

Canadians in Lebanon rush to leave amid fears of Israeli reprisal

MARK MacKINNON
SENIOR INTERNATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT
BEIRUT

THE GLOBE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The family of Canadians strode briskly through Beirut's airport, relieved to see that the departures board listed their flight as scheduled to leave on Monday evening, after it had been cancelled the night before amid fears of large-scale Israeli military action against Lebanon.

"Perfect timing," 19-year-old Ralph Nabhan exhaled, as he and his sister and parents rushed toward the check-in desk for their flight to Cairo, then onward to Paris and eventually to Ottawa, where they live. Flights into and out of Rafic Hariri International Airport had been cancelled the day before over concerns that Israel's retaliation for a Saturday rocket attack that killed 12 children in the Golan Heights might include strikes on the airport and other Lebanese infrastructure.

Israel and its ally the United States say the attack was carried out by Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed militia based in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah has denied involvement, claiming the children could have been killed by an errant Israeli air-defence missile. Lebanon's government has called for an international investigation into the incident.

Lebanon has been on tenterhooks since Sunday night, when Israel's war cabinet met and issued a statement saying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant had been given the power to decide the "manner and timing" of the country's response, without giving further details.

■ LEBANON, A15

Alberta says it will toughen food-safety oversight after E. coli review

ALANNA SMITH CALGARY

A report ordered by Alberta after an E. coli outbreak that sickened hundreds of children identified a number of deficiencies with the province's food-safety regulations and oversight, including limited public-health inspections and inadequate enforcement tools.

Roughly 450 people, mostly children, were infected last fall in Calgary in connection to 11 daycares across the city, which shared a central kitchen. Thirty-eight children and one adult wound up in hospital because of the bacterial infection and, nearly a year later, some children are still receiving care because of persistent health issues, according to the report.

No new conclusions were drawn about the cause of the outbreak in the 104-page document or in the separate outbreak inspection report by Alberta Health Services, both of which were released on Monday.

It has long been known that meat loaf and its vegan counterpart served to daycare children were the likely source of infection, but the AHS report concluded that investigators can't yet identify where exactly the E. coli strain came from or explain why some facilities were harder hit than others. Those questions are unlikely to ever be answered.

■ E. COLI, A6

PARIS 2024

THE GOLD STANDARD



Canada's Summer McIntosh celebrates on the podium in Nanterre, France, after taking the gold medal in the women's 400m individual medley final at the Olympic Games on Monday. SARAH STIER/GETTY IMAGES

Swimming phenom McIntosh blows away competition in signature race

GRANT ROBERTSON PARIS

Summer McIntosh's coach has a standard he uses to tell if a swimmer has what it takes to be a champion. It's simple: Are they good on a Friday?

It means that when they drag themselves out of bed at 4 a.m. at the end of the week and head to practice, and the rest of the world is already thinking about the weekend, can they still do the job? Can they still deliver like their Olympic fate depends on it?

Summer McIntosh is good on a Friday. Turns

out, she's pretty talented on other days, too.

On Monday, Ms. McIntosh stunned the crowd at Paris La Défense Arena with a gold-medal win in the 400-metre individual medley. It was the first gold medal of her career, Canada's second medal at the pool this week, and the country's fifth at the Paris Olympics.

But the shocking part wasn't that Ms. McIntosh won gold; it was how she did it.

The 17-year-old from Toronto won in spectacular fashion, beating several of the world's best swimmers handily in one of the sport's most gruelling races.

■ MCINTOSH, A7



JACK GUEZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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SYNCHRONIZED DIVING
Rylan Wiens and Nathan Zsombor-Murray clinch bronze with final plunge ■ B14

Ontario helped pioneer wastewater testing as a pandemic warning tool. Now, the province is shutting its program down

IVAN SEMENIUK
SCIENCE REPORTER

For the past three years, Alexandra Johnston has started her work day by reaching for the pickaxe in the trunk of her car.

It is her tool of choice for prying open manhole covers – a task she demonstrated with practised ease last week while on a tour of her wastewater sampling regimen in Toronto. Wearing a surgical mask and gloves, Ms. Johnston dragged the heavy cover aside, then grabbed hold of the fish-

ing line secured underneath. After hauling up a few metres of line, she displayed her catch: a dripping wet tampon she had placed there the day before.

Her teammate, Claire Gibbs, quickly moved in with a prelabelled plastic bag to capture the sewage-laden sample. Using scissors, Ms. Gibbs deftly snipped the line, sealed the bag and stowed it away in the trunk as part of that day's delivery.

On the city's busy streets and sidewalks, where it's not feasible to set up more sophisticated sampling gear, tampons have proved ideal for capturing traces of whatever is passing through the sewer pipes be-

low, including disease-causing viruses.

"They're cheap and they come pretty sterile, so it's kind of an easy solution," said Ms. Johnston, a wastewater technician with Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), where the samples she and Ms. Gibbs collected would be analyzed later that day.

Cheap and easy are the operative words for a provincial program that began as a grassroots effort by university researchers to detect COVID-19 in their communities and has since matured into a powerful data-gathering tool for tracking a range of health threats.

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MOMENT IN TIME

JULY 30, 1966 | FROM THE ARCHIVES



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ENGLAND WINS WORLD CUP

It's all well and good producing a royal heir, beating the Aussies at cricket and boasting a Tour de France winner for the second straight year. But true English pride lives and dies on the boots of its football (soccer) players, who haven't won a World Cup in nearly half a century. It was way back in 1966, on home turf at London's Wembley Stadium, that England – captained by Bobby Moore (raised, above) – captured the Cup

for the first and only time, beating West Germany 4-2. It was a surprisingly triumphant end to a tournament that had started in embarrassing fashion when the Jules Rimet Trophy was stolen from an exhibition, later found under some bushes by a dog named Pickles.

But the real star was Geoff Hurst, whose hat trick in the final gave English sport its crowning glory. PAUL ATTFIELD (2013)

COLUMNISTS

ANDRÉ PICARD

OPINION



FIRST PERSON

ROB CARRICK

OPINION



B.C.'s vaccine mandate for health workers has ended. Despite its critics, it was always sound policy ■ A11

Rita Simonetta hates grocery shopping, but her weekly trip is an opportunity to spend time with her mom ■ A13

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CORRECTIONS

A Saturday Opinion article about the Constitution's notwithstanding clause incorrectly stated that the Supreme Court will hear a case on the use of the notwithstanding clause as it relates to Bill 21. The court is considering whether it will hear the case.

A Saturday Pursuits article about shopping for gluten-free meals incorrectly stated that Bob's Red Mill 1-to-1 gluten-free baking flour is one-part whole wheat and one-part rice flour. The product is a combination of rice flours and other gluten-free ingredients.

focus
pause
reconnect
create
share

Germany's Sanssouci Park seeks solutions as trees struggle with effects of climate change

GEIR MOULSON
POTSDAM, GERMANY

The avenues, monuments and gardens in the park surrounding Sanssouci Palace, a sprawling green oasis in the heart of the German city of Potsdam and a UNESCO world heritage site, look as magnificent as ever.

But a closer look shows that all is not well with the park's trees, which increasingly are struggling with the effects of climate change. Among the signs are beech trees with thinning crowns, big branches that have crashed to the ground and trunks with much of their bark peeled off.

"I've been watching this garden for over 30 years, and I see very serious changes," says Sven Kerschek, a former chief gardener for part of the park. "Since 2017 or 2018, we have had a very, very serious increase in trees and shrubs dying; and not just dying, the health of the trees is changing."

The region experienced a particularly hot and dry summer in 2018, followed by several more years with little rain. Comparatively wet summers last year and this year haven't made up for their effects.

Heat and a lack of rain aren't the only problems, Mr. Kerschek says: "Climate change is more complex." Well-watered trees standing on the banks of streams and lakes also show signs of stress. Constant harsh sunlight, a lack of atmospheric humidity, storms, increasing fungal infections and the spread of insect species that didn't previously occur in the area are among other factors that play a part.

From 2002 until 2015, the park lost between 18 and 87 trees every year. The number hasn't dropped below 100 since; it reached 315 in 2020 before falling back somewhat. The Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation, which



Signs in the Sanssouci Park highlight issues trees are having as a result of climate change, as part of an open-air exhibition this summer titled *Re:Generation*. GEIR MOULSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

oversees Sanssouci Park and many other sites in Berlin and the surrounding state of Brandenburg, is telling the story of the trees' struggle with climate change in an open-air exhibition this summer, titled *Re:Generation*. At points around the park, visitors can see examples of the problems and ideas for how they might be tackled.

"Perhaps the exhibition will help point out that we have such problems here; that extreme examples of climate change are already visible not just where people live in a river valleys and have to experience a flood, but also in idyllic Sanssouci Park," said Katrin Schröder, a curator of gardens at the foundation.

Visitors are pointed to trees suffering from "sunburn," with drying and peeling bark making them vulnerable to fungi and animals. They can see that ground water receded drastically at times in recent years, making life difficult for older trees in particular. But there are also more heartening examples, "survival artists" that have defied the difficulties.

Those trees give the gardeners

reason to hope. Mr. Kerschek, who helped design the exhibition, says they want to "try to continue working with the genetic material we have here in the garden."

The oldest trees in Sanssouci Park are about 300 years old. The hope is that robust older trees that have already been through variations in climate are better placed to adapt – and that even if they don't look particularly healthy themselves, they can pass on that capability in their seeds. One idea is to collect those seeds and grow young trees in a special nursery mirroring the difficult conditions of the park, Mr. Kerschek says.

Sanssouci Palace was the summer residence of Prussian King Frederick II. It was completed in 1747 with opulent vineyard terraces, a royal retreat with a name that translates from French as "care-free." The garden was later expanded substantially, growing into a 19th-century landscaped park that covers nearly 300 hectares and measures more than two kilometres from east to west.

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Biden unveils Supreme Court proposal

Ahead of November's vote, the U.S. president looks to establish code of ethics, term limits for justices

AAMER MADHANI
COLLEEN LONG AUSTIN, TEX.



The Biden administration is looking to tap into growing outrage about the Supreme Court overturning landmark decisions on abortion rights and federal regulatory powers. ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. President Joe Biden has unveiled a long-awaited proposal for changes at the U.S. Supreme Court, calling on Congress to establish term limits and an enforceable ethics code for the court's nine justices. He's also pressing lawmakers to ratify a constitutional amendment limiting presidential immunity.

The White House on Monday detailed the contours of Mr. Biden's court proposal, one that appears to have little chance of being approved by a closely divided Congress with just 99 days to go before Election Day.

Still, Democrats hope it'll help focus voters as they consider their choices in a tight election. The likely Democratic nominee, Vice-President Kamala Harris, who has sought to frame her race against Republican ex-president Donald Trump as "a choice between freedom and chaos," quickly endorsed the Biden proposal.

The White House is looking to tap into the growing outrage among Democrats about the court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, issuing opinions that overturned landmark decisions on abortion rights and federal regulatory powers that stood for decades.

Liberals also have expressed dismay over revelations about what they say are questionable relationships and decisions by some members of the conservative wing of the court that suggest their impartiality is compromised.

"I have great respect for our institutions and separation of powers," Mr. Biden argues in a Washington Post op-ed published

Monday. "What is happening now is not normal, and it undermines the public's confidence in the court's decisions, including those impacting personal freedoms. We now stand in a breach."

Ms. Harris, in a statement, said the reforms being proposed are needed because "there is a clear crisis of confidence facing the Supreme Court."

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson called the proposal a "dangerous gambit" that would be "dead on arrival in the House."

The President planned to speak about his proposal later Monday during an address at the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin, Tex., to mark the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.

Mr. Biden in a brief exchange with reporters soon after arriving in Texas ahead of his address shrugged off Mr. Johnson's pronouncement that the proposal is going nowhere. "I think that's

what he is - dead on arrival." Mr. Biden offered. He added that he would "figure out a way" to get it done.

Mr. Biden is calling for doing away with lifetime appointments to the court. He says Congress should pass legislation to establish a system in which the sitting president would appoint a justice every two years to spend 18 years in service on the court. He argues term limits would help ensure that court membership changes with some regularity and adds a measure of predictability to the nomination process.

He also wants Congress to pass legislation establishing a court code of ethics that would require justices to disclose gifts, refrain from public political activity and recuse themselves from cases in which they or their spouses have financial or other conflicts of interest. Mr. Biden also is calling on Congress to pass a constitutional

amendment reversing the Supreme Court's recent landmark immunity ruling that determined former presidents have broad immunity from prosecution.

That decision extended the delay in the Washington criminal case against Mr. Trump on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss and all but ended prospects the former president could be tried before the November election.

Most Americans supported some form of age limit for Supreme Court justices in an AP-NORC poll from August, 2023. Two-thirds wanted Supreme Court justices to be required to retire by a certain age. Democrats were more likely than Republicans to favour a mandatory retirement age, 77 per cent to 61 per cent. Americans across age groups tend to agree on the desire for age limits - those age 60 and over were as likely as any other

age group to be in favour of this limit for Supreme Court justices.

The first three justices who would potentially be affected by term limits are on the right. Justice Clarence Thomas has been on the court for nearly 33 years. Chief Justice John Roberts has served for 19 years, and Justice Samuel Alito has served for 18.

Supreme Court justices served an average of about 17 years from the founding until 1970, said Gabe Roth, executive director of the group Fix the Court. Since 1970, the average has been about 28 years. Both conservative and liberal politicians alike have espoused term limits.

An enforcement mechanism for the high court's code of ethics, meanwhile, could bring the Supreme Court justices more in line with other federal judges, who are subject to a disciplinary system in which anyone can file a complaint and have it reviewed. An investigation can result in censure and reprimand. Last week, Justice Elena Kagan called publicly for creating a way to enforce the new ethics code, becoming the first justice to do so.

Still, when it comes to the Supreme Court, creating an ethics code enforcement mechanism isn't as easy as it sounds.

The attorney-general has always had the power to enforce violations of the financial and gift disclosure rules but has never apparently used that power against federal judges, said Stephen Gillers, a legal ethics expert at NYU School of Law.

The body that oversees lower court judges, meanwhile, is headed up by Mr. Roberts, "who might be reluctant to use whatever power the conference has against his colleagues," Prof. Gillers wrote in an e-mail.

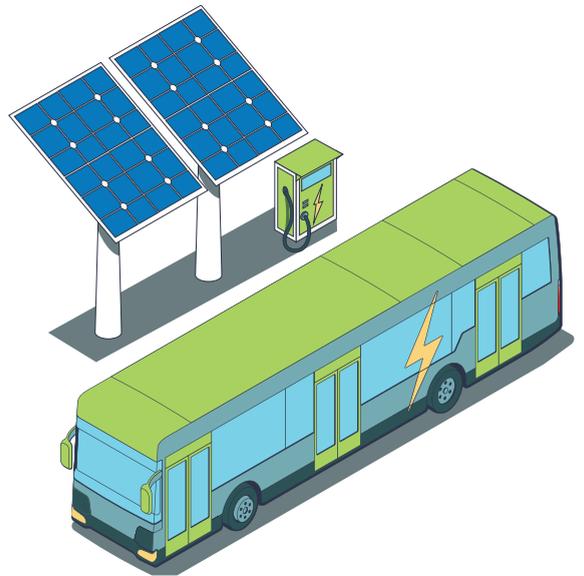
There have been increasing questions surrounding the ethics of the court after revelations about some of the justices, including that Justice Thomas accepted luxury trips from a GOP megadonor.

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Venezuela's election result in dispute

Opposition says it has proof its candidate won as thousands protest claim of Maduro victory

JOSHUA GOODMAN
REGINA GARCIA CANO CARACAS

Venezuelan opposition candidate Edmundo González on Monday said his campaign has the proof it needs to show that he was the winner of the country's highly anticipated presidential election whose victory authorities handed to President Nicolás Maduro.

Mr. González and opposition leader María Corina Machado told supporters gathered outside his campaign headquarters in Venezuela's capital that they have obtained more than 70 per cent of the tally sheets from Sunday's disputed election, and they show Mr. González ahead of Mr. Maduro.

"I speak to you with the calmness of the truth," Mr. González said. "The will expressed yesterday through your vote will be respected. We have in our hands the tally sheets that demonstrate our victory."

As he spoke, thousands of demonstrators took to the streets to protest what they said was an attempt by Mr. Maduro to steal the election in which both candidates claimed victory.

Shortly after the National Electoral Council, which is loyal to Mr. Maduro's ruling party, officially declared him the winner, angry protesters began marching through Caracas and cities across Venezuela. The electoral body's announcement earned him a third six-year term.

In the capital, the protests were mostly peaceful, but when dozens of riot gear-clad national police officers blocked the caravan, a brawl broke. Police used tear gas to disperse the protesters, some of whom threw stones and other objects at officers who had stationed themselves on a main avenue of an upper-class district.

A man fired a gun as the protesters moved through the city's financial district. No one suffered a gunshot wound.

The demonstrations followed an election that was among the



Residents try to block a street to protest Venezuela's official results on Monday, the day after the presidential election as members of the National Guard work to remove them in Caracas. FERNANDO VERGARA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

most peaceful in recent memory, reflecting hopes that Venezuela could avoid bloodshed and end 25 years of single-party rule. The winner was to take control of an economy recovering from collapse and a population desperate for change.

"We have never been moved by hatred. On the contrary, we have always been victims of the powerful," Mr. Maduro said in a nationally televised ceremony. "An attempt is being made to impose a coup d'état in Venezuela again of a fascist and counterrevolutionary nature."

"We already know this movie, and this time, there will be no kind of weakness," he added, saying that Venezuela's "law will be respected."

In the capital's impoverished Petare neighbourhood, people started walking and shouting against Mr. Maduro, and some masked young people tore down

campaign posters of him hung on lampposts. Heavily armed security forces were standing just a few blocks away from the protest.

"It's going to fall. It's going to fall. This government is going to fall!" some of the protesters shouted as they walked.

"He has to go. One way or another," said Maria Arraez, a 27-year-old hairdresser, as she joined in the demonstration.

As the crowd marched through a different neighbourhood, it was cheered on by retirees and office workers who banged on pots and recorded the protest in a show of support. There were some shouts of "freedom" and expletives directed at Mr. Maduro.

Elsewhere, some protesters attempted to block freeways, including one that connects the capital with a port city where the country's main international airport is.

Officials delayed the release of

detailed vote tallies from Sunday's election after proclaiming Mr. Maduro the winner with 51 per cent of the vote, compared with 44 per cent for Mr. González, a retired diplomat. The competing claims set up a high-stakes standoff.

"Venezuelans and the entire world know what happened," Mr. González said earlier. But he and his allies asked supporters to remain calm and called on the government to avoid stoking conflict.

Several foreign governments, including the U.S. and the European Union, held off recognizing the election results.

After failing to oust Mr. Maduro during three rounds of demonstrations since 2014, the opposition put its faith in the ballot box.

The country sits atop the world's largest oil reserves and once boasted Latin America's most advanced economy. But

after Mr. Maduro took the helm, it tumbled into a free fall marked by plummeting oil prices, widespread shortages of basic goods and hyperinflation of 130,000 per cent.

U.S. oil sanctions sought to force Mr. Maduro from power after his 2018 re-election, which dozens of countries condemned as illegitimate. But the sanctions only accelerated the exodus of some 7.7 million Venezuelans who have fled their crisis-stricken nation.

Voters lined up as early as Saturday evening to cast ballots, boosting the opposition's hopes it was about to break Mr. Maduro's grip on power. The official results came as a shock to many who had celebrated, online and outside a few voting centres, what they believed was a landslide victory for Mr. González.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa joins crowd raising concerns on Maduro's re-election

ROBERT FIFE
OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF
OTTAWA

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland says Canada and other Western democracies have "serious concerns" about Sunday's disputed election in Venezuela.

Venezuela's electoral authority, which is controlled by loyalists of President Nicolás Maduro, declared the incumbent the winner of the presidential election even as the opposition disputed the results.

The opposition said tallies they collected from campaign representatives at the voting centres had shown opposition candidate Edmundo González trouncing Mr. Maduro. Mr. González had been leading in all public opinion polls.

Ms. Freeland told reporters Monday that the world's democracies are deeply concerned about the disputed vote.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken echoed her comments, saying Washington had "serious concerns that the result announced does not reflect the will or the votes of the Venezuelan people."

"It's critical that every vote be counted fairly and transparently, that election officials immediately share information with the opposition and independent observers without delay, and that the electoral authorities publish the detailed tabulation of votes," Mr. Blinken said.

In her remarks, Ms. Freeland lauded the "brave people of Venezuela and the brave democracy leaders."

"It takes real courage to stand up for democracy in the face of an authoritarian regime," she said. "Millions of people in Venezuela have been doing that and I want them to know Canada recognizes their courage and determination."

She noted that Canada has long been a supporter of the democratic opposition and has been strongly critical of the increasingly authoritarian regime. She did not say, however, whether Canada would not recognize the re-election of the Maduro regime, something that Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre called on the Canadian government to do.

"The people of Venezuela voted to free their country from socialist oppression. Yet the communist Venezuelan dictator, Nicolás Maduro, has refused to accept the will of the people and manufactured a fake result that will keep his tyrannical regime in power," Mr. Poilievre said in a statement. "Canada should only recognize a democratic vote if it is truly free and fair."

Countries in the region including Chile, Brazil, Colombia and Peru have demanded to see proof of Mr. Maduro's victory. Panama announced a temporary suspension of relations with the Maduro regime.

Argentina's populist president, Javier Milei, was blunt in denouncing the vote: "GET OUT, MADURO, YOU DICTATOR!!!" Mr. Milei wrote on X. "Venezuelans chose to put an end to Nicolás Maduro's communist dictatorship. The data shows a crushing opposition victory and the world is waiting for the defeat of years of socialism, misery, decadence and death to be recognized."

With a report from Reuters

Police say two children dead, 11 people injured in stabbings in northwest England

BRIAN MELLEY
JILL LAWLESS LONDON

Bloodied children ran screaming from a dance and yoga class "like a scene from a horror movie" to escape a teenager's savage knife attack that killed two children and wounded 11 other people Monday in northwest England, police and witnesses said.

A 17-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of murder and attempted murder in the stabbing in Southport, a seaside town near Liverpool, Merseyside Police said. The motive was not clear, but police said detectives were not treating the attack as terror-related.

Nine children were wounded — six of them in critical condition — in the latest headline-grabbing attack amid a recent rise in knife crime that has stoked anxieties and led to calls for the government to do more to clamp down on bladed weapons.

Two wounded adults who tried to shield the pupils were in critical condition, police said.

"We believe the adults who were injured were bravely trying to protect the children who were being attacked," Merseyside Police Chief Constable Serena Kennedy said.

The Taylor Swift-themed workshop was held on the first week of school vacation for children aged about 6 to 11. The two-hour session was led by two women — a yoga instructor and a dance instructor — according to an online listing.

Witnesses described hearing blood-curdling screams and seeing children covered in blood emerging from the business that hosts everything from pregnancy workshops and meditation sessions to women's boot camps.

"They were in the road, running from the nursery," said Bare Varathan, who owns a shop nearby. "They had been stabbed, here, here, here, everywhere," indicating the neck, back and chest.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the attack "horrendous and deeply shocking." King Charles III sent his "condolences, prayers and deepest sympathies"



Police officers stand guard in Southport, northwest England, on Monday, after a knife attack. A 17-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of murder and attempted murder. DARREN STAPLES/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

for those affected by the "utterly horrific incident."

Police were called shortly before noon to a street where several small businesses are located behind rows of brick houses in the city of about 100,000.

The first officers who arrived were shocked to find so many casualties from the "ferocious attack," most of them children with serious injuries, Chief Constable Kennedy said.

Colin Parry, an auto body shop owner, said most of the stabbing victims appeared to be young girls. "The mothers are coming here now and screaming," Mr. Parry said. "It is like a scene from a horror movie. ... It's like something from America, not like sunny Southport."

The suspect, who has not been identified, lived in a village about eight kilometres from the site of the attack, police said. He was originally from Cardiff, Wales.

Ryan Carney, who lives nearby with his mother, said his mother saw emergency workers carrying children "covered in red, covered in blood. She said she could see the stab wounds in the backs of the children."

"All this stuff never really happens around here," he said. "You hear of it, stabbings and stuff like that in major cities, your Manchesters, your Londons. This is sunny Southport. That's what people call it. The sun's out. It's a lovely place to be."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

“It is like a scene from a horror movie. ... It's like something from America, not like sunny Southport.”

COLIN PARRY
AUTO BODY SHOP OWNER

J.D. Vance is more than the Republicans bargained for

Trump running mate's 'cat ladies' comment and other revelations highlight the need for extensive vetting of vice-presidential candidates

DAVID SHRIBMAN

ANALYSIS

A three-year-old attack on Vice-President Kamala Harris for being “childless,” with a swipe at the “cat ladies” of the Biden administration, including Ms. Harris, who “want to make the rest of the country miserable.” Scores of e-mail exchanges with a transgender friend that underlined an abrupt rupture in a close, nurturing relationship. A remark asserting “I hate the police.” A newly released negative assessment of Donald Trump.

This is not what J.D. and Usha Vance expected in their triumphal victory tour after the Ohio senator was selected as Mr. Trump's running mate.

And playing defence – repeatedly issuing statements of explanation – is not what the exultant Republicans expected when they left Milwaukee earlier this month fortified by unity, propelled by a sense of purpose, thrilled by the prospect that Mr. Vance might extend the MAGA (Make America Great Again) message into new decades of dominance, and confident of victory over the Democrats, whether they nominated Joe Biden or someone else.

Dealing with revelations like these – and more that could follow, as the couple's Yale Law School friends recall a very different profile of them and contemplate sharing that contrast – is the challenge facing the Republicans as they gird for next month's Democratic bump in the polls that customarily follows a triumphant national convention.

But that's also the object lesson the Democrats might learn as the Harris team prepares to name its own vice-presidential candidate, perhaps within a week's time. The Democratic convention opens Aug. 19, and Ms. Harris has signalled that she would like to make her selection at least a dozen days before the delegates arrive in Chicago.

The surprise here is not only the swift revelation of deeply embarrassing and possibly politically damaging elements about



Donald Trump's running mate, Ohio Senator J.D. Vance, speaks with reporters Sunday outside the Park Diner in St. Cloud, Minn. STEPHEN MATUREN/GETTY IMAGES

the Vances. The surprise, too, is that the Trump campaign – so much more thorough, efficient, prepared and disciplined than the earlier efforts of 2016 and 2020 – was blindsided by them.

These revelations, and the awkward response of Mr. Vance to the “cat ladies” remark – he apologized to felines but not to females, saying “I've got nothing against cats” – suddenly disrupted the emotional boost that the author of *Hillbilly Elegy*, Mr. Vance's searing 2016 memoir of his life of privation that was regarded as a thoughtful explanation of the Trump phenomenon, provided to the Republicans' campaign.

None of this should have been a surprise to the Trump team.

“The most important thing in picking a vice-president is to be sure you have vetted the finalists thoroughly and have seen and heard what they have said about everything,” said Joe Trippi, who has been involved in vetting potential Democratic running mates. “You can either agree with what you find or have a strategy for dealing with it. But it is clear the Trump people were hearing these things for the first time.”

Since senator George McGovern of South Dakota selected Thomas Eagleton as his running mate at the 1972 Democratic National Convention only to remove him after it was revealed that the Missouri senator had been given shock therapy to

address depression, presidential candidates have undertaken thorough examinations of potential vice-presidents.

As a result, four years later, former governor Jimmy Carter summoned John Glenn of Ohio and Walter Mondale of Minnesota – both time-tested senators who had been in the public eye for long periods and whose backgrounds were unlikely to produce new revelations – to his Plains, Ga., home for extensive consultations and reviews of their records before eventually selecting Mr. Mondale.

The protocol since then has been deep examinations of possible running mates – a process that, if conducted at all with the Vances, failed to unearth the revelations that flowed in recent days like a cascade of spring runoff water.

The notion is to apply the unsparing process of “oppo research” – the opposition-research effort campaigns undertake to ferret out the flaws of their rivals – to their own campaigns.

Campaigns thus examine all possible vulnerabilities – potentially damaging relationships, platonic, romantic and sexual; past comments on issues and prominent personalities; bank, real estate and investment histories; and military and possible draft-evasion records, among many others.

The final element of the process: Asking potential candidates what revelations they most dread becoming public, with the

sobering assurance that those revelations almost certainly will become public.

The vetting team then deals with any rumours that might spread on cable outlets, the internet or the subterranean conversations that are part of any campaign. The notion: Campaigns need to be prepared for both rumours that turn out to be false – and those that turn out to be true.

Inevitably, candidates resist some disclosures, in part because they are more focused on the opportunity than on the opposition. Ambition as much as the rival candidate is the great obstacle in this process. As a result, the inquisitors generally push aggressively, relentlessly, even heartlessly.

They say to the potential choice: You have to tell us everything because we can't help you unless you do. They warn the person on the verge of being selected: These revelations can feed into a broader narrative – one that says, in many cases including that of Mr. Vance, that the candidate is a charlatan or an opportunist. The candidate is told: What we are trying to unearth is exactly what our opponents are going to be trying to unearth.

This process was broken most prominently when, almost on a whim, Republican senator John McCain of Arizona, the 2008 GOP presidential nominee, selected governor Sarah Palin of Alaska as his running mate only to discover that she operated on a gyroscope all her own, with an irrepressible impulse to veer off the messaging of the campaign.

Even the most profound examinations of potential candidates fail to discover some damaging elements.

Mr. Mondale, who won his own presidential nomination in 1984, had conducted the most exhaustive evaluations of running mates to date, much of it in public, with the campaign parading several potential vice-presidential selections down the driveway of his North Oaks, Minn., home. His closest confidant, the long-time Robert F. Kennedy aide John Reilly, managed the process.

Even so, the Mondale team did not anticipate the damaging questions about the finances of the husband of the eventual selection, Representative Geraldine Ferraro of New York, nor about the drug-dealing practices of her son. There was no secret about him on the Middlebury College campus. He was known among his classmates as “the pharmacist.”

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THE
GLOBE
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Authorities say Jasper fires extinguished

Environment Minister cautions next steps will take time as 30% of structures in town were levelled

ANDREA WOO
FATIMA RAZA VANCOUVER

Five days after wildfires reached the town of Jasper and levelled roughly one-third of its structures, authorities on Monday said all remaining hotspots in the community have been extinguished and crews are bringing power back on and preparing for a staged re-entry.

But Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the minister responsible for Parks Canada, said there are no timelines for when that will occur, and cautioned that active wildfires nearby continue to pose a threat.

"It's going to take a bit of time, and especially in light of weather conditions in the coming days," Mr. Guilbeault told reporters in a media briefing on Monday, referencing a stretch of hotter weather forecast to begin midweek. "We want to be very careful because the safety of the people of Jasper is our main concern right now."

Several wildfires had threatened Jasper for days, forcing more than 20,000 people in the region from their homes before reaching the town last Wednesday. The fires then merged and reached approximately 320 square kilometres – the single largest fire in Jasper National Park's history.

About 30 per cent of Jasper's 1,113 structures were levelled. Authorities on Sunday escorted reporters on a tour of parts of the



The forest outside Jasper, Alta., smoulders Friday. Several wildfires forced more than 20,000 people in the region from their homes before reaching the town last Wednesday. AMBER BRACKEN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

town, emphasizing that much is intact. The majority of damaged buildings are residential; the media tour did not include the most devastated residential neighbourhoods. No injuries have been reported.

Mr. Guilbeault said Monday that rail service has slowly resumed, but that Transport Canada reported that the rail backlog will take an estimated 15 to 20 days before operations are returned to prefire levels nationwide.

As of Monday afternoon, there were 124 wildfires burning across Alberta, of which 25 are out of control, 47 are being held and 52 are under control. Many areas of the province received significant amounts of rain in recent days,

which has been crucial in battling the blazes, Alberta Wildfire information officer Melissa Story said at a separate briefing.

Authorities described the Jasper fire as a catastrophe that no human efforts could have prevented.

Ron Hallman, president and chief executive of Parks Canada, said the agency has worked with the town and Indigenous partners for years to reduce known wildfire risks. This has included conducting prescribed burns dating as far back as 1996 and subsequent planned ignitions to maintain the fire guard; a program to make homes more fire-resistant beginning in 2003; installing sprinkler systems in key areas; and conducting joint inter-

agency simulation exercises for emergency scenarios.

As well, he said Parks Canada incident commanders and other experts on the ground are of the view that they had all the resources they needed to fight the fire, with all requests for assistance granted.

"The simple fact is that sometimes there are no tools or resources capable of overcoming a wildfire of the magnitude that we faced this week."

Asked about the role that dead trees, ravaged by mountain pine beetles, played in fuelling the fire, Mr. Hallman said his agency has had 15 prescribed burns over the past decade, burning "thousands and thousands" of hectares in the park to mitigate their impact.

Landon Shepherd, an incident commander with Parks Canada, said the insects spread into Jasper National Park from about 2014 to about 2018, and that the agency harvested an area more than five square kilometres to remove them.

Jasper Mayor Richard Ireland described a stretch of land "kilometres wide and 30 kilometres long" that is full of trees devastated by mountain pine beetles and said "there is no conceivable way to remove all of them." He said what unfolded over the past week was not a failure, but a successful effort by wildland firefighters and structural fire protectors that saved 70 per cent of the town.

"That does not diminish, in the least, the horrifying experience that those on the ground dealt with, that those residents who are going to return to a devastated community are going to feel. But I reject, entirely, any suggestion that there is a failure here. Everyone got out of town – every resident, every visitor got out safely – and most of our town was spared."

Jen Beverly, an associate professor at the University of Alberta who has studied wildfires for more than 25 years, said the devastating blaze was caused by a combination of high winds, hot temperatures and dry conditions.

Prof. Beverly similarly said that mountain pine beetles aren't responsible in fuelling the fire. Trees attacked by the invasive forest pests can be extremely flammable, she said. But, as the tree dies and its needles fall, that fire risk drops.

"When I look at the reports of the fire behaviour last week in Jasper, it looks like the conditions were weather driven," she said. "I've seen fire spreading in Jasper on green, perfectly healthy large pine trees."

Poilievre takes real ideas on the drug crisis and wraps them in nonsense

CAMPBELL
CLARK

OPINION



Canadians can see why drug policy has become a big political issue. The opioids epidemic is tragic and visible. People suffering from life-altering addiction can be seen in numbers on the streets. In 2023, 8,049 people died from opioid overdoses in Canada.

British Columbia retreated from its experiment with broad decriminalization. So has Oregon. But the tough criminal penalties of the war on drugs failed before that. Drug policies in Canada need a rethink.

Into all that has walked Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, with some legitimate criticisms of current policies, caustic language and now, an outright fabrication. He has opposed current safe-supply policies, called for better public-safety vetting of safe-consumption sites, proposed more treatment – and made up nonsense about a secret Liberal memo proposing to legalize heroin and crack.

It's an example of what might be the most maddening thing about Mr. Poilievre, effectively the leading candidate to run this country. He will take even his serious public-policy positions on critical – even life or death – issues, and wrap them in falsehoods to wield it as a political attack.

The latest case is Mr. Poilievre's assertion that a secret Liberal government memo revealed hidden plans to legalize hard drugs.

"It showed a secret scheme to legalize crack, heroin, cocaine and other hard drugs. Which if Trudeau and the NDP are re-elected, will be as easy to get in your neighbourhood as a candy bar at a corner store," Mr. Poilievre said at press conference in London, Ont., on Thursday.

But there was no secret memo. The document in question was publicly available on a government website. It wasn't a memo about legalizing drugs, it was talking points for Mental Health and Addictions Minister Ya'ara Saks for an appearance at the House of Commons health committee.

Bureaucrats had drafted suggested answers to questions on 40 topics, including "national decriminalization" and the answer it suggested for that was the boilerplate the minister usually offers to such questions: The federal government is willing to work with local jurisdictions that have a "comprehensive plan," including law enforcement and social supports, to decriminalize possession of small amounts of drugs.

The Liberals approved a major exemption to criminal drug law in B.C. – withdrawn this year at the province's request – rejected such an exemption in Toronto and provided smaller exceptions for safe-consumption sites in many communities.

Decriminalization can mean a lot of things, from an everything-goes policy to minor sentences to narrow exceptions for safe-consumption sites. Mr. Poilievre has called for closing such sites when they are near schools – he held a press conference to call for the closing of one in Montreal – but not all.

But it is certainly true that the Liberals are in a muddle over drug policy. They don't know where they stand on decriminalization. Some of the things they believed were the golden ticket have failed. They need to be roused.

In an interview, Keith Humphreys of Stanford University Medical School said

it's no secret why policies such as the aborted decriminalization projects in B.C. and Oregon failed politically: They didn't tend to the legitimate concerns, including safety fears, of people who don't take drugs.

Dr. Humphreys, a former drug policy adviser in the Obama White House who chaired the Stanford-Lancet Commission on the North American Opioids Crisis, noted that the commission also advised against the safe-supply policies – which prescribe drugs to individuals so they aren't killed by risky street drugs – that Mr. Poilievre has sharply criticized.

The opioids epidemic was launched with the flood of Oxycotin into the prescription-drug market in the 1990s, he noted, so an expanded supply of legally produced, consistent-quality drugs is not the answer now.

"Of course, it's better if people don't die," Dr. Humphreys said. "For people who are already advanced addicted, it lowers their risk. But if for each one of them you addict two or three more people, you are pushing the problem down the road."

And Dr. Humphreys also agrees that a major priority of drug policy should be expanding treatment programs that are now in short supply across North America.

The thing is, Mr. Poilievre's pledge to divert current funding to treatment won't be enough. The opioids crisis mostly falls to provinces, which pay for health care, and local jurisdictions, which manage public-health and social services.

You'd think an aspiring prime minister would want to use the force of his arguments to change minds. Instead, he is undermining his own credibility with a meme about a secret memo on an issue that couldn't be more serious.

E.coli: Panel's 39 recommendations include food safety legislation changes

FROM A1

The outbreak was declared over last October. Former Calgary police chief Rick Hanson, who chaired the food safety and licensed facility-based child-care panel, said the review involved input from stakeholders, affected families and experts in the sector. He said the review, which took seven months to complete, made clear that "the food safety expectations of Albertans are not being met" and therefore significant reform to the province's rules and practices is needed.

Mr. Hanson said the panel's 39 recommendations, which involve changes to legislation and more broadly fostering a culture of food safety, provide a roadmap to create a "safe and effective food safety system." Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, who joined him at a news conference on Monday, said her government intends to implement all proposals, but noted some may require consultation with child-care operators and take longer to fulfill.

"When parents put their children in daycare, they do so trusting that their kids will be cared for and kept safe," she said. "We know this outbreak has shaken that trust and, as policy makers, we must do whatever we can to ensure this doesn't happen again." The daycare operator at the centre of the outbreak was Fueling Brains, which has the same owners as Fueling Minds, the shared kitchen where the meat loaf dishes were prepared. The kitchen, now closed, became a source of public uproar during the crisis when it became known that public-health inspectors had repeatedly observed critical violations, including a cockroach infestation and food being transported without temperature control.

AHS, in its report, noted that the E. coli introduced to the central kitchen could have come from an ingredient found only in the meat loaf or only in the special menu lunch; an ingredient found in both menu options; or through a food handler.

It noted that the E. coli strain was a genetic match to bacteria found in privately sold, uninspected beef distributed in Alberta, which resulted in some cases of ill-

ness. However, it could not confirm a connection between the two events. Fueling Minds ordered its beef through Gordon Food Service.

Fueling Brains, in a statement, said it will be reviewing the report in detail.

Its directors, Faisal Alimohd and Anil Karim, were charged under municipal by-laws last September. Together, they face 12 charges and a fine of up to \$120,000 for operating without the appropriate food services business licence. The duo have entered a not guilty plea. The trial is set to begin in September.

AHS currently "lacks the resources" required for sufficient inspections, concluded the report, with just 82 per cent (of an estimated 34,000 inspections) being completed annually. The government must immediately address this shortfall and, among the recommendations, require a higher frequency of inspections and develop clear and formalized expectations for this work.

Additionally, all licensed child-care providers should be required to post their most recent public-health inspection report in a conspicuous place, the report noted.

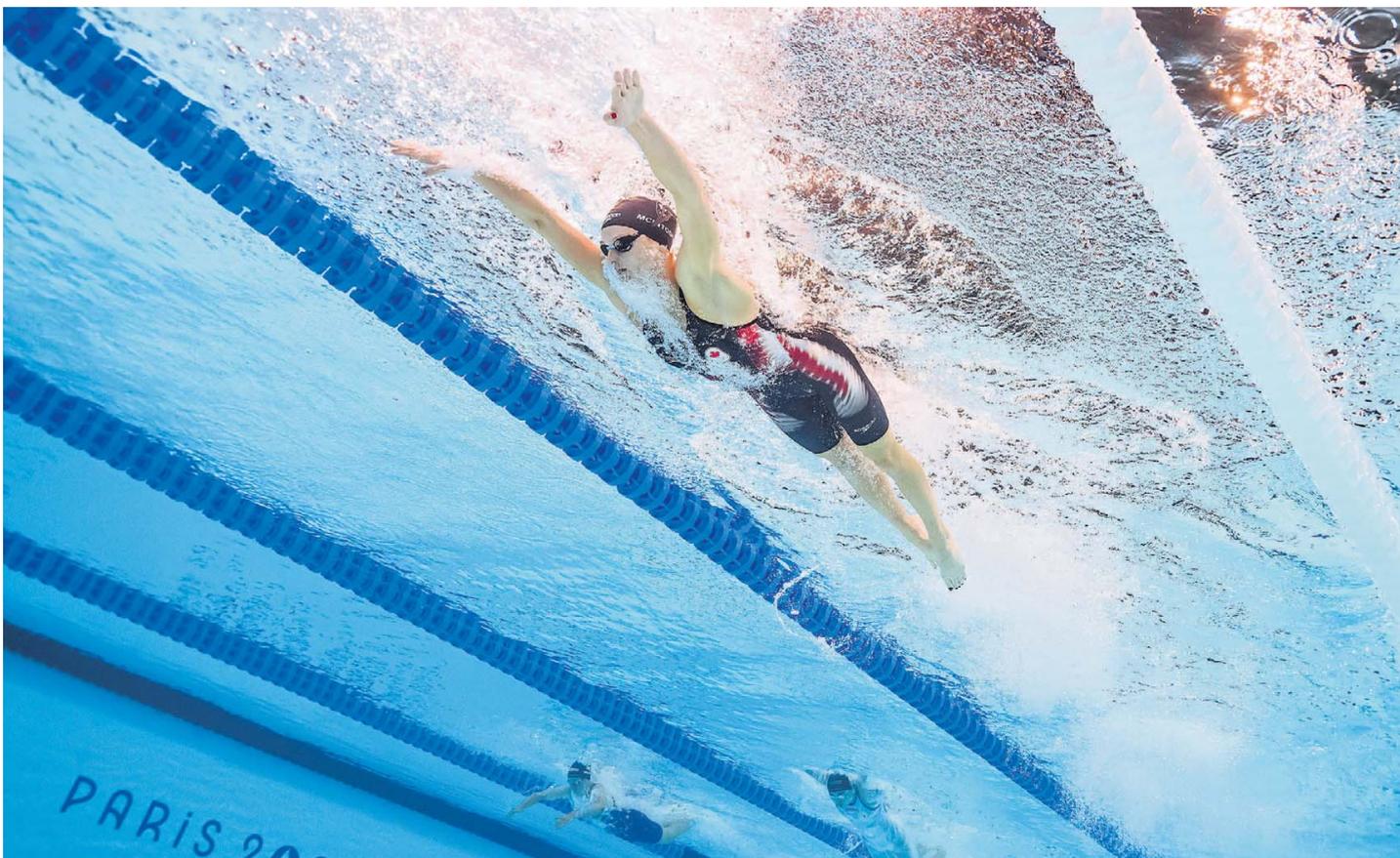
Key among the recommendations was that food handling regulations should be amended so that best practices are made mandatory. "For instance, there is no requirement for food service operators to monitor and record temperatures, which is a crucial aspect of food safety. Clear, enforceable requirements are needed to ensure compliance across all food establishments," states the report.

The panel said enforcement is also key; granting authorities the ability to issue offence notices, which comes with a range of financial penalties, including mandatory court appearances for chronic offenders or more serious violations.

Other recommendations were related to bolstering training and certification for people handling food in child-care settings and ensuring the province has the capability to take immediate action, including by establishing investigative teams to probe outbreaks or serious violations.



The daycare operator Fueling Brains McKnight location in Calgary, Alta., was at the centre of the outbreak, which has the same owners as Fueling Minds, the shared kitchen that is now closed owing to health violations. TODD KOROL/THE GLOBE AND MAIL



Canada's Summer McIntosh competes in the final of the women's 400-metre individual medley swimming event at the Paris La Defense Arena on Monday. MANAN VATSYAYANA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Below: Canada's Christa Deguchi, in white, competes on Monday against Mimi Huh of South Korea in the women's under-57 kg judo gold-medal match in Paris. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Right: Canada's Nathan Zsombor-Murray, front, and Rylan Wiens compete on Monday during men's synchronized 10-metre platform diving. The pair won a bronze medal. NATHAN DENETTE/CP



McIntosh: Key is her ability to learn from mistakes and coaches

■ FROM A1

She led from the blocks, and over 400 metres never relinquished her lead. By the time she touched the wall, she was nearly six seconds ahead of American Katie Grimes, who won silver.

The 400-metre medley – a mix of four different styles: the butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle – is her signature race. It is a combination of speed and endurance in which Ms. McIntosh holds the world record, a mark she set last year, then bettered in May.

On paper, she owns the 400 IM. In the pool in Paris, she reminded the world that it's still her event. Heading into the last quarter of the race, Ms. McIntosh glanced over at the competition and saw no one. At that moment she knew.

"I kind of looked around to make sure I was in a comfortable lead and definitely knew that I had the gold medal going into that last 100 metres," Ms. McIntosh said.

It came just two days after she won silver in the 400-metre freestyle, giving Canada its first medal in Paris. After that win, she smiled, cherished the silver, but behind the scenes, she wasn't completely happy.

"Champions always want more," Swimming Canada's high performance director John Atkinson said.

And Ms. McIntosh acknowledged as much after the victory. "I was very happy to get the job done tonight," she said. "It was a goal of mine to be able to stand on top of the podium and get the gold medal."

She is a swimming phenom that has stormed onto the scene in the past few years, setting world records and winning world championships. But her origins actually date back further. Ms. McIntosh is no overnight sensation. She is the daughter of Jill McIntosh, who raced for Canada at the 1984 Olympics under her maiden name, Horstead, and

Summer began turning heads at age 12.

But her ability to master all four strokes in swimming, and deploy them at world-record level, is what set her apart at a young age.

"The 400 IM is kind of a unique one," said her coach, Brent Arckey.

"It kind of runs all the disciplines from speed to endurance to all four strokes and then being able to transition between them and she's just excellent at all of that stuff."

But the key to Ms. McIntosh's success is her ability to learn, from her mistakes, and from coaches who have seen where her talent could take her over a long career.

"She's been taught well and I think the best part is she's open to learning," Mr. Arckey said. "So if you have a teenager that's willing to learn and learn how to manage all that stuff, this is the end result."

When she stood on the podium singing *O Canada* after the race, she sang the first third in English, the second third in French, and the last in English.

"That's how I learned it every day in school," Ms. McIntosh said.

"I still remember growing up every single day standing up at the beginning of class singing *O Canada*. So yeah, now being able to do it at the Olympics Games is pretty surreal."

It was only the 10th gold medal Canada has won in Olympic swimming since 1912.

Ms. McIntosh touched the wall in a time of 4 minutes, 27.71 seconds. Ms. Grimes won silver in 4:33.40, and Emma Weyant of the U.S. took bronze in 4:34.93.

Ms. McIntosh acknowledged some nerves beforehand, and said the silver medal on Saturday didn't necessarily ease the pressure heading into the medley.

"Not necessarily because they are such different events and I try to take every event very individually, and just one by one,"

“Every single time I get to race on the world stage, I learn more and more about handling it mentally and physically and emotionally, and trying not to get too high and too low, depending on my race results.”

SUMMER MCINTOSH
OLYMPIC SWIMMER

she said.

"But yeah, starting off the meet, getting on the podium is definitely a great way to start."

In her first two individual races, both of them pressure cookers against top-level talent, Ms. McIntosh hasn't looked fazed.

"I think just because I have been doing this since I was 14," she said, referencing her debut at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, where she narrowly missed the podium but got a taste of what swimming is like at this level.

"Every single time I get to race on the world stage, I learn more and more about handling it mentally and physically and emotionally, and trying not to get too high and too low, depending on my race results."

Mr. Arckey said the two never talked in detail about winning the gold, though making history was definitely something they both thought about.

"We have never talked about medals and colours of medals. We have always talked about trying to be the best that we can possibly be, as cliché as that sounds," he said.

"I would be lying if I didn't think that it was in the back of anybody's mind. Of course it is. But it wasn't important for us to talk about that. It was important for us to do the things day-to-day in order to have this result."

Teammate Mary-Sophie Harvey recalled watching Ms. McIntosh quietly fume after coming in fourth in the 400-metre freestyle in Tokyo, and suspected it was the start of something big.

Even though she went to those Olympics as a rookie, with no expectations, the missed podium bothered her, and she vowed to learn from it.

"She loves to compete," Ms. Harvey said.

"I remember in Tokyo ... she was so angry. And I loved it, because I was like, you're 14. It was so amazing. And I knew, like, from that moment."

Canada appeals FIFA's six-point deduction for women's team

PAUL WALDIE PARIS

The Court of Arbitration for Sport will hold a hearing Tuesday to consider an appeal by the Canadian Olympic Committee and Canada Soccer of a six-point deduction, imposed by FIFA, on the Canada women's team for the Olympic tournament.

In a statement Monday, the Switzerland-based court said it would announce a decision likely by Wednesday morning, the day of Canada's next match, against Colombia. In its decision on Saturday, FIFA cited Canada's violation of rules concerning offensive behaviour and fair play.

FIFA also imposed one-year suspensions from any football-related activity for head coach Beverly Priestman, team analyst Joseph Lombardi and assistant coach Jasmine Mander.

The court said the Canadian associations have not appealed the suspensions.

The Canadian side had been enveloped in scandal in the days leading up to the official opening of the Games after New Zealand's women's team complained that Canada had been spying with a drone flying over a closed practice in Sainte-Étienne.

Canada has won its first two games of the tournament, but the points deduction will make it next to impossible to advance to the medal round.

In a statement, the COC said the appeal was based on what it called "the disproportionality of the sanction, which we believe unfairly punishes the athletes for actions they had no part in and goes far beyond restoring fairness to the match against New Zealand."



Wastewater: Program loss concerns experts

■ FROM A1

Supporters of the effort, which has cost \$10- to \$15-million a year since it was launched in 2020, say it functions as an early warning system that can reduce infections and hospital visits, saving money that would otherwise be spent on patient care.

Unpersuaded by such arguments, Ontario is putting an abrupt end to its Wastewater Surveillance Initiative this week, much to the dismay of investigators at 13 universities and research institutions who helped to build the program, and many others who use the data it provides.

"We've been relying on it for the past few years," said Sharon Straus, a specialist in geriatric medicine and physician-in-chief at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. "It's really distressing to know that it's about to stop."

The sentiment is echoed by several health experts and participants who told The Globe and Mail they were stunned when news broke last month that the program was being dismantled at the end of July, two months before its current budget runs out.

Their reaction reflects disappointment that the province is abandoning a public-health strategy that it helped to pioneer and is now being adopted globally as an essential pillar of pandemic preparedness.

The scientific case for wastewater surveillance is straightforward: While most people who get sick don't go to the doctor, they do go to the bathroom. In doing so they release genetic debris from viruses and other infectious agents that reveal what strains are in circulation.

Compared with clinical testing, the method is non-invasive and unbiased, offering timely data on disease dynamics that would be impossible to obtain from report-



ed cases alone. And while the Ontario-wide program continues to function as a COVID-19 surveillance measure, it has also been used to track mpox, RSV and flu, with the capacity to quickly pivot to other pathogens as needed.

If there is a scientific case for cancelling the initiative, the province has not made it.

Gary Wheeler, a spokesperson for Ontario's Ministry of Environment, Parks and Conservation, said the program was "winding down" to avoid duplicating wastewater surveillance conducted by the federal government.

Top: Toronto's Ashbridges Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant is the largest of four such facilities in the city and receives wastewater from approximately 1.4 million residents. EDUARDO LIMA/ THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Bottom: Dave Dickson, superintendent of plant process and operations, looks over raw wastewater that passed through an initial screening after arriving at the Ashbridges Bay plant in July, 2022. EDUARDO LIMA/ THE GLOBE AND MAIL

This overlooks the large difference in scale between provincial and federal sampling in Ontario.

At present, the Public Health Agency of Canada tests wastewater samples shipped from four Ontario locations, all of which are located in Toronto. After the province's decision, Anna Maddison, a spokesperson for the federal agency, told The Globe that it plans to establish federal testing in "four additional cities" ahead of the coming flu season.

In contrast, Ontario's program samples at 58 locations all across the province multiple times a week. (Prior to a previous scaling down of the initiative in April, 2023, there were 107 sites covering nearly three-quarters of Ontario's population.) The provincial program is also closely interlinked with regional health units so results can be acted on promptly. In a follow-up statement to The Globe, Mr. Wheeler did not address these differences.

Given the lack of overlap with federal sampling, the end of the provincial program seems certain to disproportionately affect northern and rural communities already challenged by deficits in health care resources. For example, Health Sciences North in Sudbury, which conducts sampling and testing for five regional health units in Northern Ontario, from Sault Ste. Marie to the Quebec border, is among the centres losing its provincial funding for wastewater sampling this week.

Others who are affected include residents of city shelters and long-term care facilities in Toronto, where provincial funding has supported sampling at individual sites to catch COVID-19 outbreaks as recently as last month.

"There is no alternative," to the current program said Stefan Baral, a family and population health physician with Inner City Health Associates, which special-

izes in delivering health care to residents in Toronto's shelter system. He added that wastewater surveillance "gives us notice before people are overly symptomatic or everybody in a residence is already affected."

More broadly, participants say the province's decision amounts to giving up near real-time information about disease prevalence in most provincial locations as communication lines between research labs and public-health units fall silent. That includes pulling the plug on an online dashboard, not publicly accessible, that local health officials use to get a detailed view of what is happening beyond their jurisdictions in order to co-ordinate responses.

"You need that collaboration between public-health units and the people doing the analysis because it is tricky data to interpret," said Claire Oswald, who co-leads TMU's role in the initiative. "A lot of that is going to get lost."

REALITY CHECK

Robert Delatolla still remembers getting a phone call from a fellow scientist during the first lockdown who told him: "I've got an empty mayonnaise jar. Where is the wastewater treatment plant?"

Dr. Delatolla, an environmental engineer who specializes in wastewater surveillance and epidemiology, explained to his colleague why it would not be possible to walk into a treatment plant unannounced and take away a sample. But soon after, his lab at the University of Ottawa became the first in Canada to detect the virus that causes COVID-19 in wastewater. It was April 8, 2020.

At such an early stage in the pandemic, when the focus was still on identifying and isolating individual cases, the importance



Sana Jameel prepares wastewater samples prior to testing for genetic traces of the virus that causes COVID-19 in others. SAMMY KOGAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL



Dr. Kimberley Gilbride has been running the monitoring program at TMU since its start four years ago. CENTRE, RIGHT: SAMMY KOGAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL





Wastewater technicians Claire Gibbs, left, and Alex Johnston, pull up a passive wastewater sample in Toronto last week. SAMMY KOGAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

published last month by the Royal Society of Chemistry, researchers at Dalhousie University in Halifax demonstrate that Omicron was already present in wastewater sampled from a university residence a full three weeks ahead of the WHO announcement.

For Graham Gagnon, a professor and specialist in water quality and treatment who led the Dalhousie study, the result demonstrates that the power of wastewater as a disease surveillance tool was underappreciated at the time and has not been exploited to its fullest even now.

“How can a public-health expert use this information? That to me is a more interesting question,” Dr. Gagnon said.

By now, the combined impact of vaccines and exposure has reduced the virulence of COVID-19. But it remains a drain on public health that is currently responsible for about 26 deaths a week in Canada, with Ontario’s latest wastewater sampling data showing a rising trend.

“It doesn’t make a lot of sense that you cancel the program at this stage,” said Eric Arts, a virologist at Western University in London, Ont., whose lab conducts genetic sequencing for samples gathered as part of the Ontario initiative. “It’s not warning you before the cases occur, but it’s warning you before hospitalizations occur, which is when it really matters.”

Others have sought to quantify the benefit that the province would derive from maintaining a robust surveillance program. In a modelling study published in January, Dr. Delatolla and colleagues found that wastewater data can offer a 12-day lead time in advance of a future surge of pediatric cases of RSV. The study concluded that using the data to guide the distribution of a preventive drug to vulnerable infants under six months old would prevent 249 hospitalizations and 950 clinical visits a year, with annual savings of up to \$3.5-million for RSV alone.

In a separate effort to reduce health care costs, researchers at the University of Windsor and the University of Guelph last month received \$15-million in federal funding in part to explore how wastewater can be better used to anticipate demand for biomedical supplies and help avert supply chain problems ranging from vaccines to PPE.

But infectious disease experts say it is the risk and potentially catastrophic impact of emerging viruses that underscore the need for continued surveillance.

One of the ironies of Ontario’s decision is that it comes just as public-health agencies are on alert for H5N1 avian flu, which has jumped from birds into dairy cattle in a number of U.S. states. While no such cases have been observed in Canada, the possibility that the flu strain could acquire the capacity for human-to-human spread makes wastewater surveillance look more prudent than ever.

If H5N1 turned up in Canadian wastewater, there would be ambiguity about whether it originated with animals or people. But the timing and precise genetic signature of the strain would provide epidemiologists with critical clues about an emerging risk.

“Wastewater surveillance is all about monitoring for multiple pathogens at once, cost-effectively, and rapidly,” said Fiona Brinkman, a professor of bioinformatics at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. “This is really one of the few positive things that came out of the pandemic.”

NEVER AGAIN

Natalie Prystajecy, a microbiologist with the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, said she was initially skeptical that wastewater offered a practical way to track a respiratory disease.

“I was not convinced we would be able to detect it,” particularly in mildly infected individuals, she said.

She has long since changed her view, and is now looking to develop wastewater surveillance into a more sophisticated form of disease monitoring. Together with environmental health physician David McVea, Dr. Prystajecy won \$41-million in funding last December from Genome Canada to develop project SAFEGUARD.

The project employs a method known as target enrichment to rapidly isolate and genetically sequence the versions of different respiratory diseases that show up in wastewater sites across B.C. The point is not only to determine if flu, COVID or RSV are on the rise but to understand how the different viruses are changing at the genetic level.

Dr. Prystajecy said a key advantage of their approach is that it can identify versions of a virus



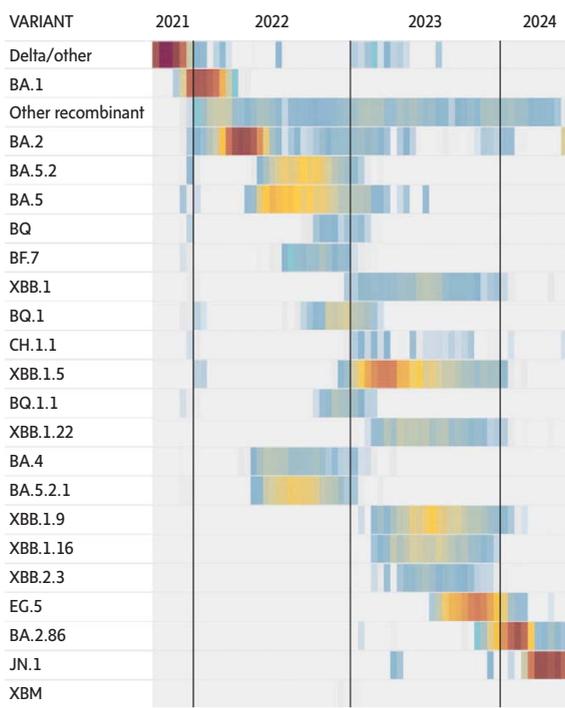
Prior to April, 2023, the TMU team collected samples from the Toronto sewer system at various points to study differences in disease prevalence across the city. Here, a manhole located in a city park allowed them to set up an automated sampling device. FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

A story written in water

Results from wastewater sampling in southwestern Ontario show successive versions of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 sweeping through the population between 2021 and 2024. The chart is based on 7,734 individual samples grouped in 14-day intervals. To assemble this picture, researchers tracked more than 120 separate mutations in the genome of the virus. Certain combinations of mutations are the mark of a specific variant. Now that relatively few individual cases of COVID-19 are tested and even fewer genetically sequenced, wastewater offers the most comprehensive picture available of the current state of the virus.

Average frequencies of different COVID-19 variants over time

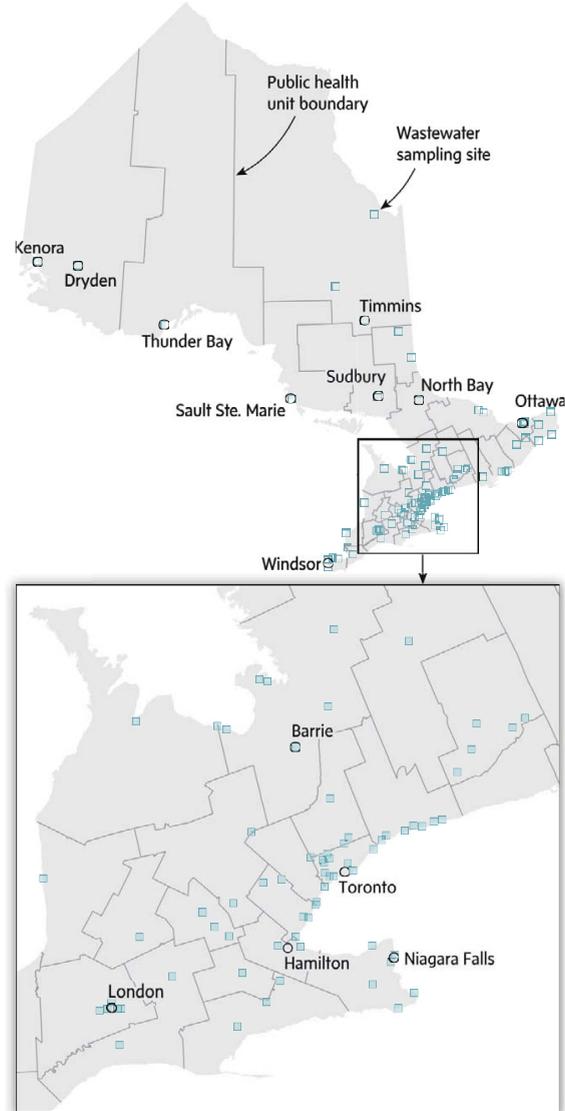
Oct. 15, 2021 to May 17, 2024
0% 99%



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: ART POON; SAMPLES COLLECTED BY WESTERN UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO.

Flush with data

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario’s Wastewater Surveillance Initiative drew on information from 107 sampling sites across the province’s 34 health units and covered 72 percent of the population. By the time the province announced it was shutting down the program at the end of July 2024 participants were testing for a range of viruses at more than 50 sites.



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, R. DELATOLLA RESEARCH GROUP, ONTARIO WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE CONSORTIUM (OWSC)

that may be lurking in the background but not predominant in clinical cases. It can also reflect how pathogens respond to public-health interventions. Significantly, the B.C. project relies on exactly what Ontario is giving up: a wastewater surveillance system that is already in place.

Elsewhere, community advocates are demonstrating how wastewater can be used to address longer-term health issues.

During the pandemic, First Nations groups in Yukon were among those who acquired the training and technology to monitor wastewater for COVID-19 and have since expanded testing to include other pathogens of interest such as tuberculosis, measles and H. pylori – a bacteria associated with stomach cancer that has elevated prevalence in northern Indigenous populations.

This spring, the First Nations-led health advocacy group One Yukon Coalition launched a campaign to detect signs of drug use in communities through wastewater. As with disease monitoring, the approach can reduce preventable deaths, for example by improving access to naloxone kits for treating overdoses. But a side effect has been to boost the communities’ self-determination in matters previously regarded as the exclusive domain of outside authorities.

“It’s confirmatory, science-backed evidence,” said Math’eya Alatini, the coalition’s board chair and a former chief of Klane First Nation. “People are seeing wastewater as a tool for making proactive decisions around public health.”

Compared with other measures that were deployed during the pandemic, wastewater has a track record of public trust, in part “because everybody intuitively understands how it works,” said Bernd Manfred Gawlik, a co-leader at GLOWACON, a global consortium for wastewater and environmental surveillance launched in March by the European Union.

The coalition, which includes Canada as a participant, aims to create an international sentinel system for early detection of emerging diseases and antimicrobial resistance based on wastewater sampling in communities and at key transportation hubs.

Dr. Gawlik said Ontario should be credited for the “extraordinary work” it has done developing wastewater surveillance during the pandemic. While he did not speak on the record about the province’s decision, he said he is familiar with questions that officials in many jurisdictions have raised about the cost of having such a program in place now that COVID-19 is no longer a global health emergency.

“To which I reply, what’s the cost of having to go through that again?” he said.

SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE

Across Ontario, groups that have been contributing to the provincial program have been looking for ways to carry on in the absence of provincial support.

Last week, there was some good news for Dr. Delatolla when Ottawa Public Health said it would continue to fund his team to test wastewater on a short-term basis. But the longer-term future remains in doubt, and there is no indication that the federal government will attempt to replace what Ontario is shutting down.

Kim Gilbride, a molecular microbiologist and co-leader of TMU’s participation in the effort, said she can’t understand why Ontario never worked out how to build its initiative and all the work it represents into a sustainable program, despite having had four years to do so.

“I think that it is time to have a division of public health that could do wastewater sampling and testing,” Dr. Gilbride said. Otherwise, the province’s decision means that “so much knowledge no longer has a home.”

Meanwhile, in her laboratory, researchers are shutting down their operations ahead of losing their jobs as the program comes to an end this week. Ms. Johnston and Ms. Gibbs, the wastewater technicians who have supplied them with samples gathered from all across the city day in and day out, will also soon be looking for work.

Toward the end of their tour with The Globe, the pair reflected on the fact that, at some point, the province may have to reinvent the operation it is about to cancel. Given the inevitability of future pandemics, it seems a likely scenario.

Asked what advice they would give to a future team charged with opening manhole covers all over Canada’s largest city, Ms. Gibbs had a ready answer: “Don’t be scared of what you see down there.”



Sewer samples collected from nine locations around Ontario.

EDITORIAL

ANDREW SAUNDERS
PRESIDENT AND CEO

DAVID WALMSLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The subject who is truly loyal to the chief magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures - Junius

How to make equalization more equal

For as long as equalization has existed, the provinces have groused about how Ottawa apportions those funds, aimed at ensuring that Canadians enjoy reasonably comparable social services at reasonably comparable levels of taxation.

Now, Newfoundland is escalating those decades of griping and taking the federal government to court, arguing that Ottawa is shirking its constitutional obligations.

In its statement of claim filed with the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, the province contends that it should receive higher payments under the program, and that the current design unconstitutionally denies it those funds.

The lawsuit itself should be summarily dismissed. The Constitution indeed does lay out the obligation for the federal government to make equalization payments, but it is silent on the design of any program. It's a policy choice, and in the realm of politics, not the law.

But Newfoundland raises two important points that merit discussion (although the province may wish to ponder the maxim that you should be careful what you wish for).

It raises two main objections. First, that equalization payments do not take into account the cost of providing services. Newfoundland contends that it has a higher built-in cost structure because of its smaller population spread over a large number of rural communities. Second, Newfoundland argues that the way in which resource revenues are treated put it at an unfair disadvantage, particularly when there are "adjustment payments" made that distribute dollars beyond just the have-not provinces.

On the first complaint, Newfoundland is making a good point - although perhaps not the point it intends. University of Calgary economics professor Trevor Tombe noted in an interview that Canada's equalization program is unique compared with similar policies in other countries in that it apportions funds on a per capita basis, without any adjustment for the cost of services or for demographics.

There is a strong argument to be made that the equalization program should account for the cost of delivering services. If hiring a nurse or teacher is less costly in one province, a dollar of equalization will overcompensate that province. (It's a situation similar to visiting a country where the Canadian dollar is stronger; the tourist's dollar buys more.)

The problem for Newfoundland is that such an adjustment would leave it worse off, given the lower price levels in the region compared with Canada's large urban centres. Ontario would be the big winner under such a scenario, Prof. Tombe says, since the province is just poor enough, with a high cost base to boot. (He adds that other methodologies might produce different outcomes. Newfoundland declined to specify what formula it might propose.)

The filing also mentions demographics. There, Newfoundland might come out ahead, since it does have an older population. But anyone proposing that reform would have to think hard about the net effect: An older population would increase health care costs, but decrease education expenditures. Since equalization is meant to underpin all services, it would be wrong to simply conclude that an older population is by itself a decisive factor.

Newfoundland also complains that the current way that Ottawa divvies up surplus equalization funds is unfair. It may be surprising to some, but the equalization program does more than simply provide payments to have-not provinces. That's because of the funding formula put in place by the Harper government, and maintained by the Trudeau Liberals, that ties the growth in the equalization pool of dollars to the three-year average growth rate in the Canadian economy.

That formula was designed to rein in costs, but in recent years has left a surplus to be distributed after the mandate of equalization - to reduce fiscal disparities - has been fulfilled. When that surplus is distributed in "adjustment payments," Newfoundland generally loses out because all of its natural-resource revenue is included. The province estimates it would have received \$581-million last year if natural-resource revenue was excluded. Instead, it received nothing.

The solution to Newfoundland's complaint is obvious: Only have-not provinces should receive equalization payments. Excess funds should simply not be spent.

Canada's equalization system is badly in need of a fundamental rethinking. Newfoundland's filing raises the right questions - even if its proposed answers are wrong-headed.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CANCELLATION PENALTY

Re "Israel vows to make Hezbollah pay after rocket kills 12 children" (July 29): As the Middle East seems to be hurtling toward a greater war, I'd like to remind readers about the lost peace engineered by Barack Obama and former U.S. secretary of state John Kerry.

After years of exhausting negotiation, wonderfully detailed in Trita Parsi's 2017 book *Losing an Enemy: Obama, Iran, and the Triumph of Diplomacy*, Iran and the United States came to an agreement about the handling of Iran's nuclear program. During those many years, the principal opponent was Benjamin Netanyahu, who did everything he could to thwart the deal, even travelling to address U.S. Congress behind Mr. Obama's back.

Donald Trump cancelled the agreement, which was considered an opportunity to begin settling other outstanding issues between the two countries. An opportunity to talk.

Iran's current aggressive stance, then, is a direct result of that cancellation, and Mr. Trump and Mr. Netanyahu are largely responsible for this crisis.

■ Robert Swain Kingston

CASE MADE

Re "Pierre Poilievre makes his case for dismantling what the Trudeau government has built" (July 29): I agree with many of Justin Trudeau's policies, although implementation has been less than satisfactory.

Under a Poilievre government, the thought of loosening environmental controls in light of all the floods and fires owing to climate change, and weakening protection for minorities, alarms me. Moreover Pierre Poilievre even plans to use the notwithstanding clause, which would make our Charter of Rights and Freedoms a mockery.

With an abysmal and probably irreversible poll rating, Mr. Trudeau will likely lose the next election. I think he should follow Joe Biden's honourable example of passing the torch to another capable leader. This would preserve his legacy and save us from the extremist policies of a Poilievre government.

Mr. Trudeau should do it before it's too late, and save his party and country.

■ Irene Fung Mississauga

FIREPROOF PLANS

Re "In wildfire's wake, scope of devastation in Jasper starts to emerge" (July 29): Federal and local authorities seem complacent about forest management in Jasper, Alta. They shouldn't be.

I attended a mountain pine beetle seminar in Jasper in 2017 with scientists and forest-health practitioners from across Canada. But I did not see anybody connected with Jasper National Park in attendance; many later made it to Jasper's canoe event for Canada's 150th birthday.

They skipped the one about how mountain pine beetle infestations leave all kinds of dead, dry wood just waiting to burn out of control, something other national parks, along with federal and local authorities, have dealt with aggressively along the leading edge of infestations.

Now they're blaming the fires on climate change. But bad forest management is to blame, as some of us tried to warn years ago.

■ Stuart Taylor
RPF (retired); Hinton, Alta.

More recently, attention has shifted to means of minimizing the dangers of forest fires. To a lesser degree has been recognition that professional forest management can play an important role in such forests to reduce fuels and modify forest stand structure, thus minimizing community losses.

Canada has a body of licensed professional foresters who are knowledgeable in forest management, including the use of prescribed burning and selective harvesting. Unfortunately, the costs of such management are dimmed in the light of much larger costs from the impact of fires on communities such as Jasper.

Part of the problem lies in public perception - aided by certain groups opposed to harvesting trees, especially in designated parks - about the professional management of Canada's forests.

It is time for governments to substantially fund and support the professional forest management necessary to minimize community losses from future forest fires.

■ Kenneth Armson
OC, RPF (retired); Toronto

We can no longer ignore the fact that climate change is a primary cause of events such as the Jasper fire, the recent torrential rainstorm in Toronto and other heat domes, droughts, floods and forest fires throughout Canada. These events cause massive disruptions to lives and livelihoods, can cripple power grids and other critical public infrastructure, and give rise to serious public-health risks.

In future elections, at all levels, voters should remember Jasper's fire, Toronto's rainstorm and all the other disastrous effects of our warming climate. Canadians should press candidates to explain how they will take credible measures to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, and

help our country adapt to the effects of ever-rising temperatures.

■ Jeffrey Levitt Toronto

The tragedy in Jasper is the latest in a series of climate disasters, underscoring the urgency of addressing the climate emergency by rapidly reducing global emissions.

Climate change has increased temperatures and droughts in western North America, which combine to create "fire weather." Even fires that are started by humans are likelier to burn out of control because of climate change. Last week, the Earth had some of the hottest days ever recorded.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres issued a clarion call on extreme heat. He called for limiting global warming to 1.5 C, entailing a 30-percent reduction in the production and consumption of fossil fuels over the next six years, along with a tripling of renewable energy and an end to deforestation.

The challenge ahead is equally momentous and necessary. As Canadians, we should rise to the occasion.

For the world. For Jasper.
■ Saverio Colasanto
Powell River, B.C.

PLAY ON?

Re "Vanessa Gilles casts off the villain role in win-or-nothing soccer match for Canada" (July 29): Sorry to Vanessa Gilles, but I believe her team are cheaters.

They have benefited from a cheating coaching team. It is difficult for me to believe that all players were unaware. Hopefully, further investigation will prove that one way or another.

This behaviour is contrary to the ethos of the Olympics and that of good sportsmanship. This feels like a huge humiliation for Canada.

Any public funding should be withheld for at least four years. Should it be shown that any players knew their training had been altered because of information from videos in this year's Olympics or the last Games in Tokyo, they should be dismissed.

■ Madeline Sharp
Carrying Place, Ont.

I find that FIFA deducting six points, equivalent to two wins, is manifestly unfair and without precedent.

Censuring the Canadian coaches is reasonable to me, but six points is a punishment for the players, which is not in the spirit of the Olympics.

An appeal should overturn this penalty. What advantage is gained through drone-spying baffles me.

I would question the impartiality of the governing body.

■ Anoop Khanna Waterloo, Ont.

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OPINION

Unethical acts in sports are all too common

The drone-spying scandal reminds us that there is little accountability in the sports world

DECLAN HILL

 OPINION

Associate professor of investigations at the University of New Haven and lead of its Sports Integrity Center. He is the author of *The Fix: Soccer and Organized Crime* and the forthcoming book *Birds of Prey: The Real World of Sports Gambling*.

Many Canadians were surprised to see Canada's women's soccer team plunged into scandal after being caught using a drone to spy on a rival team. But sadly, it's no surprise to find sports coaches and staff acting this way.

The sports world is a largely conviction-free zone, where any accountability is covered with a dross of words about "ethics" and "values."

In the drone-spying scandal,

the suspended national coach Bev Priestman declared, "This does not represent the values that our team stands for."

Really? So when our team uses an expensive drone that somebody must have bought, someone must have been trained to use and someone must have figured out where the opposing team was – it was all an accident?

According to a superb investigation by Rick Westhead of TSN, the Canadian men's and women's national soccer teams have a long history of spying on opposition teams. The article claims Canada spied against New Zealand, Panama, Costa Rica, South Korea, Japan, Trinidad and the United States.

The whole time no one did anything. Junior staff were apparently pressured into carrying out spying, which was considered part of the job. Everyone kept on talking about "ethics" but nothing changed, as spying is common in soccer.

One of the greatest coaches of the modern era is José Mourinho, now of the Turkish powerhouse Fenerbahçe. When he was at Chelsea, his assistant André Villas-Boas, also a famous coach,

said to the English newspaper *The Telegraph*, he was sent to "travel to training grounds, often incognito, and look at our opponents' mental and physical state before drawing my conclusions."

Mr. Mourinho is not the only famous soccer manager to spy. Marcelo Bielsa is the coach of the Uruguayan national team. He is renowned for his passionate monologues during news conferences bemoaning dreadful refereeing, poor training grounds and biased treatment against his team. But Mr. Bielsa spies on his opponents so often that he speaks openly of watching the training sessions of all his opponents before playing them.

Spying is hardly the worst of fence in sports. While the pomp and misplaced ceremony of the Paris Olympics plays out, there is still rampant sexual, physical and mental abuse of athletes across sports, countries and cultures.

This abuse comes from one essential power dynamic. The coach controls the athlete's gateway to immortality. Every sports person wants to perform and win at the very highest level. So many coaches and officials demand an awful price to allow

them do so.

We have seen countless scandals, from junior hockey to England's Premier League to Olympics gymnastics. A scapegoat is found and, if unlucky, punished publicly, but the system goes on.

This abuse in sports is so common that the triple Olympic gold-medal winner Nancy Hogshhead, who dedicated her career to cleaning up sports, says, "Not every coach is a pedophile, but every pedophile wants to be a coach."

It's the flip side of all the glamour and glory that we see on our screens while the Olympics flashes past us. The dark side behind the glittering show.

Very few journalists speak about it. They love pretending that our young people are safe in the glamorous sports world, when the truth is often the opposite. So they write and speak about the beautiful people, but do nothing to protect them.

The Olympics is also rife with doping. Ten years ago, the bravest couple in sports, Vitaly and Yuliya Stepanov, came forward with the results of their extraordinary investigation. They are the whistle-blowers

who exposed the dirty secrets of near-compulsory doping at the heart of both Russian and international sports.

Because of their work, the Russian team was banned from several Olympics and there were a number of mysterious deaths of Russian anti-doping officials. Sports officials were convicted in a Paris criminal case of accepting millions of dollars in bribes to cover up positive doping tests while running a "mafia-like organization."

Yet, dozens on the Chinese swim team tested positive for doping while winning medals at the last Olympics. Many of these same athletes have returned to the Paris Games. The response of the Canadian-based organization World Anti-Doping Agency? They spoke at length and loudly about ethics, while choosing to believe China's defence that the ingestion was accidental. In other words, they did nothing.

Meanwhile, the real stuff, the criminal, loathsome pushing of our young people into body-harming doping, and sexual abuse by their coaches, goes on accompanied only by a soundtrack by these same sports officials about ethics and values.

Public policy can't only be driven by public sentiment

GARY MAR

 OPINION

President and chief executive of the Canada West Foundation

Since the horrific fire swept through Jasper National Park last week, I've been reflecting on my time in government. The fire has been devastating for those who live, work or have businesses in the park, and has caused disappointment to thousands of tourists.

I don't live or do business in Jasper, Alta. However, this terrible fire caused me to think about whether governments did enough to avoid this outcome. I also think about lessons that all governments should take about public policy, effective leadership and the role of science when there is controversy.

In 1999, I was environment minister in Alberta. In the 1990s, mountain pine beetles were first discovered in a park in British Columbia. These beetles are an invasive destructive tree pest – it takes only one to kill a tree. If you drive through the interior of British Columbia, you will see large areas of dead trees with a red colour, which eventually turn grey. After devastating forests in B.C. and killing more than half of the lodgepole pines, the mountain pine beetle migrated with prevailing winds into Alberta, including Jasper National Park. Forests were vulnerable to being turned into standing corpses, with the infestation ending only when all large pine trees were weakened



A prescribed fire burn and logging to remove swaths of forest were recommended by scientists in the 1990s, so the mountain pine beetle could not advance in Alberta. The move wasn't popular with the public and the forests were left intact, later becoming a 'carbon bomb' vulnerable to fires. JESSE WINTER/ THE GLOBE AND MAIL

or dead.

Unfortunately, the right thing to do appeared to many people to be overly drastic. The right thing – what forest scientists were advising – would have been to remove huge swaths of forest through logging and prescribed fires so that the beetle could not advance and kill even larger amounts of forest.

In 1999, this was not a popular approach with the public. The idea of cutting down or burning healthy forests was unpalatable to many people, including many vocal forest supporters and

environmentalists who felt that the solution would be worse than the problem. So the forests were left intact, which was the first failure of public policy.

Even after a tree is killed by a mountain pine beetle, the tree can still be harvested and turned into dimensional lumber. But they weren't harvested in a timely manner. This was a second failure of public policy. The result of bad public policy is that we have created a "carbon bomb." Millions of dead trees standing as tinder in the parks, just waiting for a lightning strike,

tossed cigarette or out-of-control campfire to explode and spread into healthy forests. The failure of governments three decades ago, both federal and provincial, to implement sound policy in a timely manner has directly resulted in this season's (and previous and future) wildfires in Canada, including Jasper.

For the Jasper fire, there will be predictable voices that will say it is caused by climate change. That may be a contributing factor. But if the cause of the fires were primarily climate change, we would expect diseased forests and large wildfires in Sweden and Finland – but that's not the case. These countries have less disease and fewer fires because they practise science-based forestry. A big part of today's problem could have been avoided by policy action 30 some years ago.

This is a case study that reveals that good public policy is not always popular and what is popular is not always good public policy. These lessons are important to remember, knowing that today's policy and leadership failures will become tomorrow's headlines – ones with real and sometimes avoidable consequences. We need to listen to the science and act with long-term intentions.

From my time in the Alberta cabinet, I know that government is not perfect even when the intentions of elected officials and our bureaucracy are good. But we need to learn from our past experiences and strive to make better decisions in the present so that we might have a better future.

B.C.'s vaccine mandates for health workers are over. But they had their place

ANDRÉ PICARD

 OPINION


B.C. has ended its COVID-19 public-health emergency, including lifting the vaccine mandate for health care workers. Doctors, nurses, allied health workers and contractors can once again work in the province's hospitals, care homes and community health centres even if they have not been vaccinated against COVID-19.

The move is understandable. COVID-19 no longer requires special rules; it has shifted from being a pandemic illness to an endemic one.

Of course, that doesn't mean COVID is no longer a threat. We are seeing a bit of a summer surge; in the most recent week of reporting, we still saw 26 COVID-19 deaths and 92 people hospitalized in Canada (based on data from only four reporting provinces). And the lingering effects of long COVID remain.

But there is zero political interest in talking about

COVID-19, and not much enthusiasm among the public either. Like it or not, that's the reality.

It's not a public-health emergency anymore, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, is right to say so. She could have done so months ago, by her own admission.

But let's not forget that, despite the whinging of a small but loud minority, the COVID-19 vaccine mandate was always sound policy.

The safety of patients should always take precedent over the whims of workers, and B.C. did a much better job of protecting its vulnerable citizens than Ontario or Quebec, which abandoned their provincial mandates shamefully early.

The courts have also backed this view. In May, the B.C. Supreme Court rejected a lawsuit by 15 unvaccinated workers who challenged the mandates. Justice Simon Coval said that while the rules may have violated the constitutional rights of some workers, that was reasonable because the law was designed to protect the rights of vulnerable

patients who had no choice but to be treated by these workers.

The interesting news in B.C.'s announcement, however, is that in lieu of a vaccine mandate, the province has announced the creation of a centralized registry of health care workers' vaccination statuses for eight vaccine-preventable illnesses: influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, pertussis (whooping cough), varicella (chicken pox) as well as COVID-19.

This information is currently collected in a haphazard manner by individual institutions. A more systemic approach will allow for a better response, for example in the event that there is an outbreak or a specific threat to patients that might call for reassigning or suspending unvaccinated workers. The registry will also leave the province better prepared to respond to a potential new surge in COVID-19 or a new pandemic threat.

The approach – reporting one's status, rather than being obliged to get vaccinated – aligns with earlier provincial legislation related to schools. In 2019, B.C. adopted regulations that require

parents and guardians to report the vaccination status of all students in public schools. (Vaccination for school admission is mandatory only in Ontario and New Brunswick, while other provinces collect information to varying degrees. But as outbreaks of vaccine-preventable illnesses such as measles become more common, having data handy is becoming increasingly important.)

B.C.'s COVID-19 vaccine mandate, which had been in place since October, 2021, cost a total of 2,692 people their jobs, most of them casual workers. Only 630 full-time workers were dismissed for being unvaccinated, a tiny minority of them doctors and nurses. (B.C. has 190,000 full-time health workers, so that's one-third of 1 per cent of the work force.)

The notion that vaccine mandates have contributed to the ever-worsening labour shortages in health care, as political critics of the government have argued, is nonsense. Long-standing system failings, including a lack of human-resources planning, are the real reason for our

labour woes.

The vast majority of health care workers are ethical, civic-minded and science-believing, and as a result, almost all of them are vaccinated.

The workers who previously lost their jobs are free to reapply. They will still have to register their vaccination status, however, and they may not like that either.

While anti-vaxxers have made the refuseniks who lost their jobs because of mandates out to be martyrs, they are nothing of the sort. Honestly, should people who don't believe in science be working in health care?

As B.C.'s Dr. Henry has said repeatedly over the years: If you don't believe in the effectiveness of vaccines, perhaps you should consider another career.

Health workers who chose to not be vaccinated against COVID-19 are now free to return to work and follow the new rules, but they don't automatically deserve their old jobs back or back pay, as some politicians have suggested.

They made a choice. And that choice had consequences.

LIFE & ARTS

OPINION | PUZZLES | WEATHER

Robert Downey Jr. joins the dark side

The Iron Man actor is returning as villain Doctor Doom for at least one of the coming Marvel's Avengers films

KAITLYN HUAMANI SAN DIEGO

Marvel Studios returned to San Diego Comic-Con with dancing Deadpool variants and a choir for a panel that included news about the next two Avengers films and surprise guests, including Harrison Ford and Robert Downey Jr.

Downey is returning to Marvel's films, but not as Iron Man. He'll play the villain Victor Von Doom, or Doctor Doom, in at least one of the new Avengers movies. Downey kicked off Marvel's movie successes in Iron Man and played the popular character in nine films, but on Saturday appeared wearing Dr. Doom's mask and a green cloak.

"New mask, same task," Downey said to frenzied cheers.

The Russo brothers, who will be directing the movie featuring Downey, said his appearance in the film is "proof of the unimaginable possibilities in the Marvel multiverse."

The reveal capped a jubilant return by Marvel to Comic-Con's Hall H.

Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige kicked off the panel by saying that, owing to this weekend's success of *Deadpool & Wolverine*, the sprawling Marvel Cinematic Universe had now topped US\$30-billion in box-office earnings. In a nod to a scene in the movie, a choir sang Madonna's *Like a Prayer* before Feige spoke.

Deadpool & Wolverine, released Thursday, could shatter a number of records. Feige used Saturday's panel to chart the course ahead for the MCU, revealing Ford's character in the next *Captain America* film and revealing *Avengers: Secret Wars* and *Avengers: Doomsday* as the titles of the next two films in the epic



Robert Downey Jr. shows off his new costume Saturday featuring Doctor Doom's mask and a green cloak during the Marvel Studios Panel in Hall H at San Diego Comic-Con. JESSE GRANT/GETTY IMAGES FOR DISNEY

superhero team-up series. *Doomsday* will hit theatres in 2026.

Feige said all the actors introduced Saturday would appear in the coming Avengers movies, which will be directed by Joe and Anthony Russo. The brothers guided the Avengers franchise through its sprawling storyline capped by *Avengers: Endgame* in 2019 that included the death of Downey's Tony Stark/Iron Man character.

"When we directed *Avengers: Endgame*," Joe and I truly believed that it was the end of the road for us in the Marvel Cinematic Universe because we had put all of our passion, our love, our imagination into *The Winter Soldier*, into *Civil War*, into *Infinity War*, climaxing all of it with *Avengers: Endgame*," Anthony Russo said. "That four-movie run was incredible and it left us creatively spent with all of our emotions on the film. In the time since, through a very special story, Joe and I have come to

potentially see a road forward with you."

They called *Secret Wars* the "biggest story that Marvel Comics ever told," and Joe said it was the first comic-book run he read as a child that made him "fall in love with comics."

Saturday's session comes after Marvel skipped the convention last year owing to the Hollywood strikes, which prevented writers and actors from speaking on panels.

The cast of *Captain America: Brave New World* – Giancarlo Esposito, Tim Blake Nelson, Danny Ramirez and Anthony Mackie – joined the stage first and teased details about the coming film. Esposito revealed that he will be playing the villain, Seth Voelker, also known as Sidewinder.

When asked about what it was like to join a Marvel project, Esposito said it was a "dream come true."

"When your dreams come true and you get the call, you walk through the door," he con-

tinued. "I have a great deal of gratitude for all the fans who really had this dream come true, because it was fan casting that linked us together."

The cast then stepped aside to share a scene from the movie on the big screen, which revealed that President Thaddeus (Thunderbolt) Ross, played by Ford, is hoping to rebuild the Avengers with Mackie's Sam Wilson. It also showed Ford's character transform into the Red Hulk.

Ford joined the panel after fans were treated to clips from the movie and flexed his muscles to the roaring crowd. He also expressed excitement over his latest role, saying, "I am delighted, and proud to become a member of the Marvel Universe."

The cast and director of *Thunderbolts* [asterisk] also surprised fans with a short clip from the movie. Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Florence Pugh, Sebastian Stan and David Harbour (in full costume and speaking in character as the Red Guardian at first) stormed

the stage and shared some more details about their characters.

The film is slated to be released in May, 2025.

The final film teased at the panel was *The Fantastic Four*, starring Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn and Ebon Moss-Bachrach. The movie will begin filming on Tuesday in London, Feige said.

He said the film will hit theatres in almost exactly one year in July, 2025.

After a video director Matt Shakman created specifically for Comic-Con that featured the cast in full sixties glory, he and Feige revealed the official title of the film, *The Fantastic Four: First Steps*.

The session included no mention of Jonathan Majors, who played the villain Kang the Conqueror and was previously a major part of Marvel's Avengers plans. The actor was fired by the studio after he was convicted in December of assaulting a former girlfriend. He was sentenced to a year-long counselling program in April and avoided jail time.

Marvel already took over Hall H on Thursday with an electric panel celebrating *Deadpool & Wolverine*, in which the audience was treated to a full screening and surprise guests joining stars Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman on stage.

The mounting enthusiasm for the film at Comic-Con was reflected across the country as the fans rushed to see it in theatres, securing the film as the new record holder for the Thursday preview for an R-rated movie. The comic-book film sold an estimated US\$38.5-million worth of movie tickets from preview screenings Thursday.

The *Deadpool & Wolverine* success woke up a sleepy year for Marvel and assuaged worries about its box-office underperformance in late 2023. The superhero factory hit a record low in November with the launch of *The Marvels*, which opened with just US\$47-million.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cerrone's Supernature playing at the DiscOlympics proves the genre's glittering charm still reigns large

JONATHAN LANDRUM JR. PARIS

As the Eiffel Tower shimmered with laser lights, a tune from the man known as the French Disco King set the stage for the final leg of the Olympics opening ceremony.

As Cerrone's *Supernature* pulsed through Paris, sports legends such as Serena Williams and Rafael Nadal glided down the Seine, with deaf choreographer Shaheem Sanchez grooving to the beat through American Sign Language dance. This 1977 classic proved that disco's glittering charm still reigns supreme on one of the world's grandest stages.

For Cerrone, 72, this moment once again proved his cross-generational music has staying power.

"The sounds changed every decade, but for my part I never lose the movement," the music producer told the Associated Press on Sunday night before he hit the stage as the headliner at DiscOlympics, which brought out more than 3,000 energetic concertgoers to a riverfront nightclub.

The event paid homage to the roots of dance music and Cerrone, who shaped the disco genre in France in the mid-1970s with jams such as *Supernature*, *Give Me Love* and *Je Suis Music*.

Cerrone said he still has indescribable emotions after watching the opening ceremony segment featuring his song, released nearly a half-century ago. He was surprised when the ceremony's composer and music director, Victor le Masne, approached him nine months ago. Le Masne proposed updating it with a more symphonic sound, featuring orchestral arrangements.

Cerrone said the creative process was like witnessing a woman enduring months of pregnancy before giving birth.

"I think it's my best work of my career," said the producer, who has released 23 albums and sold more than 30 million records worldwide.

Along with Cerrone, the 12-hour DiscOlympics had several performers such as Agoria, He.She.They., and Kartell. The diverse lineup showcased disco's evolution into a foundation for subgenres such as hip-hop, house music and electronic dance music.

Disco initially made a splash in the early 1970s in New York City with various musical influences from funk, soul and Latin music. Cerrone, along with other French



A person dances Monday at the DiscOlympics at Wanderlust night club during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. The event paid homage to the roots of dance music and Cerrone, who shaped the disco genre in France in the mid-1970s. NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

artists including Dalida and Amanda Lear, were a part of the Euro disco movement in the mid-1970s.

European artists with disco influences, such as Daft Punk and Giorgio Moroder, have found success in the United States.

"Everybody knows the real disco has never left," Cerrone said. "It never stopped. Sometimes it was bigger, then lower. ... With the young people, it's funny. I performed at a big festival. I see 60,000 people in front of me. I stop the music and [they're singing] *Supernature*. It's never changed. Sometimes, it's like that."

Wael Mechri-Yver, a French-Tunisian musician, said Cerrone is deserving of high recognition, calling him a disco musical savant. After he first heard about the legendary producer's involvement with the opening ceremony a few months ago, he reached out to Cerrone's manager about being a headliner at DiscOlympics.

"He's the father of disco. He's the king of disco music," said Mechri-Yver, who performs under the stage name WAÏ. His culture collective company BABËL and Silencio hosted the DiscOlympics.

When Mechri-Yver heard Cerrone's song during opening ceremony, he knew it was perfect timing for his event.

"Disco is coming back really strong and

we really want to be the champion of that music," said Mechri-Yver. Along with Komo Kint and Cerrone's son Greg Cerrone, Mechri-Yver recorded the song *Are You Ready*, which was performed for the first time publicly Sunday and received a favourable response from the crowd.

"It's very joyful, celebratory, inclusive, grateful music that is about giving praise to the Lord, giving praise to nature. That's why *Supernature* was such an incredible performance. The Eiffel Tower lit up. The whole world started to sing. It was absolutely beautiful," Mechri-Yver said.

DiscOlympics attendee Alexia Charles was extremely pumped up about the event. The Parisian, who's in her mid-30s, rarely frequents the nightclub scene but felt compelled to see Cerrone perform – especially after the opening ceremony.

"It's amazing to see," she said. "You can hear the people screaming for him. That's a good representation of electro music in France."

Cerrone said seeing people cheer him on in his seventies fuels him.

"That's the best deal to live a long time," he said. "It makes me happy to sing about that."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS OLYMPICS OPENING CEREMONY SEES SURGE IN CANADIAN RATINGS

The Paris Olympics opening ceremony saw a massive ratings jump in Canada compared with numbers for Tokyo and Beijing.

CBC says more than 13.3 million viewers watched at least part of Friday's ceremony on CBC, TSN, Sportsnet and RDS, while an additional 1.9 million streamed it online.

The four-hour show featured about 6,800 athletes travelling down the Seine River on dozens of boats in the pouring rain with a grand finale that saw Celine Dion stage a career comeback with a spirited performance from the Eiffel Tower.

CBC says viewership reached its highest point when 1.6 million viewers tuned in to see Team Canada's introduction during the athletes' parade on the Seine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE BREAKS RECORD FOR SIXTH BIGGEST OPENING WEEKEND OF ALL TIME

Deadpool & Wolverine had a better Sunday than anticipated. The comic book film earned US\$211-million in its first weekend in North American theatres, Disney said Monday.

That's US\$6-million more than was estimated on Sunday, putting *Deadpool & Wolverine* in a different league. It had already broken the record for an R-rated movie. But the Shawn Levy-directed film, starring Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman, now boasts the sixth highest opening weekend ever, surpassing *Jurassic World*, which opened to US\$208.8-million in 2015.

The Walt Disney Co. can now claim five of the six biggest box office openings ever, not accounting for inflation, including two Avengers movies, *Endgame* and *Infinity War*, and two Star Wars films, *The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi*.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buying groceries with Mom is an adventure

FIRST PERSON

For my mother, grocery shopping is an outing, a chance to see and be seen. I'll never look forward to the task but I appreciate why she does, Rita Simonetta writes

I dislike grocery shopping. Not as a result of spiking prices, although that's made it worse. No, I dislike everything it entails: lineups, strategizing for parking, navigating for elbow space.

For me, grocery shopping is a long wait at a medical clinic, bad coffee in a church basement, semi-trailer trucks in the fast lane.

But as my husband says, "everybody's gotta eat." And so I go.

I enter each store with a mission: rush in, grab what's needed and rush out.

The problem is I can't rush in and out on Saturdays. That's the day my elderly mother and I shop together.

My mother is a sprightly 85-year-old with a penchant for speaking her mind. Before we head out, she applies lipstick, a hint of blush and a shimmer of attitude.

She's had a driver's licence for decades but never drove, so in the early years she grocery shopped with my father. Then it was my older brothers' turns. Then it was mine. It was the least we could do considering she cooked for a family of five.

Since moving to Mississauga with my husband more than a decade ago, I started driving to Toronto to visit her each Saturday, and our shopping excursions evolved from there.

It made sense. But it hasn't always been a smooth ride. My mother and I have different attitudes toward grocery shopping.

I run around like I'm on a timer. Grabbing. Tossing. Manoeuvring.

My mother strolls and peruses. When we arrive, she unwittingly parks herself and her cart in the middle of traffic to study the flyer for sales. I watch as shoppers and staff squeeze past her or are forced to take a detour.

As I zoom around for items to check off my list, I'll leave her at, let's say, the produce section. And that's where I'll find her a half hour later with an intense look on her face, studying the zucchini like she's Alan Turing trying to crack the Enigma code.

Grocery shopping is also the perfect occasion for my mother to people watch. Cue the comments.

"Look at all the groceries in that guy's cart."



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX DEADMAN-WYLIE

"Is that woman wearing pyjamas?" "Did you comb your hair this morning?"

My mother's astute observational skills of her only daughter are also on full display during grocery shopping.

"That was on sale last week," she'll say while peering at an item in my basket. "Why didn't you buy it then?"

Sometimes she remains silent and simply grimaces at my choices or their sticker prices.

And she always insists on examining the prepared foods section - not in order to make a purchase but to bemuse herself.

"They think I'm going to pay *that* for *that*?" she asks no one in particular. "I can make it for half the price."

Each Saturday mother-daughter grocery shopping adventure also involves an elaborate hide-and-seek game we didn't intend to play. At some point I'm unable to locate her. Where has she gone? Up and down and around and around the aisles I go.

"Have you seen my mom?" I yearn to ask the stock clerks and deli staff I encounter.

After frustratingly circling the store twice with no sighting of her, I imagine

tacking a missing persons poster to the front doors: "If you see this woman, please don't call!"

On more than a few occasions I've found her waiting by the store entrance or my car.

"Where were you?" I ask, exasperated. My mother shakes her in disappointment. "Where were *you*?"

Then there's the will-we-won't-we-finally-leave conundrum. My mother will invariably announce she's ready to go and we'll start making our way to the checkout lane.

But then something beckons her. It might be the sale on broccoli crowns or the pyramid of discounted detergent. As she starts for it, I sigh. Don't do it, I plead in my head. Please don't go. It's what we all think when the lead in a campy horror flick walks toward the dark, ominous basement.

But she does it. She goes there.

Now that I've reached middle age, I've started to reflect on these Saturday mother-daughter grocery shopping adventures. My mother has begun to slow down. She tires quicker. Her aches and pains are more pronounced. The arthritis in her hands make sewing, a hobby she once en-

joyed, a painstaking process.

She became a widow three years ago, and while she's known for her independence and resilience, some days I can hear her sadness over the phone. Winters are hardest. She feels cooped up and restless. But when the weather obliges, she takes the bus to a nearby plaza just to get out of the house, she tells me.

So for my mother, grocery shopping is an outing. A chance to see and be seen.

I'll never look forward to grocery shopping. But I appreciate why she does.

I realize our excursions aren't infinite. One day I'll wander the grocery store on my own, yearning to find her strolling an aisle or studying the produce section.

For now, I'm grateful there's still time for me to work on my patience and understanding.

Saturday is almost here. When I pull up to her driveway, I know she'll be ready for me and for a new adventure.

Rita Simonetta lives in Mississauga.

First Person is a daily personal piece submitted by readers. Have a story to tell? See our guidelines at tgam.ca/essayguide.

At these locations around the world, cats are the star

HILARY FOX

It's a tail as old as time. You're in the right place at the right moment and the next thing you know, you're living in the White House.

That's what happened to a stray, grey, green-eyed cat named Willow, who turned up at a Joe Biden rally in Pennsylvania in 2020, jumped onstage and left with soon-to-be first lady Jill, who later wrote a book about her.

Plenty of other four-pawed wonders have landed on their padded feet in famous and fortuitous places.

And it works both ways: Cats bring value to the venues they inhabit, whether it's simply adding a cute factor or rattling on rodents. Sometimes, they even come to define the place.

LONDON'S FELINE ROYALTY

Take Lilibet, for example.

She's a Siberian forest cat who spends one of her nine lives stretching her toe beans and snoozing by the fire at the five-star Lanesborough Hotel in London. Plenty of people check in just to check out the resident cat, who is named after Queen Elizabeth II, says managing director Stuart Geddes.



Lilibet, a Siberian forest cat, lives in the Lanesborough Hotel in London. She's a beloved resident pet who is named after Queen Elizabeth II, and often sighted by visitors. KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

And Lilibet, who has hypoallergenic fur, isn't the only cat living in a grand British building.

Hodge sits inside the sacristy at Southwark Cathedral, founded in 1106 on the south bank of the Thames River. He roams around delighting visitors and popping into the shop for treats, where fans can also buy their own plush version of him.

Not far away, across the Thames, is Larry, the famous cat of 10 Downing St., where he has stayed longer than most prime ministers - Kier Starmer is his

sixth. Employed as Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office, Larry pays his way by keeping the official office and residence of the PM more cat than mouse. He outlasted his rival Palmerston, a previous Foreign Office puss who retired to the British countryside in 2020.

TREASURED BY MUSEUMS

It's a similar situation at the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

About 80 cats get to call

Catherine the Great's Baroque palace home in return for keeping the pest population down. They have their own press officer and staff of volunteers, who keep them publicized, fed and watered while they pad around Russia's state museum.

Another museum delighted to play host to a colony of cats is The Hemingway Homes and Museum, in Key West, Fla. Fifty-nine cats roam freely through the estate, half of them descendants of Hemingway's own six-toed cat, Snow White.

Visitors are kept away from the original furniture, but the animals lounge on the writer's desk. A large "Cat Bible" helps track the lineage of the resident felines.

Alexa Morgan of the Hemingway museum says they are an extra draw.

"We have visitors that come here for Hemingway, and then once they see the cats and they love them, then it's like they visit again so they can come back and see the cats," she said.

MEOWING MASCOTS

And then there are those mogies without an impressive family tree or breed.

In Puerto Rico's Cuartel de Ballajá one Tuesday, a cat arrived at the Don Ruiz Coffee Shop in

San Juan. She spent her time napping and permitting patrons to pet her (when in the mood). They named her Tuesday, and she became a regular.

In Venezuela, under a banner of Hugo Chavez, an unnamed cat has become well known to the journalists of Caracas. Often found snaking between the tripods of TV crews at the National Electoral Council, this mysterious animal keeps reporters company as they wait for updates, playing with the occasional audio cable and generally strutting around like it runs the place.

Meanwhile, Lule is so beloved at the Dite Nat (Day and Night) bar in Pristina, Kosovo, that her feline face has become its symbol, even on the sugar sachets. Owner Genc Salihu says she's part of the family, and people turn up just to see and pet Lule. "She is very much the soul of the place."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

THUNDERSTORMS BRING FLASH FLOODING TO DOLLYWOOD AMUSEMENT PARK IN TENNESSEE

PIGEON FORGE, TENN. Strong thunderstorms brought flash flooding to Dollywood's Dollywood in east Tennessee.

Park workers and the Pigeon Forge police and fire departments directed guests to safety on Sunday afternoon, and one minor injury was reported, park officials said in a statement. The amusement park said it was supporting guests whose vehicles were affected and cleanup crews were deployed.

The park was opening at noon Monday and the park's Splash Country, which wasn't affected, opened at its regular time.

A road collapse closed McCarter Hollow Road at the entrance to Dollywood on Sunday night, according to the Pigeon

Forge Police Department.

JeMiale McKinney of Knoxville and his wife and two daughters are season pass holders and headed to the park Sunday. Sometimes, when there is a threat of bad weather, that is the best time to go because many people will leave and once the weather clears, you get shorter ride times, McKinney said.

However, it was pouring buckets and within 10 minutes the entrance was blocked. People could see that it wouldn't be worth it to drive through the water that was thigh-deep in some places, McKinney said.

"We got trapped in the parking lot faster than we thought," he said. They were stuck there for two hours until a

crew broke down a fence so people could get out.

"I was surprised about how calm people were," he said.

Nearly five inches of rain fell in the area in about an hour, Dollywood spokesperson Wes Ramey said in an e-mail.

"While the volume of rain was difficult for both the park's and the city's infrastructure to manage, the fact we have only one minor injury illustrates how well our hosts handled the situation and how well our guests followed their directions," Ramey said.

The park will evaluate the response to determine whether any changes are needed, he said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

2	3	4	7	6	9	5	1	8
5	6	7	1	3	8	9	4	2
8	9	1	5	2	4	7	3	6
7	8	9	2	5	3	1	6	4
3	5	6	4	8	1	2	7	9
4	1	2	9	7	6	8	5	3
1	7	8	6	4	2	3	9	5
9	4	3	8	1	5	6	2	7
6	2	5	3	9	7	4	8	1

TODAY'S KENKEN SOLUTION

2-	5-	6x	5	4	3
2	6	1	5	4	3
1	2	3	4	6	5
4	3	5	2	1	6
6x	2-	14+	3	5	1
6	4	2	3	5	1
8+	1-	1-	2-	2-	
5	1	4	6	3	2
3	5	6	1	2	4

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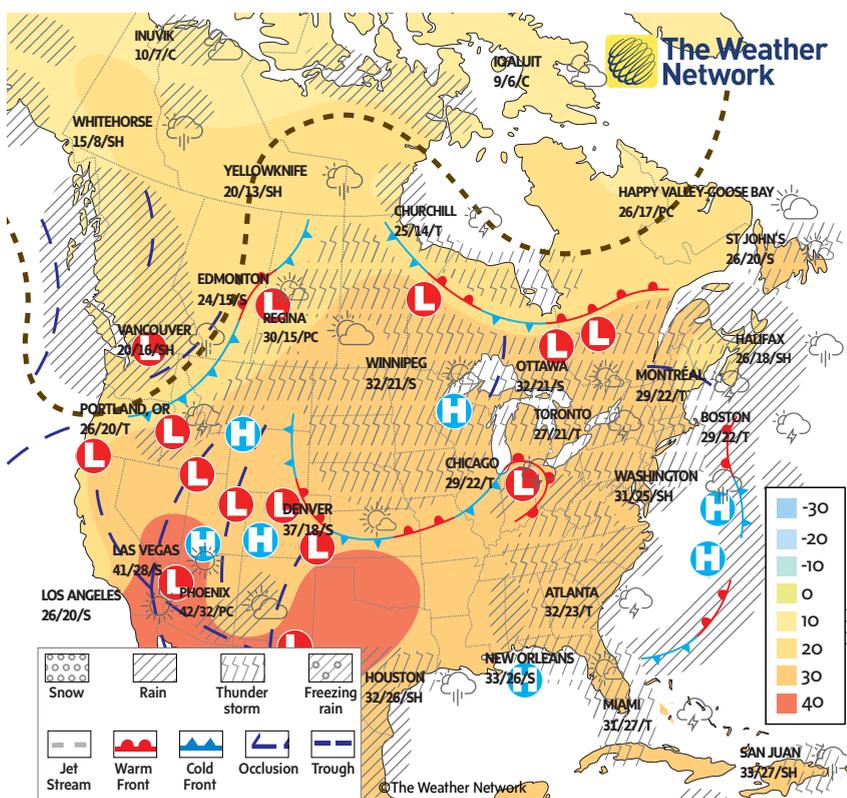
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WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Includes cities like Amsterdam, Athens, Bangkok, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, Las Vegas, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Miami, Moscow, New Delhi, New York, Nice, Orlando, Paris, Phoenix, Rome, San Francisco, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, Washington.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Includes cities like Banff, Barrie, Brandon, Calgary, Charlottetown, Chicoutimi, Churchill, Corner Brook, Cornwall, Edmonton, Halifax, Hamilton, Huntsville, Iqaluit, Jasper, Kelowna, Kingston, London, Montreal, Niagara Falls, North Bay, Ottawa, Peterborough, Quebec, Regina, Saskatoon, Saulit Ste Marie, Saint John, Sarnia, St John's, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Thompson, Toronto, Val-d'Or, Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler, Whitehorse, Winnipeg, Yellowknife.



LEGEND
Daytime high, overnight low, and conditions
C CLOUDY RS RAIN/SNOW
FG FOG S SUN
FR FREEZING RAIN SN SNOW
HA HAZE SF SNOW FLURRIES
NA NOT AVAILABLE SH SHOWERS
PC PARTLY CLOUDY T THUNDERSTORMS
R RAIN W WIND

BRIDGE
BY STEVE BECKER
TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
The bidding:

Bridge bidding table with columns: South, West, North, East. Shows bids like 1[S], Dble, 2[D], 2[S], 3[D].

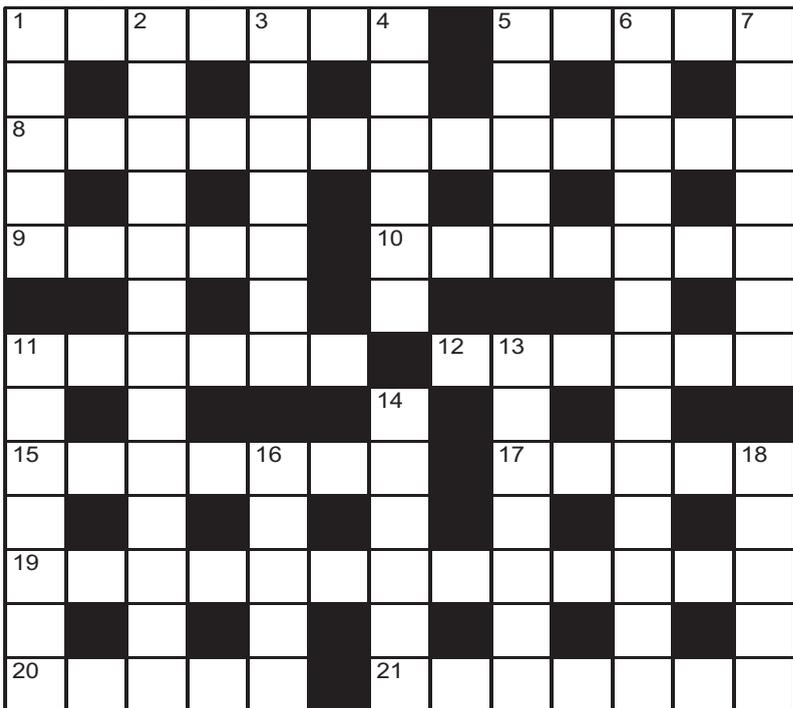
NORTH
K 9 6 3
Q 10 5 4
A 8 3
J 7
WEST
A 8 7 3
K Q J 10 5
Q 10 8 3
EAST
S 2
J 9 2
9 7 6 4 2
K 6 2
SOUTH
A Q J 10 8 7 4
K 6
A 9 5 4

Sometimes what looks like a hopeless situation turns out not to be as hopeless as it might at first seem. All that's required is a steady hand at the helm and, perhaps, a little bit of luck. Take this case where South is in six spades and West leads the king of diamonds. If declarer wins with the ace, he eventually goes down one, losing a heart and a club. But if South is on his toes, he should realize he has a reasonable chance for the slam.

and then leads a low heart toward dummy at trick two. This play has a Machiavellian twist. If West follows low, as most players would, the slam is ice-cold. Dummy's queen wins, whereupon South discards the king of hearts on the ace of diamonds, draws trump and concedes a club trick to make the contract. However, as the cards lie, even if West goes up with the heart ace at trick two, South still makes the slam. Thanks to East's having started with the J-x-x of hearts, declarer's three club losers can eventually be dis-

carded on the diamond ace and Q-10 of hearts after East's jack falls on the third round of the suit. At the start, South ruffs the opening diamond lead primarily to try to steal the contract with a low heart play at trick two. As it happens, though, his attempted larceny works no matter what West does. Skill plus good luck are often a hard combination to beat.

CHALLENGE CROSSWORD



CRYPTIC CLUES

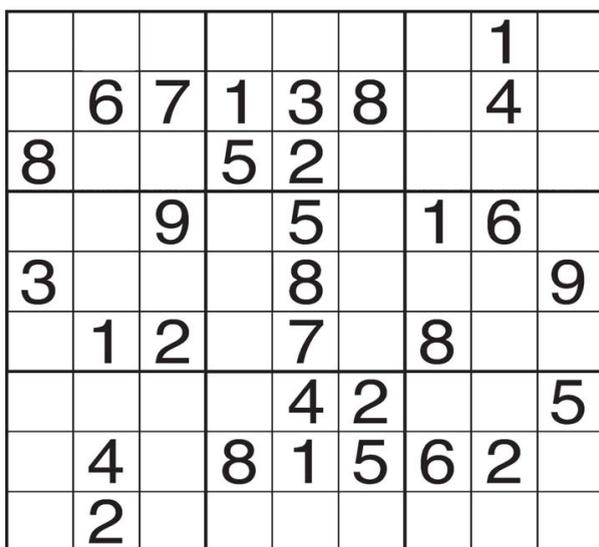
- ACROSS
1 Boring job for the gunmaker concerned with accuracy (7)
5 She gets letters from Alice (5)
8 Certainly confident (7,1,5)
9 Strain of a grave commitment? (5)
10 Letters from a chest I sorted out (7)
11 I'm taking a certain attitude to levy (6)
12 No pegs put out for washing (6)
15 A shade unsuitable for wet weather (7)
17 Attack with broken stone (5)
19 Enthusiastic traveller frowned upon nowadays (3,3,3,4)
20 Crack up? (5)
21 He does nothing to hurt industry (7)
DOWN
1 Quarrelled when we were included in the staff (5)
2 It's tense, but what's ahead couldn't be better (6,7)
3 Decreasing workers (7)
4 It allows access to the French confectionery (6)
5 Recruit acted badly (5)
6 Store of jokes - or one that is really ridiculous (8,5)
7 Performer makes a start that is different (7)
11 For reform, a little brat gets bent over (7)
13 Initiator of enterprise needs one in support (7)
14 Fresh petals set out on the table (6)
16 A seat to put in the sun (5)
18 Number in four round royal house (5)

QUICK CLUES

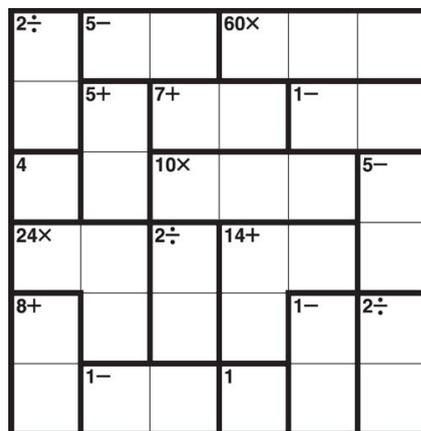
- ACROSS
1 Debar from office temporarily (7)
5 Pry meddlesomely (5)
8 Retaliation in kind (2,3,3,2,3)
9 Authoritative doctrine (5)
10 Travellers' suitcases etc. (7)
11 Vacillate (6)
12 Company of actors (6)
15 Denial (7)
17 Reside as paying guest (5)
19 According to general opinion (2,3,8)
20 Provide with (5)
21 Unsteady, liable to fall (7)
DOWN
1 Tolerate (5)
2 Dexterity in conjuring (7,2,4)
3 To raise (7)
4 Draw absent-mindedly (6)
5 Colloquial language (5)
6 Superfluity (13)
7 Come before (7)
11 Hard-wearing (7)
13 Exclude from consideration (4,3)
14 Draw forth (6)
16 Soothing ointment (5)
18 Attempt (5)

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



INSTRUCTIONS Fill in the grid so that each row of nine squares, each column of nine and each section of nine (three squares by three) contains the numbers 1 through 9 in any order. There is only one solution to each puzzle.



INSTRUCTIONS
1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
Freebies: Fill in 3. single-box cages with the numbers in the top-left corner.

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YESTERDAY'S CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1 Kayak, 8 Describe, 9 Deeds, 10 Istanbul, 11 Party, 12 Orb, 16 Almond, 17 Adonis, 18 Egg, 23 Swipe, 24 Handicap, 25 State, 26 Overacts, 27 Press.
DOWN: 2 Amenable, 3 Audition, 4 Censer, 5 Scrap, 6 Limbo, 7 Cello, 12 Ode, 13 Bag, 14 Hot water, 15 Disputes, 19 Giants, 20 Throw, 21 Enter, 22 Sitar.

YESTERDAY'S QUICK

ACROSS: 1 Blast, 8 One or two, 9 Today, 10 Top brass, 11 Given, 12 Raw, 16 Aftune, 17 Outing, 18 Den, 23 Unity, 24 Let loose, 25 Joker, 26 By rights, 27 Stiff.
DOWN: 2 Look into, 3 Shakeout, 4 Angela, 5 Doubt, 6 Steak, 7 Boost, 12 Red, 13 Won, 14 Stand out, 15 In itself, 19 Ersatz, 20 Globe, 21 Stark, 22 Rough.

Lebanon: Canada's embassy in Beirut warns of 'potential consequences' of travel there

■ FROM A1

Mr. Nabhan, who studies software engineering at the University of Ottawa, said the family's month-long trip to visit relatives had gone well, but they were glad to be heading out. "Right now, because of what happened, I'm a bit scared," he said. "It's the right time to leave."

Adding to the rising concern, the U.S. embassy in Beirut posted a video message on its social-media accounts from Rena Bitter, assistant secretary of state for consular affairs. In it, Ms. Bitter warned U.S. citizens to make plans to leave Lebanon via commercial means "while local communications and transportation infrastructure are intact and operating normally."

Ms. Bitter added that, should commercial options become unavailable, "individuals already in Lebanon should be prepared to shelter in place for long periods of time."

Canada's embassy in Beirut sharpened the wording Monday of its own long-standing advice for Canadians to avoid travel to Lebanon. "Do not travel to Lebanon. Think about the potential consequences," the new advice reads. There are an estimated 45,000 to 50,000 Canadian citizens in Lebanon.

On Monday evening, a Canadian embassy e-mail repeated the advice "to leave Lebanon while some commercial flights are still available" and warned that there was no plan to evacuate Canadians who remained in the country "and you should not rely on the Government of Canada for any future assisted departures or evacuation." The e-mail repeated the U.S. warning about being ready to possibly shelter in place for a prolonged period of time.

Also on Monday, Mr. Netanyahu visited the soccer field where the 12 children had been killed — all of them between the ages of 11 and 16, and members of the Druze religious minority — and vowed revenge. Thirty other people were injured in the attack. "The State of Israel will not and cannot ignore this. Our response will come, and it will be severe," Mr. Netanyahu said.

The Israeli leader, however, was heckled by some at the scene,



Women grieve Monday in Majdal Shams, a Druze village in the Golan Heights, for the 12 children killed in a Saturday rocket attack on a soccer field in the Israeli-controlled territory. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israel's 'response will come, and it will be severe.' RAMI AMICHAY/REUTERS



Multiple flights into and out of Rafic Hariri International Airport in Beirut have been cancelled or delayed over concerns that Israel's retaliation for Saturday's attack might include strikes on the airport and other Lebanese infrastructure. ANWAR AMRO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

who shouted "murderer" and "get out!" Many Druze living in the Israeli-controlled Golan, which Israel seized and occupied in a 1967 war, still consider themselves Syrian.

Though there were tit-for-tat cross strikes across the Israel-Lebanon border during the day on Monday, including one in which two Hezbollah members were

killed, both sides appeared to be bracing for something much larger.

The U.S. has been engaged in frantic diplomacy, trying to persuade Israel to limit the scope of its operation to avoid plunging the region into a second all-out war alongside the 297-day-old conflict in Gaza, which began on Oct. 7 when Hamas — which is also

backed by Iran — staged an invasion of Israel that left more than 1,100 people dead.

Israel's invasion of Gaza, which was intended to destroy Hamas and rescue the more than 250 Israelis and foreigners taken hostage, has left more than 39,000 Palestinians dead, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, even as 115 Israelis remain missing in Gaza, according to a count by Israel's Haaretz newspaper. None of those numbers differentiate between fighters and civilians.

The fighting across the Israel-Lebanon border started Oct. 8 when Hezbollah began firing rockets and drones in what it said was an act of "solidarity" with Hamas. Since then, 17 soldiers and 24 civilians have been killed in northern Israel and the Golan Heights, according to the Israeli government, while 386 Hezbollah members and more than 100 civilians have been killed in southern Lebanon, Hezbollah said. Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes on both sides of the border.

Mitchell Barak, an Israeli political analyst who worked for Mr. Netanyahu early in his career,

said the Israeli Prime Minister is under pressure to order an operation that punishes Hezbollah sufficiently for the deaths of the children, without necessarily opening a second front while Israel is still at war in Gaza.

"The question is whether it's going to be a massive retaliation which could lead to all-out war, which Iran has threatened to get involved in," Mr. Barak said. "They have the capability of raining missiles on us, so it would be a war where people in Israel are going to be in bomb shelters. I'm not sure people are so interested in that."

Lebanon is also hoping to avoid a repeat of the last all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006, which began when Hezbollah fighters crossed the border and attacked an Israeli patrol, killing three soldiers and kidnapping two others. The fighting lasted for 33 days and left 165 Israelis and 1,191 Lebanese dead.

"Regional escalation would have a devastating impact on civilians and civilian infrastructure. In Lebanon, we're already seeing the destruction of entire villages in the south at the hands of the Israeli military," said Aya Mazjoub, deputy regional director for the Middle East and North Africa office of Amnesty International, referring to the fighting since Oct. 8. "We fear that with an escalation, more civilians will come under fire."

Back at the Beirut airport, 19-year-old Meriam Chahine was staring at the departures board, looking for an update on her flight to Amman, Jordan — and then home to Michigan — that had been scheduled to depart Monday at 8 a.m., but had been repeatedly delayed, and now was scheduled to leave at 8:45 p.m.

Ms. Chahine, who said she had barely gone outside during the three months she was in Lebanon with her father out of fear over the security situation, was anxious to get out. "Quite frankly, I'm really worried the flight's never going to take off, that they're going to shut down the airport before we get to our flight," she said.

Less than an hour later, Royal Jordanian announced it was joining several other foreign carriers in cancelling all flights until Wednesday.

Ban on most abortions after six weeks takes effect in Iowa

HANNAH FINGERHUT
DES MOINES, IOWA

Iowa's strict abortion law went into effect Monday, immediately prohibiting most abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy, before many women know they are pregnant.

Iowa's Republican leaders have been seeking the law for years and gained momentum after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022. The Iowa Supreme Court also issued a ruling that year saying there was no constitutional right to abortion in the state.

"There is no right more sacred than life," Republican Governor Kim Reynolds said in June. "I'm glad that the Iowa Supreme Court has upheld the will of the people of Iowa."

Now, across the United States, four states ban abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy, and 14 states have near-total bans at all stages of pregnancy.

The law in Iowa and other restrictions across the country will be a focus of the 2024 election, with Republicans celebrating their successes and Democrats criticizing them as an attack on women's rights. Vice-President Kamala Harris, who stands to become the Democratic presidential nominee, has said reproductive rights are at stake this November.

The Harris campaign released a video Monday to draw attention to the issue as Iowa's law becomes enforceable.

"What we need to do is vote," Ms. Harris said. "When I am president of the United States, I will sign into law the protections for reproductive freedom."

Iowa's abortion providers have been fighting the new law but still preparing for it, shoring up abortion access in neighbouring states and drawing on the lessons learned from jurisdictions where bans went into effect more swiftly.

They have said they will continue to operate in Iowa in compliance with the new law, but Sarah Traxler, chief medical officer for Planned Parenthood North Central States, called it a "devastating and dark" moment in state history.

The Iowa law was passed by the Republican-controlled legislature in a special session last year, but a legal challenge was immediately filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa, Planned Parenthood North Central States and the Emma Goldman Clinic. The law was in effect for just a few days

before a district judge temporarily blocked it, a decision Ms. Reynolds appealed to the state's high court.

The Iowa Supreme Court's 4-3 ruling in June reiterated that there is no constitutional right to an abortion in the state and ordered the hold be lifted. A district court judge last week said the hold would be lifted Monday morning.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, called it a "historic day for Iowa."

The law prohibits abortions after cardiac activity can be detected, which is roughly at six weeks. There are limited exceptions in cases of rape, incest, fetal abnormality or when the life of the mother is in danger. Previously, abortion in Iowa was legal up to 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Three abortion clinics in two Iowa cities offer in-person abortion procedures and will continue to do so before cardiac activity is detected, according to representatives from Planned Parenthood and Emma Goldman.

A law based on cardiac activity is "tricky," said Dr. Traxler, of Planned Parenthood. Since six weeks is approximate, "we don't necessarily have plans to cut people off at a certain gestational age," she said.

For more than a year, the region's Planned Parenthood also has been making investments within and outside of Iowa to prepare for the restrictions. Like in other regions, it has dedicated staff to work the phones, helping people find appointments, connect with other providers, arrange travel plans or financial assistance.

It also is remodelling its centre in Omaha, Neb., just over the state line, and newly offers medication abortion in Mankato, Minn., about an hour's drive from Iowa.

But providers fear the drastic change in access will exacerbate health inequalities for Iowa's women of colour and residents from low-income households.

Across the country, the status of abortion has changed constantly since the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, with trigger laws immediately going into effect, states passing new restrictions or expansions of access, and court battles putting those on hold.

In states with restrictions, the main abortion options are getting pills via telehealth or underground networks and travelling, vastly driving up demand in states with more access.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUTH AFRICA'S ANC EXPELS FORMER PRESIDENT ZUMA AFTER HIS SUPPORT OF RIVAL PARTY IN MAY ELECTION

JOHANNESBURG Former South African president Jacob Zuma has been expelled from the African National Congress after backing a rival party in May's parliamentary election, the ANC said on Monday.

Mr. Zuma was suspended from his long-time party in January after announcing he would support the new uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) in the general election. He later became the leader and face of MK.

MK did better than expected in the poll and won about 15 per cent of the vote, a major factor in the ANC's loss of its majority for the first time since the apartheid era.

"Former president Jacob Zuma has actively impugned the integrity of the ANC and campaigned to dislodge the ANC from power, while claiming that he had not severed his membership," ANC secretary-general Fikile Mbalula told news media.

"This conduct is irreconcilable with the spirit of organizational discipline and letter of the ANC constitution."

RUSSIAN FORCES OVERRUN TWO FRONT-LINE VILLAGES IN DONETSK REGION, UKRAINIAN TROOPS SAY

KYIV Russian forces have overrun two front-line villages in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, a Ukrainian army sergeant said Monday, after relentless assaults that are part of a Kremlin summer push to overwhelm battlefield defences there.

Separately, attacks in Russia's Kursk region by the Security Service of Ukraine struck a number of substations causing power outages, according to a statement from the General Staff of Ukraine. The claim of responsibility came after Russia said it thwarted a nighttime Ukrainian drone attack.

"They pressed non-stop" to capture Vovche and Prohres, Oleh Chaus, chief sergeant of Ukraine's 47th Separate Mechanized Brigade, told Radio Svoboda.

Russia's Defence Ministry claimed in recent days that it had taken control of the villages, but the Ukrainian General Staff made no official comment.

The villages lie about 30 kilometres northwest of Avdiivka, a Donetsk city that the Russian army seized in February after a long battle. That victory was the Kremlin's last major triumph in the war that is now in its third year.

Russia's onslaught, fuelled by its heavy advantage in soldiers and weaponry, has repeatedly forced the Ukrainians

to pull back from defensive positions to avoid being captured or killed. Oleksandr Shyrshyn, the 47th brigade's deputy battalion commander, confirmed to local news media that the villages had been taken. He blamed poor training of troops, low abilities of officers, motivation and inadequate weapons for the setbacks.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky late Sunday described the situation in the Donetsk region as "extremely challenging."

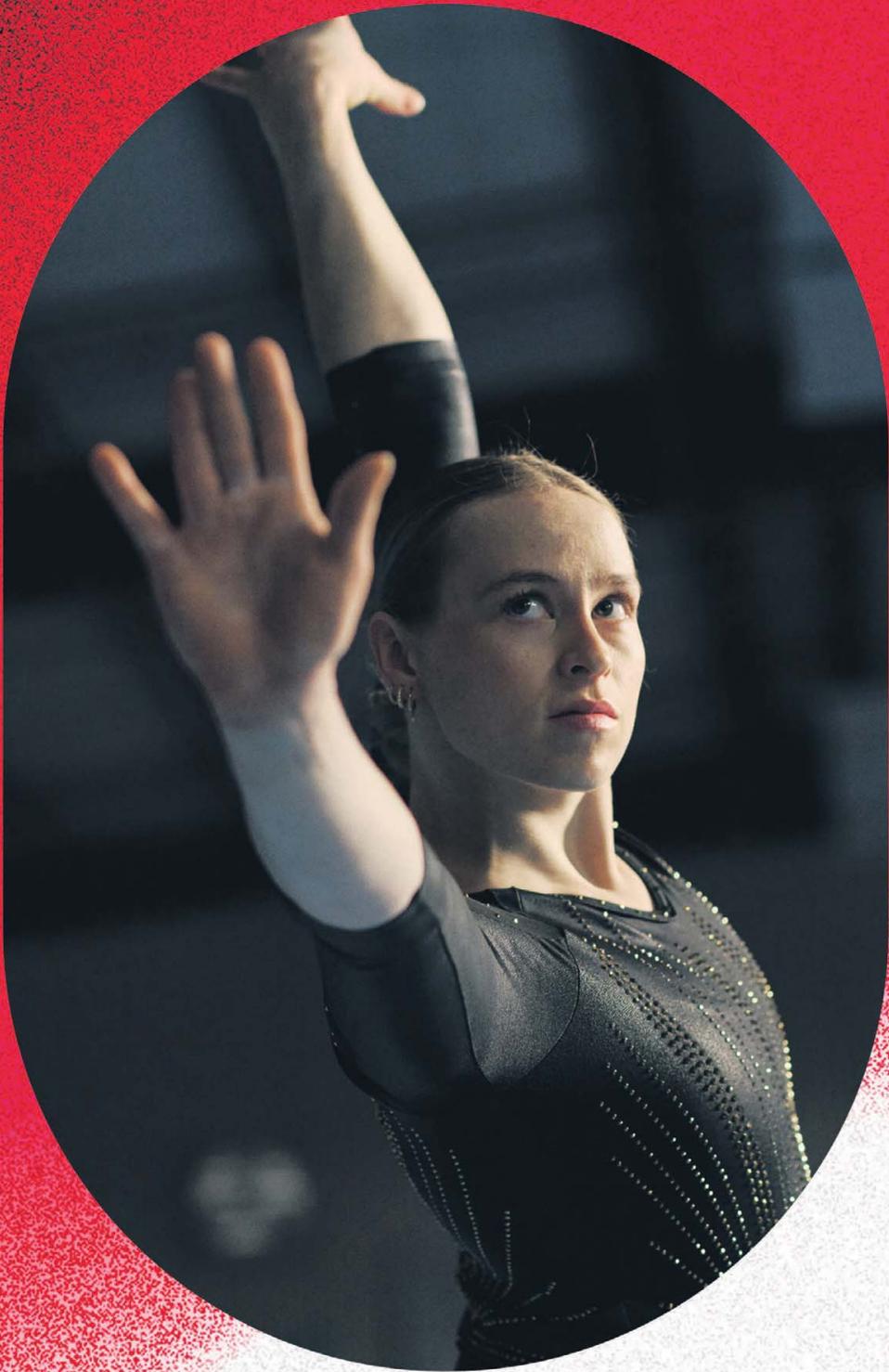
Russia's strategy of attritional warfare, with glide bombs smashing Ukrainian defences before infantry move in, has brought incremental gains for Moscow as it seeks another big breakthrough. Ukraine is significantly outgunned by Russia's bigger army on the roughly 1,000-kilometre front line.

Meanwhile, Russian air defences thwarted a nighttime barrage of 39 Ukrainian drones over five of the country's regions, Russian authorities said Monday. Ukraine claimed its forces carried out strikes in the Kursk region. Russia's air defence was active and explosions were reported near at least four substations, the statement from Ukraine's General Staff said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**AGE IS A NUMBER.
EXPERIENCE IS AN EDGE.**

ELLIE BLACK, ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS



**SCAN TO HEAR
ELLIE BLACK'S
STORY**



BRAVE IS  UNBEATABLE

REPORT ON BUSINESS

OTTAWA/QUEBEC EDITION ■ TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024 ■ GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

 S&P/TSX 22,779.57 -35.24	 DOW 40,539.93 -49.41	 S&P 500 5,463.54 +4.44	 NASDAQ 17,370.20 +12.32	 DOLLAR 72.19/1.3852 -0.11/+0.0022	 GOLD (oz.) US\$2,377.80 -3.20	 OIL (WTI) US\$75.81 -1.35	 GCAN (10-YR) 3.28% -0.03
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Founder had Emerge stake while firm sold funds to clients

Charlie Spiring's relationship with U.S. affiliate was not widely known at Wellington-Altus: sources

CLARE O'HARA
DAVID MILSTEAD

Wellington-Altus Private Wealth founder and chair Charlie Spiring maintained an ownership stake in the U.S. affiliate of Emerge Canada Inc. while his firm promoted Emerge's exchange-traded funds to clients for several years prior to the ETF manager's collapse.

Buffalo-based Emerge Capital Management Inc. was one of three fund companies Mr. Spiring took an ownership stake in

while also offering their products to his firm's clients, Wellington-Altus confirmed to The Globe and Mail.

After Canadian regulators introduced client-focused reforms in 2021 – which did not prohibit ownership of other companies but created stricter rules around disclosure of conflicts of interest – Mr. Spiring sold his stakes in two of the fund companies. But he was unable to unload his 35-per-cent share of Emerge Capital Management, which he purchased in 2018 for US\$672,000, Wellington-Altus spokesperson Allan Hiebert told The Globe.

Mr. Spiring's relationship with Emerge was not widely known among the company's own advisers or its clients, The Globe has learned. Multiple sources said they did not hear Mr. Spiring disclose his ownership interest to Wellington-Altus advisers in company e-mails, phone calls, dinners or town halls during a period when he discussed the investment opportunities provided by Emerge funds and ARK Investment Management LLC, the U.S. company that acted as a subadviser to several of Emerge Canada's funds.

■ EMERGE, B6

Aggressive discounts hurt telcos' profits, hinder share prices: report

TIM KILADZE

Canada's largest telecommunications companies are trapped in a Catch-22: Their aggressive discounts are keeping Ottawa and new customers happy, but hurt their chances of earning back the billions of dollars they spent on spectrum and other investments to offer superior service.

And at a time when the share prices of BCE Inc., Rogers Communications Inc. and Telus Corp. are all struggling, the weaker return on investment only makes it harder to resuscitate their stocks, which have historically had large retail investor support.

Since the start of the year, the shares of BCE and Rogers are down more than 14 per cent, while Telus is down almost 8 per cent. In that period, the S&P/TSX Composite Index has risen 9.1 per cent.

With their share prices suffering, telecom companies have started major restructurings. In February, BCE said it would lay off 9 per cent of its work force, and last summer Telus said it would lay off 4,000 people.

"Regulators and consumers may have been pleased by falling wireless prices and ballooning data buckets, but telecom investors have been aggrieved by seemingly more aggressive actions than necessary and the devaluing of network investments that they helped support," National Bank Financial analyst Adam Shine wrote in a note to clients Monday.

■ TELECOMS, B2

{ RETAIL }

HIGHER PRICES BITE McDONALD'S

Consumers pulled back on eating out in the second quarter as global same-store sales fell for the first time in nearly four years ■ B3



Sales at locations open at least a year fell 1 per cent in the April-June period, the first decline since the final quarter of 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered stores and millions stayed home. LAUREN DECICCA/GETTY IMAGES

How Japan's eager embrace of inflation has started to backfire

RIVER AKIRA DAVIS TOKYO

As the rest of the world fought to keep inflation in check, one country welcomed it with open arms.

In the past few years, Japan saw a burst of inflation, spurred by pandemic supply chain snags and geopolitical shocks, as a way to shake the economy out of a decades-long cycle of weak growth and pressure from deflation. So while major central banks like the U.S. Federal Reserve raised interest rates to rein in prices, the Bank of Japan kept rates low as inflation accelerated.

The theory was that by sticking with rock-bottom rates, the central bank could harness the temporary spike in prices to foster the kind of inflation it had long sought: moderate, steady and supporting economic growth.

Businesses could cite their rising costs to justify price increases, leading to higher revenues that went toward higher wages for workers. With more money in their pockets, consumers could spend more, creating a positive economic cycle.

There have been some promising signs: Big firms such as Toyota have reported large profits and pledged the biggest wage increases for workers in decades.

■ JAPAN, B6

On economic policy, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are closer than either will ever admit

TONY KELLER

OPINION

U.S. politics has never been more partisan and polarized. It's why Vice-President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump are going to spend the next three months attacking the other as the champion of extremist ideas that are the polar opposite of their own. Their most loyal voters will love it.

But on a series of core economic issues –

trade, industrial policy, oil and gas, the border – President Joe Biden's administration and the previous (and possibly future) Trump administration share more common ground than either campaign will admit.

There are differences, but they are often on details rather than fundamentals. What's more, many differences are less about substance and more about how things are talked about – or not talked about.

Let's start with an area of agreement that dare not speak its name: oil and gas.

In the 2020 election, Mr. Trump accused

Mr. Biden of planning to "destroy" America's oil industry. It's a claim Republicans have repeated throughout the Biden-Harris administration, in past, present and future tenses. The GOP platform, in contrast, promises to "unleash American Energy," to make the U.S. "Energy Independent, and even Dominant again," and to "DRILL, BABY, DRILL."

The implication is that, with a Democrat in the White House, the industry is choking on a short leash, output is falling, and America is energy-dependent on Middle Eastern dictators.

■ KELLER, B4



FOOD SERVICES
Hot coffee rules, but fast-food brands see 'no end in sight' for boom in cold drinks ■ B2

ETHAN CAIRNS/
THE CANADIAN PRESS

RETAIL
Quebec's Paul Nassar buys luggage seller Bentley & Co. ■ B2

THE MOVER
Money manager selling Nutrien shares, buying Pembina ■ B7

COMPANIES

AECON GROUP	B8
BLACKBERRY	B3
CGI	B8
FIERA CAPITAL	B8
FIRSTSERVICE	B8
MCDONALD'S	B3

Hart chain owner to acquire Bentley

Luggage retailer has about 700 employees, 130 stores in Canada

TARA DESCHAMPS MONTREAL

Luggage retailer Bentley & Co. Ltd. has agreed to be sold to the Quebec businessman behind the Hart chain, court filings show.

While the value and most terms of the deal have not been revealed, the filings made over the course of July say Paul Nassar will purchase all of Bentley's assets, assume most of its leases and offer jobs to the majority of its staff.

Montreal-based Bentley has about 700 employees and at least 130 stores in Canada that sell luggage, handbags, backpacks and other accessories, predominantly through mall shops.

Mr. Nassar owns the Hart chain, which is behind the Mega

Meubles and Maison en gros furniture and home decor retailers. Mr. Nassar recently purchased Korvette, a Trois-Rivieres-based discount retailer selling everything from clothes to kitchen gadgets to food and electronics.

Requests for comment on the deal sent to Bentley and some of Mr. Nassar's businesses went unanswered.

The change of ownership at Bentley was detailed in documents submitted to a Montreal court as part of a notice of intention, a process under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act that gives businesses facing trouble a chance to restructure their operations.

Raymond Chabot Inc., a trustee overseeing the process, said in a report handed to the commercial division of the Superior Court in Montreal that turnaround specialist Hilco Canada and its HUK94 subsidiary, which owned Bentley, started looking for a buyer on June 17.

"Like many other retail chains, Bentley has been facing adverse macro trends, including changing consumer preferences and a general shift away from brick-and-mortar to online retail channels," the trustee said.

"Increased competition from discount and online retailers has exerted significant downward pressure on pricing and margins."

COVID-19 also exacerbated matters. It reduced traffic in stores, prompted mandatory closures and resulted in "severe" supply chain disruptions, which caused "unprecedented strain" and a drop in revenue.

Bentley was coping with the challenges by negotiating better terms with landlords, but then it was hit with a ransomware attack in October, 2023.

"This attack made it even harder for management to put measures in place, as much data was lost and the company has since been operating with a more rudimentary accounting system,"

Raymond Chabot said in court filings.

The wave of issues meant Bentley didn't break even in its last fiscal year and owes at least \$3-million to landlords and \$7-million to suppliers, the filings say.

The situation prompted it to file the notice of intention and consider selling the business.

It reached out to 22 potential buyers, including liquidators, court documents say. Fifteen never answered, seven declined and four expressed interest.

Two of the interested entities, who are not named in court documents, wanted to liquidate the business, but Mr. Nassar was keen to buy it and keep it operational.

"The contemplated transaction will make it possible for a number of Bentley's employees to keep their job and for landlords to keep a tenant for most existing locations," the report said.

Bentley has restructured twice before, including in January, 2008, an application it made to the court said.

Documents say "a private equity fund specialized in mid-market buyouts and creating long-term value" bought the brand eventually.

The documents did not name the owner, but a 2012 press release shows Novacap was behind the sale.

The court filings say by early October, 2019, the owner notified Bentley it would no longer be funding its operations. Bentley made a notice of intention again and was then sold to Hilco.

"Despite the fact that Hilco UK, through HUK 94, has invested heavily in Bentley since its acquisition, sales fell short of expectations in recent years and the business has been facing serious liquidity constraints," the court application says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Paul Volk, director of operations for Triple O's owner White Spot Ltd., says the fast-food chain's shakes are popular year round. A recent Restaurants Canada report showed cold beverage categories all gained ground in popularity. ETHAN CAIRNS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Telecoms: Discounting has lasted longer than analysts expected

■ FROM B1

Canada's three largest telecom providers have spent heavily on new infrastructure to support faster internet speeds and better service for cellphone data. While costly, the hope was that customers would ultimately pay more for better service, and higher revenues could be used to pay down the debt taken on to fund these investments.

Lately, however, telecom companies have been locked in a price war, and because there is no end in sight, analysts and investors are wondering about long-term intentions.

"Paying billions of dollars on capital expenditures/spectrum to build premium networks only to then materially discount is a weak strategy," Mr. Shine wrote in his note.

Earlier this month, RBC Dominion Securities analyst Drew McReynolds wrote in a note to clients that of all the questions investors ask about the sector, the first is, "When and how will telecom pricing stabilize?"

Across the industry, discounts were widely expected after Freedom Mobile was sold to Quebecor Inc. in 2023. (Shaw Communications previously owned Freedom, but had to sell the wireless company as part of its takeover by Rogers.) More than a year later, however, the discounts persist.

In Ontario and Western Canada, Freedom is offering 100 gigabytes of data plus unlimited talk and text in Canada, the United States and Mexico, as well as 10 gigabytes of data roaming, talk and text in 92 international destinations, for \$55 a month, according to National Bank Financial. While Bell, Rogers and Telus have all held firm on pricing for 5G plans under their flagship brands, Telus has been offering 5G at a material discount through its fighter brand Public Mobile.

Public Mobile customers can get 75 gigabytes of data and unlimited text/call in Canada and the United States for \$40 a month.

In the wireline segment, which includes internet and cable and is sometimes referred to as "fibre," BCE has been offering aggressive discounts. Mr. Shine noted that an investor recently received an offer in Quebec for internet at download speeds of 1.5 gigabytes a second, Basic TV plus 10 channel picks, no installation fees, no equipment rental fees and a \$250 Visa gift card for \$75 a month. "Fibre is supposed to be the superior product, but it's being massively discounted," he wrote.

Competitive pricing is common in the industry in certain windows, such as around Black Friday, but the current run of discounts has persisted much longer than analysts expected.

At the same time, the industry faces headwinds to its growth, including much lower immigration and the continuing destruction of the traditional cable-television business. And layered on top are heavy debt burdens, both from funding the capital expenditures and acquisitions such as Rogers's purchase of Shaw.

Fast-food brands see 'no end in sight' for cold-drink boom

TARA DESCHAMPS

When summer arrives, Paul Volk thinks the rich and creamy milkshakes Triple O's churns out are an ideal way to beat the heat.

But even in the depths of winter, the sweet treats are just as big of a hit at the Vancouver-headquartered fast-food brand that's in the midst of an Alberta and Ontario expansion.

"Our shakes are popular year round and I never really questioned why that is," said Mr. Volk, director of operations for Triple O's owner White Spot Ltd. "A consumer has so many options there in front of them now that I don't really think the season matters as much."

Triple O's is not alone in experiencing the year-round cold beverage boom some attribute to social media, younger consumers and evolving palates.

Executives from the world's biggest quick-serve and convenience store brands have touted growing all-season demand for icy drinks ranging from smoothies and slushies to cold brew coffee and carbonated juices in recent months.

Hot coffee is still the most common drink ordered in the country, but a recent Restaurants Canada report showed it's slipped in popularity at quick-serve establishments between March, 2022, and 2023.

Cold beverage categories such as iced and frozen coffee, milkshakes and smoothies, and energy and sports drinks have all gained ground.

In its first quarter ending March 31, Tim Hortons owner Restaurant Brands International alone saw cold beverage sales grow 12 per cent year-over-year. A quarter earlier, they were up 19 per cent, largely because of the company's sparkling quenchers.

"Cold will for sure play a big role in our growth in the years to come," Axel Schwan, president of Tim's Canadian operations, said when the company was marking its 60th anniversary in May and the 25th birthday of its most famous cold beverage, the iced capp.

Earlier this month, the company added energy drinks to its evolving slate of flavoured iced capps and sparkling fruit beverages.

Meanwhile, Starbucks Canada brought spicy fruit drinks, lemonades and berry beverages to its roster of frappuccinos, iced teas and refreshers.

The collection of cold beverages now make up 70 per cent of drinks at the chain, said Danilo Gargiulo, a senior research analyst at Bernstein.

He ascribes the dominance of cold beverages to their novelty, along with their ability to be customized and act as a gateway.

"If you are not a fan of some hot beverages in the morning, you start to see a different way for you to be consuming [a drink when you see cold beverages], so it just opens you up to more options," he said.

And there is no lack of choices when it comes to cold beverages.

Coffee shops have cold brews and frappuccinos, convenience stores will sell you slushies and burger-and-fries chains have milkshakes and carbonated beverages. Then, there are a slew of smoothie, juice and protein-shake outlets.

Most of these places let customers mix drinks together or play around with flavoured syrups, whipped cream and different strengths of coffee, which keep diners coming back and racking up larger tabs.

Starbucks Canada now counts 170,000 different drink combinations, a giant leap from the low levels of personalization in 1989, when it first allowed milk customizations.

Back then, most consumers would switch back and forth between hot and cold beverages based on the season, recalled JoAnn McArthur, president at Nourish Food Marketing, a Toronto-based advertising agency.

"But younger consumers stuck with iced beverages year round for a few reasons," she said. "When you don't have a hot beverage ... the cups are usually clear, the beverages have bright colours, different toppings and it's more attractive in social photos."

Hot coffee is still the most common drink ordered in the country, but a recent Restaurants Canada report showed it's slipped in popularity at quick-serve establishments between March, 2022, and 2023.

Trey Powell, Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.'s senior vice-president of global merchandising, also notices customers seeking out cold drinks because many have "functional benefits" stemming from ingredients that provide lasting hydration, boost nutrition or deliver energy.

"I joined the industry approximately 20 years ago and the energy category was ... fledgling. It was sort of an idea that a couple of folks had," he said. "Here we are 20 years later and the energy drink category ... is really the workhorse of the cold vault."

Ms. McArthur expects companies to continue to build on the success of that category by experimenting with drinks packed with electrolytes, adaptogens, botanicals and even innovative ingredients like mushroom powder.

Triple O's hasn't delved into those spaces yet, but its menu has evolved a lot since it launched its first location in 1997.

The chain now sells blended coffee frappés and cold brew, both available in sweetened, unsweetened, caramel, mocha and vanilla flavours.

The frappés and cold brew launched as limited time offers a few years ago.

"When the promotion ended, we had a lot of guests saying, 'Hey, you know what, why is this off the menu?'" Mr. Volk recalled.

Triple O's listened and brought them back - permanently.

It also started to think more creatively about its milkshakes - one of its original menu items. This fall, it will offer the drink in a caramel pumpkin-pie flavour and in winter, there will be a candy-cane wafer milkshake, Mr. Volk said.

Planning is already under way for next summer and customers can expect plenty of cold beverage innovation then, too.

"I don't think we are anywhere near finished with that," Mr. Volk said of both Triple O's dalliances with the category and consumer demand for cold beverages.

"I don't think there's an end in sight."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



For the second quarter, revenue at McDonald's was flat at US\$6.5-billion and just off the US\$6.6-billion that Wall Street was expecting, according to analysts polled by FactSet. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

McDonald's global same-store sales fall for first time since 2020

Fast-food giant expects decline to continue for several quarters as it develops plans to draw back consumers battered by inflation

DEE-ANN DURBIN

They're not lovin' it.

McDonald's Corp.'s global same-store sales fell for the first time in nearly four years in the second quarter as inflation-weary consumers skipped eating out or chose cheaper options. The company said it's working on fixes, such as meal deals and new menu items, but it expects same-store sales to be down for the next few quarters.

"Consumers still recognize us as the value leader versus our key competitors, it's clear that our value leadership gap has recently shrunk," McDonald's chairman, president and chief executive Chris Kempczinski said Monday during a conference call with investors. "We are working to fix that with pace."

Sales at locations open at least a year fell 1 per cent in the April-June period, the first decline since the final quarter of 2020, when the pandemic shuttered stores and millions stayed home.

In the United States, same-store sales fell nearly 1 per cent. McDonald's saw fewer customers but it said those who came spent more because of price increases. Mr. Kempczinski defended the higher menu prices, saying the costs for paper, food and labour

increased as much as 40 per cent in some markets over the past few years.

It's an issue that goes beyond the Chicago-based burger giant. Customer traffic at U.S. fast-food restaurants fell 2 per cent in the first half of the year compared with the same period a year ago, according to Circana, a market-research company. David Portala-tin, a food-industry adviser for Circana, expects high inflation and rising consumer debt will also dent traffic in the second half of 2024.

“Consumers still recognize us as the value leader versus our key competitors, it's clear that our value leadership gap has recently shrunk.”

CHRIS KEMPCZINSKI
MCDONALD'S CHAIRMAN,
PRESIDENT AND CEO

McDonald's also reported lower store traffic in France and the Middle East, where people have been boycotting the chain because of a perception that it supports Israel in the war in Gaza. Mr. Kempczinski said weak consumer sentiment in China has customers fleeing to lower-priced rivals.

McDonald's warned in April that more of its inflation-weary customers were seeking better value and affordability. The company introduced a US\$5 meal deal at U.S. restaurants on June 25, which was late in this financial reporting period.

McDonald's U.S. president Joe Erlinger said Monday that US\$5 meal deal sales are running ahead of expectations and are getting lower-income consumers back into McDonald's stores. Mr. Erlinger said 93 per cent of McDonald's franchisees have agreed to run the promotion through August.

Other countries, such as Germany and Britain, are also seeing success with meal deals, the company said. But Mr. Kempczinski said McDonald's needs to be providing broader value and boosting that message with better marketing.

"Trying to move the consumer with one item or a few items is not sufficient for the context that we're in," he said.

New menu items are also in the works. The company is testing its value-oriented Big Arch double burger in three international markets through the end of this year, Mr. Kempczinski said.

For the second quarter, revenue was flat at US\$6.5-billion and just off the US\$6.6-billion that Wall Street was expecting, according to analysts polled by FactSet.

The company's net income fell 12 per cent to US\$2-billion, or US\$2.80 a share. Excluding one-time items such as restructuring charges, McDonald's earned US\$2.97 a share. That was far from the per-share profit of US\$3.07 that industry analysts had forecast.

Investors appeared satisfied with the plans McDonald's has to reverse its slide. McDonald's shares in New York were up 3.74 per cent at the close of trading Monday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BlackBerry replaces CFO as company sheds loyalists to former CEO Chen

SEAN SILCOFF
TECHNOLOGY REPORTER

BlackBerry Ltd. chief financial officer Steve Rai has left the company, the latest in a series of high-level exits by loyalists of former chief executive officer John Chen since his departure from the Canadian technology icon last November.

Mr. Rai has been replaced by Tim Foote, the chief financial officer of BlackBerry's cybersecurity division, the company said Monday. Mr. Foote, who has also led investor relations and international finance operations for BlackBerry, joined the Waterloo, Ont.-based company in 2015 when it acquired his former employer, Good Technology.

BlackBerry announced two other internal promotions. Jay Chai has been elevated to chief accounting officer after serving as vice-president and corporate controller for the past five years. Fraser Deziel, a 15-year company veteran in the finance department, will replace Mr. Chai as corporate controller.

Mr. Rai, previously corporate controller with PMC-Sierra Inc., joined BlackBerry in 2014 in a similar capacity, a year after Mr. Chen became CEO. At the time BlackBerry was contending with a rapidly dwindling smartphone business and soon began to transform into a pure software

company that is today focused on cybersecurity, connected cars and mobile device management for corporations and governments. Mr. Rai became CFO in 2019.

During Mr. Rai's tenure as CFO, BlackBerry completely exited the smartphone business and built up and then sold a lucrative business of extracting payments from other companies for alleged use of its smartphone-era intellectual property.

Steve Rai has been replaced by Tim Foote, the chief financial officer of BlackBerry's cybersecurity division, the company said Monday.

But the company's stock has also plumed multidecade lows as its cybersecurity and connected car (or internet of things) businesses delivered weaker-than-expected revenues. Last year, BlackBerry announced it would split itself in two, but abandoned a planned spinoff of the connected car business into a separate public company when cybersecurity president John Giamatteo was named Mr. Chen's permanent successor in December.

Other senior executives close-

ly associated with Mr. Chen have left the company since his departure, including human resources chief Nita White-Ivy, chief marketing officer Mark Wilson and engineering executive vice-president Billy Ho, all of whom had worked for Mr. Chen when he led California enterprise cybersecurity company Sybase Inc.

Another female former senior executive who was a favourite of Mr. Chen and rapidly promoted up the ranks during his tenure, according to a recent court filing by BlackBerry, was terminated last December by interim CEO Richard Lynch, days before Mr. Giamatteo was named as CEO. The former executive, identified in court filings only as Jane Doe, is suing the company and Mr. Giamatteo for sexual harassment, discrimination and wrongful termination.

On Friday, Justice Sallie Kim of U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, struck three of the plaintiff's eight claims at the company's request, writing in a ruling that the plaintiff has provided "little, if any substance" to back her allegations of a hostile work environment and demonstrate pervasive or severe harassment that altered the conditions of her employment.

Justice Kim has given Jane Doe until Aug. 19 to file an amended complaint to add facts or details that support her allegations of harassment and discrimination.

How much longer until the U.S. Federal Reserve begins cutting its benchmark rate?

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER WASHINGTON

Two years after launching an aggressive fight against inflation and one year after leaving its benchmark interest rate at a near-quarter-century high, the Federal Reserve is expected to signal this week that it will likely reduce borrowing costs as soon as September.

A rate reduction this fall – the first since the pandemic – would amount to a momentous shift and a potential boost to the economy. Fed rate cuts, over time, typically lower borrowing costs for such things as mortgages, auto loans and credit cards.

A single cut in the Fed's key rate, now at roughly 5.3 per cent, wouldn't by itself make much difference to the economy. Financial markets widely expect it. Some borrowing costs have already dropped slightly in anticipation of the move. As a result, the main question for the central bank will be: How fast and how far will the policy makers ultimately cut rates?

It's a question of keen interest to both major presidential candidates, too. Any signal that the Fed will rapidly cut rates could boost the economy and potentially lift Vice-President Kamala Harris's election prospects. Former president Donald Trump has argued that the Fed shouldn't cut rates until its next meeting, in November, which will come two days after the election.

Futures markets have priced in a 64-per-cent likelihood that the Fed will cut rates three times this year, in September, November and December, according to CME FedWatch. As recently as last month, Fed officials had collectively forecast just one rate reduction in 2024 and four in 2025 and 2026, suggesting that they lean toward a more measured pace of cutting rates about once a quarter.

How the economy fares in the coming months will likely determine how quickly the Fed acts. Should growth remain solid and employers keep hiring, the Fed would prefer to take its time and cut rates slowly as inflation continues to decline.

"They want to be very gradual in how they pull back," said Gennadiy Goldberg, head of U.S. rates strategy at TD Securities. "But if the labour market actually looks like it's slowing down," Mr. Goldberg suggested, Fed officials might conclude that "they should be moving a little bit quicker than they otherwise would."

There are signs that the labour market is cooling, as the Fed has intended. Job growth has averaged a decent but unspectacular 177,000 a month for the past three months, down from a red-hot three-month average of 275,000 a year ago.

It's not yet clear whether that cooling reflects a return of the economy to a more sustainable, less inflationary, period of growth after pandemic restrictions lifted, or whether the cooling will continue until the economy slides into a recession.

"That's the million-dollar question at this point," Mr. Goldberg said.

Chair Jerome Powell and other Fed officials have underscored that they're paying nearly as much attention to the threat posed by a hiring slowdown as they are to inflation pressures. That shift in the Fed's emphasis toward ensuring that the job market doesn't weaken too much has likely boosted market expectations for a rate cut. "Elevated inflation is not the only risk we face," Mr. Powell said in congressional testimony earlier this month, after the most recent jobs report showed the unemployment rate ticking up for a third straight month to a still-low 4.1 per cent. Yet Mr. Powell also characterized the job market and growth at that time as "strong."

And on Thursday the government reported that the economy grew at a healthy 2.8-per-cent annual rate in the April-June quarter, though that figure followed a tepid 1.4-per-cent expansion in the first three months of the year.

"The economy looks pretty solid at the moment," said William English, an economist at the Yale School of Management and a former senior Fed staffer. "I don't think there are real signs now that something bad is going to happen."

Mr. English, like many other observers, thinks Mr. Powell will provide a clearer picture of future rate moves at his annual speech in August during the Fed's monetary policy conference in Jackson Hole, Wyo. This week, though, the Fed may change the statement it issues after each meeting in ways that could hint that a rate cut is coming soon.

For example, the statement it released after its June meeting had read, "In recent months, there has been modest further progress toward the [Fed's] 2% inflation objective." When it issues its new statement on Wednesday, the Fed could drop "modest" or alter it in some other way to underscore that additional progress on inflation has been achieved.

In June, the Fed's policy makers had forecast that year-over-year inflation would average 2.8 per cent in the final three months of this year. On Friday, the government said that inflation has already fallen below that level, to 2.5 per cent in June, according to the Fed's preferred measure.

If inflation remains below the Fed's year-end target, that could justify cutting borrowing rates more than the single reduction the policy makers forecast in June.

Still, even as price pressures cool, annual inflation may not fall much more this year – and could even rise a bit by the end of 2024. That's because monthly inflation readings fell to very low levels in the second half of last year. So even low monthly figures in the coming months might not pull down year-over-year inflation.

Fed officials, though, are expected to focus much more on the three-month and six-month annualized inflation averages in the coming months. The three-month average of the Fed's preferred inflation gauge, excluding the volatile food and energy categories, fell to just 2.3 per cent in June.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



As recently as last month, Federal Reserve officials had collectively forecast just one rate reduction in 2024 and four in 2025 and 2026. SARAH SILBINGER/REUTERS

OPINION & ANALYSIS



Are bread sellers just being more subtle in their co-ordination? Or is it because the price of flour or other ingredients has increased? J.P. MOCZULSKI/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Why are bread prices so high after the lawsuit?

Though Loblaw and George Weston Ltd. paid \$500-million for their deeds, costs are still about 25% higher than before fixing

D.T. COCHRANE

OPINION

Senior economist with the Canadian Labour Congress and former policy analyst with Canadians for Tax Fairness

The story of bread sellers colluding to fix bread prices has been resurrected by the recent news that grocery giant Loblaw Cos. Ltd., and its parent company George Weston Ltd., settled a class-action lawsuit for their role in the scandal.

Although the formal collusion to fix bread prices has ended, there are reasons to doubt that Canada's bread market is now competitive.

From 1985 until 2001, bread prices increased by 2.3 per cent per year. This was essentially in line with grocery prices overall. Then, during the price-fixing scandal, bread prices increased 50 per cent more than other groceries. Since the price-fixing ended, relative bread prices have fallen. However, prices remain 25 per cent higher than before bread sellers conspired to fix prices.

This fact raises questions about how not only bread prices, but all prices, are set.

In May, a loaf of white bread cost \$2.93 in Ontario, \$3.39 in Saskatchewan and \$4.04 in Newfoundland. Why? Were these prices really set by the invisible hand as theorized by orthodox economists?

The recent bout of high inflation experienced in Canada, and around the world, drew attention to pricing with various claims about what was driving pricing higher. Was it strictly due to higher costs induced by supply chain disruptions? Was it the outcome of large increases in government deficits? Was it greedy corporations gouging customers?

Most adhere to the theory that prices are set by the invisible hand of the market. In the parlance of Econ 101, all market participants are "price takers."

But what about when we're not all price takers? How are prices set when some are price makers?

A recent study from the Competition Bureau found evidence that corporate pricing power has become greater over the past two decades,

with increased market concentration playing an important role.

Even in the absence of a complete monopoly, market concentration facilitates price co-ordination. With fewer major players, there is less risk that one of the players will defect and attempt to undercut established prices. Formal collusion, of the sort exposed by the bread price-fixing scandal, is just one way that nominally competitive companies can co-ordinate prices to their mutual advantage. There are forms of tacit collusion, such as a strategy of "follow the leader," where one dominant firm hikes prices as a signal to its competitors, who then follow suit.

However, as David Dayen and Lindsay Owens write in *The American Prospect*, concentration is just one element of current price-setting. They also describe the increased use of technology to set prices, as well as the exploitation of tumultuous economic conditions induced by the pandemic.

The use of algorithmic pricing by online merchants, which tailors the price that each potential buyer sees based on information collected about that buyer, is getting increased scrutiny. However, it is not just companies with access to digital data about their customers that exploit data to set prices advantageously. Information about prices in different markets gets compiled by research companies and used by sellers to co-ordinate.

Companies have an obvious incentive to charge customers the highest price they can. At the same time, there are obvious limits to how much they can charge. Where do those limits come from and how do we ensure they benefit consumers? Orthodox economists insist that competition is the singular mechanism to ensure that prices are set fairly and efficiently. However, competition may not always be the best answer.

For example, when Loblaw pushed back on Frito-Lay's attempt to increase the price of chips, it was only able to do so because it is a major player who could stand up to the large U.S. company. Of course, it is not clear that this clash was resolved in the best interest of consumers.

We need much greater transparency of how prices are actually set, especially in concentrated markets. Why are bread prices still 25 per cent higher than before the price-fixing scandal? Are bread sellers just being more subtle in their co-ordination? Or is it because the price of flour has increased? If so, why? Maybe the price of wheat has increased.

Only when we have better information about how prices are being set can we determine if they are being set fairly.

Keller: As Republicans promise 'drill, baby, drill,' Biden practised something similar

FROM B1

Nothing could be further from the truth. U.S. oil production has risen sharply since 2010, a trend that continued through the Trump and Biden administrations, interrupted only by the pandemic. U.S. oil output hit an all-time high in 2023. The U.S. produced more oil last year than any other country, and more oil than any country in a single year, ever.

The U.S. is also the world's largest producer of natural gas, with output rising during the Biden administration. A country that eight years ago exported no liquid natural gas is now the world's largest exporter of LNG. Under Mr. Biden, job growth in the fossil-fuel sector has outpaced job growth in green energy, according to a recent analysis from Reuters.

Republicans loudly promise "drill, baby, drill," but Mr. Biden has quietly – very quietly – practised something similar. It was economically and electorally necessary, though it doesn't sit well with an important part of the Democratic base. To mollify and distract those voters, the Obama administration killed the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada, and then, after Mr. Trump resurrected it, Mr. Biden killed it again. The public execution of a Canadian oil project provided happy cover for the rest of the U.S. oil industry, allowing it to continue with business as usual.

When it comes to oil and gas, the enthusiasm gap between Republicans and Democrats is wide. Actual policy gap? Considerably narrower.

Something similar is happening on trade and industrial policy.

Mr. Trump broke the bipartisan Washington consensus in favour of free trade. The Biden administration adjusted course, but did not U-turn. It kept many of its predecessor's tariffs, and crafted new subsidies and protections for strategic U.S. industries, from autos to semi-conductors.

Beneath the appearance of irreconcilable Democratic-Republican polarization, a new trade consensus is forming. Both parties back some forms of protectionism and industrial policy,

with China the main (but not the only) target.

As with oil and gas, the parties have differences. Democrats often talk about protectionism and subsidies to green the economy; Republicans just talk about jobs. And while the Biden administration slimmed the Trump-era tariffs on allies and amped up the focus on China, Mr. Trump has talked about imposing a 10-per-cent tariff across the board, regardless of country.

Either way, managed trade and "fair trade" are now mainstream ideas in both parties. For Canada, a Harris administration would almost certainly follow in Mr. Biden's footsteps, offering a more measured, prudent and ally-friendly application. Mr. Trump threatens, and might deliver, a more reckless and ruthless version. But the parties are not poles apart.

On immigration and the border, Mr. Biden's Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill were able to strike a deal earlier this year – only to have Mr. Trump order his congressional minions to kill it. Mr. Biden responded to the death of the legislation by issuing executive orders that included some of the same measures, such as closing the southern border when daily asylum claims exceed a certain level.

As with oil and gas, the make-up of the Democratic coalition means the border is a fraught subject for Democrats. For three years, Mr. Biden acted little and spoke less. But month after month of record numbers of people crossing the Mexican border to claim asylum forced him to act, and to move closer to Mr. Trump's position.

Republicans and Democrats still have major differences on this issue. Mainstream Democrats want quiet, legal and humane border control; Mr. Trump wants crisis and the spectacle of enforcement. But the two parties have enough common ground that there was a congressional majority for a bill to improve border enforcement, speed up asylum claims and more rapidly admit genuine refugees while removing others. Mr. Trump killed the deal because it would have passed, and it would have been popular.



Smoke pours from the LyondellBasell refinery in Houston in June. Democrats often discuss protectionism and subsidies to green the economy while Republicans mention jobs. BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

Managers, managers everywhere – but do people really want such jobs?

ROB CSERNYIK

OPINION

Contributing columnist for The Globe and Mail and a 2022 Michener-Deacon fellow

Fifteen years ago, I worked with a low-level manager I particularly admired. She was hard working, intelligent and unusually fun for a superior in retail. I knew she could rise as far up the managerial ladder as she desired, yet her junior position was only one level above mine.

Still relatively green to the postuniversity working world, I assumed everybody wanted to race up the corporate ladder. It confused me why she was still in this position. One day I asked why she hadn't moved up.

The answer: Her length of service meant she earned similar pay to the next management rung, and she avoided the additional stress. Little did I know such tactical thinking would become commonplace for job seekers years later, though workplac-

es haven't quite caught up.

This paper recently reported that more than 500,000 new management jobs have been created in Canada since early 2021, making it one of the hottest categories for job seekers. Yet several recent surveys from North America and beyond suggest at least a third of workers don't want to be managers.

I imagine this applies to my former colleague, too. Being a manager itself is rarely a worker's dream. Instead, those are made of the trappings that traditionally come with management titles, such as authority, better compensation, deference from co-workers and the potential to keep ascending to higher roles such as executive suites.

This mismatch – between surging management numbers and the lack of interest among workers – suggests employers need to stop expanding this category and focus instead on designing positions that don't repel large swaths of workers.

Here's why workers don't want to be managers: When it was more common for workers to stay at a company their entire

career, moving into management roles was the natural progression. Yet now, expectations of a job for life are hazy. Without this, employees often look out instead of up.

A survey from human-resources consulting firm Robert Half suggested about 42 per cent of Canadian workers were looking or planning to look for new jobs in the first half of 2024. Nearly half of those surveyed said a higher salary was the goal, making it the No. 1 reason to leave.

When workers look out instead of up, they don't see the extra pay from being managers worth the extra responsibilities such as administration, coaching people or overseeing projects or teams. This should give employers pause.

Meanwhile, the lack of enthusiasm for management is running up against another phenomenon: title inflation, where some new managers are in name only, their titles offering limited influence or used as a retention-improving tool or to mollify employees who don't feel recognized.

This is a bad combination. When employee desires and corporate practices differ, dysfunction ensues.

When handed out indiscriminately, manager titles may not go to those with the skills to fulfill the role. These workers may also find a mismatch between the authority they perceive and what they actually have.

Having worked on management teams with too many titled colleagues, I know how fruitless such overexpansion is. Instead of satisfying more workers, it stripped away individual power and led to arguments, confusion and roadblocks in everything from day-to-day operations, solving problems and strategizing new initiatives. Fellow managers ignored or undid my decisions.

This fruitlessness was a significant source of job dissatisfaction for me, but employers are more likely to notice – and to care – about how it affects their bottom line. Ranks full of managers create more bureaucracy, inefficiencies and waste that can have a material impact. Uncoupling from this glut of managers is necessary, but it's not as simple

as opening a thesaurus.

Instead, it requires considering what workers want and don't from managerial roles – as though they are filling plates at a buffet. Workers don't want to have their job consumed by bureaucracy and stress, simply for trying to find more involvement and fulfilment in their role. Instead, employers can offer employees more freedom to collaborate on projects that interest them, which may not be directly in their role, or have them become a go-to resource on areas in which they have deep expertise. In some circles these are called individual contributor career paths. They focus on the worker's hands-on contributions and skill development, rather than queuing them up to lead people or projects.

It's not that nobody wants to be a manager, but there's a need to stop pretending that creating more of them is the solution to solve motivation and retention concerns. Employers who figure this out will run better businesses and create positions that people value and are keen to apply for.

Human security still trumps high tech for deterring crime

Protection of commercial property evolving across different asset types

DAVID ISRAELSON

The digital revolution that is changing the commercial real estate sector is moving cautiously when it comes to managing property security, experts say.

“There is growing interest in AI [artificial intelligence] as a tool for security firms that protect property,” says Michael Lyons, assistant general manager and director of sales at Tone-Gar Group of Companies, a security firm based in Kitchener, Ont. The company provides security services to commercial properties and special events to clients across the Greater Toronto Area and Southern Ontario.

“But you’ve still never heard of an AI unit or a robot making an arrest or de-escalating a situation the way a person might handle it,” Mr. Lyons says.

So, is the prediction that the workplace of the future will be run by robots, a watchdog and a human to feed the dog likely to happen?

“That does not necessarily hold true when it comes to security,” Mr. Lyons says.

Unlike designers and builders, who have embraced property technology (proptech) to plan and construct using AI-assisted software, security firms and managers are more cautious, he explains.

AI will only become more prevalent in property security when the costs come down and owners, managers and insurers are convinced that new technology is as effective in protecting against theft, intruders and vandalism as human beings are, he says.

“It’s important to distinguish between current technology, such as closed-circuit TV, which is in use widely, and advanced technology such as AI and robotics,” he says.

“The insurance industry is interested in advanced technology as a deterrent and they may or may not offer a rate reduction,” says Mr. Lyons, who served as senior-vice president of design and construction for New York-based insurance giant Marsh McLennan for more than a decade.

“On the other hand, they look at a well-trained [human] security team as something they already know, an asset that can reduce violent incidents and theft. That affects rates,” Mr. Lyons says.

There’s a cost difference between AI-driven security coverage onsite versus remote service. Beyond the insurance costs, there are also different operating costs for software, hardware, installation and maintenance, and operation, he adds.

“At the same time, security in commercial real estate is evolving across different asset types,” says Victoria Papp, senior director of strategy and information at BOMA Canada, an umbrella group for property owners and operators across Canada.

“In retail, we’re seeing the use of some AI-powered surveillance systems. These can monitor large areas with a high degree of accuracy and detect unusual behaviours, reduce theft and alert security staff to threats in real time,” she says.

Office buildings and industrial/commercial properties have advanced technologies, such as access control systems, using biometric authentication and smart ID cards that track the movements of people authorized to be in the building. Industrial sites have smart building systems that integrate fire safety, HVAC controls and security into one control room, so operators can monitor remotely and see several locations, she explains.

For now, technology in retail exists to support site safety and security but it’s less about AI and more about sensors and analytics that are leveraged by live, trained guards scanning surveillance streams to spot suspicious activity and investigate.

“Retail properties have been at the leading edge of the conversation about AI and security,” says Joseph Ogilvie, adjunct professor and chair of the OMERS & Oxford Leadership Institute in Real Assets at York University’s Schulich School of Business in Toronto.

Rates of shoplifting jumped 31 per cent in 2022 compared with 2021, according to Statistics Canada. Late last year, the Retail Council of Canada said some of its members are reporting a 300-



Above: The presence of highly trained security guards can de-escalate threatening situations and allay security fears. TONE-GAR GROUP OF COMPANIES

Right: Surveillance systems for commercial buildings and businesses can monitor large areas and detect unusual behaviours, reduce theft and alert security staff to threats in real time. GETTY IMAGES



per-cent increase in thefts since 2020, pegging the losses at \$5-billion a year.

AI is useful not just for surveillance and theft prevention but also as a tool to help retailers understand who their customers

are and what they’re shopping for, Prof. Ogilvie says, adding that there is a line between protecting a building or store and using AI to gather information surreptitiously.

“Some retail properties have

had to walk back their use of AI,” he says. “There have been cases of properties using facial recognition, with consumer groups complaining that this invades personal privacy and they had to stop.”

One area where robotic surveillance can be helpful is for large events at properties such as concerts, open-air markets or pop-up stores, Ms. Papp says.

“AI can help in several ways make large events safer and more enjoyable – crowd management, emergency response, biometric access, smart ticketing and evacuation planning,” she says. “A good example of this is using real-time heat maps, generated by AI, to show areas of high crowd density. This can help security personnel manage and control the flow of people more effectively.”

Meanwhile, many commercial owners are deploying drones to guard their properties.

According to Proptia, a California-based security firm, these “flying guards” offer superior scope from the sky that traditional, land-locked cameras can’t match, as well as quicker response times.

“But using drones also means dealing with rules. From airspace regulations to privacy concerns, properties have to make sure they’re flying right by what the law says,” the company site states.

No matter how much AI and robotics move forward, for now the best security still involves human beings, Mr. Lyons says.

“We provide security for 10 health care facilities. The biggest skill we train our guards to have is the ability to make an intelligent decision, use judgment to de-escalate a situation and do it safely,” he says.

Ms. Papp agrees. “Human intuition, quick thinking and physical presence can make a critical difference.”

Special to The Globe and Mail

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Industrial	Edmonton	9404 39th Avenue NW	\$12,000,000	\$122 per sq. ft.	
Industrial	Hamilton	17 Meadow Lane	\$2,100,000	\$250 per sq. ft.	

GREATER TORONTO AREA					
SECTOR	MUNICIPALITY	ADDRESS	PRICE	UNIT PRICE	PARAMETER
Retail	Whitby	701 Rossland Road East	\$13,700,000	\$291 per sq. ft.	
Office	Burlington	5575 North Service Road	\$12,450,000	\$131 per sq. ft.	
Industrial	Scarborough	30 North Wind Place	\$7,800,000	\$496 per sq. ft.	

GREATER VANCOUVER AREA					
SECTOR	MUNICIPALITY	ADDRESS	PRICE	UNIT PRICE	PARAMETER
Office	Burnaby	4162 Norland Avenue	\$8,000,000	\$1,200 per sq. ft.	
Retail	Vancouver	5330 Victoria Drive	\$3,850,000	\$688 per sq. ft.	
Industrial	Surrey	#109, 19188 94th Avenue	\$1,533,600	\$600 per sq. ft.	

GREATER EDMONTON AREA					
SECTOR	MUNICIPALITY	ADDRESS	PRICE	UNIT PRICE	PARAMETER
Industrial	Edmonton	12160 68th Street NW	\$6,250,000	\$354 per sq. ft.	
Office	Edmonton	9119 82nd Avenue NW	\$3,925,000	\$109 per sq. ft.	
Retail	Edmonton	4820 76th Avenue NW	\$3,500,000	\$188 per sq. ft.	

GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE					
SECTOR	MUNICIPALITY	ADDRESS	PRICE	UNIT PRICE	PARAMETER
Office	St. Catharines	589 Lake Street	\$2,600,000	\$354 per sq. ft.	
Industrial	St. Catharines	9 Keefer Road	\$2,775,000	\$147 per sq. ft.	
Apartment	Waterloo	50 Central Street	\$1,950,000	\$325,000 per unit	

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LEGALS

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES’ CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT (the “CCAA”) and IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF DELTA 9 CANNABIS INC., DELTA 9 BIOTECH INC., DELTA 9 LIFESTYLE CANNABIS INC., DELTA 9 CANNABIS STORE INC., and DELTA 9 LOGISTICS INC. (collectively, the “Applicants”)

RE: Notice of Claims Procedure, Claims Bar Date & Restructuring Claims Bar Date

Pursuant to: (i) a July 15, 2024 Initial Order, Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc. was appointed as monitor of the Applicants (in such capacity, the “Monitor”) and (ii) a July 24, 2024 Order of (the “Claims Procedure Order”), in the Applicants’ proceedings under the CCAA and pursuant to the Claims Procedure Order will, with the assistance of the Applicants, conduct a Claims Procedure with respect to Claims against the Applicants and their present and former Directors and Officers.

All capitalized terms used herein that are not otherwise defined have the meaning ascribed to them in the Claims Procedure Order.

The Claims Procedure Order, the Claims Package, a Proof of Claim form, and information about these proceedings can be accessed at: <https://www.alvarezandmarsal.com/Delta9> (the “Monitor’s Website”) or by contacting the Monitor at the address below.

Any Person who believes they have a Claim against the Applicants (or any one of them) or their Directors or Officers shall submit their Claim in a Proof of Claim form, other than an Excluded Claim, in accordance with the Claims Procedure Order. All Claimants MUST submit their Proof of Claim to the Applicants and the Monitor:

I. in respect of Pre-Filing Claims, no later than 5:00 p.m. MST on August 17, 2024 (the “Claims Bar Date”); and

II. in respect of Restructuring Claims, on or before the later of:

(A) the Claims Bar Date; and

(B) 15 Business Days after the Monitor sends the Claims Package with respect to such Claim in accordance with paragraph 17 of the Claims Procedure Order (the “Restructuring Claims Bar Date”).

Proofs of Claim MUST be submitted by prepaid registered mail, courier, personal delivery, or electronic or digital transmission addressed to the following addresses:

To the Applicants: c/o MLT AIKINS LLP
2100, 222 - 3rd Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 0B4
Attention: Ryan Zahara (rzahara@mltaikins.com)/ Molly McIntosh (mmcintosh@mltaikins.com)

To the Monitor: ALVAREZ & MARSAL CANADA INC.
1110, 250 6th Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 3H7
Email: delta9@alvarezandmarsal.com

With a copy to: BURNET, DUCKWORTH & PALMER LLP
2400, 525 - 8th Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1G1
Attention: David LeGeyt (dlegeyt@bdplaw.com)/ Ryan Algar (ralgar@bdplaw.com)

CLAIMS WHICH ARE NOT RECEIVED BY THE MONITOR BY THE APPLICABLE CLAIMS BAR DATE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED FROM MAKING OR ENFORCING ANY CLAIM AGAINST ANY OF THE APPLICANTS, THEIR DIRECTORS, OR THEIR OFFICERS

Additional information about these proceedings may be found on the Monitor’s Website or may be obtained by contacting the Monitor directly at the address above.

Dated at the City of Calgary, in the Province of Alberta, this 30th day of July, 2024.

Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc.
in its capacity as Monitor of the Applicants, and not in its personal or corporate capacity

Japan: Economy has shrunk, losing its spot as world's third largest to Germany

■ FROM B1

In March, the Bank of Japan raised its policy rate for the first time in 17 years, concluding that the economy had achieved the “virtuous cycle” between wages and prices it had envisioned.

Ahead of a Bank of Japan meeting this week, there are a growing number of signs that everything is not going to plan.

The central bank's commitment in recent years to keeping rates low has not only allowed inflation to run hotter. (It has been above policy makers' 2-per cent target for more than two years.) It has also prompted the yen to plunge, making imported food, fuel and other staples suddenly more expensive. Consumers have responded by cutting back sharply on spending.

Smaller businesses facing sluggish demand have found it hard to raise prices and salaries as the country's policy makers had hoped. And it remains unclear whether the wage increases at big multinational companies are spilling over to Japan's more domestically focused firms.

Some economists suggest that the weak consumption dragging on Japan's economy is a response to the Bank of Japan's low-rate stance, which has raised fears in consumers that inflation will continue to surpass wage increases for years to come. Analysts are roughly evenly split on whether Bank of Japan officials will raise rates or keep them steady Wednesday, when they are set to announce their decision.

“The BOJ hoped that temporary inflation could lead to long-lasting inflation by pushing up wages – giving inflation second legs. But I don't see that's the case,” said Takahide Kiuchi, executive economist at Nomura Research Institute and a former policy board member at Japan's central bank.

He said “surprisingly weak” consumer spending and the falling yen “all have one root: mistakes of monetary policy made



The Bank of Japan's commitment to keeping rates low has prompted the yen to plunge, making imported food, fuel and other staples suddenly more expensive. Consumers have responded by cutting back sharply on spending. EUGENE HOSHIKO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

in Japan over several years.”

If the Bank of Japan had raised rates years earlier, Mr. Kiuchi said, “the yen would not have depreciated so much, consumer activity would have been more stable and the economy would likely be doing better.”

Recently, on a sweltering afternoon in northwestern Tokyo, Yumiko Umemura, a 49-year-old mother of two, stopped by a meat shop to buy a mix of ground beef and pork. Ms. Umemura said her grocery bills had gone up in recent years while her salary at a data-processing firm had remained the same – a squeeze on her family's budget she expects to last for

some time.

That has left her looking for ways to save, like buying 250 grams of meat instead of 300. “Shopping without excess, that's how I've been cutting back,” she said.

Yoshimasa Yamamoto, the owner of the shop, said he was grappling with the combination of slowing sales and rising costs. Even locally sourced meat costs more, he said, because the feed for livestock is mostly imported.

Mr. Yamamoto said he would like to raise prices but feels he can't because for decades his customers have known only stagnant prices.

“Customers are used to our

prices, and if we raise them, they won't buy,” he said. “People have already stopped buying as much anyway – how could we raise prices?”

These dynamics are starting to appear in Japan's broader economy. Salaries, while ticking up, have failed to keep pace with prices, leading inflation-adjusted wages to fall for 26 consecutive months, through May. Consumer spending, adjusted for inflation, has fallen for four quarters in a row.

Japan's economy has shrunk in two of the past three quarters, losing its spot as the world's third largest to Germany's. This month, Japan's Cabinet Office

cut its forecast for economic growth for the fiscal year through March, 2025, to 0.9 per cent from 1.3 per cent, mostly because of a downgrade to consumer spending.

“Consumer demand is weak. The savings rate has fallen to zero. People are having to spend their income,” said Richard Katz, an economist and author of a recent book, *The Contest for Japan's Economic Future*.

“To presume companies will be able to pass on wages – the BOJ is seeing things through a prism that tells them what they want to see.”

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Emerge: Client document doesn't name Spiring as employee with ownership stake

■ FROM B1

The Globe is not naming the sources as they are not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The company declined to comment on what advisers were told during meetings or events. In response to The Globe's questions, Mr. Hiebert said it is the responsibility of all advisers to read the relationship disclosure document in which Wellington-Altus made a disclosure about Emerge, and to know about any products they recommend to clients.

Mr. Spiring's investment in Emerge Capital Management has become notable given the troubles at Emerge Canada. The Ontario Securities Commission ordered Emerge Canada's funds to be liquidated and delisted from the Cboe Canada exchange last year after the regulator found that the investment company owed millions of dollars to the funds it managed. Emerge Canada, which still owes \$4.7-million to fund investors, has been unable to collect on millions of dollars borrowed from it by Emerge Capital Management. (Lenders first sued Emerge Capital Management for unpaid bills as early as 2019, according to a review of legal filings by The Globe.)

The outstanding balance has left investors as unsecured creditors of Emerge Canada, with few answers about whether or when they will ever receive the amounts owed. OSC spokesperson JP Vecsi told The Globe an active investigation of Emerge Canada is continuing, but the OSC “cannot comment on or disclose the details of any active investigations.”

Earlier this year, a proposed investor class-action lawsuit against Emerge Canada was abandoned after lawyers representing harmed fund investors found the company has no assets to recover.

Wellington-Altus clients owned more than a quarter of the Emerge funds in Canada as of April 14, 2023, when the OSC ordered a temporary trading halt on the Emerge funds. Of the \$118-million in assets that was held in Emerge Canada at that time, \$34-million came from Wellington-Altus clients. The investments were either directly held in Emerge ETFs, or included as part of Wellington-Altus's in-house investment portfolios that it offered to its clients.

Emerge Canada first launched a group of investment funds called the Emerge ARK ETFs in

July, 2019. Shortly after that, Mr. Spiring began promoting ARK and Emerge to his firm's financial advisers, sources familiar with the matter told The Globe. Wellington-Altus also included several of the Emerge funds in the company's proprietary managed investment portfolios and separately managed accounts.

Mr. Hiebert confirmed the Emerge ARK ETFs were added to the company's in-house funds in December, 2020, as the funds were considered “suitable as a small percentage” – about a 2.5-per cent allocation – of the Wellington-Altus Private Wealth's turnkey asset management platform, a type of customized investment portfolio that holds third-party funds.

According to provincial securities laws, advisers and investment dealers are required to inform clients or customers of any “relevant relationships and connections” to an issuer of the securities. Wellington-Altus said it disclosed Mr. Spiring's ownership stake to clients and advisers within a 12-page relationship disclosure document.

In a single sentence on page 10 of the document, the company reveals “an employee” held a “passive minority interest” in Emerge Capital Management, and lists Emerge Capital Management as a “sub-advisor” on Wellington-Altus Private Wealth's separately managed account funds. The document, which is given to clients when they open accounts, does not name Mr. Spiring as the “employee” or offer details about the size of the investment.

Mr. Spiring has been a prominent figure in building independent wealth management companies for more than 40 years. He launched Wellington West Holdings Inc. in 1993, selling it to National Bank of Canada in 2011 in a deal that brought its shareholders about \$265-million. Then, in 2017, he re-emerged with a new firm, Wellington-Altus Private Wealth.

“Mr. Spiring has long supported entrepreneurs in the financial services industry,” Mr. Hiebert said.

Mr. Spiring invested in Emerge Capital Management, owned and run by financial services executive Lisa Langley, in September, 2018, according to Mr. Hiebert. In an e-mail to The Globe, Mr. Hiebert said that prior to purchasing the interest in Emerge, Mr. Spiring and Wellington-Altus fully disclosed the investment to the Investment Industry Regulatory

Organization of Canada (IIROC) and “received advance written approval to make this investment.”

Sean Hamilton, a spokesperson for IIROC's successor, the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization (CIRO), confirmed to The Globe in an e-mail that IIROC began its review of Mr. Spiring's Emerge Capital Management investment in April, 2018. In June of that year, it decided it had no objection “based on the information and representations made at that time.”

“Since that time, additional information has come into our possession that had not been previously disclosed. We are presently reviewing the information,” Mr. Hamilton said, but he would not provide any further information about what is under review.

Charlie Spiring's investment in Emerge Capital Management has become notable given the troubles at Emerge Canada. The Ontario Securities Commission ordered Emerge Canada's funds to be liquidated and delisted from the Cboe Canada exchange last year after the regulator found that the investment company owed millions of dollars to the funds it managed.

While Mr. Spiring continues to hold his minority stake in Emerge Capital Management, Wellington-Altus's Mr. Hiebert said that following the implementation of the client-focused reforms in 2021, he “made good faith” efforts to sell his ownership stake, but was unable to find a purchaser. Since the OSC placed its cease trade order on Emerge Canada, Mr. Hiebert said Wellington-Altus has undertaken an “extensive internal review of historical matters related to Emerge,” and concluded that the company acted in accordance with the applicable regulations and governing laws “in all material aspects.”

“The company has since taken responsive steps to implement new protocols and procedures to ensure that we continuously improve and align to best industry practices,” he added.

Mr. Spiring was, however, able to sell stakes in ETF providers Hamilton Capital Partners Inc. and Evolve Funds Group Inc. in 2022, on Jan. 17 and July 27, respectively. Rob Wessel, managing partner of Hamilton Capital, told The Globe that Mr. Spiring owned about 1 per cent of the firm. A spokesperson for Evolve said Mr. Spiring owned about 3 per cent of that company.

In February, 2019 – not long after Mr. Spiring's investment in Emerge in September, 2018 – Ms. Langley filed a prospectus with Canadian regulators to launch a series of ETFs via a new company, Emerge Canada Inc.

Ms. Langley has 100-per cent ownership of Emerge Canada, according to Canadian securities filings. A U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission regulatory filing lists Ms. Langley and Mr. Spiring as the two owners of Emerge Capital Management. Ms. Langley serves as chief executive officer of both companies, and Emerge Canada paid Emerge Capital Management fees as part of an investment advisory agreement.

The SEC considers Mr. Spiring a “control person” of Emerge Capital Management because he has the right to vote more than 25 per cent of the company's securities, according to the instructions for filling out the form. Mr. Hiebert said Mr. Spiring never served on the board of Emerge Capital Management, nor did he ever have an employment, executive or officer role in the organization.

Emerge signed a deal in 2019 with ARK, run by prominent U.S. investor Cathie Wood, and launched a series of new funds branded Emerge ARK in July of that year. Ms. Wood has become well known for her aggressive advocacy of cutting-edge tech companies whose shares can rocket to high levels – and fall from those commanding heights nearly as quickly.

The Emerge ARK funds mirrored ARK's U.S. products; for example, the biggest, the Emerge ARK Global Disruptive Innovation ETF, had nearly identical holdings to the ARK Innovation ETF, according to fund reports filed in each country.

The five original Emerge ARK funds peaked in value and assets under management in February, 2021, when they held close to \$400-million in assets, according to data from Morningstar Direct. At their peak prices that month, the ETFs all were up between 150 per cent and 210 per cent in the little more than 18 months from

their launch, according to the Morningstar data.

By the time Emerge Canada liquidated the ETFs at the end of 2023, however, four of the five were down 10 per cent to more than 30 per cent from their July, 2019, launch.

Mr. Hiebert told The Globe in an e-mail that Wellington-Altus clients received quarterly reports for their portfolio holdings, which “clearly detailed” that Emerge ARK ETFs were included in the Wellington-Altus investment portfolios. In addition, he said, clients received a statement for the months any Emerge ARK ETFs were purchased or sold by the in-house Wellington-Altus funds.

However, Mr. Spiring's ownership of the subadviser, Emerge Capital Management, was not presented to clients or advisers in the quarterly reports or monthly statements.

Emerge Canada's troubles became public on April 14, 2023, when the OSC imposed a temporary trading halt on Emerge's 11 ETFs in Canada. The regulator said the Emerge funds had failed to file their financial statements.

At the same time, The Globe reported that Emerge Canada, which then managed about \$118-million in assets, owed a total of \$2.53-million to its six Emerge ARK funds.

A month later, the OSC suspended Emerge Canada's operating licence. The OSC revealed that the amount owed to the funds was \$5.5-million, and that Emerge Canada was short of cash because it hasn't collected money owed to it by U.S.-based Emerge Capital Management.

Last year, as part of its registration requirements, Emerge retained the services of AUM Law Professional Corp. to act as monitor of the windup of the funds. All the investments in the Emerge ETFs were sold in October, 2023, and the ETFs were terminated on Dec. 29.

Mr. Hiebert told The Globe that Mr. Spiring does not have access to any more current information than what is available to the general public.

“It is presumed that these shares (for which he paid US\$672,000) are without any value whatsoever,” he added.

Unitholders remain unsecured creditors of Emerge Canada for their pro rata portion of the amounts still owed to the funds by Emerge Canada. The OSC has not released a timeline for when its investigation will be completed.

Corporate profits are money manager's focus

GlobeInvest Capital Management CEO Christine Poole says she's buying McDonald's and selling Nutrien

BRENDA BOUW
GLOBE ADVISOR

THE MOVER

Money manager Christine Poole isn't letting market swings or the pending U.S. presidential election drive her investment decisions. Instead, she focuses on corporate profits, believing they're the real driver of markets over the long term.

"We tend to stay fairly invested throughout the cycle. We're not one of those fund managers that will raise cash, for example, depending on what's happening in the markets," says Ms. Poole, chief executive officer and managing director of Toronto-based GlobeInvest Capital Management Inc., which oversees about \$280-million in assets.

She's a long-term investor whose team buys companies in two main categories: income stocks that produce steady dividends over time, and growth stocks in fast-growing sectors such as technology and health care. Her team has five strategies for investors with a mix of equities and fixed income – the ratio of which depends on their risk tolerance and investing goals.

Her all-equity client portfolios returned 10.9 per cent over the past 12 months and 8 per cent annualized over five years as of June 30. The performance is based on total returns, net of fees.

The Globe and Mail asked Ms. Poole recently to list three stocks



ILLUSTRATION BY JOEL KIMMEL

she's been buying – and one that she sold:

What have you been buying?

McDonald's Corp. (MCD-N) is a stock we added for the first time earlier this month. It's been on our radar for a while. We bought it on a pullback at around US\$245 a share. The fast-food sector is focused on providing value for consumers hit by rising inflation. Given its scale, we think McDonald's is probably best positioned to do that. It has more than 41,000 restaurants worldwide and a goal to reach 50,000 by the end of 2027.

Also, 95 per cent of its restaurants are franchised, which is a very profitable business model because it means the company receives royalties. McDonald's also owns a lot of the real estate its restaurants sit on, which is very profitable. Rent accounts for

about 39 per cent of its revenue. As a result, we think its income stream is very defensive. While we consider McDonald's to be a growth stock, it also has a decent yield of 2.7 per cent and a lot of cash flow, enabling the company to increase its dividend for the past 47 consecutive years.

Pembina Pipeline Corp. (PPL-T) is an income stock we've owned for more than a decade and that we continue to buy with new client money. It has an attractive dividend yield of about 5.4 per cent today and has increased its dividend consistently for about 25 years.

It's a North American energy infrastructure company with pipeline systems and midstream oil and gas operations. We think it's well positioned in Western Canada as natural gas production increases, including exporting to Asian markets.

The company expects to grow

its cash flow by 4 per cent to 6 per cent annually through 2026 on a self-funded basis, meaning it probably won't have to issue new equity. That means no further dilution for existing shareholders. The cash flow and dividends are quite visible, with more than 70 per cent of cash flows under long-term contracts.

Pembina will also grow organically through new projects, such as the Cedar LNG project that's expected to start in 2028. And it's been making acquisitions to help grow its future cash-flow stream. We see it as a well-managed company with a strong record of increasing dividends.

RTX Corp. (RTX-N), formerly Raytheon Technologies Corp., is a company we've owned for about four years when United Technologies merged with Raytheon. We continue to buy it today for new clients. RTX is a leading aerospace and defence company that

sells original equipment and aftermarket services, which is a nice, long-term and profitable revenue stream.

On the aerospace side, it's a play on global airline travel. On the defence side, it's a play on increasing geopolitical tensions and the need for missiles and defence systems. The stock pulled back late last summer after the company said it would take a US\$3-billion charge to inspect hundreds of GTF engines for a manufacturing flaw related to defective powdered metal in engines made before 2021. The company is on track with its plan, and we think the stock could rise once we get more confirmation of that.

Name one stock that you've recently sold.

Nutrien Ltd. (NTR-T) is a stock we have owned since it was created from the 2018 merger of Agrium Inc. and Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan Inc. (We were previous owners of Agrium and Potash Corp.) We believed in the industry's growth alongside the rising global population and growth of the middle class.

We still believe that, but the last year or so has highlighted that fertilizer demand is more cyclical and sensitive to agricultural prices, especially corn. Corn prices have been declining since early 2023 due to excess supplies and inventory. Typically, when that happens, farmers decrease fertilizer consumption. Potash prices have been weakening as a result. Potash is a really important driver of Nutrien's profit. Also, BHP Group Inc.'s large Jansen mine is expected to come online in late 2026, adding a lot of supply to the industry, which we expect to be an overhang on the stock.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

As an overdue market correction looms, this ETF may offer a balm for nervous investors

GORDON PAPE

OPINION



Editor and publisher of the Internet Wealth Builder and Income Investor newsletters

When the markets closed with big gains Friday, investors breathed a sigh of relief and headed off to the beach or golf course in a good mood.

It was a huge contrast to Wednesday's plunge, which left many people with churning stomachs. The Nasdaq fell 3.65 per cent that day, its worst decline since October, 2022, led down by the previously high-flying tech sector. Tesla Inc. lost 12 per cent, while Alphabet Inc. was down more than 5 per cent.

As a group, the Magnificent Seven, which had led the Nasdaq and the S&P 500 higher all year, lost US\$750-billion in market cap, the worst day ever for the tech giants. Investors with long memories were left wondering if this was the start of a repeat of the dot-com bubble, which saw the Nasdaq lose 78 per cent of its value between March, 2000, and October, 2002, dragging the rest of the market down with it.

For the record, I don't think so. The tech industry in 2000 was in its infancy. Today's companies – Amazon.com Inc., Apple Inc., Microsoft Corp., Meta Platforms Inc. and Alphabet – are profitable giants with growing revenue and profits. Unless the whole economy collapses, they aren't going to implode.

What I believe we saw Wednesday was a warning shot of an overdue correction. The rapid rise of artificial intelligence has pushed tech valuations too high, too fast, especially for companies such as chip maker Nvidia Corp., which has a P/E ratio of 66.12. A pullback to more reasonable pricing is inevitable.

Despite the end-of-the-week rally, the Wednesday sell-off may have left some investors wishing their portfolios weren't so exposed to market volatility. If you're among them, I have a suggestion that, based on historical results, offers a safe haven when stocks come under pressure.

It's the BMO Low Volatility Canadian Equity ETF, which I first recommended in February, 2019, in my Internet Wealth Builder newsletter. Here's an update.

BMO LOW VOLATILITY CANADIAN EQUITY ETF (ZLB-T)

Originally recommended Feb. 18, 2019, at

\$31.53. Closed Friday at \$45.74.

■ **Background:** This ETF invests in a portfolio of large-cap Canadian stocks that have a low beta history, meaning they are less sensitive to broad market movements and, therefore, theoretically less risky. The portfolio is actively managed. It is rebalanced in June and reconstituted in December.

■ **Performance:** The fund was flat for the first five-plus months of the year but has moved steadily higher in recent weeks. At June's end, the ETF showed a year-to-date gain of 4.84 per cent. The average annual compound rate of return since inception is 11.54 per cent. The fund is up 45 per cent since the original recommendation, not including distributions.

■ **Key metrics:** The fund was launched in October, 2011, and has \$3.7-billion in assets under management. The MER is 0.39 per cent.

■ **Portfolio:** There are 50 positions in this equal-weight portfolio – all Canadian companies. Grocery giants Metro Inc., Loblaw Cos. Ltd. and Empire Co. Ltd. occupy the top three positions. Waste Connections Inc. and Hydro One Ltd. round out the top five.

In terms of sector breakdown, 19.36 per cent is in financials, 19.07 per cent in consumer staples, 12.92 per cent in industrials and 12.05 per cent in utilities. Energy, which is the second-largest sector in the Composite, has negligible representation, and information technology, whose stocks led Wednesday's Nasdaq sell-off, accounts for only 5.37 per cent of the assets.

■ **Distributions:** The fund makes quarterly cash distributions, which are steady at \$0.28 a unit (\$1.12 a year). At that rate, the yield at the current price is 2.4 per cent.

■ **Tax implications:** In 2023, about 46 per cent of the distributions were treated as eligible dividends, meaning they qualified for the dividend tax credit if held in a non-registered account. About 53 per cent were classed as capital gains. So this is a very tax-efficient fund.

■ **Risk:** This is the big selling point for this ETF. Over the past decade, it has been down in only two calendar years, and both times the declines were minimal. The worst was a drop of 2.83 per cent in 2018. In 2022, which was a terrible year for stocks, this fund lost only a fractional 0.37 per cent.

■ **Conclusion:** This ETF has a proven history of downside protection during stock market sell-offs. It will likely underperform during bull markets, but its long-term record shows it's a good choice for conservative investors.

Action now: Buy.

Funds dump copper as high inventories prompt rethink of bull narrative

ANDY HOME

ANALYSIS

Funds have slashed their long positions on the copper market as high and rising inventories cause a collective rethink of the market's short-term prospects.

Investors rushed to buy copper during the second quarter, betting the metal would benefit from a turn in the economic cycle and a green-energy demand booster.

The bull narrative was spiced with concern that supply simply wouldn't keep up, creating yawning deficits and potentially explosive higher prices.

The reality has turned out to be slightly different.

China, still the engine room of global copper demand, shows no signs of escaping its property drag. Copper stocks in the country are unseasonably high. Worse, Chinese smelters have been exporting large volumes to London Metal Exchange (LME) warehouses. LME inventory last week touched a three-year peak.

The LME three-month price has retreated from its record high of US\$11,104.50 a tonne in May to the current US\$9,000.

The bull party is on hold. For now at least. The consensus remains for higher prices later this year.

Money managers have slashed long positions on the CME copper contract over the course of June and July. Bets on higher prices peaked at 141,204 contracts in May, when the U.S. market was in the grips of a ferocious squeeze.

Money managers have since scrambled to get out just as fast as they rushed to get in. Long positions have shrunk by 80 per cent to 78,790 contracts.

There has been little change in fund positions on the short side, suggesting the action has been a combination of profit-taking by the fortunate and stop-loss selling by the less fortunate on the price retreat.

Funds are still collectively net long of CME copper, but net length has been cut from a May peak of 75,342 contracts to just 19,515 as of the close of business on July 23.

The London market has seen a similar fund exodus, with the collective net long position contracting from a May peak of 71,899 contracts to 29,694 as of the July 22 close.

Rising copper inventory has undermined a bull narrative of scarcity.

Shanghai Futures Exchange (ShFE) stocks this year broke with a seasonal pattern of rapid declines after the Lunar New Year holidays. They have edged low-

er in recent weeks but remain above 300,000 tonnes, a level last seen in 2020 when China was reeling from the first round of its COVID-19 lockdown.

A sharp jump in exports, unusual for the world's largest buyer, has added to concerns China's giant manufacturing sector is still struggling to offset demand weakness from the troubled property market.

Outbound shipments totalled 231,611 tonnes in May and June, breaking all previous records. Much of that metal has been shipped to LME warehouses in South Korea and Taiwan, which have seen inflows of 65,050 and 71,600 tonnes, respectively, since the start of June.

Chinese brands represented more than 45 per cent of LME on-warrant stocks at the end of June, up from less than 1 per cent at the start of the year.

Copper has also started arriving at CME warehouses, where stocks shrank to just 8,117 tonnes in July, fuelling the squeeze across the front part of the forward curve.

CME inventory has been rebuilt to 12,618 tonnes with inflows at CME warehouses in Detroit and New Orleans.

The relatively modest pace of rebuild reflects the limited delivery options available to shorts. The Chinese metal washing up in the LME system, for example, is not registered for CME delivery.

Copper inventories often rise over the Northern Hemisphere summer months, but the combination of stubbornly high stocks in Shanghai and China's recent exports have sapped bullish spirits.

The lack of any detailed announcements from China's third plenum has added to the sense of disappointment.

Investors, it appears, jumped the gun on copper, causing prices to rise too fast and too soon.

Analysts at Citi think "copper prices will struggle for direction in the weeks ahead." But the bank forecasts prices to rise to US\$9,500 a tonne within three months and to touch US\$11,000 early next year. It's not alone.

The median forecast of the latest Reuters quarterly poll of analysts was for the cash LME price to recover from US\$9,737.50 in the third quarter to US\$10,000 in the fourth quarter.

The lowest forecast for the current quarter was US\$9,200 and that for the next quarter was US\$9,000. The price is already there.

Analysts evidently aren't looking for much more downside with a solid consensus that the bull rally will resume after the summertime blues.

Just as long as not too much more Chinese metal turns up in LME warehouses over the next couple of months.

REUTERS

Cash has been a fantastic investing asset, but it's time for an exit plan

Returns will likely diminish as the Bank of Canada lowers rates further in coming months

ROB CARRICK

OPINION



Last week's Bank of Canada interest rate cut brings the return on the many places for investors to park cash down into the low 4-per-cent range at best.

That's still darn good, right? We are talking here about virtually risk-free money that comfortably beats the most recent inflation rate of 2.7 per cent. Now for the downside of cash: Returns will likely shrink in the next 18 months. At some point, you'll want to move cash into other assets offering a better blend of returns and risk.

The Bank of Canada has twice lowered its benchmark overnight rate by a minimal one-quarter of a percentage point – last week and on June 5. Expect more of the same in coming months unless the bottom falls out of the economy, necessitating bigger rate cuts. There are three more opportunities for the central bank to lower rates this year, and economists generally think they will produce a cumulative rate reduction of 0.5 of a percentage point.

That would bring us to between 3.5 per cent and 3.75 per cent for cash equivalents such as exchange-traded funds that hold assets in savings accounts or money market instruments, as well as investment savings accounts. ISAs are savings products



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

for investors that are bought and sold like mutual funds.

By the end of next year, economists anticipate the central bank will have cut by 1.25 to 1.75 percentage points beyond where they stand today. That would theoretically mean returns in the low 2-per-cent zone for cash-equivalent investments.

Now is the time to think about your cash pain point: At what level of return would you feel unsatisfied? One way to think about this is to use your real rate of return. Maybe you decide that your cash must earn the inflation rate plus one percentage point or thereabouts. You might also consider a nominal threshold at

which cash no longer appeals – maybe 3 per cent.

Try and resist the temptation to be a market-timer with your cash. A stock market correction would be a good time to move cash into equities, but there are risks in waiting. One is that you forgo strong near-term returns from stocks, while another is that you stay too long on the sidelines when stocks do tank and miss the best part of the rebound.

There's no immediate rush to ease out of cash because the remaining 2024 Bank of Canada rate-setting dates are not until Sept. 4, Oct. 23 and Dec. 11. But cash returns are coming down. You don't need to ride them all the way to the bottom.

For contrarian investors, luscious dividends are the sprinkles on top of the profit sundae

BENJ GALLANDER
BEN STADELMANN

OPINION

CONTRA GUYS

Benj Gallander and Ben Stadelmann are co-editors of Contra the Heard Investment Letter.

We do our best to squeeze every little bit extra out of our returns and that normally requires very detailed analysis. But sometimes the KISS principle – Keep It Simple, Stupid – is our best friend. Which begs the question: How simple can it get?

One thing sure about investing in stocks is that the dividends are luscious. Although the Contra Guys are contrarians, investing in stocks that have been tarnished and beaten down badly, do not equate our methodology as one in which we are simply looking for the juiciest dividends. Au contraire. It is just one of the many investing pillars of our approach. And that approach has led the Contra Portfolio to sport a trailing 12-month yield of 3.7 per cent as of June 30; this is higher than the yield generated by the S&P 500 and the TSX 60.

In Benj's "Point Tally System," which comprises numerous facets and is outlined in his two best-selling stock books, one point is given for dividends. Some of the other points awarded are for factors including debt, book value, cash flow, insider trading, management, cash, management ownership and the overall financial position. But at the end of the day, as Benj often says when speaking at a financial conference: "Dividends allow me to

be stupid longer."

The key here is that even if the stock price is not doing well, obtaining a continuing return wonderfully greases the bottom line as we wait patiently for – hopefully – gains on our investments of 100 per cent or more. Naturally, given the enormous profits that we are seeking, it almost always takes many years, sometimes more than a decade. But if one has to wait 10 years for a double, that still works out to a 7-per-cent annualized return. Toss dividends on top like sprinkles on a sundae and that works out exceedingly well.

Of course, there are numerous aspects regarding dividends that must be evaluated. One is whether or not they are sustainable, because, when they are cut or eliminated, the stock price almost always swoons. The payout ratio, the proportion of earnings paid out as dividends, is key. If this is more than 100 per cent, or anywhere close to that level, one must be wary that the dividend might not be maintained – known as a dividend yield trap.

Benj admits that in his younger investing days, he was sometimes pinched in the trap. Those spicy high yields caught his eye, and he would not delve deeply enough into the financials to see if they were maintainable. Now, if he sees a dividend more than 7.5 per cent, that to him clearly indicates a red flag and the "opportunity" will likely be avoided.

We also prefer to receive dividends, rather than deal with a dividend reinvestment plan, known as a DRIP. Those plans have legions of followers who think that they are the best thing since sliced bread, but we choose to eschew them. While we

recognize that stock is being acquired without a fee, and effectively it becomes a forced saving, calculating the return for tax purposes can be a pain. It is already enough of a challenge preparing for the CRA every year without adding more complexity. In addition, we prefer to acquire stock at the price we choose, rather than simply the trading value in the market when the DRIP is declared.

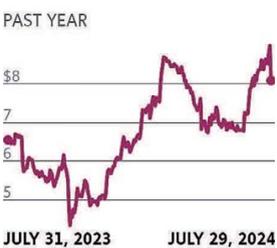
One central thing for Canadians to remember that makes dividends so attractive is that they are taxed at a lower rate than regular income. Thus, at the end of the day, investors will end up with more money in their pockets and, of course, that is the name of the game.

At the end of the day, as Benj often says when speaking at a financial conference: 'Dividends allow me to be stupid longer.'

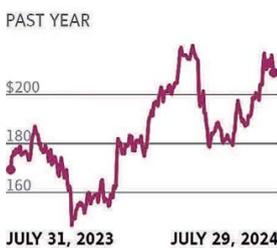
There are a plethora of companies that at least one of us owns that have lovely payouts, which we believe will be sustained. These include Black Diamond Group, Enerflex, General Electric, Lloyd's Banking Group, Orange Telecom, Quarterhill and Santander. But above and beyond the disbursements, we think that all of these businesses have the potential to at least double in value, except for GE, for which, though it has room left to run, that tally seems overly optimistic.

Outside of our own holdings, there are oodles of corporations known as "dividend kings." These are enterprises that have increased their dividend payments for at least the past 25 years. There are more than 60 of these companies in the United States, all large corporations. They might be worth a look, albeit it must be recognized that even though their history is fabulous, that does not guarantee future performance. One must look ahead, rather than through the rear-view mirror.

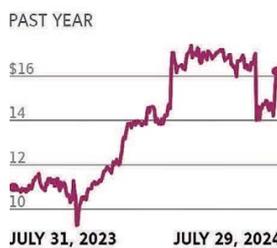
EYE ON EQUITIES DAVID LEEDER



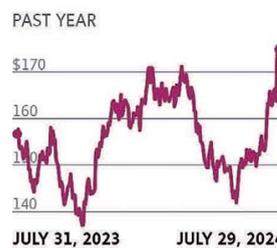
SOURCE: BARCHART
FIERA CAPITAL (FSZ-TSX)
CLOSE \$8.07, DOWN 90¢



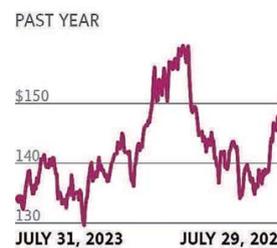
SOURCE: BARCHART
TFI INTERNATIONAL (TFII-TSX)
CLOSE \$208.81, DOWN \$3.74



SOURCE: BARCHART
AECON GROUP (ARE-TSX)
CLOSE \$16.19, UP 56¢



SOURCE: BARCHART
FIRSTSERVICE (FSV-NASDAQ)
CLOSE US\$174.83, DOWN 80¢



SOURCE: BARCHART
CGI (GIB-A-TSX)
CLOSE \$149.60, DOWN 89¢

Seeing a "stretched valuation and muted growth outlook," National Bank Financial analyst Jaeme Gloyn downgraded **Fiera Capital Corp.** to an "underperform" recommendation from "sector perform" previously. "Fiera's pre-released AUM [assets under management] numbers suggest that flows were again negative," he said.

Target: Mr. Gloyn raised his target for Fiera shares by \$1 to \$8, which remains below the consensus on the Street of \$8.14.

While its second-quarter results exceeded expectations, the valuation for **TFI International Inc.** has become "less compelling," according to National Bank Financial analyst Cameron Doerksen, leading him to lower it to "sector perform" from "outperform" previously. "To be clear, we continue to believe that the company will show margin improvement as it executes on lowering costs," he noted.

Target: Mr. Doerksen raised his target to \$221 from \$217, seeing only "modest" upside currently. Consensus is \$222.50.

Believing the "worst is likely behind" **Aecon Group Inc.**, National Bank Financial analyst Maxim Sytchev thinks it's "time to upgrade," raising his recommendation for its shares to "outperform" from "sector perform" previously. "The 3-year underperformance streak could be coming to an end," he said.

Target: Mr. Sytchev's new target of \$20, up from \$17, exceeds the consensus on the Street by 18 cents.

After a second-quarter beat, Scotia Capital analyst Himanshu Gupta sees **FirstService Corp.** entering a period of double-digit earnings gains for the next six quarters, pointing to an organic growth recovery and "healthy" M&A. "We think FSV has a 10+ year runway of accretive consolidation opportunities and will continue to accrue significant gains for equity holders," he said.

Target: Reaffirming his "sector perform" recommendation, the analyst increased his target to US\$190 from US\$175. Consensus is US\$187.

BMO Nesbitt Burns analyst Thanos Moschopoulos predicts **CGI Inc.**'s third-quarter results will be roughly in line on Wednesday, believing the IT services spending environment has been "relatively stable in recent weeks." "CGI's organic revenue growth has been hovering around flat over the past two quarters, and we expect more of the same in the near term," he said.

Target: His target rose to \$170 from \$160 with an "outperform" rating. Consensus is \$159.

Stocks choppy as investors await earnings, U.S. jobs data, Fed meeting

U.S. and Canadian major market indexes ended mixed Monday after a choppy trading session as investors held their breath ahead of a raft of tech company earnings, a Federal Reserve policy decision on interest-rate cuts and key U.S. labour data, all due this week.

Quarterly reports from market heavyweights such as Microsoft Corp. and Apple Inc., Meta Platforms Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. will offer clues on whether tech stocks are vulnerable or can extend their recent rallies.

Investors are hoping that the Fed will end its meeting on Wednesday with a signal that it is preparing for a September rate cut in its policy verdict.

On Friday, investors will closely monitor the July non-farm payrolls report for signs of possible weakening in the labour market.

Tech mega-caps have dominated Wall Street's record-breaking run, prompting investors to turn their eyes to laggards such as mid- and small caps, which are expected to benefit from a low-interest-rate environment.

"A lot of investors are keen to see whether the recent rotation we've been seeing in the markets has legs, or does mega-cap technology really kind of shine through in its earnings reports," said Mona Mahajan, principal and senior investment strategist at Edward Jones.

The small-cap Russell 2000 lost 1 per cent after three straight weeks of gains. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 0.12 per cent while the S&P 500 rose 0.08 per cent. The Nasdaq Composite advanced 0.07 per cent.

Canada's main stock index dipped slightly, dragged down by losses in the energy and tech sectors. The S&P/TSX Composite Index was down 0.15 per cent.

The S&P/TSX capped energy index lost 0.96 per cent as the September crude oil contract was down US\$1.35 at US\$75.81 a barrel.

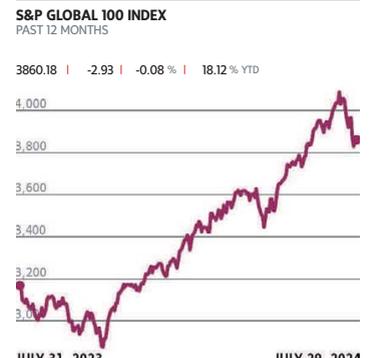
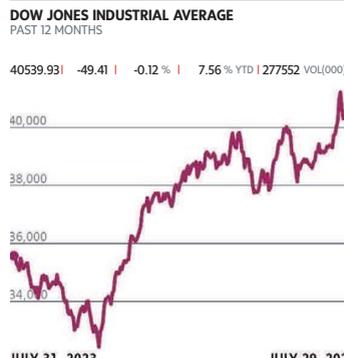
Among the S&P 500's 11 major industry sector indexes, consumer discretionary was the benchmark's biggest boost with the sector's biggest contribution from Tesla Inc. as the electric-vehicle maker's stock rallied after Morgan Stanley added it to its "top pick" U.S. autos list. The biggest percentage decliner among the major sectors in New York was energy, which lost 0.9 per cent.

McDonald's Corp. shares closed up 3.7 per cent after the fast-food giant said its US\$5 meal deal, launched late in June, was popular among customers shying away from higher-price items. As a result it reported a surprise drop in sales, its first in 13 quarters.

Abbott Laboratories shares pared earlier losses to close down 0.4 per cent after a jury ordered the health care company to pay US\$495-million in damages in the wake of a trial that found its formula for premature infants had caused a dangerous illness.

Crypto stock trading was also choppy. Coinbase Global Inc. closed down more than 3 per cent while Riot Platforms Inc. and Marathon Digital Holdings Inc. ended down more than 5 per cent after a jump early in the day when bitcoin prices hit seven-week highs.

REUTERS, GLOBE STAFF



TSX INDEXES AND SUB INDEXES

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
TSX COMPOSITE IND	22779.57	-35.24	-0.15	173007	8.69
TSX 60 INDEX	1360.82	-1.89	-0.14	101818	7.59
TSX COMPLETION I	1391.20	-3.04	-0.22	71188	13.46
TSX SMALLCAP INDE	785.39	-2.62	-0.33	59369	11.87
TSX VENTURE COMPO	574.37	-4.96	-0.86	15979	3.88
TSX CONSUMER DISC	290.67	1.62	0.56	5267	6.37
TSX CONSUMER STAP	1021.39	-2.03	-0.20	3456	18.00
TSX ENERGY CAPPED	280.75	-2.72	-0.96	37143	15.98
TSX FINANCIALS CA	414.13	-0.50	-0.12	46570	7.90
TSX HEALTH CARE C	24.45	-0.21	-0.85	1936	3.08
TSX INDUSTRIALS C	458.57	-0.21	-0.05	7587	8.54
TSX INFORMATION T	221.10	-2.82	-1.26	11245	3.92
TSX MATERIALS CAP	381.39	2.37	0.63	26366	20.32
TSX REAL ESTATE C	326.12	-1.23	-0.38	3324	5.38
TSX GLOBAL GOLD I	351.24	3.86	1.11	3214	23.65
TSX GLOBAL MINING	120.44	0.04	0.03	96974	6.50
TSX INCOME TRUST	208.81	-1.17	-0.56	3480	0.60
TSX PREFERRED SHA	607.99	-3.16	-0.52	1914	12.51
TSX COMMUNICATION	157.72	0.84	0.54	7254	-8.60
TSX UTILITIES CAP	290.34	-0.51	-0.18	9521	2.79

TSX VOLUME

TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	50.84	0.12	0.24	9847	6.58
RY ROYAL BANK OF	152.69	-0.44	-0.29	9711	13.95
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	80.02	-0.43	-0.53	9384	-5.54
MFC MANULIFE FIN	35.87	-0.10	-0.28	7627	22.51
BNS BANK OF NOVA	63.63	0.23	0.36	5733	-1.35
BITF BITFARMS LTD	3.51	-0.22	-5.90	5243	-8.83
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	4.83	0.08	1.68	5158	10.27
BMO BANK OF MONTR	120.85	-0.01	-0.01	5123	-7.83
HNU BETAPRO NAT G	2.55	0.03	1.19	4794	-61.48
CM CANADIAN NATU	47.24	-0.39	-0.82	4689	8.84
BCE BCE INC	46.10	-0.05	-0.11	3884	-11.64
ATH ATHABASCA OIL	5.58	0.01	0.18	3523	33.81
TRP TC ENERGY COR	58.03	-0.01	-0.02	3279	12.11
MG MAGNA INTERNAT	60.62	0.41	0.68	3174	-22.57
FTS FORTIS INC	56.88	0.15	0.26	2528	4.35
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	53.03	-0.20	-0.38	2417	24.92
CS CAPSTONE MININ	9.05	0.01	0.11	2334	40.31
VRN VEREN INC	10.35	-0.09	-0.86	2207	-13.53
CVE CENOVOUS ENERG	27.05	-0.29	-1.06	2151	22.51
WCP WHITECAP RESO	10.49	0.01	0.10	2067	18.26

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS

STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AIF ALTUS GROUP L	58.91	0.91	1.57	52	39.80
ACO-X ATCO LTD CL	42.13	-0.29	-0.68	243	8.95
BMO-PR-W BMO CL B	24.86	0.09	0.36	8	39.98
BN BROOKFIELD COR	65.81	0.43	0.66	987	23.82
BIP-PR-F BROOKFIE	22.81	1.00	4.59	30	16.32
BIP-PR-E BROOKFIE	23.13	0.08	0.35	12	13.49
BNYP-PR-A BROOKFI	21.63	-0.08	-0.37	2	28.37
BNRE BROOKFIELD R	65.88	0.27	0.41	14	24.30
BEP-PR-A BROOKFIE	65.64	0.43	0.66	6	23.38
BEP-PR-M BROOKFIE	21.47	-0.08	-0.37	15	16.37
CWB CDN GENERAL I	39.55	0.43	1.10	1	13.88
CGI CDN WESTERN B	47.40	0.42	0.89	364	53.55
CM-PR-S CIBC PREF	24.58	0.07	0.29	86	14.33
CM CANADIAN IMPER	70.51	-0.31	-0.44	1840	10.52
CIGI COLLIERIES INT	189.70	-2.83	-1.47	61	13.19
ELF E-L FINANCIAL	1214.82	25.43	2.14	15	15.89
ELF-PR-F E-L FINA	21.80	0.30	1.40	11	11.79
ENB-PR-A ENBRIDGE	22.35	0.05	0.22	1	11.25
FHF-PR-M FAIRFAX	24.70	0.10	0.41	29	12.53
FTS-PR-G FORTIS I	21.53	-0.32	-1.46	5	4.41

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS

STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
WN-PR-A GEORGE WE	23.62	0.07	0.30	3	8.70
GWO-PR-P GREAT WE	21.80	0.15	0.69	2	6.08
GWO-PR-M GREAT WE	23.57	0.16	0.68	7	7.19
GWO-PR-S GREAT WE	21.21	-0.02	-0.09	3	7.50
IFC INTACT FINANC	242.23	-2.48	-1.01	171	18.82
JWEL JAMIESON WEL	32.32	-0.18	-0.55	44	1.86
MEQ MAINSTREET EQ	197.58	5.93	3.09	3	35.31
MFC-PR-K MANULIFE	23.96	-0.09	-0.37	13	7.20
MFC-PR-N MANULIFE	22.15	0.14	0.64	30	22.11
PLC PARK LAWN COR	26.43	0.04	0.15	98	33.89
PVS-PR-K PARTNERS	23.90	-0.20	-0.83	5	6.46
PWF-PR-O POWER FI	21.79	-0.27	-1.22	6	14.08
PPL-PR-Q PEMBINA	22.74	0.26	1.16	6	22.13
PPL-PR-E PEMBINA	24.37	-0.06	-0.25	10	17.05
POW-PR-A POWER CO	23.63	0.04	0.18	2	9.85
TRP TC ENERGY COR	22.26	0.01	0.04	13	6.40
SEA SEABRIDGE GOL	23.17	0.74	3.30	80	44.27
TRP TC ENERGY COR	58.03	-0.01	-0.02	3279	12.11
TVK TERRAVEST CAP	83.13	1.43	1.75	39	87.86
WPK WINPAK LTD	47.47	-1.20	-2.47	33	16.06

TSX GAINERS

TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
BTCJ-J PURPOSE BI	12.04	2.13	21.49	69.82	
CPH CIPHER PHARMA	10.45	1.77	20.39	226	88.63
XTD TDB SPLT COR	2.29	0.18	8.53	2	-24.92
PAY PAYFARE INC	7.46	0.52	7.49	733	20.13
E ENTERPRISE GROU	1.45	0.09	6.62	744	93.33
CMCX-B CI GALAXY	13.00	0.75	6.12	25.24	
BLCO BAUSCH LOMB	23.21	1.33	6.08	6	2.38
NFAM NBI CANADIAN	30.85	1.73	5.94	16.68	
MRD MELCOR DEV	12.46	0.64	5.41	11	10.66
ETHQ-U 3IQ COINSH	13.02	0.66	5.34	39.25	
EPX EURPRAXIA PHA	3.89	0.19	5.14	33	-27.56
CRP CERES GLOBAL	2.89	0.14	5.09	5	34.42
RAY-B STINGRAY D	8.02	0.37	4.84	8	33.67
BIP-PR-F BROOKFIE	22.81	1.00	4.59	30	16.32
SFC SAGICOR FINAN	5.75	0.25	4.55	30	-3.36
RAY-A STINGRAY D	8.10	0.35	4.52	63	33.66
CNL COLLECTIVE MI	3.79	0.16	4.41	52	-10.40
GGO GOGOLD RESOUR	1.45	0.06	4.32	322	7.41
GMIN G MINING VEN	9.13	0.37	4.22	21	61.88
UDIV-U MANULIFE S	11.53	0.46	4.16	14.61	

TSX LOSERS

TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
FSZ FIERA CAPITAL	8.07	-0.90	-10.03	1121	32.51
BR BIG ROCK BREWE	1.15	-0.10	-8.00		-24.34
MDNA MEDICENNA TH	2.06	-0.16	-7.21	37	390.48
IE IVANHOE ELECTR	13.05	-0.96	-6.85	2	-2.68
HPS-A HAMMOND POW	108.67	-7.94	-6.81	136	33.01
ALYA ALITHYA GROU	1.83	-0.12	-6.15	90	3.98
BTE BITFARMS LTD	3.51	-0.22	-5.90	5243	-8.83
VLN VELAN INC SV	6.00	-0.35	-5.51	61	11.94
AKT-B AKITA CL B	3.49	-0.20	-5.42		86.63
LGO LARGO RESOURC	2.82	-0.16	-5.37	32	-7.54
FORA VERTICALSCOP	8.00	-0.45	-5.33	130	70.94
PRN PR OFUND MEDI	14.60	-0.80	-5.19	13	31.53
FRX FENNEC PHARMA	8.76	-0.47	-5.09		-42.22
NANO NANO ONE MAT	1.14	-0.06	-5.00	102	-52.70
CLS CELESTICA INC	69.25	-3.64	-4.99	878	78.43
KEI KOLIBRI GLOBA	4.50	-0.23	-4.86	15	-11.59
MFC-PR-F MANULIFE	16.70	-0.85	-4.84	3	19.46
VOXR VOX ROYALTY	3.89	-0.19	-4.66	8	41.45
STC SANGOMA TECHN	7.16	-0.34	-4.53	4	68.87
STLR STLR GOLD I	1.13	-0.05	-4.24	57	50.67



TSX 52-WEEK LOWS

STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ECOR ANGLIO PACIFI	1.17	-0.03	-2.50	1	-27.33
CFX CANFOR PULP P	1.04	0.00	0.00	46	-42.22
CVQ COVOC SOLUTIO	6.49	-0.08	-1.22	191	-32.40
GLO GLOBAL ATOMIC	1.27	-0.05	-3.79	907	-54.32

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX STOCKS

LARGEST STOCKS BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AAV ADVANTAGE OIL	9.39	-0.38	-3.89	893	10.08
AOI AFRICA OIL CO	2.33	-0.05	-2.10	336	-6.43
AEM AEGNICO EAGLE	103.23	1.69	1.66	520	42.09
ACR ACR CANADA	16.14	-0.02	-0.12	1615	-13.64
AGI ALAMOS GOLD I	23.35	0.52	2.28	353	31.03
ASTL ALGOMA STEEL	11.70	-0.25	-2.09	33	-12.03
AQN ALQUONIN POW	8.56	-0.02	-0.23	1049	2.39
ATD ALIMENTATION	83.32	0.70	0.85	1745	6.78
APJ-UN ALLIED PROP	17.77	-0.06	-0.34	337	-11.94
ALA ALTA LIND LTD	32.70	-0.20	-0.61	562	17.52
AIF ALTUS GROUP L	58.91	0.91	1.57	52	39.80
ARX ARC RESOURCES	23.20	-0.26	-1.11	969	17.95
ARTI ARTIZIA INC	45.63	0.13	0.29	263	65.93
ACO-X ATCO LTD CL	42.13	-0.29	-0.68	243	8.95
ATH ATHABASCA OIL	5.58	0.01	0.18	3523	33.81
ATS ATS CORP	42.24	0.24	0.57	108	-26.04
AYA AYA GOLD AND	14.96	0.11	0.74	135	54.07
BTO B2GOAL CORP	4.05	0.02	0.50	1115	-3.34
BCE BCE INC	46.10	-0.05	-0.11	3884	-11.64
BDDI BADGER INFRA	38.45	-0.20	-0.52	21	-5.55
BLDP BALLAROD INC	3.11	0.05	1.58	556	-36.66
BMO BANK OF MONTR	120.85	-0.01	-0.01	5123	-7.83
BNS BANK OF NOVA	63.63	0.23	0.36	5733	-1.35
ABB ABBARRICK GOLD	24.91	0.30	1.22	1662	4.05
BHC BAUSCH HEALTH	8.24	-0.06	-0.72	487	-22.48
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	4.83	0.08	1.68	5158	10.27
BIR BIRCHCLIFF EN	5.85	-0.10	-1.68	1267	1.21
BL BLACKBERRY LTD	3.34	-0.07	-2.05	1150	-28.94
BEI-UN BOARDWALK	79.24	-0.16	-0.20	51	11.07
BBD-B BOBARDIER	91.53	-0.83	-0.90	210	72.02
BLX BORALEX INC	33.56	0.27	0.81	205	-0.36
BYD BOYD GROUP SE	230.76	-1.06	-0.46	69	-17.14
BNM BROOKFIELD AS	58.48	0.27	0.46	334	9.88
BNB BROOKFIELD F	28.28	-0.07	-0.25	5	3.40
BNR BROOKFIELD COR	65.81	0.43	0.66	987	23.82
BIP-UN BROOKFIELD	42.79	-0.55	-1.27	271	-2.47
BEP-UN BROOKFIELD	33.64	0.01	0.03	130	-3.36
DOO DRP INC	97.89	-1.95	-1.95	143	3.24
CAR-UN CDN APARTM	48.90	-0.08	-0.16	301	0.20
CWB CDN WESTERN B	47.40	0.42	0.89	364	53.55
GIB-A CGI GROUP I	149.60	-0.89	-0.59	329	5.39



SPORTS

Edmonton sisters help to build Canada's 3x3 basketball squad from the ground up ■ B12

Blue Jays trade away Turner, Kikuchi on busy doubleheader day in Baltimore ■ B15

{ PARIS 2024 }



Christa Deguchi, top left, of Canada, and Mimi Huh, of South Korea, tangle during the women's under-57-kilogram judo final on Monday at Champs-de-Mars Arena. Deguchi won gold to add to her world-championship victories in 2019 and 2023 and world silver medal in 2024. ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

Deguchi's long journey takes her to top of podium for Canada

Top-ranked judoka, who competed for Japan in the past, tops South Korea's Huh in final to claim first Olympic gold medal in judo in Canadian history

RACHEL BRADY PARIS

Three years ago during the last Summer Olympics, Christa Deguchi was at home heartbroken. Now, in Paris, the Japanese-Canadian judoka has seized Canada's first gold medal of the Games, and its first-ever Olympic gold in the sport.

The 28-year-old is the new Olympic champion of the women's under-57-kilogram weight class. She beat South Korea's Mimi Huh in the gold-medal final on Monday, just hours after winning an epic semi-final versus host-country hope Sarah-Léonie Cysique.

It's the fourth medal of the Paris Summer Games for Canada.

"I still can't believe that I've done it," Deguchi said, laughing and smiling despite her face being covered in red bruises and scratches from the bouts. "It's been a long journey for me."

Deguchi was born and raised in Japan, where she practised judo since she was three years old. She made the move to compete for Canada, her fa-

ther's birth country, in 2017 and has since become Canada's most decorated female judoka. But she lives and trains in Japan.

Deguchi is also a two-time world champion (2019 and 2023) and 2024 world silver medalist. From 2023 to 2024, she was a top-two finisher in nine of her 10 grand slam events and took bronze in the other, making her a solid bet for the podium in Paris.

Deguchi had endured a neck-and-neck battle just to earn the coveted sole Olympic spot in the under-57-kilogram women's weight class for a Canadian in Paris. Each country can only bring one judoka, and Canada has the world's best two in this weight class. The other is Jessica Klimkait of Whitby, Ont.

It was Klimkait who gained the spot three years ago to compete in Tokyo — where she earned a bronze medal —

while Deguchi stayed home heartsick. This was Deguchi's time. And she has made history.

On Monday in Paris, Deguchi was perfect. She competed inside a packed and deafening Champ-de-Mars Arena in Paris, at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, with judo-loving fans waving the flags of France, banging their feet and raucously supporting the French judokas.

Judo is wildly popular in France, its fans knowledgeable. Japan is the only country with more Olympic judo medals than France.

Deguchi, the world's top rated judoka in her weight class, had a bye in the first round. Then she needed just over one minute to win her first match, beating Panama's Kristine Jiménez by Ippon to advance into the quarter-finals.

Her second match of the day was more challenging and went to a gold-

en score before she dispatched Marica Perisic of Serbia.

That set up a semi-final showdown with Cysique, the reigning Olympic silver medalist and the same woman who three years ago dashed the gold-medal dreams of Klimkait at the Tokyo Olympics, handing her a heart-breaking semi-final loss.

There may not have been a louder venue in Paris on Monday than what Deguchi faced when duelling the French woman. Their contest was electric.

Deguchi went on the attack, taking every effort to put Cysique down, trying to push the French woman into a mistake while not making one herself. It stretched on to Golden Score. They grappled like gladiators, exhaustively, both sweat-drenched and breathless. In the end, Deguchi had more attacks and outlasted her opponent.

The French booed, but Cysique knew she'd been beat. The two exhausted opponents fell into a prolonged hug. ■ JUDO, B14

There may not have been a louder venue in Paris on Monday than what Christa Deguchi faced when duelling France's Sarah-Léonie Cysique in the semi-final.

Nadal will always be more iconic in Paris but Djokovic marches on

CATHAL KELLY

OPINION

PARIS

The German sitting beside us in the Court Philippe-Chatrier press box an hour before Rafael Nadal vs. Novak Djokovic knew he was doing wrong. This was a section for yellow badges. He had a red badge. But over where he was supposed to sit, it was already bursting.

The first time an usher told him to leave, the German pretended not to understand French, then English, and then German.

The second time, he pretended to be on his phone — body contorted to obscure his credential.

"Well played," I said, after the usher wandered off in search of easier prey.

"I do not think it is over," the German said, a bit breathless.

He was right. They got him on the third pass.

Eventually, the crashers had all been located and replaced with the good people. Those still waiting for seats had to be screamed



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns to Spain's Rafael Nadal on Monday during their men's singles second-round match at Roland-Garros Stadium. Djokovic won 6-1, 6-4. MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

off a stairwell where they were attempting to form an encampment. Throughout the match, you could hear bursts of shouty frustration in the hallway behind.

It's not usually like this at the tennis, or at any other sport. But the opportunity to be there at the end of an era will make people do things they wouldn't otherwise do.

Three days into the Olympics

and it's not going to get any bigger than this. Two legends who share 46 grand slam titles and maybe one good knee.

Nadal-Roger Federer will always be more iconic, but Nadal-Djokovic is the greater body of work. Sixty matches, including this one. Twenty-eight finals, including nine grand slam finals. With Federer now gone, these two are the institutional memory

of men's tennis in this century. When they go, a lot more than a couple of libraries will burn.

At best, this would be the Thrilla in Manila — a last epic battle between two of the greatest ever.

At worst, it would be Muhammad Ali-Larry Holmes. One man near his peak versus another who's lost his legs.

It didn't turn out as people wanted, but what ending ever does?

The Ali-Holmes scenario seemed likeliest at first. Every time Djokovic got Nadal running with a drop shot — which was often — it seemed more cruel than clever.

Down 5-0 in the first, the crowd hailed Nadal coming out of a break, but they'd lost heart. So had he. After planting his second serve into the net, Nadal pulled back and slapped his thigh — an exceedingly rare expression of mid-game frustration.

He did manage to pull the game out, avoiding getting blanked in a set. That would have been the first time that had ever happened to him at Roland Garros.

It's even possible Djokovic gave it to him. The Serb declined

to have the umpire step down and check on a critical ball that looked out.

It was only in the last moments that it became a great occasion. Nadal pulled himself back into the second set — 4-4. The crowd was suddenly delirious. Nadal was reanimated. At which point, Djokovic decided to pull even with them and hit the boosters.

After winning the game that put him up 5-4, Djokovic cupped a hand to one ear. The crowd began to boo.

Part of what will make it hard to lose these two is that we, the audience, know their roles so well. How hard will it be to accept a new comeback specialist who isn't Nadal, and a bloodless court killer that isn't Djokovic?

At the end, the score was the sort you'd expect in a second-round match — 6-1, 6-4. Just not this one.

Djokovic finished it with an ace. The pair embraced, though not for long or with any particular emotion. Djokovic went back to his chair and appeared to mime playing the violin — one of his new go-to's — to a section of the crowd behind the player seats. ■ KELLY, B14



Spectators cheer on a rider on Sunday during competitions in Versailles, France. 'We were expecting something extraordinary, but not as much as this,' French rider Nicolas Touzaint said of the enthusiastic crowds. PHOTOS BY SIEGFRIED MODOLA/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Equestrian events steeped in the royal splendour of Versailles

Riders and horses strut their stuff at a UNESCO World Heritage Site that adds extra lustre to the chase for gold

RACHEL BRADY VERSAILLES, FRANCE

Horses have been a strong presence at the Palace of Versailles ever since Louis XIII built a hunting lodge on the site in 1623, working in service of the royal family or as symbols of power and wealth. Now, at the Paris Olympics, the magnificent grounds surrounding the iconic château that Louis and his son would later build are playing host to equestrian, where horses are not just emblems of royal prestige but stars of the show, vying for the Olympic podium and drawing huge crowds.

As a venue for the Games, Versailles is a feast for the eyes. "It's breathtaking," said Karl Slezak from Tottenham, Ont., after riding aboard Hot Bobo in the cross-country portion of the eventing competition, a winding trek that sees the horses navigate gorgeous fountains, challenging obstacles throughout the woods and gardens and a pontoon bridge spanning the Grand Canal.

"Just being able to stand on the pontoon and look back at the palace," Slezak added. "You can feel the history."

Versailles is a world-renowned cultural site that welcomes millions of visitors each year. It was home to the court of Louis XIV and became the epicentre of French royal life.

Temporary installations for modern, world-class equestrian have been erected to blend into the historic setting, without harming the UNESCO World Heritage Site. In addition to the cross-country course, organizers have also erected a temporary arena to the west of the Grand Canal, at the heart of the palace's gardens, including several grandstands for dressage and showjumping events, plus the modern pentathlon. Even the horse barns are pop-ups.

After the Olympics and Paralympics, it will all be removed.

"This is the best Olympics I have ever taken part in – the venue, the jumps, the design, the people, the way this country is so welcoming, it is second to none," said Jessica Phoenix of Canada's eventing team, a third-time Olympian from Uxbridge, Ont., riding Freedom GS. "To be able to gallop through Versailles is indescribable."

French course designer Pierre Le Goupil incorporated patriotic elements into the obstacles on the cross-country course that are both challenging and visually fascinating. The horses charge through fountains. There are obstacles with library and reading themes (a nod to Marie Antoinette), as well as a giant set of deer antlers that horses must leap through (reflecting the site's hunting history).

"France has been able to do incredible things with historical properties," said James Hood, Equestrian Canada's high performance director. "The course designer, Pierre, and the course builders have done an incredible job both creating challenge for the athletes safely but also within the restrictions of working in a historical property."

The events have drawn big crowds – especially Sunday's, which felt like a golf major, with dense packs of people lining the ropes and cheering wildly for their favourite competitors. Fans hiked through the woods and lounged in the grass by the canal's edge.

"It's just the most incredible venue – the stadium, the scenery, the cross-country course, which is just a masterpiece," New Zealand's Clarke Johnston said.

"I think [Le Goupil] has just done a



Canadian rider Karl Slezak steers his horse, Hot Bobo, through a forested area on Sunday during the cross-country portion of the eventing competition. 'It's breathtaking,' Slezak said of the race grounds. '... You can feel the history.'



Organizers have erected temporary installations for modern, world-class equestrian competition at the heart of the Palace of Versailles's gardens, including grandstands and horse barns that will be removed after the Olympics.

magical job."

The horses thundered through the 5,149-metre course, one after another, four minutes apart, taking roughly nine minutes each to complete it. Anticipation built as audiences huddled near every obstacle and steadied their phones to take a photo, waiting for the sound of pounding hooves. The jumps were followed by huge cheers.

"When French riders go, you can hear where the rider is on the course from the barns," Phoenix said.

The French fans hollered, "Allez!"

"We were expecting something extraordinary, but not as much as this," said French rider Nicolas Touzaint of the crowds. "It's quite incredible. I'm so impressed."

Olympians from all over the world appreciate the prestige of the venue. "I've dreamed of coming to this Olympics for a long time," American Elisabeth Halliday said. "To walk around and be standing on a cross-country jump and see the Palace of Versailles and recognize that we're actually in those grounds. It's something I will never experience again in my life, and it's a moment that I will cherish."

Some 60 per cent of the cross-country course in Versailles is set in the shade, to

help keep the horses from overheating. There are footing specialists stationed at every obstacle, rapidly repairing divots to ensure the horses' safety.

The barn temperature at Versailles is meticulously monitored to keep the horses comfortable amid heatwaves. The animals have all the modern regenerative therapies, including ice baths, chiropractic and massage services and red-light therapy for blood flow.

Like some human athletes, many of the horses seem to be motivated by the cheers and the attention. "He absolutely loved the packed crowds from start to finish," said Great Britain rider Tom McEwen of his horse JL Dublin. "It felt like a hundred thousand. I'm sure it's not, but having them lined up on the jumps, through the jumps, past the jumps. There's noise, and the horse is absolutely loving it, and it just shows why this is just the most amazing sport."

On Monday, the eventing competition wrapped up with the same riders and horses in the jumping portion, inside the arena. McEwen and Team GB earned gold in the team event – their fourth straight team eventing title. France took silver, and Japan the bronze.

Equestrian events at the Paris Olympics run through Aug. 6.

Fencers hope bronze medal will lead to more interest, funding in sport

MAURA FORREST MONTREAL

Canada's fencing community is celebrating the country's first Olympic medal in the sport – and hoping it will lead to a boost in support for athletes.

On Sunday, 29-year-old Eleanor Harvey won the bronze medal in the women's individual foil, defeating the fourth-ranked foil fencer in the world.

The Hamilton native struggled to absorb her victory in Paris, saying she felt like she was "in a dream." Back in Canada, fencing coaches are elated about the country's first-ever Olympic podium finish – and just as amazed as Harvey.

"Canada having a medal in fencing, it's not something that we thought was possible," said Pascal Heidecker, a coach based in Gatineau, Que., who was on the Canadian national team from 2009 to 2018.

Fencing, a sport dominated by European countries including Italy, France and Hungary, receives little government support in Canada, Heidecker said. When he competed on the national team, athletes had to pay to attend the world championships.

"The world circuit is mostly in Europe, so plane tickets, hotels, all of that was mostly out of pocket," he said, adding that the team didn't have a full-time national coach.

"We don't have the systems that they have in Europe, where they're basically professional athletes," he said. "We're really not at that level."

Still, Heidecker said more and more people have taken up fencing in Canada in recent years, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. "It's an individual sport. We were allowed to resume probably before some other team sports, so it definitely created another interest," he said. "It's been slowly but steadily increasing."

“

We don't have the systems that they have in Europe, where they're basically professional athletes. We're really not at that level.

PASCAL HEIDECKER
FENCING COACH

Chris Granert, a coach at the Toronto Fencing Club where Harvey trained for a few years, said he has known her since she started fencing as a young girl. "And she has always been ... very, very determined. So I am very happy for her," he said. "As long as I've known her, she's been working toward getting a medal on the world stage."

Peter Ho, another coach at the club, said it was Harvey's long-standing dream to win an Olympic medal. "When she was 10, she always had visions [of] standing on the podium in the Olympics," he said.

Ho said interest in fencing was already growing in Canada, and Harvey's win could inspire more young athletes to take up the sport.

There's "a little bit of hero worship going on" among the students at the club in Toronto, Granert said. "I think we are going to see a big influx of people who want to try it out."

Heidecker said he hopes Harvey's medal, alongside the eighth-place finish of Fares Arfa from Laval, Que., in the men's individual sabre event Saturday, will lead to a much-needed funding boost for Canadian fencing. Previously, Canada's best result was a 10th-place finish at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

The performances by Harvey and Arfa are "two historical results, basically back to back, and that's what Sport Canada looks at when they're attributing funding," he said.

Heidecker, 32, also hopes more young people will be drawn to the sport following the Paris Olympics, just like he was when he was eight years old. "I really liked swords and knives. ... My parents signed me up for a fencing class so I would stab people in an organized way," he joked.

"It teaches you discipline. It's great exercise. It teaches you about respect, because you need your opponents to learn and train with and grow."

Building Canada's 3x3 basketball squad a labour of love

GEMMA KARSTENS-SMITH

Getting to the Paris Olympics has been a humbling experience for Katherine and Michelle Plouffe.

The twin sisters not only put sweat into the journey, but their own money and countless hours as they built Canada's three-on-three basketball program from the ground up.

Now they're part of the first Canadian team to play three-on-three on the Olympic stage.

"I think it needed to start somewhere. It's been very humbling to see how people have

bought in," Michelle Plouffe said. "It was definitely a hands-on experience, wearing many different hats with the behind-the-scenes stuff."

Hailing from Edmonton, the 31-year-old Plouffe sisters are both veterans of Canada's women's basketball team, and were on the squad that finished seventh at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Michelle also played at the London Games in 2012.

The duo decided to make the jump to three-on-three basketball back in 2019 before the sport made its Olympic debut in Tokyo. Michelle had friends playing on the men's world tour and thought

the smaller game would suit her playing style.

"It just looked like a lot of fun," she said. "It looked really freeing. You could be creative, make things happen on your own."

Three-on-three is played on half court, with both teams shooting on the same net. Shots from outside the arc are worth two points, while buckets made from inside count for one. The winner is the team that has the most points at the end of 10 minutes, or whoever gets to 21 points first.

"The slogan is from the streets to the Olympics and that's how it feels," Team Canada's Paige Crozon said. "It feels like I'm playing

on the streets with my best friends. But now it's just on the Olympic stage, which is amazing."

Canada didn't have a national three-on-three program back in 2019, so the Plouffes built one themselves. They recruited players — including Crozon — booked tournaments and funded their own trips and training.

"It took us to kind of blaze the trail a little bit," Katherine said.

Crozon linked up with the Plouffe sisters when she was looking for a team that would have space for both her and her infant daughter, Poppy.

Now five, Poppy has become

part of the squad, Crozon said.

"It's incredible to share this experience with her. It's been my childhood dream to be an Olympian. However, I never envisioned doing it with my daughter," said the 30-year-old native of Humboldt, Sask.

"She's just enhanced everything that we've done. I'm so proud to share this experience with her. She's just provided so much perspective and so much grounding, having her there."

Kacie Bosch, a 27-year-old from Lethbridge, Alta., rounds out Canada's team in Paris.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Around the Games

SOUTH KOREA SHOOTER TAKES OLYMPIC GOLD

CHATEAURoux, FRANCE Teenage South Korea shooter Ban Hyo-jin found out just how fine the winning margin in her sport can be as she won an Olympic gold medal by one-tenth of a point on Monday. The 16-year-old Ban beat 17-year-old Huang Yuting of China to the gold medal by 0.1 in a shoot-off after they were tied on 251.8 points from 22 shots, a score that had given both an Olympic record. When she realized she'd won the gold, Ban looked up to the ceiling and took a deep breath before securing her rifle. She seemed to be shaking with emotion as she hugged her coach and wiped away tears while posing with her fellow medalists.

U.S., JAPAN SKATERS WILL FINALLY GET THEIR 2022 OLYMPIC MEDALS

PARIS U.S. and Japanese figure skaters finally have a date at the Paris Olympics next week to get their Beijing Winter Games medals — exactly 2½ years after they earned them in a team event upended by a Russian doping case. A presentation ceremony for skating's team event from February, 2022, will be held Aug. 7 at 5 p.m. in Paris, the International Olympic Committee said Monday. The U.S. and Japan placed second and third behind Russia but no team skating medals were awarded in Beijing because Russian teenage star Kamila Valieva within hours was implicated in a doping case that took almost two years to judge. Valieva was disqualified from the Beijing Olympics and banned for four years by a CAS panel of judges in January.

FENCER WINS UKRAINE'S FIRST MEDAL IN PARIS

PARIS A handshake could have cost Olga Kharlan her place at the Olympics. Instead, she won Ukraine's first medal of the Paris Games to give a country at war something to celebrate. Kharlan overturned a six-point deficit to beat South Korea's Choi Sebin 15-14 for the women's sabre fencing bronze medal Monday in a comeback that energized the crowd. She counted to five on a hand decorated with nail varnish in Ukrainian yellow and blue, a five-time Olympian winning her fifth career medal. Kharlan was disqualified from last year's world championships — a key Olympic qualifier — for refusing to shake the hand of a Russian opponent after winning their bout.

JAPAN SURGES PAST CHINA FOR MEN'S GYMNASTICS TEAM GOLD MEDAL

PARIS The Japanese men's gymnastics team claimed Olympic gold with an epic comeback over its top rival. With China looking poised to claim its first Olympic title in 12 years with one rotation to go, Japan surged ahead to win the Paris Olympics men's team competition Monday after an intense and nail-biting duel. The Japanese overtook their rivals on the final rotation, after China's Su Weide fell twice off the horizontal bar. Japan won with a small margin of 0.532 points. The Americans earned bronze for their first medal since 2008. Canada, which made its first-ever appearance in the men's Olympic final, finished eighth. The Chinese had dominated qualifying ahead of Japan, the reigning world champion.

TRIATHLON SWIMMING TRAINING CANCELLED, AGAIN

Concerns about the water quality in the Seine River led officials to call off the swimming portion of an Olympic triathlon training session for a second straight day. Organizers over-seeing the event at the Paris Games are optimistic that triathletes will be able to swim in the city's famed waterway when the competition starts Tuesday. The sport's governing body, World Triathlon, its medical team and city officials are banking on sunny weather and higher temperatures to bring levels of E. coli and other bacteria below the necessary limits to stage the swim portion of the race, which also includes biking and running.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	63	43	.594	—
New York	62	45	.579	1½
Boston	55	49	.529	7
Tampa Bay	54	52	.509	9
Toronto	49	57	.462	14

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	64	42	.604	—
Minnesota	58	46	.558	5
Kansas City	57	49	.538	7
Detroit	52	56	.481	13
Chicago	27	81	.250	38

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	55	50	.524	—
Seattle	56	51	.523	—
Texas	51	55	.481	4½
Los Angeles	46	60	.434	9½
Oakland	44	64	.407	12½

Monday

Baltimore 11, Toronto 5, 1st game
Toronto at Baltimore, 2nd game
Cleveland 8, Detroit 4
N.Y. Yankees at Philadelphia
Minnesota at N.Y. Mets
Seattle at Boston
Texas at St. Louis
Kansas City at Chicago White Sox
Pittsburgh at Houston

Sunday

Tampa Bay 2, Cincinnati 1
Cleveland 4, Philadelphia 3
Toronto 7, Texas 3
Minnesota 5, Detroit 0
Seattle 6, Chicago White Sox 3
Chicago Cubs 7, Kansas City 3
Baltimore 8, San Diego 6
L.A. Dodgers 6, Houston 2
L.A. Angels 8, Oakland 6
N.Y. Yankees 8, Boston 2

Tuesday All Times Eastern

Cleveland (Williams 0-3) at Detroit (TBD), 1:10 p.m.
Toronto (Bassitt 8-9) at Baltimore (Burnes 10-4), 6:35 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Cole 3-2) at Philadelphia (Nola 11-4), 6:40 p.m.
Miami (Cabrera 1-3) at Tampa Bay (Springs 0-0), 6:50 p.m.
Minnesota (Festa 1-1) at N.Y. Mets (Mantona 6-4), 7:10 p.m.
Seattle (Castillo 8-10) at Boston (Paxton 8-2), 7:10 p.m.
Texas (Scherzer 2-3) at St. Louis (Lynn 5-4), 7:45 p.m.
Kansas City (Wacha 7-6) at Chicago White Sox (Cannon 1-5), 8:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (TBD) at Houston (Brown 9-6), 8:10 p.m.
Colorado (Quattrill 7-7) at L.A. Angels (Canning 3-10), 9:38 p.m.
Oakland (Sears 7-8) at San Francisco (Ray 1-0), 9:45 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	65	40	.619	—
Atlanta	56	48	.538	8½
New York	55	50	.524	10
Washington	49	57	.462	16½
Miami	39	67	.368	26½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	60	45	.571	—
St. Louis	54	51	.514	6
Pittsburgh	53	52	.505	7
Chicago	51	56	.477	10
Cincinnati	50	55	.476	10

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	63	44	.589	—
San Diego	57	51	.528	6½
Arizona	55	51	.519	7½
San Francisco	53	55	.491	10½
Colorado	38	69	.355	25

Monday

N.Y. Yankees at Philadelphia
Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati
Minnesota at N.Y. Mets
Texas at St. Louis
Atlanta at Milwaukee
Pittsburgh at Houston
Washington at Arizona

Sunday

Tampa Bay 2, Cincinnati 1
Cleveland 4, Philadelphia 3
Atlanta 9, N.Y. Mets 2
St. Louis 4, Washington 3
Chicago Cubs 7, Kansas City 3
Baltimore 8, San Diego 6
L.A. Dodgers 6, Houston 2
Milwaukee 6, Miami 2
San Francisco 5, Colorado 4
Pittsburgh 6, Arizona 5, 10 innings

Tuesday All Times Eastern

N.Y. Yankees (Cole 3-2) at Philadelphia (Nola 11-4), 6:40 p.m.
Miami (Cabrera 1-3) at Tampa Bay (Springs 0-0), 6:50 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Steele 2-4) at Cincinnati (Montas 4-8), 7:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Festa 1-1) at N.Y. Mets (Mantona 6-4), 7:10 p.m.
Texas (Scherzer 2-3) at St. Louis (Lynn 5-4), 7:45 p.m.
Atlanta (TBD) at Milwaukee (TBD), 8:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (TBD) at Houston (Brown 9-6), 8:10 p.m.
Colorado (Quattrill 7-7) at L.A. Angels (Canning 3-10), 9:38 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Glasnow 8-6) at San Diego (Waldron 6-9), 9:40 p.m.
Washington (Corbin 2-10) at Arizona (Nelson 7-6), 9:40 p.m.
Oakland (Sears 7-8) at San Francisco (Ray 1-0), 9:45 p.m.

2024 MLS-LIGA MX LEAGUES CUP

(Note: Games do not count in standings)

GROUP STAGE

Sunday
New York City F.C. 0 Queretaro (Liga MX) 0
(New York City F.C. wins 4-3 on penalties)
Kansas City 2 Chicago 1
Portland 2 Leon (Liga MX) 1

Tuesday All Times Eastern

Montreal vs. San Luis (Liga MX), 7 p.m.
N.Y. Red Bulls vs. Pachuca (Liga MX), 8 p.m.
Necaxa (Liga MX) vs. Minnesota, 9 p.m.
Austin vs. Monterrey (Liga MX), 9 p.m.
Vancouver vs. Los Angeles F.C., 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Crus Azul (Liga MX) vs. Charlotte, 8 p.m.
D.C. vs. Santos Laguna (Liga MX), 8 p.m.
Juarez (Liga MX) vs. Dallas, 9 p.m.
Mazatlan (Liga MX) vs. Nashville, 9 p.m.
Puebla (Liga MX) vs. Tigres (Liga MX), 9:30 p.m.
L.A. Galaxy vs. San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

CPL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Ottawa	16	8	3	5	29	19	29
York	16	8	5	3	26	22	27
Hamilton	15	7	4	4	27	20	25
Calgary	15	4	3	9	16	21	14
Vancouver	16	5	6	5	20	27	20
Victoria	15	6	4	5	13	19	19
Winnipeg	16	5	6	2	18	28	14
Halifax	14	3	7	4	17	21	13

Sunday

Winnipeg 3 Victoria 0

Friday, Aug. 2 All Times Eastern

York at Victoria, 10 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 3

Calgary at Ottawa, 7 p.m.

ATP/WTA WORLD TOUR

CITI OPEN RESULTS

Monday ATP Washington Prize: \$2,100,230

MEN'S SINGLES — ROUND OF 64

Christopher O'Connell, Australia, def. Harold Mayot, France, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Jeffrey John Wolf, United States, def. Zachary Svajda, United States, 6-4, 7-5.
Cristian Garin, Chile, def. Aslan Karatsev, Russia, 6-4, 6-2.
Daniel Elahi Galan, Colombia, def. Maxime Cressy, United States, 6-4, 6-3.
Mattia Bellucci, Italy, def. Mackenzie McDonald, United States, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3).
Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, def. Borna Coric, Croatia, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (8), 6-4.
Seongchan Hong, South Korea, def. Adam Walton, Australia, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4).

CFL

WEEK EIGHT

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
Montreal	7	6	1	0	195	152	12
Ottawa	7	5	2	0	174	167	10
Toronto	7	4	3	0	194	182	8
Hamilton	7	2	5	0	195	221	4

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
British Columbia	7	5	2	0	206	170	10
Saskatchewan	7	5	2	0	183	158	10
Calgary	7	3	4	0	165	197	6
Winnipeg	8	2	6	0	163	186	4
Edmonton	7	0	7	0	175	216	0

Bye: British Columbia

Sunday

Hamilton 44 Edmonton 28

WEEK NINE

Bye: Ottawa

Thursday

British Columbia at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.

CEBL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Niagara	20	14	6	.700	N
x-Scarborough	20	12	8	.600	2
x-Ottawa	20	9	11	.450	5
Brampton	20	6	14	.300	8
h-Montreal	20	6	14	.300	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Vancouver	20	14	6	.700	N
x-Edmonton	19	12	7	.632	1½
x-Calgary	20	11	9	.550	3
x-Winnipeg	19	9	10	.474	4½
Saskatchewan	20	6	14	.300	8

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division; h — has berth in championship weekend as host

Monday

Ottawa 116 Brampton 104
Winnipeg at Edmonton

END OF REGULAR SEASON

Denny McCarthy 1,024 \$3,156,124
Will Zalatoris 1,019 \$7,790,799

Sunday

Montreal 80 Vancouver 78
Scarborough 93 Calgary 82

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

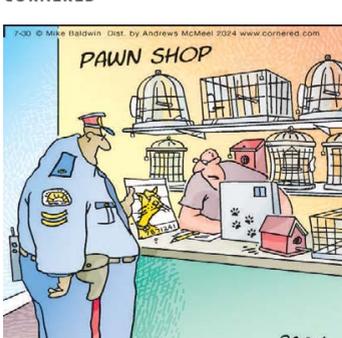
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	21	4	.840	—
Connecticut	18	6	.750	2½
Indiana	11	15	.423	10½
Chicago	10	14	.417	10½
Atlanta	7	17	.292	13½
Washington	6	19	.240	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	17	8	.680	—
Seattle	17	8	.680	—
Las Vegas	16	8	.667	½
Phoenix	13	12	.520	4
Los Angeles	6	18	.250	10½
Dallas	6	19	.240	11

OLYMPIC BREAK REGULAR SEASON RESUMES ON THURSDAY, AUG. 15

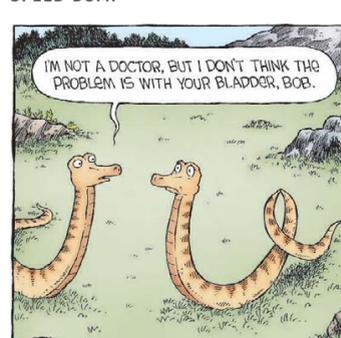
CORNERED



OFF THE MARK



SPEED BUMP



BIZARRO



Canada at the Games

CANADA'S SANFORD DOMINATES DEBUT BOUT

Canada's Wyatt Sanford made his Olympic debut with a dominant win over Bulgaria's Radoslav Rosenov in the men's 63.5-kilogram round of 16 Monday. All five judges awarded the victory to Sanford, who was a unanimous winner of Rounds 1 and 2. Rosenov won Round 3 in a 3-2 split. "Great way to start, great way to get the tournament going. It's nice to be put in the top eight and we are one win away from a medal now," Sanford said. Sanford, who had a bye in the first round as the top seed in the event, will face Uzbekistan's Ruslan Abdullaev in Thursday's quarter-finals. Sanford and Montreal's Tammar Thibeault, competing in the women's 75-kilogram division, are the only Canadian boxers in Paris and are aiming to end a Canadian boxing medal dry spell that dates back to heavyweight David Deflagbon's silver at the 1996 Atlanta Games. Thibeault will meet Cindy Ngamba, a Cameroonian boxer fighting for the EOC Refugee Team, in her first bout on Wednesday.

WOMEN'S EIGHT ADVANCES TO REPECHAGE

Canada's defending-champion women's eight rowing team will row in a repechage after finishing third in its heat Monday morning at the Paris Games. The team clocked six minutes 21.31 seconds over 2000 metres at Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium, finishing behind Great Britain (6:16.20) and Australia (6:18.61) in Heat 1. Denmark came in fourth at 6:39.30. Romania came in first in Heat 2, finishing in 6:12.31, followed by the United States with 6:19.00 and Italy with 6:28.47. The winners of each heat advance to Saturday's final, while the others face off in the repechage on Thursday for another chance at qualifying for the final. Canada has just two boats rowing in Paris after qualifying 10 for Tokyo.

CANADA ADVANCES TO RUGBY SEMIS

Canada remains in the medal hunt in Olympic women's rugby sevens after downing host France 19-14 in Monday's quarter-finals. Chloe Daniels scored the winning try with 53 seconds left in the second half and the Canadians thwarted a late French attack to secure a spot in the semi-final. Piper Logan scored two tries for Canada, while captain Olivia Apps contributed a conversion. Daniels was 1-for-2 on conversion attempts, with her one miss coming on her winning try. The Canadians advanced to the quarter-final game by closing out group play with a 26-17 win over China earlier on Monday. Canada has a semi-final date on Tuesday with undefeated Australia, which hammered Ireland 40-7 in Monday's quarter-final. New Zealand and the United States will meet in Tuesday's other semi-final.

MIXED RESULTS IN TENNIS

Gabriela Dabrowski of Ottawa and Leylah Fernandez of Laval, Que., bounced Clara Burel and Varvara Gracheva of France in women's doubles, but Félix Auger-Aliassime of Montreal and Milos Raonic of Thornhill, Ont., lost in men's doubles to third seeds Taylor Fritz and Tommy Paul of the United States. Fernandez also became the first Canadian woman to ever reach the round of 16 singles at the Olympics when she defeated Cristina Busca of Spain in straight sets. Bianca Andreescu of Mississauga, battling a nagging thumb injury, was beaten by Wimbledon semi-finalist Donna Vekic of Croatia, and Raonic lost in three sets to Dominik Koepfer of Germany.

WINNING DEBUT FOR HUMANA-PAREDES, WILKERSON

Melissa Humana-Paredes and Brandie Wilkerson cruised to victory in their first beach volleyball match at the Paris Olympics, defeating Paraguay's Giuliana Poletti and Michelle Valiente Amarilla 2-0 on Monday. Set scores were 21-16, 21-12 in a match that took 42 minutes to complete. Humana-Paredes and Wilkerson, both from Toronto, entered Paris as the world No. 3 women's beach volleyball tandem. They are making their Olympic debut as a team. Both competed at the Tokyo Games with different partners. Humana-Paredes and Wilkerson will next face Switzerland's Zoé Vergé-Dépré and Esmée Böbner on Wednesday. Also Monday, Heather Bansley of Waterdown, Ont., and Toronto's Sophie Bukovec fell to 0-2 in Paris after a 2-0 loss to China's Xue Chen and Xia Xinyi. Set scores were 21-15, 21-19.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIVE THINGS TO WATCH AT THE GAMES ON TUESDAY

MORE MAT MEDALS?

Catherine Beauchemin-Pinard looks to add to Canada's judo success at the Paris Games when she competes in the women's under-63 kilogram competition. Beauchemin-Pinard, from Saint-Hubert, Que., is the world No. 2 in the discipline and won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Games three years ago. She has a bye to the Round of 16. Christa Deguchi won the under-57 kg competition Monday to give Canada its first gold medal of the Games, and its first Olympic judo title.

FAMILIAR FOES

Canada's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Australia's Josh Giddey will renew acquaintances when their countries clash in men's basketball action near Lille. Gilgeous-Alexander and Giddey were backcourt partners with the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder for three years before Giddey was traded to Chicago after this past season. Both teams are coming off tournament-opening wins on Saturday. Canada defeated Greece, while Australia downed No. 2 Spain.

UNFAMILIAR FOES

While the men's basketball teams have some shared history, Canada and Australia's women's 3x3 basketball teams will meet for the first time at a world championship or Olympic tournament. Canada, led by twin sisters Katherine and Michelle Plouffe, is making its Olympic debut in the event. Canada won gold at the 2022 FIBA AmeriCup and silver at that year's World Cup, but were upset in the quarter-finals of the World Cup in 2023. Australia went on to win bronze at that tournament.

DOUBLE DUTY

Félix Auger-Aliassime will be looking to channel teammate Leylah Fernandez when he competes twice as part of Tuesday's packed tennis schedule. Montreal's Auger-Aliassime takes on Germany's Maximilian Marterer in men's second-round singles action and teams with Ottawa's Gabriela Dabrowski for a mixed doubles first-round match against Britain's Heather Watson and Joe Salisbury. Fernandez was a double winner on Tuesday, beating Spain's Cristina Busca in women's singles competing and teaming with Dabrowski for a women's doubles win over France's Clara Burel and Varvara Gracheva. Fernandez will play her third-round match against Germany's Angelique Kerber Tuesday. Her doubles opponent is yet to be decided.

TRIATHLON TROUBLES

Organizers are confident the Seine River will be fit for swimming by the time the men's triathlon gets under way early Tuesday. Athletes might want more reassurance. Swimming training was cancelled for a second straight day on Monday following a meeting over water quality in the famed river, which is closely linked to a recent deluge of rain in Paris. The Olympic-distance triathlon kicks off with a 1.5-kilometre outdoor swim, followed by a 40-kilometre swim and 10-kilometre run. Tyler Mislawchuk and Charles Paquet are the Canadians in the event

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHAT CANADA DID

MONDAY

(distances in metres)
BADMINTON
Group Stage
Women's singles — Michelle Li, Markham, Ont., won her match over The Htar Thuzar of Myanmar, 2-0 (21-16, 25-23).
Men's singles — Brian Yang, Richmond Hill, Ont., defeated Dmitry Panarin, Kazakhstan, 21-18, 21-10.
Men's doubles — Adam Dong, Richmond Hill, Ont., and Nyi Yakura, Pickering, Ont., lost to Ben Lane and Sean Vendy, Britain, 2-0 (21-14, 21-12).
BASKETBALL
Women — Shay Colley of Brampton, Ont., scored 11 points and added six assists but the host French team won 75-54.
BEACH VOLLEYBALL
Women — Melissa Humana-Paredes and Brandie Wilkerson, both Toronto, won their preliminary-round match over Giuliana Poletti and Michelle Valiente Amarilla, Paraguay, 2-0 (21-16, 21-12); Heather Bansley, Waterdown, Ont., and Sophie Bukovec, Toronto, lost against Xue Chen and Xia Xinyi of China; 2-0 (21-15, 21-19).
BOXING
Men's 63.5-kg class — Wyatt Sanford, Kennebecook, N.S., defeated Radoslav Siemenov Rosenov of Bulgaria, 5-0, to advance to the quarterfinals.
CANOE/KAYAK
Men's C1 slalom — Alex Baldoni, Pau, France, was 15 in the semifinals in a time of 2:7.41s — did not advance.
CYCLING
Men's mountain bike (cross-country) — Gunnar Holmgren, Orillia, Ont., was 30 in one hour, 34 minutes and 47 seconds.
DIVING
Men's 10-metre synchronized platform — Rylan Wiens, Saskatoon, and Nathan Zombor-Murray, Pointe-Claire, Que., won the bronze with a score of 422.13.
EQUESTRIAN
Eventing (individual jumping) — Karl Slezak, Tottenham, Ont., with Hot Bobo, was ninth in qualifying with a score of 12.00; Michael Wintler, Toronto (El Mundo) placed 33 (4.00); and Jessica Phoenix, Cannington, Ont. (Freedom GS), 51 (0.00).
Eventing (team jumping) — Canada finished eighth in the final (16.00).
FENCING
Women's Sabre — Pamela Brind'Amour, Sainte-Marline, Que., was eliminated in the round-of-32.
Men's Foil — Blake Broszus, San Jose, Calif.; Daniel Gu, Edmonton; and Maximilien Van Haaster, Montreal, all lost in round of 32.
GYMNASTICS
Women's artistic (individual)
Rings — Felix Dolci, Laval, Que., was first with a score of 13.633; Rene Cournoyer, Repentigny, Que., placed third (12.866) — as this was the team event, individual medals were not awarded; William Emard, Laval, Que., was fifth (13.366).
Men's artistic (team) — Canada finished eighth overall with a total score of 245.426.
JUDO
Women's 57-kg class — Christa Deguchi

earned Canada's first gold medal of 2024.
Men's 73-kg class — Arthur Margelidon, Montreal, advanced as far as the repechage round.
ROWING
Women's lightweight double sculls — Jenny Casson, Kingston, Ont., and Jill Moffatt, Bethany, Ont., finished second in their repechage (7:16.81) and will compete in the semifinals.
Women's eights (with cox) — Canada (Abby Dent, Kenora, Ont.; Caleigh Filmer, Victoria; Kasia Gruchalla-Wesierski, Calgary; Kristen Kit, St. Catharines, Ont.; Maya Meschkuleit, Mississauga, Ont.; Sydney Payne, Toronto; Jessica Sevicik, Strathmore, Alta.; Kristina Walker, Wolfe Island, Ont.; and Avalon Wasteneys, Campbell River, B.C.) placed third in their qualifying heat in 6:21.31. The defending gold-medallists from Tokyo will race in the repechage to determine if they can reach the semifinals.
RUGBY SEVENS
Women — Canada (2-1) defeated China, 26-17, to complete the preliminary round. In the quarterfinals, they downed France, 19-14, and will meet Australia in the semis.
SAILING
49erFX — Antonia Levin-LaFrance and Georgia Levin-LaFrance, both Chester, N.S., finished eighth, first and 19 on the second day of competition and are ranked 13 overall.
49er — Justin Barnes, Pickering, Ont., and Will Jones, Aldershot, Ont., were 19, 13 and 12th stand 17 with two days remaining in the preliminary round.
SKATEBOARDING
Men — Cordano Russell, London, Ont., placed seventh in the final; Matt Berger, Kamloops, B.C., was 11 in the preliminary round; Ryan Decenzo, Delta, B.C., 18 (116.69).
SWIMMING
Women's 100 backstroke — Kylie Masse, Lasalle, Ont., posted the fifth-fastest time in the semifinals (58.82), and Ingrid Wilim, Calgary, was one spot behind (59.10).
Women's 200 freestyle — Mary-Sophie Harvey, Trois-Rivieres, Que., was fourth in the final (1:55.29).
Women's 400 individual medley — Summer McIntosh, Toronto, won the gold medal in 4:27.7; Ella Jansen, Burlington, Ont., was 11 overall in qualifying (4:42.06).
TENNIS
Women singles — In round-of-32 matches, Leylah Annie Fernandez, Laval, Que., advanced to the next round; Bianca Andreescu, Mississauga, Ont., lost to Donna Vekic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-4.
Women's doubles — Fernandez and Gabriela Dabrowski, Ottawa, will continue to the second round.
Men's doubles — Félix Auger-Aliassime, Montreal, and Milos Raonic, Thornhill, Ont., were eliminated.
WATER POLO
Women — Canada lost their preliminary-round opener against Hungary, 12-7.

ARCHERY

MEN'S TEAM

FINALS
BRONZE MEDAL MATCH
 Turkey (Metegazoz; Berkim Turner; Abdullah Yildirimis), def. China (Kao Wenchao; Li Zhongyuan; Wang Yan), 6-2.
GOLD MEDAL MATCH
 South Korea (Kim Je Deok; Kim Woojin; Lee Wooseok), def. France (Baptiste Addis; Thomas Chirault; Jean-Charles Valladont), 5-1.

BASKETBALL

GROUP A	W	L	PTS
Australia	1	0	2
Canada	1	0	2
Greece	0	1	0
Spain	0	1	0

Tuesday, July 30

Spain vs Greece 5 a.m.
 Canada vs Australia 7:30 a.m.
 Japan vs France 11:15 a.m.
 Brazil vs Germany 3 p.m.

WOMEN

GROUP B	W	L	PTS
Nigeria	1	0	2
Australia	0	1	0
Canada	0	1	0

Monday, July 29
 Nigeria 75, Australia 62
 Germany 83, Belgium 69
 France 75, Canada 54
 United States 102, Japan 76
Wednesday, July 31
 Puerto Rico vs Spain 5 a.m.
 China vs Serbia 7:30 a.m.

CANOE/KAYAK

MEN

CANOE SINGLE
SEMIFINAL
 1. Nicolas Gestin, France, 93.12 (F).
 2. Miquel Trave, Spain, 96.69 (F).
 3. Sideris Tasiadis, Germany, 96.74 (F).
Also
 15. Alex Baldoni, Canada, 127.41.

CYCLING

MEN

CROSS-COUNTRY
 1. Thomas Pidcock, Britain, 1:26:22.
 2. Victor Koretzky, France, 1:26:31.
 3. Alan Hatherly, South Africa, 1:26:33.
Also
 30. Gunnar Holmgren, Canada, 1:34:57.

DIVING

MEN

SYNCHRONISED 10M PLATFORM FINAL
 1. China (Lian Junjie; Yang Hao), 490.35.
 2. Britain (Thomas Daley; Noah Williams), 463.44.
 3. Canada (Rylan Wiens; Nathan Zombor-Murray), 422.13.

GYMNASTICS

MEN'S TEAM

FLOOR EXERCISE
 1. Britain (Harry Hepworth; Luke

Whitehouse; Jake Jarman; Joe Fraser; Max Whitlock), 44.166.
 2. Japan (Kazuma Kaya; Daiki Hashimoto; Shinnosuke Oka; Wataru Tanigawa; Takaaki Sugino), 43.266.
 3. United States (Paul Juda; Asher Hong; Frederick Richard; Brody Malone; Stephen Nedorosic), 42.799.
Also
 8. Canada (Samuel Zakutney; William Emard; Felix Dolci; Rene Cournoyer; Zachary Clay), 41.199.
POMMEL HORSE
 1. China (Zou Jingyuan; Zhang Boheng; Xiao Ruoteng; Su Weide; Liu Yang), 43.566.
 2. Britain (Jake Jarman; Joe Fraser; Max Whitlock; Luke Whitehouse; Harry Hepworth), 43.332.
 3. Ukraine (Radomyr Stelmakh; Illia Kovtun; Oleg Verniaiev; Nazar Cherpurnyi; Igor Radivilov), 42.866.
Also
 8. Canada (Samuel Zakutney; Rene Cournoyer; Zachary Clay; Felix Dolci; William Emard), 37.965.

RINGS

1. China (Zou Jingyuan; Zhang Boheng; Liu Yang; Xiao Ruoteng; Su Weide), 45.266.
 2. United States (Frederick Richard; Brody Malone; Asher Hong; Paul Juda; Stephen Nedorosic), 42.732.
 3. Japan (Kazuma Kaya; Shinnosuke Oka; Wataru Tanigawa; Daiki Hashimoto; Takaaki Sugino), 42.633.
Also
 8. Canada (Felix Dolci; Rene Cournoyer; William Emard; Samuel Zakutney; Zachary Clay), 39.865.
VALT
 1. Ukraine (Nazar Cherpurnyi; Oleg Verniaiev; Igor Radivilov; Illia Kovtun; Radomyr Stelmakh), 44.466.
 2. United States (Paul Juda; Brody Malone; Asher Hong; Frederick Richard; Stephen Nedorosic), 44.032.
 3. Japan (Takaaki Sugino; Daiki Hashimoto; Wataru Tanigawa; Shinnosuke Oka; Kazuma Kaya), 43.433.
Also
 6. Canada (Felix Dolci; Rene Cournoyer; William Emard; Samuel Zakutney; Zachary Clay), 43.166.
PARALLEL BARS
 1. China (Xiao Ruoteng; Zhang Boheng; Zou Jingyuan; Liu Yang; Su Weide), 45.833.
 2. Ukraine (Radomyr Stelmakh; Illia Kovtun; Oleg Verniaiev; Nazar Cherpurnyi; Igor Radivilov), 44.799.
 3. Japan (Kazuma Kaya; Shinnosuke Oka; Wataru Tanigawa; Daiki Hashimoto; Takaaki Sugino), 44.365.
Also
 7. Canada (Rene Cournoyer; Samuel Zakutney; Felix Dolci; Zachary Clay; William Emard), 42.165.

HORIZONTAL BAR

1. Japan (Takaaki Sugino; Shinnosuke Oka; Daiki Hashimoto; Kazuma Kaya; Wataru Tanigawa), 43.565.
 2. United States (Paul Juda; Frederick Richard; Brody Malone; Asher Hong; Stephen Nedorosic), 42.365.
 3. Canada (Samuel Zakutney; Rene Cournoyer; Felix Dolci; William Emard;

Zachary Clay), 41.066.

FINAL RANKINGS

1. Japan (Daiki Hashimoto; Kazuma Kaya; Shinnosuke Oka; Takaaki Sugino; Wataru Tanigawa), 259.594.
 2. China (Liu Yang; Su Weide; Xiao Ruoteng; Zhang Boheng; Zou Jingyuan), 259.062.
 3. United States (Asher Hong; Paul Juda; Brody Malone; Stephen Nedorosic; Frederick Richard), 257.793.
Also
 8. Canada (Zachary Clay; Rene Cournoyer; Felix Dolci; William Emard; Samuel Zakutney), 245.426.

RUGBY

WOMEN

Monday, July 29

Britain 26, South Africa 17
 Australia 19, Ireland 14
 Japan 39, Brazil 12
 France 31, United States 14
 Canada 26, China 17
 New Zealand 38, Fiji 7
END OF GROUP STAGE
QUARTERFINALS
 Japan 15, South Africa 12
 Brazil 28, Fiji 22
 New Zealand 55, China 5
 Canada 19, France 14
 Australia 40, Ireland 7

SKATEBOARDING

MEN

STREET FINAL

1. Yuto Horigome, Japan, 281.14.
 2. Jagger Eaton, United States, 281.04.
 3. Nijah Huston, United States, 279.38.
Also
 7. Cordano Russell, Canada, 211.80.

WOMEN

200M FREESTYLE FINAL

Colombia 2 1 0 1 4 3 3
 France 2 1 0 1 4 4 3
 Canada 2 2 0 0 4 2 0
 New Zealand 2 0 0 2 1 4 0
Wednesday, July 31
 Brazil vs Spain 11 a.m.
 Japan vs Nigeria 11 a.m.
 Australia vs United States 1 p.m.
 Zambia vs Germany 1 p.m.
 New Zealand vs France 3 p.m.
 Colombia vs Canada 3 p.m.
END OF GROUP STAGE

SWIMMING

MEN

200M FREESTYLE FINAL

1. David Popovici, Romania, 1:44.72.
 2. Matthew Richards, Britain, 1:44.74.
 3. Luke Hobson, United States, 1:44.79.
100M BACKSTROKE FINAL
 1. Thomas Ceccon, Italy, 52.00.
 2. Xu Jiayu, China, 52.32.

3. Ryan Murphy, United States, 52.39.

WOMEN

400M INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY FINAL

1. Summer McIntosh, Canada, 4:27.71.
 2. Katie Grimes, United States, 4:33.40.
 3. Emma Weyant, United States, 4:34.93.
100M BACKSTROKE SEMIFINAL 1
 1. Regan Smith, United States, 57.97.
 2. Kylie Masse, Canada, 58.82.
 3. Ingrid Wilim, Canada, 59.10.
SEMIFINAL 1
 1. Kaylee McKeown, Australia, 57.99.
 2. Katharine Bernadette, United States, 58.27.
 3. Iona Anderson, Australia, 58.63.
100M BREASTSTROKE FINAL
 1. Tajjana Smith, South Africa, 1:05.28.
 2. Tang Qianting, China, 1:05.54.
 3. Mona Mc Sharry, Ireland, 1:05.59.
200M FREESTYLE FINAL
 1. Mollie O'Callaghan, Australia, 1:53.27.
 2. Ariarne Timmus, Australia, 1:53.81.
 3. H. Sobhan Bernadette, Hong Kong, 1:54.55.
 4. Mary-Sophie Harvey, Canada, 1:55.29.

TENNIS

MEN

DOUBLES — ROUND OF 32
Top Canadians
 Taylor Fritz and Tommy Paul (3), United States, def. Milos Raonic and Felix Auger-Aliassime, Canada, 7-6 (14), 6-4.
WOMEN
SINGLES — ROUND OF 32
Top Canadians
 Leylah Annie Fernandez (16), Canada, def. Cristina Bucsa, Spain, 7-6 (4), 6-3.
 Donna Vekic (13), Croatia, def. Bianca Andreescu, Canada, 6-3, 6-4.
DOUBLES — ROUND OF 32
 Gabriela Dabrowski and Leylah Annie Fernandez (5), Canada, def. Clara Burel, France, and Varvara Gracheva, Russia, 6-1, 7-5.

MEDAL TABLE

22 OF 94 EVENTS

	G	S	B	Tot
United States	3	8	9	20
France	5	8	3	16
Japan	6	2	4	12
China	5	5	2	12
Britain	2	5	3	10
Australia	5	4	0	9
South Korea	5	3	1	9
Italy	2	3	3	8
Canada	2	1	2	5
Hong Kong	2	0	1	3
Kazakhstan	1	0	2	3
South Africa	1	0	2	3
Brazil	0	1	2	3
Sweden	0	1	2	3
Germany	2	0	0	2
Belgium	1	0	1	2
Moldova	0	0	2	2
Azerbaijan	1	0	0	1

ALL TIMES EASTERN

RESULTS AS OF MONDAY, JULY 29, 9 P.M.

Canada wins bronze medal in men's 10-metre synchronized diving

Wiens, Zsombor-Murray claim country's first-ever podium finish in the pairs event

ROBYN DOOLITTLE PARIS

Rylan Wiens and Nathan Zsombor-Murray won Canada's first-ever Olympic medal in men's 10-metre synchronized diving Monday.

In a tense contest that came down to the final dive – which for them was a double backwards somersault with a 1½ twist – the duo snagged the bronze medal, edging out the Mexican team, which had claimed third at last year's world championships.

"It just doesn't feel real. This is what I've been working for 16 years, and now that it actually happened, it's like, am I dreaming?" Zsombor-Murray said.

Added 22-year-old Wiens: "We're more than thrilled. Absolutely stoked. Amazing. It's an amazing feeling, I can't even explain it."

The Canadians came out strong with an inward dive pike that left them in second place, tied with the British, after the first of six rounds. Chinese divers Lian Junjie and Yang Hao took an early lead in the event and continued



Rylan Wiens, left, and Nathan Zsombor-Murray compete in the men's 10-metre synchronized diving final on Monday. LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS

to widen the gap with the rest of the field throughout the competition.

By the midway point, the British duo had safely pulled ahead into the silver-medal position, leaving the Canadians fighting for the last spot on the podium. Both Mexico and Ukraine put up strong scores throughout but were never able to unseat the Canadians from the bronze position.

After the Mexican team finished their final dive, Wiens and Zsombor-Murray knew they had clinched and began jumping up

and down with delight. It's the second time the pair have made history. In 2022, they earned Canada's first world championship medal in the 10-metre synchro event at the World Aquatics Championships.

The pair have only been diving together for about three years. They got together after the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, but they've known each other since they were young.

"I think I met Nathan probably in 2012 in Saskatoon, in my hometown, for our junior national championships. He was just

some little kid. I was just some little kid," Wiens said. "We got really close the older we got and we came out two of the best 10-metre divers and happened to somehow make the Olympics and get a bronze medal. It's unbelievable."

Through years of competing together, they became good friends. So when the opportunity came to pair up, they took it.

But a major hurdle is that Wiens lives in Saskatoon, while Zsombor-Murray trains in Montreal. Ahead of Paris, they only spent a few weeks focusing on the synchronized event.

Zsombor-Murray said they were able to come together so quickly because they have complementary styles, they count through each manoeuvre and view film footage to work on matching.

"If there's slight difference in technique, we make up for it in timing. So if he jumps a little higher, I'll have to take off a little later – that sort of thing," the 21-year-old said.

Wiens said part of the fun of competing together is supporting one another.

After a strong first three dives, the Canadians had some minor inconsistencies in the latter part of the competition, but Wiens said they stayed focus.

"Dives four and five – I messed

up four a little bit. Nathan messed up five a little bit," he said. "Coming in, we knew that he was strong in the front and I was strong in the reverses. ... At the end of the day, what we've got to do is bring each other up."

Wiens and Zsombor-Murray are just a year apart and have been swimming since as long as they can remember. The former thinks he was probably swimming on his own by the age of three and diving by the age of six.

"I actually started in my grandpa's pool, and he has a little diving board," he said. "That's where I started diving because I was getting taught by my grandpa and my uncle and taught how to go headfirst. I didn't know I was going to turn it into an Olympic medal."

Zsombor-Murray has a similar memory, swimming with his family in the summer, being launched off his dad's shoulders in the pool. "So I was always very familiar with the water. Very comfortable in it."

The Canadians finished Monday's contest with a score of 422.13, less than four points ahead of the Mexican team. The British finished with 463.44 and the Chinese took gold with 490.35.

Zsombor-Murray and Wiens will be back at the Aquatics Centre next week for the individual 10-metre competition.

Canadian women downed by water-polo powerhouse Hungary

PAUL WALDIE PARIS

At every Olympics there are a handful of countries that excel in certain events; think of Kenya and Ethiopia in distance races. When it comes to water polo, few countries can match the passion or success of Hungary, where top players are treated like gods and the game has a long tradition.

Hungary's dominance of the sport on the men's side is unparalleled. The national team has won nine Olympic titles, more than twice as many as any other country, and it has collected 16 medals in total. The Hungarian women's team isn't as dominant, but it still claimed bronze at the Tokyo Games and finished second at the world championships in 2022 and 2024.

The Canadian women's team got a lesson in Hungary's power in its first match in Paris on Monday. Hungary jumped out to a 4-1 lead in the first quarter and went on to win 12-7.

"Obviously Hungary is one of the best teams in the world," Canada's captain Emma Wright

said after the match. "We knew it's a tough game, so we wanted to come out really strong and unfortunately we were a bit slow in the beginning which definitely hurt us."

Canada was lucky to even make it to Paris. The Canadians failed to qualify for the Games at the World Aquatics Championships in Doha last February. But Canada was awarded a spot after South Africa withdrew its men's and women's teams for financial reasons.

The preliminary round only eliminates two of the 10 teams in the tournament in Paris, so Canada still has a decent chance of getting to the knockout round. It next plays Wednesday against China, which has lost both of its matches so far.

The Canadian team is no slouch. This is the fourth Olympics for the women's side and Canada won silver at the 2023 Pan American Games. But this tournament is really a contest between Hungary, a couple of other teams and the United States – which has won gold at the past three Olympics and cap-

tered a medal in every Games since women's water polo was included in 2000.

The British invented water polo nearly 150 years ago, but the Hungarians perfected the game and took it to new heights.

Legendary coach Bela Komjadi revolutionized the sport in the 1920s by inventing the "dry pass" where the ball is thrown to another player without touching the water. Previously players would let the ball drop into the pool and then grab it. Komjadi's technique made the game more dynamic, and the pass quickly became commonplace.

There have been other changes to speed up play, such as the 30-second shot clock, penalty shots and the "exclusion" of players who commit major fouls for 20 seconds.

Hungary played in one of the most famous matches of the Olympics, the so-called "blood in the water" game against the Soviet Union at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

The match took place a few weeks after Soviet troops crushed a student uprising in Bu-

dapest. The game was fierce, and violent, and in the dying minutes with Hungary ahead 4-0, Soviet player Valentin Prokopov slugged Hungary's Ervin Zador in the face, causing him to bleed profusely. The game was called, and Australian police had to intervene to prevent players and fans from brawling. It still ranks as one of the most consequential matches in Hungary's water-polo history.

Hungarians' fascination with water polo comes largely from their love of water sports. The landlocked country is blessed with an abundance of hot springs, and, from a young age, children learn to swim and toss a water-polo ball.

"Everybody likes the water. Everybody likes swimming," said Matyas Petrovics, a former player who coaches Ferencvarosi Torna Club in Budapest, which was founded in 1899. "And the traditions with swimming and water polo are the same."

Petrovics said that, like a lot of Hungarian kids, he started out as a swimmer and quickly moved on to water polo. "There are

many, many, junior teams in Hungary," he added, adding that some leagues are for kids younger than 10 years old.

For elite players, the game stretches far beyond the Olympics. Most of the members of Hungary's men's and women's teams are professionals and many compete in the top divisions of the country's pro water-polo leagues (there are three divisions on the men's side and two on the women's).

Petrovics said that, while soccer is the most popular sport in Hungary, water polo ranks second alongside basketball and European handball.

He's in Paris as a water-polo commentator for Hungarian television and while the country is hoping for one or two medals, he's realistic about the chances.

"In men's, we would like, and we want, the gold medal," he said with a smile. But he added that there are at least five other teams capable of winning: Serbia, Italy, Greece, Croatia, and the United States. And on the women's side? "Maybe it's us at the top."

Kelly: Nadal now at risk of tarnishing legacy

FROM B10

It's not particularly Olympic, but nor is cheering when a guy hits a double fault to lose a game. Djokovic could be forgiven a little pique.

He was in the middle of stripping when Nadal walked off. There wasn't any ceremony to his exit. He hiked his bags over his shoulders and just started going. The crowd called out to him. He spun, acknowledged them and kept going. Djokovic was also clapping as he left.

And that may be that. Every record will be broken, but it's hard to believe any theoretical future player will own a court the way Nadal owned this one. His loss on Sunday was only

his sixth at Roland Garros in more than two decades.

Nadal has been coy for months about whether or not he is leaving. He was coy at the French Open, and then at Wimbledon, and then here: "Who says it is the last dance?"

Eventually, it will occur to him that he's not extending anything. He is only taking small chips out of the edifice he spent so much time constructing. Losing like this to Djokovic is one thing. It's not good, but it's forgivable. Even Djokovic gave him a pass – "He was not at his best."

The risk is losing this way to some journeyman or kid, and then doing it again, and again. That cannot be permitted.

Reflecting on all those other,

better encounters over 18 years, Djokovic said afterward, "We will eventually appreciate this match very much."

One of you might. By the end, the crowd was spent. Or that could have been the sun. It was hammering down on Monday.

As everyone got up to leave, a different German sitting near us, one with the right badge, called out to the usher of doom. He held out his phone. The usher moved to take it from him. He'd snapped about a thousand photos for people by this point. The German waved his hand away.

"No, no, both of us. Both of us," he said, pulling the smaller Frenchman into his embrace. "You made this day so special for me."

Judo: Deguchi now comfortable in red and white

FROM B10

Cysique went on to earn a bronze medal. Judo awards two bronze medals, and the other went to Japan's Haruka Funakubo.

Deguchi's father is from Winnipeg. Asked how much time she has spent in Canada, she said mostly it's been visits to her grandmother and joked about the Winnipeg cold. Her younger sister Kelly Deguchi also competes for Canada, in the women's under-52-kilogram category. She lost her opening-round match this week in Paris.

Deguchi thanked Judo Canada for recruiting her. She had been part of Japan's national-team program, but she wasn't winning

competitions there. She said she was regularly fourth or fifth place there.

"I was a college student and I was having a tough time. We were talking a lot about Canada and my family in Canada," Deguchi said. "I just thought, 'Why don't I fight for Canada and hopefully win a gold medal some day?' And I did it today."

She had a Canadian judo bronze medalist in her coaching box in Paris – Antoine Valois-Fortier, who earned his medal at the 2010 London Olympics.

"He cried for me when I won the Olympics. I don't know if it's okay to say this?" she said politely. "He celebrated a lot for me, and if he wasn't here today I think I

couldn't win."

Deguchi knew if she was at her best at the 2024 Olympics, gold was certainly possible. Her only regret was winning the final match not by throwing Huh to the mat as she had hoped, but via a penalty to Huh.

"It wasn't like the best moment, but still," Deguchi said. "I won."

She admits that back in 2017 it took some time to get used to wearing the Maple Leaf. Now it is dear to her.

"Now I feel comfortable," she said, caressing the Canadian Olympic logo on her uniform. "I'm proud this Maple Leaf will go on the highest part of the podium."

FRANCE THUMPS CANADA IN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

LILLE, FRANCE Kia Nurse was succinct in her evaluation of what went wrong for Canada's women's basketball team on Monday.

"Can't turn the ball over," she said after France thumped the Canadians 75-54. "We let them get to their strengths in transition early in the game and that was a problem."

Canada coughed up the ball 25 times across the game, its first of the Paris Olympics. France capitalized, scoring 19 points off turnovers.

Marième Badiane paced the French with a game-high 13 points and Gabby Williams added another 12.

Nurse and Shay Colley each poured in 11 points for Canada, which struggled with shooting, making 32 per cent of its shots from the field and going 5-for-18 on three-point attempts.

"I think their ball pressure just really frazzled us on the offensive end and we weren't able to get as much shots up," Colley said. "But we'll be ready for the next game."

The Canadians started the game strong with Colley powering her way in for a basket in tight to open the scoring. The veteran guard from Brampton, Ont., drew contact on the play, then made her free throw for a three-point play.

The team held an 18-15 lead heading into the second quarter, but soon fell apart.

France went on a 22-0 run, including a three-pointer from Marine Johannès that drew wild cheers from the crowd 2:45 into the frame.

"We didn't even realize [the run]," Williams said. "We didn't even realize because it was really possession after possession. That showed us what we've been working on the last few months."

Bridget Carleton of Chatham, Ont., put in a shot from the paint to stem the bleeding with 1:29 to go in the first half and France took a 38-20 lead into halftime.

During the halftime break, Canada's head coach Victor Lapeña urged his players to simply remember the basics. "That we were forgetting everything," he said. "Probably next game we understand the plan again we take care of the ball, we know how to beat the opponents."

France led by 53-36 heading into the fourth quarter and boosted its lead to 23 points with less than three minutes to go when Valériane Ayayi sunk her first three-pointer of the game.

A boisterous crowd of 20,211 took in the game at Pierre Mauroy Stadium, cheering wildly across all four quarters. Next up, Canada will face Australia on Thursday before closing out pool play against Nigeria on Sunday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eflin wins his Orioles debut in rout of Blue Jays

Baltimore's catcher McCann hit in the face with a pitch, but stays in the game

DAVID GINSBURG BALTIMORE

Zach Eflin turned in a gritty pitching performance in his Orioles debut, Anthony Santander hit his 30th home run and Baltimore cruised past the Toronto Blue Jays 11-5 Monday in the opener of a doubleheader.

Obtained Friday from Tampa Bay for three minor leaguers, Eflin (6-7) provided an immediate boost to Baltimore's thin rotation. Despite giving up 10 hits in six innings, including a three-run homer, Eflin struck out seven and walked none for the AL East leaders.

"He gave up the homer, but a lot of singles," manager Brandon Hyde said.

Thrust into the middle of a pennant race after pitching for the mediocre Rays, Eflin enjoyed the change of scenery.

"It was awesome. The crowd was into it - a lot different from Tampa," Eflin said. "It was a lot of fun, honestly, to be out there with a good, young, high-energy team."

The right-hander was backed by an offence that built a four-run lead in the first inning and upped the advantage to 7-0 in the fourth.

Santander made it 10-3 in the fifth with a three-run shot off Yerry Rodriguez, Ryan Mountcastle tacked on a solo shot in the eighth, and Jordan Westburg finished with three doubles and two RBIs.

Addison Barger hit his first major league home for last-place Toronto, a three-run drive off Eflin in the fifth. Barger entered in the second inning for first baseman Justin Turner, who was traded to Seattle during the game.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. also homered for the Blue Jays, who were coming off a three-game sweep of Texas.

Toronto right-hander Yariel Rodriguez (1-4) walked the first



Blue Jays catcher Alejandro Kirk tags out the Orioles' Ryan Mountcastle as he tries to score in the fourth inning during Game 1 of a doubleheader in Baltimore on Monday. MITCHELL LAYTON/GETTY IMAGES

BLUE JAYS DEAL TURNER, KIKUCHI AHEAD OF MLB TRADE DEADLINE

Justin Turner is heading west.

The Toronto Blue Jays dealt the veteran infielder/designated hitter to the Seattle Mariners on Monday for outfield prospect RJ Schreck.

The 39-year-old Turner signed with Toronto for one season at US\$13-million back in January.

But despite high hopes coming into 2024, the disappointing Jays are sellers ahead of Tuesday's 6 p.m. trade deadline.

Entering play Monday, Turner was batting .257 with six home runs and 31 RBIs in 90 games this season.

Schreck, 24, is batting .250 in the minors this season with 12 homers and 45 RBIs. Also, the Houston Astros are acquiring left-hander Yusei Kikuchi from the Toronto Blue Jays, multiple media outlets reported Monday night.

CBS Sports reported that right-hander Jake Bloss is headed to Toronto as part of the trade. It is unknown whether more players are involved in the deal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS, REUTERS

three batters he faced before Mountcastle hit an RBI single and Westburg followed with a run-scoring groundout. After a catcher's interference call, Rodriguez issued a two-out, bases-loaded walk and hit James McCann in the face with a fast-ball to force in another run for a 4-0 lead.

McCann was treated for a severe bloody nose at the plate and in the dugout, but he stayed in the game.

"That was a scary scene. It just shows you how tough that guy is," Hyde said. "He was obviously dazed and the blood wasn't stopping."

Hyde said McCann did not have head trauma or an eye injury.

"We're suspecting he has a broken nose," Hyde said. "All signs right now are he dodged a major bullet."

The pitch that hit McCann proved to be the last for Rodriguez, who allowed four walks and hit a batter in the shortest of his 10 career starts.

The doubleheader was scheduled after rain washed out a game between Toronto and Baltimore on May 14.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For the story on the second game of the Jays-Orioles double-header go to [globesports.com](https://www.globesports.com)

LONG-TIME CANADIAN HOCKEY EXECUTIVE MURRAY COSTELLO DEAD AT THE AGE OF 90

Long-time hockey executive Murray Costello has died.

He was 90.

Hockey Canada said in a statement Costello, who led both that organization and the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association for two decades, died Saturday.

The South Porcupine, Ont., native played four seasons in the NHL with Chicago Blackhawks, Boston Bruins and Detroit Red Wings in the 1950s, but truly left his mark on the game off the ice.

Costello was president of the CAHA, created its Program of Excellence, and was a key driver in the first women's world cham-

pionship in 1990.

He then spearheaded the CAHA's merger with Hockey Canada four years later.

Costello was also a member of the International Ice Hockey Federation's council from 1998 to 2012 - including a five-year run as vice-president - and an advocate for the growth of women's hockey in Canada and around the world.

Inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame as a builder in 2005, he became an IIHF lifetime member in 2012 before being appointed as an officer of the Order of Canada one year later.

Costello was also inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame and the IIHF Hall of Fame, and was invested into the Order of Hockey in Canada.

"Hockey Canada sends our condolences to Murray's family and friends, and everyone he positively impacted throughout his life and tremendous career in hockey," Hockey Canada president and chief executive officer Katherine Henderson said in a statement. "His legacy will continue to benefit hockey in Canada and internationally for generations to come."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

DJOKOVIC WITHDRAWS FROM NATIONAL BANK OPEN

MONTREAL The National Bank Open in Montreal lost one of its star headliners on Monday with the announcement that Novak Djokovic was pulling out of next week's ATP 1000 tournament. The 24-time Grand Slam winner is competing for Serbia in the men's singles tennis competition at the Paris Olympics and has reached the third round after eliminating long-time rival Rafael Nadal of Spain on Monday. The 37-year-old Djokovic, a four-time champion at the Canadian Masters event, has never won an Olympic gold medal with his best result being bronze at the 2008 Beijing Games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ARSENAL BUYS ITALY DEFENDER CALAFIORI FROM BOLOGNA

LONDON Arsenal signed Italy defender Riccardo Calafiori from Bologna on Monday. The English Premier League club did not confirm the fee for 22-year-old Calafiori or the length of contract, but media reports said he agreed on a five-year deal, and Arsenal paid £42-million (\$63-million). "He is a great signing and gives us huge strength to reinforce our defence," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. "Riccardo is a big personality and character, with specific

skills, which will make us stronger as we push to win major trophies." Calafiori is a versatile defender who can play as centre back or left back. He was part of Italy's squad at the European Championship this summer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HURRICANES REACH TWO-YEAR DEAL WITH NECAS

The Carolina Hurricanes have agreed to a two-year, US\$13-million deal with forward Martin Necas, keeping one of its most skilled offensive players through the 2025-26 season. The team announced the deal Monday, providing some roster certainty for the 25-year-old Czech who had been discussed as a trade candidate since the close of Carolina's sixth straight playoff season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILD SIGN FABER TO EIGHT-YEAR, \$68-MILLION CONTRACT EXTENSION

ST. PAUL Minnesota Wild general manager Bill Guerin saw more than enough potential in Brock Faber's rookie season to sign the defenceman to an eight-year, US\$68-million contract extension on Monday. The deal doesn't kick in until the 2025-26 season once Faber's rookie contract expires. It comes after the 21-year-old finished second behind Chicago Blackhawks forward Connor Bedard in the

Calder Trophy rookie of the year award voting. From Maple Grove, Minn., Faber led all rookies and was sixth among NHL skaters in averaging 24 minutes and 58 seconds of ice time per game last season. Faber's ice-time total (2,047:53) was the most by an NHL rookie since 2000-01. He also finished tied for second among rookies with 47 points (eight goals and 39 assists) in 82 games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FERRARI DRIVER SAINZ AGREES ON TWO-YEAR DEAL TO JOIN WILLIAMS F1 TEAM

GROVE, ENGLAND Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz has agreed on a two-year deal to join Williams. "Carlos will race alongside Alex Albon for Williams Racing for 2025 and into the new F1 regulations era as the formidable pairing look to spearhead the team's mission to return to the front of the grid," the team said in a statement on Monday. Spanish driver Sainz, 29, has achieved three race victories, 23 podiums, more than 1,100 career points and is fifth in the current standings. After becoming the only non-Red Bull driver to win a race in 2023, Sainz won the Australian Grand Prix in March, just 10 days after surgery for appendicitis. He has another four podiums this season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DEATHS



STEPHANIE LAING (GILBERT) FLYNN
March 18, 1969
July 26, 2024

Our incredible gift was taken from us at the much too early age of 55 on July 26, 2024.

She leaves behind her parents, R-J and Humphrey Gilbert; her much-loved children, Cameron, Braeden and Caitlin. She will be missed by her sister and best friend, Lisa along with her children, Stephanie's nephews, Jack and Charlie.

Steph grew up in Toronto attending elementary school at Whitney. Moving on to graduate from Branksome Hall, she was a prefect in her final year. She earned an undergraduate degree at Western University followed by one year at Seneca College.

The working world took her to the National Ballet, University Health Network and University of Toronto.

The family lived in Oakville for a few years before relocating to London, Ontario. She was a single Mom devoted to her children for 15 years during which time she established a very successful jewellery design business. In 2019, she went back to work in Corporate Development full time at Western University.

What a caring, devoted Mother and problem solver with inner strength. Although our lives will never be the same without her, we take comfort in knowing she has finally been reunited with her first-born daughter, Alexandra.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Steph's life at Harris Funeral Home, 220 St. James St. at Richmond, London, Ontario on Saturday, August 3, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Steph both volunteered and spent her final days at St. Joseph's Hospice of London; a wonderful organization to which donations would be much appreciated.

SHIRLEY (SHERRI) RUSSELL

Our beloved mother and grandmother Shirley (Sherr) Russell passed away peacefully July 18, 2024 surrounded by family. A celebration of life will be held August 10, 2024 for family and friends. Condolences may be left at www.aftercare.org

IN MEMORIAM



MEG DUSSAULT
(Buckley)
September 21, 1957
July 30, 2013

"A true light to those who loved her."

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Paddy - The Buckley & Dussault families

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory



MICHAEL EVAN JURIST
June 22, 1985
July 30, 2007

"Life is not measured in years, but by lives touched"

If you only knew the many you touched in your much too short life, how many remember you fondly and, to this day, continue to share "Michael" memorable moments with us.

While you are not here in the present, you are not gone. Your love is felt by us and many far and wide. We all miss you.

Always remembered, missed and forever loved,
Mom and Dad

In Loving Memory



RUTH LINDEGGER
August 16, 1933
July 30, 2023

Treasuring the memories of you in our hearts forever.

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SESAR, Marija - 11:00 Pardes Chaim Cemetery.

BLUGERMAN, Michael - 12:30 Chapel.

ARONOFF, Mel - 2:00 Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park.

COOPER, Dr. Jerry - 2:30 Chapel.

TUESDAY

CAPLIN, Paul - 10:30 Chapel.

LEWIS, Morry - 12:30 Chapel.

WEDNESDAY

ROEBUCK, Hilja - 12:30 Chapel.

SHIVA

ROSENBLATT, Shiela - 50 Bamboo Grove.

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EDNA O'BRIEN

WRITER, 93

AUTHOR WAS A GIANT AND OUTLAW OF IRISH LITERATURE

The iconoclastic storyteller was an unknown at the age of 30 when her 1960 novel, *The Country Girls*, turned her into her homeland's most notorious exile since James Joyce

HILLEL ITALIE NEW YORK

Edna O'Brien, Ireland's literary pride and outlaw who scandalized her native land with her debut novel *The Country Girls* before gaining international acclaim as a storyteller and iconoclast that found her welcomed everywhere from Dublin to the White House, has died. She was 93.

Ms. O'Brien died Saturday after a long illness, according to a statement by her publisher, Faber, and the literary agency PFD.

"A defiant and courageous spirit, Edna constantly strove to break new artistic ground, to write truthfully, from a place of deep feeling," Faber said in a statement. "The vitality of her prose was a mirror of her zest for life: she was the very best company, kind, generous, mischievous, brave." She leaves her sons, Marcus and Carlos.

Ms. O'Brien published more than 20 books, most of them novels and story collections, and would know fully what she called the "extremities of joy and sorrow, love, crossed love and unrequited love, success and failure, fame and slaughter." Few so concretely and poetically challenged Ireland's religious, sexual and gender boundaries. Few wrote so fiercely, so sensually about loneliness, rebellion, desire and persecution.

"O'Brien is attracted to taboos just as they break, to the place of greatest heat and darkness and, you might even say, danger to her mortal soul." Booker Prize winner Anne Enright wrote of her in the *Guardian* in 2012.

A world traveller in mind and body, Ms. O'Brien was as likely to imagine the longings of an Irish nun as to take in a man's "boyish smile" in the midst of a "ponderous London club." She befriended movie stars and heads of state while also writing sympathetically about Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams and meeting with female farm workers in Nigeria who feared abduction by Boko Haram.

Ms. O'Brien was an unknown about to turn 30, living with her husband and two small children outside of London, when *The Country Girls* made her Ireland's most notorious exile since James Joyce. Written in just three weeks and published in 1960, for an advance of roughly US\$75, *The Country Girls* follows the lives of two young women: Caitheleen (Kate) Brady and Bridget (Baba) Brennan journey from a rural convent to the risks and adventures of Dublin. Admirers were as caught up in their defiance and awakening as would-be censors were enraged by such passages as "He opened his braces and let his trousers slip down around the ankles" and "He patted my knees with his other hand. I was excited and warm and violent."

Fame, wanted or otherwise, was Ms. O'Brien's ever after. Her novel was praised and purchased in London and New York while back in Ireland it was labelled "filth" by minister of justice Charles Haughey and burned publicly in Ms. O'Brien's hometown of Tuamgraney, County Clare. Detractors also included Ms. O'Brien's parents and her husband, the author Ernest Gebler, from whom Ms. O'Brien was already becoming estranged.

"I had left the spare copy on the hall table for my husband to read, should he wish, and one morning he surprised me by appearing quite early in the doorway of the kitchen, the manuscript in his hand," she wrote in her memoir *Country Girl*, published in 2012.

"He had read it. Yes, he had to concede that despite everything, I had done it, and then he said something that was the death knell of the already ailing marriage - 'You can write and I will



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never forgive you."

She continued the stories of Kate and Baba in *The Lonely Girl* and *Girls in Their Married Bliss* and by the mid-1960s was single and enjoying the prime of "Swinging London": whether socializing with Princess Margaret and Marianne Faithfull, or having a fling with actor Robert Mitchum ("I bet you never tasted white peaches," he said upon meeting her). Another night, she was escorted home by Paul McCartney, who asked to see her children, picked up her son's guitar and improvised a song that included the lines about Ms. O'Brien "She'll have you sighing/She'll have you crying/Hey/She'll blow your mind away."

Ms. Enright would call O'Brien "the first Irish woman ever to have sex. For some decades, indeed, she was the only Irish woman to have had sex - the rest just had children."

Ms. O'Brien was recognized well beyond the world of books. The 1980s British band Dexys Midnight Runners named her alongside Eugene O'Neill, Samuel Beckett and Oscar Wilde among others in the literary tribute *Burn It Down*. She dined at the White House with then-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jack Nicholson, and she befriended Jacqueline Kennedy, whom Ms. O'Brien remembered as a "creature of paradoxes." While being private and imured she also had a hunger for intimacy - it was as if the barriers she had put up needed at times to be battered down.

Ms. O'Brien related well to Ms. Kennedy's reticence, and longing. The literary world gossiped about the author's love life, but Ms. O'Brien's deepest existence was on the page, from addressing a present that seemed without boundaries ("She longed to be free and young and naked with all the men in the world making love to her, all at once," one of her characters thinks) to sorting out a past that seemed all boundaries - "the don'ts and the don'ts and the don'ts."

In her story *The Love Object*, the narrator confronts her lust, and love, for an adulterous family man who need only say her name to make her legs tremble. *Long Distance* arrives at the end of an affair as a man and woman

struggle to recapture their feelings for each other, haunted by grudges and mistrust.

"Love, she thought, is like nature but in reverse; first it fruits, then it flowers, then it seems to wither, then it goes deep, deep down into its burrow, where no one sees it, where it is lost from sight and ultimately people die with that secret buried inside their souls," Ms. O'Brien wrote.

A Scandalous Woman follows the stifling of a lively young Irish non-conformist - part of that "small solidarity of scandalous women who had conceived children without securing fathers" - and ends with Ms. O'Brien's condemning her country as a "land of shame, a land of murder and a land of strange sacrificial women." In *My Two Mothers*, the narrator prays for the chance to "begin our journey all over again, to live our lives as they should have been lived, happy, trusting, and free of shame."

Ms. O'Brien's other books included the erotic novel *August Is a Wicked Month*, which drew upon her time with Mr. Mitchum and was banned in parts of Ireland; *Down By The River*, based on a true story about a teenage Irish girl who becomes pregnant after being raped by her father, and the autobiographical *The Light of Evening*, in which a famous author returns to Ireland to see her ailing mother. *Girl*, a novel about victims of Boko Haram, came out in 2019.

Ms. O'Brien is among the most notable authors never to win the Nobel or even the Booker Prize. Her honours did include an Irish Book Award for lifetime achievement, the PEN/Nabokov prize and the Frank O'Connor award in 2011 for her story collection *Saints and Sinners*, for which she was praised by poet and award judge Thomas McCarthy as "the one who kept speaking when everyone else stopped talking about being an Irish woman."

Josephine Edna O'Brien was one of four children raised on a farm where "the relics of riches remained. It was a life full of contradictions. We had an avenue, but it was full of potholes; there was a gatehouse, but another couple lived there." Her father was a violent alcoholic, her mother a talented letter writer

who disapproved of her daughter's profession, possibly out of jealousy. Lena O'Brien's hold on her daughter's imagination, the force of her regrets, made her a lifelong muse and a near stand-in for Ireland itself, "the cupboard with all things in it, the tabernacle with God in it, the lake with the legends in it."

Like Kate and Baba in *The Country Girls*, Ms. O'Brien was educated in part at a convent, "dour years" made feverish by a disorienting crush she developed on one of the nuns. Language, too, was a temptation, and signpost, like the words she came upon on the back of her prayer book: "Lord, rebuke me not in thy wrath, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure."

"What did it mean?" she remembered thinking. "It didn't matter what it meant. It would carry me through lessons and theorems and soggy meat and cabbage, because now, in secret, I had been drawn into the wild heart of things."

By her early 20s, she was working in a pharmacy in Dublin and reading Tolstoy and Thackeray among others in her spare time. She had dreams of writing since sneaking out to nearby fields as a child to work on stories, but doubted the relevance of her life until she read a Joyce anthology and learned that *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* was autobiographical. She began writing fiction that ran in the literary magazine *The Bell* and found work reviewing manuscripts for the publishing house Hutchinson, where editors were impressed enough by her summaries to commission what became *The Country Girls*.

"I cried a lot writing *The Country Girls*, but scarcely noticed the tears. Anyhow, they were good tears. They touched on feelings that I did not know I had. Before my eyes, infinitely clear, came that former world in which I believed our fields and hollows had some old music slumbering in them, centuries old," she wrote in her memoir.

"The words poured out of me, and the pen above the paper was not moving fast enough, so that I sometimes feared they would be lost forever."

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