

Copenhagen native
- 48

"All About —"
- 49

Argue
- 51

Small fish
- 53

Serious
- 55

"— in 60 Seconds"
- 56

Assert
- 58

Gripping device
- 59

"If all — fails ..."
- 60

Do a farm job
- 61

Cram
- 63

"— a Wonderful Life"
- 64

Unknown John —

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14					15			
16						17					18			
19					20				21		22			
				23					24					
25	26	27					28	29		30		31	32	33
34				35				36			37			
38			39				40				41			
42							43			44	45		46	
47				48	49		50				51			
			52			53			54					
	55	56							57		58	59	60	
61						62		63	64		65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

- DOWN
- 1

Knocks
- 2

"God's Little —"
- 3

With footgear

WUZZLES BY TOM UNDERWOOD

1.

1. Vote
2. Vote
3. Vote
4. Vote

2.

N G S
I C
G R
N U O

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MMMYO

VRRIE

PCNOOH

RAOFDF

©2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Ans. here:

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

So do we want to get tickets for this afternoon?
Let's just walk around and see what we see.
6/4
THEY DIDN'T HAVE AN AGENDA WHEN VISITING ITALY'S CAPITAL SO THAT THEY COULD JUST ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUPPY JOIST UNWISE EIGHTY
Answer: The young canine campers were having fun setting up their — PUP TENTS

TODAY'S WUZZLES ANSWER

1. Count the votes
2. Scrounging around

WORD SLEUTH TALKING TRASH

BY KING FEATURES INC.

Today's unlisted clue: I LOVE — FOOD

S J G D A X U R O L J G D A X
V H S P N K R I F C A X V S L
Q O T L E S U F E R J S H L E
C A X L V T B R G P N F I A L
J S R K I H B F A D B F Y F X
V T N E R P I P B E D O O F M
K U I I W G S E R N T T D O B
J Z X P A E H P A R C S W U T
R Q O N L M S L G J I A A G F
D C S I R B E D D U R C A W Y
X W E L B B U R E T T I L V T

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forwards, backward, up, down and diagonally. Monday's unlisted answer:

- ARTWORK
- Castoffs

Landfill

Remains

Sewer

Crud

Litter

Rubbish

Spillth

Debris

Offal

Rubble

Waste

Garbage

Refuse

Scrap heap

DON'T QUOTE ME BY WIGGLES 3D INCORPORATED

www.dontquoteme.com

Rearrange the words below to complete the quotes.

CAREERS CREATE DEFINE GREAT ONLY

"_____ teamwork is the _____ way we _____ break-throughs that _____ our _____."

- Pat Riley (1945-) U.S. basketball coach

THEME Are We in This Together?

AHEAD MORE MOVES SPARK STILL TEAMWORK

"The spark of the individual _____ remains the _____ that _____ mankind _____ even _____ than _____."

- Igor Sikorsky (1889-1972) U.S. aviator

SUDOKU

			6	4	3	2		
	1						8	
	9	2			1		3	5
	4			3		6		
		6		9			7	
5	3		7			8	1	
	7						6	
		1	2	8	9			

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

9	2	8	6	4	3	7	1	5
4	1	7	9	5	2	3	6	8
6	3	5	7	8	1	4	2	9
8	6	9	1	3	7	5	4	2
1	5	2	8	9	4	6	7	3
3	7	4	5	2	6	9	8	1
5	4	1	2	6	9	8	3	7
7	8	6	3	1	5	2	9	4
2	9	3	4	7	8	1	5	6

Featuring:

David Frum

Author & Staff Writer

The Atlantic

Register to attend:

bit.ly/3JlclQa

Democracy's Reckoning:

Crisis in the US. Lessons for Canada.

Wednesday, June 5 | 5:45 - 8:30 p.m. EDT

Daniels Spectrum, 585 Dundas Street East Toronto

democratic engagement exchange

CANADIAN VOTE SUMMIT 2024

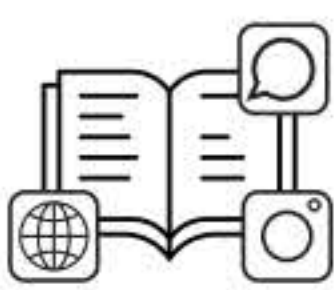
TORONTO STAR



WELL-INFORMED. WELL-ROUNDED.



Toronto Star and Subscribe with Google partner to make trusted journalism more accessible for Ontario schools



MEDIA LITERACY is an important topic for educators. Getting students engaged with reliable sources in the mix with their other options, fosters critical thinking and helps them navigate through misinformation.



TRUSTWORTHY NEWS - and a regular touchpoint with it - is crucial for students to develop an informed perspective on current events and other topics they might encounter in their daily lives.

Educators: Empower your students with well-rounded insight.
Make the Toronto Star a part of your teaching toolkit.
Visit **classroomconnection.ca**
for information on our academic offers.



Brought to you by
Subscribe with Google

DEATHS, MEMORIALS, BIRTHS

Please sign the guest books for these notices at legacy.com/thestar
Death Notices 416-869-4229, deathnotices@thestar.ca Births, In Memoriams 416-777-7777, starad@thestar.ca

DEATH NOTICES

◆ Repeat Notices

ALFONSO, Cicely
BELL, Edward
BINSTOCK, Evelyn

ISENBERG, Shelly
PIETRAS, Vonda
TUFTS, Jean

Due to space restrictions, the notices may not appear in strict alphabetical order.
Please refer to this index for a complete alphabetical list of the notices appearing in today's paper.



EVELYN BINSTOCK
(nee PASCAL)

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Evelyn Binstock, a cherished and beloved soul, on Saturday, June 1, 2024, in Toronto, Ontario. Her departure leaves a deep void in the hearts of all who knew her, but her legacy of love, kindness, and strength will continue to inspire us. Evelyn leaves behind her beloved children, Cheryl Binstock (Dylan Byung Sung-Kim), and Brian Binstock (Suzy Da Silva), who were the pride and joy of her life – her love and guidance shaped them into the remarkable individuals they are today; her cherished grandchildren, Alayna, Kai, Kendall, and Aiden; and her dear siblings, Natalie Pascal, and Seymour Pascal. Evelyn's legacy will live on in each of them as they carry forward her spirit of generosity, compassion, and resilience. She was predeceased by her loving brother, Edward (Eddy) Pascal; her dear sister, Brenda Pascal; and her parents, Hyman and Ida Pascal (née Pichansky). She is now reunited with them, embracing the peace they all deserve. Evelyn's warm and nurturing nature extended beyond her immediate family. She was a loyal friend to many. Her ability to connect with people and her unwavering support for those she loved made her a treasured presence in the lives of many. Family and friends are invited to leave a condolence message to show support and share their cherished memories of Evelyn. Though it is difficult to say goodbye, we find comfort in remembering the love, joy, and wisdom she brought into our lives. Funeral service from Paperman & Sons, in Montreal, on Tuesday, June 4th, at 12:00 noon. Burial in Montreal. Shiva strictly private at Evelyn's sister's home. Contributions in Evelyn's memory may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Canada, 800-616-8816, or to the Margaret Bahen Hospice, 905-967-1500. Evelyn Binstock's memory will forever be a blessing to all who had the honor of knowing her. May she rest in eternal peace.

SHELLY ISENBERG

On Sunday, June 2, 2024, son of the late Lou and Sophie Isenberg; dear brother and brother-in-law of Marlene Isenberg, and the late Stanley and Sheila Isenberg. Beloved partner of Rosemary Herman. Loving father of Rhonda Isenberg, and Jordana Isenberg. Fondly remembered by: Elayne Isenberg and her children, Pam and Hersh Brenman, Ira Day, Adam Day and Elisa Udaskin. Sadly missed by: Jeff and Lolly Herman, Debby Herman, and Kerry Prunskus; much loved uncle of: Kevin, Shari and Tom, Robyn and Tim, Jodi and Mark, Traci, Jason and Allison, and Cory and Natalie. Also survived by his many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-nieces, and great-nephews. At Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel, 2401 Steeles Avenue West (three lights west of Dufferin), for Service on Tuesday, June 4th, at 12:30 p.m. Interment in the Adath Israel section of Pardes Shalom Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Parkinson Canada, 1-800-565-3000 or at: www.parkinson.ca



EDWARD "LYALL" BELL

Edward "Lyall" Bell, CIP, CAIB Honors, passed away suddenly of a heart attack on Thursday, May 30, 2024, in Toronto. Lyall is survived by: his wife Diana; son Christopher Bell (Mandy), daughter Jennifer Bernier (Kelly), step-daughter Lindsey Harmsworth (Simon); seven grandchildren: Evann, Hayes, Jordan, Keegan, Kayla, Mason, and Riley; his mother Mary Jean Foster; sister Sharon Jones, and brother Donald Bell (Dawn). Lyall was predeceased by his father Roger and sister Susan.

Lyall was in the insurance business for 45 years, starting as an underwriter for his grandfather in 1979. He joined Halifax Insurance Inc. Canada in 1988 until February 1996, where he was employed as an underwriter, broker, and a trainer for Expert Advisor participants. He continued broker training for the Insurance Institute of Canada until 2010.

Lyall started his own business, Solutions Training Insurance Resources in 2003, specializing in Customized Sales and Technical Workshops, as well as broker training for private clients.

In 2008, the Insurance Broker Association of Ontario (IBAO) became one of his main clients for over 33 years. He also co-authored Becoming an Insurance Broker, IBAO's licensing textbook. During this time, he also had private clinets all over Canada from coast to coast, training over 30,000 people.

Lyall enjoyed life to the fullest, with over 19 years of fly-in fishing trips, hours spent in an ice fishing shanty, or in a boat fishing in Muskoka. He enjoyed spending as much time as possible with his grandchildren. He loved to golf and was a true diehard hockey fan.

Lyall touched many peoples' lives over the years and will be sadly missed by his family, friends, and those that knew him. His goal in life: "Help at least one person every day".

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses at Sunnybrook Hospital, the first responders, and the 53 Police Division for their services.

At Lyall's request there will be no visitation or funeral service held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.



To view obituaries or to sign a guestbook, visit thestar.com/obituaries



JEAN TUFTS

Born November 10, 1927 in Toronto. Predeceased by James and Julianne (Mitchell) Murray of Easter Ross, Scotland, and David, her beloved husband of 62 years. Died at a time of her own choosing in Brampton, Ontario, surrounded by family. Survived by sons, Kenneth (Jocelyne) and Jamie (Evelyn); grandchildren, Nicole (Gregory) and Ryan (Rosa); great-grandchildren, Sophie and Neil Freeman and Scarlett and Ronan Tufts; sister, Margaret O'Leary; sisters-in-law, Janice Murray, Carole Tufts and Bonnie Icton; brother-in-law, Ralph Icton; and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by brother, Donald; and sisters, Sheila, Christine (Nan) and Jacqueline. Worked for many years in Brampton at Benson and Hedges. Talented violinist who studied for 3 years at the University of Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, she was a founding member of the Brampton Symphony Orchestra and played in the orchestra of the Brampton Musical Society. A lifelong social butterfly, she and Dave bowled, curled and eventually lawn-bowled for years making many lifetime friends in the process. They especially enjoyed following Jamie's minor hockey and lacrosse teams across Ontario and Quebec. A devoted sister, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, family was all important to Jean and she cherished every moment she spent in their company. A Memorial Visitation will take place on Friday, June 7, 2024, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Scott Funeral Home – Brampton (289 Main Street North, 905-451-1100). A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Scott Funeral Home Chapel. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Jean's memory may be made to Doctors without Borders.



CICELY EDWINA ALFONSO

Passed away at St. Joseph's at Fleming Nursing Home, Peterborough, Ontario, on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in her 84th year. Beloved wife of Leo Alfonso for 59 years. Loving mother of Kevin (Arlene) of Michigan, USA, and Karen (Takashi) of Daegu, Korea. Dear grandmother of Alexander, Megan and Takashi W. Sister of Delorest (Anna) Jarvis of Oakville, Oswald (Miriam) Jarvis of Florida, and Annette (Ronald) Sellers of Florida. Cicely was also an aunt and great-aunt. Visitation will be held at The Hendren Funeral Homes, Lakefield Chapel, 66 Queen Street, Lakefield, on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at St. Paul the Apostle R.C. Church, Reid Street, Lakefield, at 11:30 a.m. Interment, St. Mary's R.C. Cemetery, Young's Point. A Reception will follow the Interment in the Parish Hall of the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Paul the Apostle R.C. Church, Lakefield, and may be made by contacting the funeral home by calling 705-652-3355, or at: hendrenfuneralhome.com



VONDA EMILY PIETRAS

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Vonda Emily Pietras, in her 85th year, on May 31, 2024. Predeceased by her parents, Louis and Agnes Przydzial; her sister, Jean Allan; and her brother, Edward Przydzial. Vonda leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories. Vonda is survived by her beloved husband of 60 years, Edward Pietras; and her devoted sons, Gregory (Lisa Biscotti) and Mark (Mary Jo Coughlin). She will be dearly missed by her grandchildren, Christopher (Samantha Fisk), Lucas, Zachary, Andrew, Shannon, and Steven. Visitation will be on Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Catholic Cremation Services, 6933 Tomken Road, Mississauga (located on the ground of Assumption Catholic Cemetery). There will be a Chapel Service to follow at 12:00 p.m. with a Reception after the Service (lunch will be served and all guests are welcome). An inurnment will be held privately at a later date at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to Milton District Hospital (2North Regional) or the Canadian Cancer Society, would be greatly appreciated. Our family extends heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the staff of 2North Regional at Milton District Hospital, who provided compassionate care for Vonda during her final days. Vonda lived her life with joy and purpose, embodying boundless optimism and a positive attitude. Her vibrant energy and uplifting spirit touched the lives of all who knew her. We will miss her deeply and honour her memory by embracing joy and purpose in our own lives, just as she taught us. We love you, Mama (Babcia).



DOUGLAS A. BAKER
September 9, 1952 - June 4, 2012

Always loved,
Always remembered.
– Catherine, Adam, Derek and the Baker Family.

VICTORIA STEWART
(nee MILNE)
June 4, 2014

Over fifty years together, now ten apart. Missing you forever, always in my heart...BFF Pat

To place a death or in memoriam notice

Visit: starclassifieds.com

Call: 416-869-4229

Email: deathnotices@thestar.ca



Share Memories

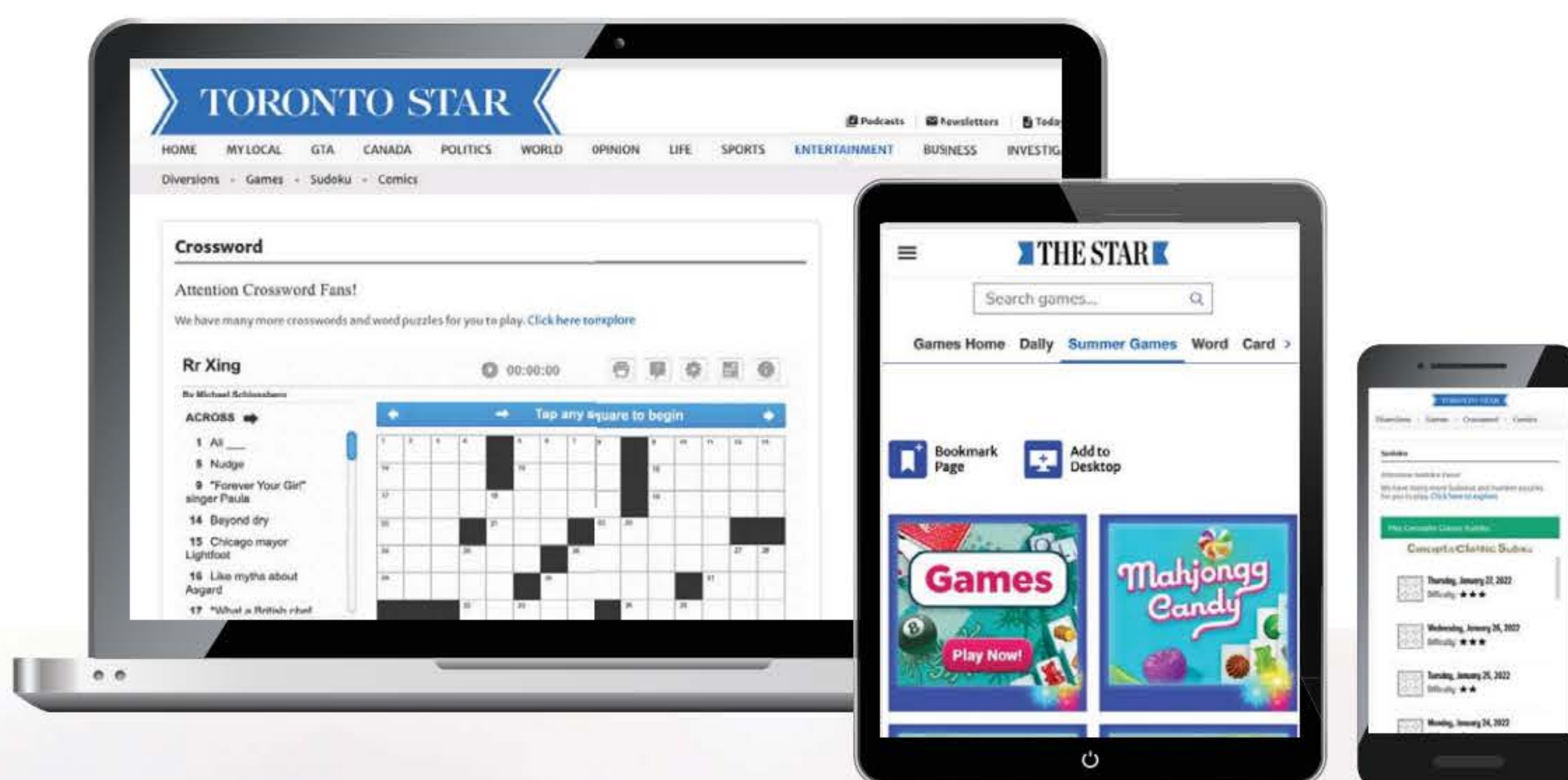
View the Toronto Star's complete list of death notices and in memoriams at thestar.com/obituaries

Timing to place a death or birth notice:

To publish in the Saturday edition:
Notices must be placed before 9:00 a.m. on Friday

To publish in the Sunday to Friday editions:
Notices must be placed before 2:00 p.m. the day prior

Check out our interactive puzzles and games!



Enjoy your favorite games including card games, puzzles, brain games & dozens of others.

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO PLAY!



[DAILY CROSSWORD](#)



[FUN GAMES](#)



[SUDOKU](#)



[CLASSIC SOLITAIRE](#)

Toronto Star subscribers can enjoy free interactive puzzles on thestar.com. If you haven't activated your complimentary access to thestar.com, click [HERE](#) for more information.*