

PARIS 2024

AU REVOIR, PARIS

As the Olympics conclude with a star-studded ceremony at Stade de France, Canada closes the book on an event defined by enormous success – and scandal



FOLIO Famous faces, Canadian history-makers cap off the Summer Games ■ A7-9

SPORTS COC's Shoemaker applauds athletes, laments controversies ■ B10

Canadian athletes celebrate during the closing ceremony of the 2024 Olympics at Stade de France on Sunday. PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

Ukraine's push into Russia about 'justice,' Zelensky says

VITALII HNIDYI
OLEKSANDR KOZHUKHAR
SUMY REGION, UKRAINE

President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine had launched an incursion into Russian territory to "restore justice" and press Moscow's forces, in his first acknowledgment of Kyiv's surprise offensive into the western Kursk region.

Moscow's forces on Sunday were in their sixth day of intense battle against Kyiv's largest incursion into Russian territory since the start of the war, which left southwestern parts of Russia vulnerable before reinforcement started arriving.

Russian authorities rushed to evacuate residents and imposed a sweeping security regime in three border regions on Saturday, after an attack military analysts say caught the Kremlin off-guard. Belarus, a staunch ally of Moscow, also sent more troops to its border with Ukraine, accusing Kyiv of violating its air space.

In his nightly video address, Mr. Zelensky said he had discussed the operation with top Ukrainian commander Oleksandr Syrskyi, vowing to respond in kind after Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

"Today, I received several reports from Commander-in-Chief Syrskyi regarding the front lines and our actions to push the war onto the aggressor's territory," he said late on Saturday.

■ ZELENSKY, A15

Canada has no plans to share mpox vaccine stockpile amid outbreak of deadly new variant in Africa

GEOFFREY YORK
AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF
JOHANNESBURG

Canadian health officials say they have no plans to share Canada's stockpile of the mpox vaccine with countries in Africa that urgently need millions of doses to fight a fast-spreading outbreak of a dangerous new variant of the virus.

At least 10 million doses of mpox vaccines are needed across Africa, where the viral illness has caused more than 450 deaths in the past eight months, but only about 200,000 doses are currently available, the African Centres for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention says.

"This is a major issue," said Jean Kassey, director-general of the Africa CDC. "We need to have vaccines. We have a limited availability of vaccines, and it is a major challenge."

The Africa CDC is seeking help from international partners, since the outbreak could escalate into "another pandemic" affecting all countries, Dr. Kassey said at a media briefing last week. "We don't want to see the world being affected again as it was during COVID."

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is believed to have a stockpile with millions of doses of a smallpox vaccine, which is one of two vaccines to

be approved for use against mpox. It has signed a series of purchase agreements with the vaccine's manufacturer, Bavarian Nordic, including a contract extension in 2022 that expands an earlier supply contract up to a potential value of US\$470-million.

The agency has not officially disclosed the size of its current stockpile, but Health Canada's website says the vaccine is currently available to high-risk Canadians through local immunization programs. The manufacturer has also sold vaccines to the United States and at least one undisclosed European country.

■ MPOX, A15

Mathematicians to mark a century of progress in Toronto

IVAN SEMENIUK
SCIENCE REPORTER

One hundred years ago, Toronto was temporarily the centre of the mathematical universe.

The cause was a history-making gathering that almost didn't happen, and that heralded a key moment in Canada's emergence on the international academic stage.

For the first time, the world's most important mathematical meeting was held outside of Europe. Somewhat improbably, it came to Toronto.

"That was an important thing," said Kumar Murty, former director of the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences, located just a block away from where the 1924 conference took place. "At that time, Canada was not regarded as a centre of mathematics for the world. It wasn't on the map yet."

This week, mathematicians are once again converging on the city to mark the events of a century ago, but also to reflect on the nature of their work and communicate its enchantment.

"I hope the public will get a glimpse of what's happening in mathematics," Dr. Murty said of the present day gathering. "It's an extraordinarily beautiful

discipline."

It was Dr. Murty who first had the idea of celebrating the centenary of the 1924 International Congress of Mathematicians, and its organizer and chairman, John Charles Fields.

Today, Fields's name is associated with both the institute and with the Fields Medal, an international award commonly referred to as math's Nobel Prize.

But in August of 1924, Fields was a 61-year-old professor at the University of Toronto looking to pull off one of the most prestigious academic meetings in the world.

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MOMENT IN TIME

NEWS PHOTO ARCHIVE



BETTMANN/GETTY IMAGES

1956: CANADA WINS ITS FIRST DIVING MEDAL

For more than 100 years, photographers and photo editors working for *The Globe and Mail* have preserved an extraordinary collection of news photography. Every Monday, *The Globe* features one of these images. This month, we're showcasing Canadians at the Summer Olympics.

Irene MacDonald grew up in an orphanage in Hamilton but found joy in swimming and eventually diving with the Hamilton Aquatics Club. She was the Canadian springboard champion by 1951, and by 1952 ready to represent Canada at the Helsinki Games. Except she didn't have the money

to go. However, she made it to the 1956 Melbourne Games in Australia. Ms. MacDonald, showing off her jackknife in Olympic practice in the photo above, was second after six dives in Melbourne's preliminary round to advance to the final. Four more dives and she was in fifth. Yet, when all the scores were combined, it was enough to win the bronze medal – the first Canadian diving medal in history. Ms. MacDonald went to the Rome Olympics in 1960, but was unable to match her results. She turned to coaching and helped teach a generation of Canadian divers and TV viewers as the CBC's diving analyst from the 1976 Games through the 1988 Games. PHILIP KING

{ COLUMNISTS }

IAN BURUMA

OPINION

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JOANNE MCNEISH

OPINION

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The store-within-a-store concept is helping physical retail spaces stay relevant ■ B4

Most Canadians think adding Mark Carney to cabinet would not benefit Trudeau

MARIEKE WALSH
SENIOR POLITICAL REPORTER
OTTAWA

While Canadians have a more favourable view of former central banker Mark Carney than Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, most don't think adding him to the minority government's cabinet would help the Liberals' fortunes, according to a new poll by Nanos Research.

Mr. Carney has been often floated as a potential successor to Mr. Trudeau, should he resign. In the meantime, some Liberals have advocated for him to join the government as finance minister to bolster its economic credentials and the Prime Minister has been openly courting Mr. Carney.

The former Bank of Canada and Bank of England governor though has remained mum on his political future and Nanos Research founder Nik Nanos says the latest polling shows while his joining the Liberals wouldn't hurt them, it also wouldn't dramatically change their fortunes.

The poll conducted exclusively for *The Globe and Mail* shows 39 per cent of respondents believe appointing Mr. Carney as finance minister would have no impact on how people vote. A further 29 per cent said it would help the Liberals be more competitive in the next election, 8 per cent said it would make the incumbent less competitive, and 24 per cent said they were unsure.

The poll also shows that despite critiques from the Prime Minister's Office of current Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, as *The Globe* reported in July, she has a more positive image with Canadians than Mr. Trudeau does. Among poll respondents, 35

per cent said they had a positive or somewhat positive opinion of Ms. Freeland, 17 per cent said they were neutral on her, and 44 per cent said their opinion was negative or somewhat negative. A further 4 per cent said they were unsure.



If the Liberals want to improve their fortunes, they should be looking at the person that has the weakest brand and right now it's Justin Trudeau.

NIK NANOS
FOUNDER, NANOS RESEARCH

For the Prime Minister, only 34 per cent of respondents said they had a positive or somewhat positive opinion of him, 13 per cent were neutral, and 63 per cent said their opinion was negative or somewhat negative.

"If the Liberals want to improve their fortunes, they should be looking at the person that has the weakest brand and right now it's Justin Trudeau," Mr. Nanos said. "We have a federal party leader and a Prime Minister, that's unpopular, trying to patch up the political fortunes of his party, when the reality is that he is fundamentally the biggest negative draw right now for the Liberals."

Mr. Carney, who has the lowest public profile of the three Liberals, also had the lowest negatives among poll respondents. Thirty-three per cent of respondents had a positive or somewhat positive opinion of him, 30 per cent were neutral, 24 per cent said their

opinion was negative or somewhat negative, and 14 per cent were unsure.

The Liberals have been in power since 2015 and in addition to the wear and tear of nine years in office, Mr. Nanos said the Prime Minister's fortunes are also being hurt by economic conditions that have made affordability concerns a top issue.

Since August, 2023, Mr. Nanos said the polls have shown no significant change, with the Conservatives leading far ahead around 40 points in the polls and the Liberals trailing in the mid-20s.

"The rising cost of living and people's having issues with housing affordability doesn't lend itself to people feeling positive about any incumbent government," Mr. Nanos said.

For voters, Mr. Nanos said likely the only change the Liberals could make to change their prospects is changing the leader. While that wouldn't be a silver bullet, he said it would put the Liberals "back in the game."

If the party was to go that route, the poll shows people ranking Mr. Carney as a more appealing leadership candidate than either Mr. Trudeau or Ms. Freeland; however, the none of the above option was the most popular.

According to the poll, 29 per cent of respondents said none of the above, 18 per cent said Mr. Carney, 12 per cent said Ms. Freeland, 9 per cent said Mr. Trudeau, 6 per cent said Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly, and 4 per cent said Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne.

The hybrid telephone and online survey was conducted between July 29 and Aug. 1. It had 1,035 respondents and has a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Toronto group pushes for cooling bylaw

Coalition wants rules for maximum temperatures in rentals as heat waves are becoming more common and deadly

FATIMA RAZA

The door to Julia Farquharson's cozy two-bedroom apartment in west Toronto opens to an unwelcoming embrace of hot air that she likens to a burning oven. Inside, her kitten seeks shelter in the shade under her bed.

Ms. Farquharson, 74, has been a resident in Etobicoke North for the past 15 years, living in one of more than 2,000 buildings operated by the Toronto Community Housing Corp., or TCHC, a non-profit owned by the City of Toronto that caters to low and moderate-income households.

But her apartment, like many others within her building and across the city, does not have central air conditioning. That means she has little relief during the summer, especially during heat waves when the humidity can make it feel like more than 40 C.

"I'm on the side of the building where the sun comes up in the morning and doesn't come down until night, so it's extremely hot," Ms. Farquharson said, adding that this remains the case all year round.

Tenant and environmental advocacy groups in Toronto have been pushing the city for years to implement a maximum heat bylaw of 26 C that would force landlords to take steps to mitigate the heat, including by installing air conditioning.

The city already has a bylaw that requires landlords to maintain a minimum temperature of 21 C during the winter, but there's no equivalent rule setting a maximum temperature in the summer.

Those calls have been growing louder this year, with the launch in June of the Toronto Heat Safety Coalition. The involved groups are advocating for a maximum temperature bylaw while highlighting the experience of tenants who are living without air conditioning, at a time when the city is experiencing more heat waves as a result of climate change.

The issue is compounded for older adults with health issues who are more vulnerable to heat waves, such as Ms. Farquharson. She has tried to acquire support from a City of Toronto program that subsidizes medical expenses for low-income residents, which can include purchasing air conditioning units or fans.

But her application – which included a letter from her doctor explaining her need to have cooling in her unit – was rejected because, she was told, her old-age pension was deemed too high.

"If you want seniors to live healthy and comfortable lives in their homes, then you have to at least provide help with paying for their air condition or any other device that they might use," she said.

Jacqueline Wilson, lawyer with the Canadian Environmental Law Association, one of the groups involved in the heat safety coalition, said the issue took on new urgency after a heat wave in B.C. in 2021 killed more than 600 people. Of those deaths, 98 per cent occurred indoors, and most of the deceased were older adults with compromised health who lived alone and without air conditioning, according to the BC Coroners Service.

Ms. Wilson said that, just as heat is seen as a basic necessity in the winter, providing adequate cooling in apartments during heat days is important to ensure tenant safety and well-being.

"It's just the other side of the same coin, but it's equally necessary," she said.

The coalition also includes, among other groups, the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario, Toronto Environment Alliance and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN).

In addition to the heat bylaw, the coalition is also pressing municipalities to provide funding to install heat-pumps or air condi-

tioning units, and provide free TTC rides on extreme heat days so people can safely get to places like cooling centres.

In June, 2023, Councillor Shelley Carroll put forward a motion at Toronto City Hall requesting the implementation of an adequate temperature bylaw. Council voted to direct staff to study the issue.

In an interview, she said there was little data on extreme temperatures in rental housing and tenant complaints, but that information is now being collected and could be available by the end of 2024.

This will include research gathered from calls made to 311 of people asking what the city can do about them living in extreme indoor temperatures.

"We're engaging the community to figure out how best to proceed," she said. "Hopefully we'll be able to put something into effect in time for the warm weather season next year."

Ariane Robinson, Mayor Olivia Chow's press secretary, said in an e-mail that summers in Toronto are getting hotter and that not having a place to cool down is detrimental for Toronto tenants without air conditioning. She said the city is doing work on the problem.

In the meantime, she noted that a city bylaw requires property managers or landlords to provide information to tenants about air-conditioned locations or cool locations within the building and other locations on the property.

Shane Gerard, a senior communications co-ordinator for the City of Toronto, said that, although city bylaws do not require all landlords to provide air conditioning to tenants, if a rental unit already has it, the property standards bylaw requires that landlords turn it on between June 2 and Sept. 14 so as to maintain a maximum indoor temperature of 26 C.

Statistics Canada published a report last year that found renters were less likely than people who owned their homes to have air conditioning. That may be because landlords don't provide it or because buildings don't allow their use, the agency said.

Nationally, 61 per cent of people in Canada live in a home with air conditioning, while 49.8 per cent of people who don't own their home have AC. In Ontario, the province-wide rate is 85 per cent, but 71 per cent for people who don't own their home.

Meyira Winer, lead organizer at Toronto ACORN, a union of low- and moderate-income people, said she is concerned for members, as extreme heat can lead to exacerbated health issues and emergency hospital visits. Ms. Farquharson, for example, has a history with arthritis, asthma, pulmonary lung conditions and blood clots in lungs, and she takes blood thinners everyday to manage her health.

Eligibility for the program that rejected Ms. Farquharson's application seeking cooling in her apartment depends on the cost of a required medical item, as well as the applicant's financial situation and family size, Mr. Gerard said. He noted that unsuccessful applicants have the option to appeal.

Most of the buildings owned by Ms. Farquharson's landlord, the TCHC, were built before air conditioning became common, spokesperson Kimberly Moser wrote in an e-mail. Only 76 TCHC buildings have central air, but the agency is working on upgrades to its properties, including adding air conditioning, she said.

In 2020, the TCHC removed tenant-owned window air-conditioning units that were not located on balconies because of health and safety concerns. In exchange, tenants were given free portable air conditioners, Ms. Moser said.

But Ms. Farquharson said the one she was provided broke down shortly after she received it. And, it wasn't until July of this year – four years later – that she was finally able to secure a new one from her building.

"The heat is unbearable, and the people who cannot afford it are the ones really dealing with the dangerous effects of extreme heat illness," she said.

"It's a shame the city is denying me the health care I need to stay safe in this heat."



A Better Tent City in Kitchener, Ont., has 42 tiny cabins that house 50 residents at a time. They've provided home to about 300 people since opening in 2021. LIPA ISLAM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Hamilton looks to improve on encampments, considers tiny houses

MARIYA POSTELNYAK

Hamilton is studying ways to provide sanctioned outdoor housing in the Southern Ontario city to alleviate a worsening homeless crisis that has surpassed the capacity of its shelter system, potentially through legal encampments or by building small cabins or tiny homes.

The city created a protocol last year allowing encampments of limited size on public property, with a rule of five tents per encampment and a minimum distance from places such as highways, schools and daycares, as well as any private property. But Mayor Andrea Horwath said she wants the city to go further.

"We've done everything we can within the parameters of our encampment protocols," she said in an interview. "We need to do something different now."

Cities across the country have been searching for ways to respond to a growing number of homeless encampments in urban areas, with some legalizing encampments in certain areas or creating official locations for people without housing to set up their tents. Hamilton declared a state of emergency last year, as have other cities including Toronto, Ottawa and Niagara Falls, Ont.

At the end of 2022, there were almost 1,600 homeless people in Hamilton, up from 1,024 in 2020, according to municipal data. A report from Hamilton Homeless Mortality showed that at least 91 people died while experiencing homelessness in the city between 2021 and 2023. About half of Hamilton's homeless population sleeps in parks, on sidewalks and in makeshift shelters, according to the city.

Ms. Horwath announced last week that she had given municipal staff a directive to assess costs, legal frameworks, locations and potential partnerships for what she described as "transitional outdoor shelter" and report back by Sept. 18.

While research into outdoor shelters has been proposed by other Hamilton councillors, Ontario's "strong mayor" legislation means Ms. Horwath's initiative carries more urgency and weight, thereby augmenting and expediting the process.

The mayor did not want to prescribe whether the outdoor shelter options should include expanded legal encampments or alternatives like previously proposed cabin communities from the Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters, though she did offer criteria.

"We need something that can be done quickly, that can be responsive to the concerns that we've heard from people who are unprepared or unable to go into an actual shelter," she said. "Things like, being able to have their pets with them, having a place to put their stuff ... privacy and security."

Richard MacPhee, director of the Hamilton branch of Good Shepherd, a charitable organization operating homeless shelters and providing community outreach, said he regularly sees people unable to access shelters because of space shortages, their use of banned

substances, and personal circumstances that limit where they can live.

"We are seeing an unprecedented amount of individuals showing up at our door – couples and people with pets," he said. "The shelter was never designed for that."

Historically, couples were usually split up. "The woman would go to a woman's shelter and men would go to a men's shelter," he said. Now, many couples prefer to live in an encampment rather than be separated in the shelter system.

"Then there's also the issue with pets. ... The likelihood of someone having an allergy to a pet is pretty high," he said. "People who are homeless are forced to make that decision of whether they can stay with their pet or without."

Tom Cooper, director of Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction and a former board member with the Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters, has previously advocated for tiny cabin homes as a middle ground between shelter and encampment living.

The concept involves a site lined with cabins alongside counselling for addictions, mental health services and security. "It's really very much a transition model to get people off the street into a little bit more safety, into healthier conditions," he said.

The model has been implemented in several cities across the country, most notably in Kitchener, Ont., where A Better Tent City has 42 tiny cabins that house 50 residents at a time. They've housed about 300 people since opening in 2021.

"What they offer is a combination of security and independence," said Tony Stortz, a former superintendent at A Better Tent City who went on to found BetterStreet, which extends the model to different parts of Canada. "You see people become healthier, people gain weight; many mental-health care issues decrease because doctors and nurses are able to find people on a consistent basis."

Mr. Stortz also saw countless people successfully transition out of cabin communities into independent housing. One of those people was Holly Windsor.

After finding herself homeless with a dog and unable to access most of the city's shelters, Ms. Windsor joined a tent encampment out of a truck garage before securing a small blue cabin from A Better Tent City. "I had pictures hung, a TV stand, a dresser. ... Even though it was tiny, it was my space," she said.

Two years later, Ms. Windsor moved out and into her own apartment.

But the main problem with projects like these has been community pushback. A Better Tent City moved locations several times since opening while Hamilton's tiny homes project never got off the ground.

"People are upset about losing the use of those parks and those parks becoming unsafe," said Good Shepherd's Mr. MacPhee, of outdoor shelter sites. While he's hopeful about the Hamilton mayor's directive, he wants a lasting solution. "The issue for us is, is it a long-term solution or are we putting Band-Aids on a crisis?"

Communities rejected from climate protection funding fear for future

MICHAEL TUTTON HALL'S HARBOUR, N.S.

For communities where roads and homes are damaged in climate disasters, losing out on bids for federal help to protect against coming storms are one more blow from which to recover.

Standing beside a wharf that is slowly being dismantled by Bay of Fundy tides, Dave Davies said Thursday it was hard to hear in June that Ottawa's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund had rejected his community's \$4.8-million request for aid.

The funding was to go toward strengthening seawalls and building a breakwater in Hall's Harbour, N.S., while replacing and extending the dilapidated wharf. Now, Mr. Davies and other volunteers in the small town are left wondering where to turn for help.

"I'm rejected, dismayed, angry, all of the above," said Mr. Davies, 89, who is the vice-president of the Hall's Harbour Community Development Association. "The federal government has passed the buck to someone else down the road, and we don't know who that is."

Volunteers with his association spent two years fundraising and then commissioning a

conceptual design to protect the picturesque town from climate change.

He said the community's anxiety about forecasts for higher sea levels and stronger storms only intensified after a July 11 downpour of about 110 millimetres caused a tidal river to swell and smash the causeway that connects the two sides of the village, home to about 300 people.

A spokesperson for federal Infrastructure Minister Sean Fraser says Ottawa makes choices based on the best applications for the \$3.8-billion put into the adaptation fund since 2018. But communities losing out argue there's not enough money to go around for projects needed to protect essential infrastructure.

"Given the high volume of applications we have received ... since its inception, we had to prioritize the strongest eligible applications," said Micaal Ahmed, a spokesperson for the minister's office.

He said Ottawa can't yet release how many of the 287 applications in the latest round were rejected as the list of successful bids is still being finalized. In the previous round of applications in 2021, 45 of 214 applications were accepted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hamas asks mediators to propose Gaza ceasefire plan

Israel said it would send negotiators to meeting while Palestinian militant group has hinted it may stay out of new talks

NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI
HATEM MAHER

Palestinian militant group Hamas on Sunday asked mediators to present a plan based upon previous talks instead of engaging in new negotiations for a Gaza ceasefire deal, casting doubt on its participation in a Thursday meeting called by the mediators.

Last week, leaders of the United States, Egypt and Qatar urged Israel and Hamas to meet for negotiations on Aug. 15 in either Cairo or Doha to finalize a Gaza ceasefire and hostage-release deal. Israel said it would send negotiators to take part in the meeting. Hamas initially said it was studying the offer but has now hinted it may stay out of the new round of talks.

"The movement calls on the mediators to present a plan to implement what was agreed upon by the movement on July 2, 2024, based on [President Joe] Biden's vision and the UN Security Council resolution," Hamas said in a statement.

"The mediators should enforce this on the occupation (Israel) instead of pursuing further rounds of negotiations or new proposals that would provide cover for the occupation's aggression and grant it more time to continue its genocide against our people," the statement said.

Hamas said it has shown flexibility throughout the negotiating process but that Israeli actions, including what Hamas has said was its assassination of the group's leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran late last month, indicate that it is not serious about pursuing a ceasefire agreement. Israel has not denied or claimed responsibility.

President Joe Biden laid out a three-phase ceasefire proposal in an address on May 31. Washington and regional mediators have since tried arranging the Gaza ceasefire-for-hostages deal but have run into repeated obstacles.

There has separately been an increased risk of a broader Middle East war after the recent killings of both Hamas leader Haniyeh in Iran and Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut drew threats of retaliation against Israel.

Israel launched its assault on Gaza after Hamas fighters stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and capturing more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. Since then, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli offensive in Gaza, according to the health ministry.

REUTERS

Israel broadens its evacuation orders after deadly strike on shelter

WAFAA SHURAF
SAMY MAGDY
DEIR EL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

The Israeli military ordered more evacuations in southern Gaza early Sunday, a day after a deadly airstrike on a school-turned-shelter in the north killed at least 80 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. The airstrike was one of the deadliest attacks in the 10-month war.

Israel has repeatedly ordered mass evacuations as its troops return to heavily destroyed areas where they previously battled Palestinian militants. The vast majority of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced, often multiple times, in the besieged territory 40 kilometers long by about 11 kilometers wide.

The latest evacuation orders apply to areas of Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city, including part of an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone from which the military said rockets had been fired. Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hiding among civilians and launching attacks from residential areas.

The humanitarian zone has steadily shrunk during the war with the various evacuation orders. Hundreds of thousands of people have crammed into squalid tent camps with few public services or sought shelter in schools, though the United Nations says hundreds of those have been directly hit or damaged.

Khan Younis suffered widespread destruction during an air and ground offensive earlier this year. Tens of thousands fled again last week after an evacuation order.

The new order came in leaflets dropped from the sky. As smoke rose on the horizon, hundreds of families carrying belongings in their arms left homes and shelters, seeking elusive refuge. One child carried a stuffed Hello Kitty doll as others walked through rubble-filled streets.

"We don't know where to go," said Amal Abu Yahia, a mother of three, who had returned to Khan Younis in June to shelter in their severely damaged home. It was the fourth displacement for the 42-year-old widow, whose husband was killed when an Israeli



Palestinians flee from Hamad City following an evacuation order by the Israeli army to leave parts of the southern area of Khan Younis on Sunday. ABDEL KAREEM HANA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

airstrike hit their neighbors' house in March.

She said they went to Muwasi, a sprawling tent camp along the coast, but couldn't find space.

Ramadan Issa, a father of five in his 50s, fled Khan Younis with 17 members of his extended family, joining hundreds of people walking toward central Gaza.

"Every time we settle in one place and build tents for women and children, the occupation comes and bombs the area," he said, referring to Israel. "This situation is unbearable."

Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants, says the Palestinian death toll from the war is approaching 40,000. Aid groups have struggled to address the staggering humanitarian crisis, while international experts have warned of famine.

The war began when Hamas-led militants burst through Israel's defenses on Oct. 7 and rampaged through farming communities and army bases near the border, killing around 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting around 250 people. Of the roughly 110 remaining hostages, Israeli authorities believe around a third are dead.

The conflict has threatened to trigger a regional war, as Israel has traded fire with Iran and its militant allies across the region. "I hope that they will think this through and won't get to a point where they will force us to cause significant damage and increase the chances of war breaking out on additional fronts," Israeli De-

fense Minister Yoav Gallant said Sunday.

In Lebanon, the Health Ministry said an Israeli strike near the southern town of Taybeh killed two people, without giving details. Israel's military said it struck a cell of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Hezbollah announced the deaths of three militants, without details, and said it conducted rocket and artillery attacks on Israeli military positions.

In the occupied West Bank, which has seen increased violence since the war began, Israel's military said that an Israeli civilian was fatally shot in an attack by "terrorists" in the area of Mehola Junction. The military said the "terrorists" opened fire from a passing vehicle at other cars, and another civilian was wounded. Soldiers were pursuing the attackers.

Israel's airstrike on Saturday hit a mosque inside a school in Gaza City where thousands of people were sheltering. The Israeli military said it killed 19 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants. Hamas and Palestinian activists disputed that, saying two of the 19 were killed in earlier strikes and others were known to be civilians or opponents of Hamas.

Northern Gaza has been surrounded by Israeli forces and largely cut off from the world, and it wasn't possible to independently confirm accounts from either side. European leaders and neighbors of Israel condemned the strike.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Post riots, women of colour in the U.K. are signing up for self-defence classes

SUBAN ABDULLA

At a London sports ground, Maya Hassan looks on with pride as around 30 women, nearly all Muslims and from ethnic minorities, join a self-defence class that she organized in response to a wave of riots that saw violent, racist attacks on Muslims and migrants.

The 28-year-old martial arts expert said she wanted to help women of colour to learn how to deal with abuse and build connections and confidence after more than a week of unrest aimed at mosques, asylum seeker hotels and the police.

"It gives you a little bit more confidence," she said. "You kind of know what to look for, how to be socially aware, how to spot things and how to get out of a really bad situation."

Muslim and ethnic minority communities have expressed shock over the disorder which was sparked by false information online that the suspected killer of three young girls in a knife attack in Southport, northwest England, was an Islamist migrant.

Martial arts instructor Stewart McGill said he had seen more women signing up for classes since the unrest started. He told them how to defend themselves with tactics including kicks and



Groups of people take part in a self-defence class in London on Saturday. The recent riots in the U.K. have largely targeted migrants, Muslims and Asian people. MAJA SMIEJKOWSKA/REUTERS

impromptu weapons such as belts.

One attendee, Elza Annan, 24, said she felt more confident. "I obviously don't want to have to use these techniques but it is useful and beneficial to have them ... especially because of recent events of far-right racists coming

out and targeting people of colour," she said.

The riots have largely targeted migrants, Muslims, and Asian people, spreading fear through ethnic minority communities and casting a light on Britain's record of integration. Tell MAMA UK, a group that monitors anti-

Muslim incidents, said hate directed at Muslims had been growing in Britain for some time, and especially since Oct. 7 last year, the start of the conflict in Gaza.

Since the riots began, it had received more than 500 calls and online reports of anti-Muslim be-

haviour across Britain.

Sunder Katwala, director of the think-tank British Future, which focuses on migration and identity, said at its best, Britain is a "confident multi-ethnic democracy."

But he said successive governments had lacked a strategy for integrating different communities. While those arriving recently from Ukraine and Hong Kong were given government support, that did not happen to all.

The asylum system faced particular pressures, with a huge backlog of applications and some Britons concerned about pressure on housing, health care and education.

"With asylum you've got a visible lack of control, and that can feed into fear," he said.

The riots have largely stopped since thousands of anti-racism protesters turned out to protect potential targets such as immigration advice centres, mosques, and hotels housing asylum seekers.

A similar event was planned for Manchester, northern England, and a campaign group, The Three Hijabis, held a large online conference call with Muslim women this week to discuss the psychological impact of Islamophobic violence.

REUTERS

Biden says he will campaign for Harris in battleground Pennsylvania

DAVID LJUNGGREN
SARAH LYNCH
ANDREA SHALAL

U.S. President Joe Biden said in comments broadcast on Sunday that he would campaign for Democratic candidate Kamala Harris in Pennsylvania, a key battleground state in November's presidential election.

Mr. Biden made his remarks in an interview with CBS, his first since announcing in late July that

he would pull out of the race against Republican candidate Donald Trump over concerns about the future of U.S. democracy.

Ms. Harris leads Mr. Trump by four points each in Pennsylvania and two other key swing states, Wisconsin and Michigan, according to polls by The New York Times and Siena College released on Saturday.

Asked whether he would be campaigning for Ms. Harris, Mr. Biden replied: "Yes."

Mr. Biden said he and Pennsyl-

vania Governor Josh Shapiro "are putting together a campaign tour in Pennsylvania. I'm going to be campaigning in other states as well and I'm going to do whatever Kamala thinks I can do to help most."

Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris are due to appear together in Maryland on Thursday to "discuss the progress they are making to lower costs for the American people," the White House said last week.

Ms. Harris, who officially became the Democratic Party's

presidential nominee last week, on Saturday said she planned to unveil her policy positions in the coming week. "It'll be focused on the economy and what we need to do to bring down costs, and also strengthen the economy overall," she told reporters.

The President, who decided to step down in the wake of a disastrous debate performance against Mr. Trump on June 27, said internal polls showed the race would have been very close.

"But what happened was, a

number of my Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate thought that I was going to hurt them in the races, and I was concerned if I stayed in the race, that would be the topic you'd be interviewing me about," he said.

In an initial excerpt of the interview released last Wednesday, Mr. Biden said he was not confident about a peaceful transfer of power in the United States if Mr. Trump lost.

REUTERS

Harris's candidacy resets expectations for Black voters

VP must show that community concerns are heard, especially in battleground state of Wisconsin, expert says

ANDREA WOO

As recently as a month ago, the U.S. Democratic Party had a potentially ruinous problem on its hands: Black voters, who had helped propel President Joe Biden to victory in the 2020 election, appeared less enthusiastic about him ahead of this year's vote. And polling showed a small but significant proportion of them throwing their support behind former president Donald Trump.

Now Mr. Biden, an 81-year-old white man whose mental fitness had become a matter of debate, has been replaced as the Democratic nominee by a 59-year-old woman whose heritage is Black and South Asian.

Mr. Biden's decision late last month to drop out of the presidential race and endorse Vice-President Kamala Harris to succeed him has reset expectations. Although early polling shows a modest resurgence for the Democrats, including among Black Americans, those gains are still uncertain.

Ms. Harris has yet to define her views on many key issues, making it hard to know the extent to which her candidacy will sway voters. But there are signs of renewed enthusiasm among supporters. Angela Lang, executive director of Black Leaders Organizing for Communities, a civic engagement organization headquartered in Milwaukee, the largest city in the key electoral battleground state of Wisconsin, said Ms. Harris becoming the nominee has "absolutely" injected new life into the race.

She added that while some Black voters had expressed disappointment over the slow pro-



Kamala Harris holds a campaign rally with her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, on Wednesday in Eau Claire, Wis. In July, Ms. Harris's first rally was in Milwaukee, where she told attendees they played a critical role in pushing the 2020 Biden-Harris ticket to victory. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

gress of specific issues relevant to them – such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, both of which have stalled in Congress – waning support for the Democratic Party had not generally meant a shift toward Republican values. Rather, voters had said they were feeling less motivated to vote at all.

Now, she said, "people are saying that they're excited."

"There are young folks that were thinking of sitting this election out that are now coming back and excited to actually vote. The conversations are easier, [canvassers] aren't seeing the same eye rolls as before."

Stella Owens exemplifies the challenge facing Democrats in Wisconsin.

Ms. Owens, a resident of Milwaukee, is among the roughly 40 per cent of the city's population that identifies as Black. She said she voted for Mr. Biden in 2020, and Barack Obama before that. Outside the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee last

month, she was selling merchandise bearing Mr. Trump's likeness, which she said was strictly for business reasons.

But Ms. Owens, interviewed in mid-July as pressure mounted for Mr. Biden to step aside, said she wasn't sure she would make it to the polls in November. Despite despising Mr. Trump and his policy positions, the grandmother and entrepreneur said she simply wasn't excited about voting for Mr. Biden again.

"The honest to God truth is that when it comes time to vote, I'm probably not even going to want to vote, and that's not good," she said.

Wisconsin has leaned Democratic since 1988 – a streak broken in 2016 when Mr. Trump won the state by just 0.7 percentage points over Hillary Clinton. It returned to the Democratic fold in 2020, when Mr. Biden eked out a margin of 0.63 percentage points over Mr. Trump.

While Black Americans remain overwhelmingly Democratic, Black voters' support for the

party fell about five percentage points in 2024, to 83 per cent, compared with 88 per cent four years ago, according to a study by the Pew Research Center released in May. The same study found that about half of Black voters would have replaced both Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump with different candidates if they could have – a sentiment shared by a similar proportion of all voters surveyed.

In July, days after securing the pledged support of enough Democratic Party delegates to become her party's nominee for president, Ms. Harris's first rally was in Milwaukee, where she told attendees they played a critical role in pushing the 2020 Biden-Harris ticket to victory.

"The path to the White House goes through Wisconsin," she said. On Wednesday, she returned to the state again for a campaign rally with her newly named running mate, Tim Walz.

Polling in the days after Mr. Biden's exit has shown a possible shift in Ms. Harris's direction among Black voters. A nation-

wide poll conducted for CNN at the end of July found that 78 per cent of Black respondents supported Ms. Harris over Mr. Trump, whereas Mr. Biden had 70-per-cent support among the same group of voters in April and June. Other surveys showed similar increases.

And a New York Times/Siena College poll conducted earlier this month found that Ms. Harris has improved on Mr. Biden's position in three swing states: Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Where previous polls showed Mr. Biden trailing Mr. Trump, or virtually tied with him, the new survey found Ms. Harris with a four percentage point lead in each state, among likely voters.

Andrea Benjamin, an associate professor in the University of Oklahoma's Clara Luper Department of African and African American Studies, said what Ms. Harris's campaign has accomplished in recent weeks shows that her ascension has breathed new energy into the race.

In just one week, the campaign raised US\$200-million and signed up more than 170,000 volunteers. But Prof. Benjamin said the campaign still needs to tap into established networks on the ground to show that community concerns are being heard. A 2023 issues poll by the Centre for Excellence in Polling found that 90 per cent of voters in Wisconsin are concerned about the cost of living, for example.

Among Black voters, Prof. Benjamin advised clear, specific messaging on progress made under the Biden-Harris administration, such as commitments to reduce maternal mortality – which affects Black women at three times the rate among white women.

"What makes people vote is feeling like they are being heard, and that the issues that they value, and that are important to them – that there is a plan to address them," she said.

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Quebec approves most habitat alteration requests

Data show ministry okayed all but eight applications to develop areas with at-risk wildlife in past six years

FRÉDÉRIK-XAVIER D. PLANTE

Records from Quebec's Environment Ministry show just three instances in the past six years in which it denied applications to alter the habitats of at-risk animals, but incomplete data make it impossible to evaluate how the rules are enforced and, critics say, hinder the province's conservation efforts.

The documents, obtained by The Globe and Mail through an access to information request, list 1,528 applications to alter the habitats of at-risk wildlife for reasons that range from building a fence to drilling and logging.

Of those, three were rejected, five were still under review and the rest were approved.

Affected wildlife include the wood turtle, recognized as vulnerable under Quebec law, and the woodland caribou, classified as threatened, the province's most dire legal status for at-risk species.

But the records represent only part of all applications.

The ministry said it could not give a complete breakdown of

developments denied or authorized in habitats where at-risk animal species live as it does not collect provincewide data on this issue. Officials gathered data from the ministry's 17 regional authorities – which varied widely in their interpretation of the request and ability to provide data – before sharing the results with The Globe.

Fanie Pelletier, a professor at the University of Sherbrooke's department of biology, said the available data show that at-risk species “do not have effective protection in Quebec.”

Dr. Pelletier, a member of Quebec's advisory committee on at-risk wildlife species, added that the lack of complete data on ministry authorizations is a problem. “Honestly, I don't see how with this process we can have an integrated vision of the conservation of biodiversity in Quebec,” she said.

Merlin Voghel, a former lawyer for the Quebec Environmental Law Center (CQDE), a non-profit organization advocating for stronger environmental policies, said the figures compiled by The Globe “are certainly worrying” because of the low number of refusals. He added that this could, however, be driven by the fact that developers know and respect mitigation measures the ministry expects from them.

Nonetheless, “the laws and regulations relating to the protection of species have deserved to

be dusted off for a very long time in Quebec,” Mr. Voghel said in an interview.

He echoed long-standing calls from environmentalists for more transparency in decisions relating to at-risk species and better application of existing protections. (Mr. Voghel was employed by the CQDE when he spoke on this issue with The Globe.)

Out of 1,528 applications to alter the habitats of at-risk wildlife, three were rejected, five were still under review and the rest were approved.

In an e-mail, Quebec Ministry of the Environment spokesperson Sophie Gauthier said that despite data gaps, officials can evaluate the overall impact of development on species throughout the province. However, the authorization process looks only at activities' effects on at-risk species locally, she said.

The Globe submitted an access to information request for this story in July, 2023. In September, weeks past the legal deadline, the ministry denied the request on the basis that answering would require “computation or comparison of information.”

The Globe appealed this decision, attended a mediation

session with ministry officials and subsequently obtained the records.

The Globe's request targeted authorizations under the act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife, but at-risk species concerns are also examined for authorizations under the broader Environment Quality Act.

The ministry said it could not provide data on requests affecting at-risk wildlife treated under the EQA.

Ms. Gauthier said that “a very large number of authorized projects” are modified to mitigate their impact on wildlife and others are withdrawn by promoters when mitigation measures prove too burdensome, which is not recorded among refusals.

“It would therefore be inaccurate to extrapolate the number of refused requests to a significant impact on the habitats of threatened or vulnerable species,” Ms. Gauthier said.

Data from the Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec regional authorities include only applications affecting “fish habitats likely to harbour at-risk species.” These regions are together responsible for the most authorizations, with 879. No requests were denied.

Some regional authorities (Bas-Saint-Laurent, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, North of Quebec, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Lanaudière and Lauren-

tides, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean) only compiled applications made on legally designated “wildlife habitat.” The provincial government can protect such habitats by regulation, but only six out of 65 wildlife species deemed threatened or vulnerable in Quebec benefit from this mechanism.

In these regions, 316 applications were granted, three were denied, and two were still under review.

In a peer-reviewed essay published in the journal *Facets* in April, scientists advising the Quebec government, including Dr. Pelletier, identified the lack of blanket protection for at-risk species' habitats as one of several major flaws of the provincial legislation.

Other regional authorities (Montreal, Laval, Montérégie, North Shore) compiled data for The Globe on applications affecting “habitats likely to harbour” at-risk species, thus including habitats that were not legally designated. In these regions, 312 applications were granted and none was refused.

The Quebec City and neighbouring Chaudière-Appalaches regional authorities, which compiled applications for projects affecting designated wildlife habitats and others affecting fish species, approved 13 projects and refused none. Three demands were still under review.

No data were available for the Estrie region.

Congress: Fields wanted to raise the profile of math and science in Canada

FROM A1

That month, the streets of Toronto were “overflowing with mathematicians” by the time the congress began, said Elaine Riehm, a historian and author who has written about the event and Fields's role.

At a time when only a handful of academics were pursuing high level mathematics in Canada, more than 450 delegates converged on the city, making the trip by steamship and train, to present talks on algebraic geometry and group theory among other topics of the day.

Perhaps because the contents of the meeting were impenetrable to journalists covering the event, a report in *The Globe* fixated instead on the numbers and nationalities of those present, including “five Norwegians, five Russians, four Spaniards” along with assorted Danes, Poles, Czechs, Belgians and others.

The largest contingent was from the United States, followed by Britain and France. Conspicuous by their absence were any participants from Germany, a global powerhouse for the discipline.

Lingering bitterness over the First World War had sparked an impasse over whether German mathematicians should be invited to the gathering, which was supposed to have taken place in New York.

Toronto emerged as an alternate location, thanks to the efforts of Fields, a Hamilton native who was both an intellectual and avid world traveller with a Canadian aptitude for diplomacy.

He would prove to be an ideal impresario for the meeting.

“Although not ambitious mathematically himself, he was



Kumar Murty, former director of the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences, and Deirdre Haskell, the interim director, are shown at the institute in Toronto on Sunday. LAURA PROCTOR/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

ambitious for research,” Ms. Riehm said. “He thought he could do it and he thought he could raise the money.”

Fields also has another purpose in mind: to raise the profile of math and science in a country more preoccupied with harnessing its natural resources than with developing intellectual capital.

At the same time, Fields created a program that made room for applied science as a worthy partner to the more abstract and theoretical forms of mathematics that many of the delegates specialized in.

The point, he said, was to show the public “that practice cannot be divorced from theory and that the pure scientist does his share in contributing to the well-being

of the community.”

One hundred years later that distinction is far less sharp, said Deirdre Haskell, the Fields Institute's interim director and host of this week's meeting in Toronto.

As a case in point, Dr. Haskell cited the British mathematician G.H. Hardy who famously boasted in 1940 that nothing he had discovered was “useful” in the practical sense of the word, because it was purely an aesthetic pursuit.

“Nowadays, we know that a lot of what Hardy did in number theory is totally relevant to cryptography and it was very applied,” Dr. Haskell said.

The same is true for the mathematics that undergirds the AI revolution. One panel at this week's meeting will be dedicated to the topic, including the question of

how future algorithms can be trained to prove theorems on their own.

No doubt such a possibility would astonish the mathematicians of 1924, and it raises the question of how mathematical achievements will be recognized in the future once machines are participating in the act of discovery.

Fields died in 1932. Four years later, the medal that bears his name was awarded for the first time and it continues to be given at four-year intervals to recipients under the age of 40.

That tradition has probably helped to reinforce the image of elite mathematicians in popular culture as young geniuses – usually male – toiling in isolation.

This stereotype Dr. Haskell said she would like to change, by showing that the profession is increasingly more diverse and collaborative.

It's the prospect of collaboration that makes face-to-face meetings as important now as they were in 1924, said Martin Hairer, a Fields Medal winner based at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology who is participating in this week's event in Toronto.

For Dr. Haskell, another important reason – and another way in which this week's meeting differs starkly from the 1924 congress – is the presence of women and people of diverse backgrounds in the mathematical community.

While strides have been made in this area, she said, there is still a long way to go.

“We lose girls, we lose recent immigrants just because they don't see math as a way forward,” she said.

“And that's something that we have to change as a culture.”

People flee wildfire near Athens as it spreads ‘like lightning’ owing to strong winds

ANGELOS TSATSIS
KAROLINA TAGARIS

Residents fled their homes on Sunday as a fast-moving wildfire outside Athens fuelled by hot, windy weather burned trees, houses and cars and sent smoke clouds over the Greek capital.

More than 400 firefighters backed by 16 waterbombing

planes and 13 helicopters battled the blaze that broke out in the afternoon and quickly reached the village of Varnavas 35 kilometres north of Athens.

As night fell, firefighting aircraft ceased operations until morning. Flames turned the sky orange.

“The situation remains dangerous as the fire is spreading between residences,” fire brigade spokesperson Vassilis Vathrakogiannis said. He said the blaze spread fast, “like lightning”, owing to gale force winds. Flames as high as 25 metres swallowed up trees and shrubland.

Varnavas is a sparsely populated area with about 1,800 residents, according to the latest census.

“The village was surrounded in no time, in no time. It's really windy,” resident Katerina Fylaktou told Reuters. “It started from one point and suddenly the whole village was surrounded,” she said.

Hundreds of wildfires have broken out across Greece since May and scientists attribute their



Smoke is shown rising behind the Greek Parliament in Athens, coming from a wildfire burning in the nearby village of Varnava on Sunday. ELIAS MARCOU/REUTERS

frequency and intensity to the increasingly hot and dry weather conditions linked to climate change.

After its warmest winter on record and long periods of little or no rainfall, Greece also registered its hottest June and July and is forecast to record its hottest-ever summer.

Spain and the Balkans.

Authorities sent evacuation alerts for nine areas near Varnavas. By early evening, thick brown smoke hung over much of Athens and had reached the island of Aegina to its south.

Another blaze in a forested area near the town of Megara, west of Athens, had been contained by Sunday afternoon, the fire brigade said.

Several other regions across Greece were on high alert for fire risk on Sunday and Monday.

On Saturday, Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said he had called for emergency measures involving the army, police and volunteers to deal with forest fires until Aug. 15.

“Extremely high temperatures and dangerous weather conditions will prevail,” he said. “Half of Greece will be in the red.”

In April, a European Commission report said the 2023 wildfire season in the Europe was among the worst this century.

REUTERS

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French singer Yseult performs during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games closing ceremony at the Stade de France stadium on Sunday. ANDY CHUA/REUTERS

Paris closes out Games with boisterous show

JOHN LEICESTER SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE

Paris closed out 2½ extraordinary weeks of Olympic sports and emotion with a boisterous, star-studded show in France's national stadium, handing over hosting duties for the Summer Games to the next city in line: Los Angeles in 2028.

With an artistic show that celebrated Olympic themes, golden fireworks and thousands of athletes partying into the night, the closing ceremony put a final flourish to Paris's first Games in a century.

In their enthusiasm, crowds of athletes rushed the stage during a highlight video from the Games, and stadium announcements in French and English urged them to double back. Some of them stayed, surrounding Grammy-winning French pop-rock band Phoenix as they played, before security and volunteers cleared the stage.

More razzmatazz came: Hollywood star Tom Cruise descended from the top of the stadium to the *Mission Impossible* theme song, shaking hands with athletes, before taking the Olympic flag from star gymnast Simone Biles, putting it on the back of a motorcycle and driving out of the stadium.

In a speech, International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach – who sat with French President Emmanuel Macron during the show – said the Games “can create a cultural peace that inspires the world,” noting that the athletes “respected each other even if your countries are divided by conflict.”

For Los Angeles, topping Paris could be mission impossible. The French capital made spectacular use of its cityscape for its first Games in 100 years. The Eiffel Tower and other iconic monuments became Olympic stars in their own right, serving as backdrops and in some cases venues for competitions.

The Eiffel Tower and other iconic monuments became Olympic stars in their own right, serving as backdrops and in some cases venues for competitions.

But L.A. brought star power of its own: Singer Billie Eilish, rapper and Paris Olympics mainstay Snoop Dogg, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers performed Sunday as part of the handover from the City of Light to the City of Angels – made official as L.A. Mayor Karen Bass received the Olympic flag from Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo.

Each of the music artists is a California native, including H.E.R., who sang the U.S. national anthem live at the Stade de France, which hosted Olympic track and field and rugby sevens. The audience topped 70,000 people.

At the start of the show, the stadium crowd roared as French swimmer Leon Marchand, dressed in a suit and tie instead of the swim trunks he wore to win four golds, was shown on the giant screens collecting the Olympic flame from the Tuileries Gardens in Paris.

As a delicate pink sunset gave way to night, athletes marched into the stadium waving the flags of their 205 countries and territories – a display of global unity in a world gripped by global tensions and conflicts, including those in Ukraine and Gaza. The stadium screens carried the words, “Together, united for peace.”

With the 329 medal events finished, the 9,000 athletes – many wearing their shiny medals – and team staffers filled the arena, dancing and cheering to thumping beats.

The national stadium, France's largest, was one of the targets of Islamic State gunmen and suicide bombers who killed 130 people in and around Paris on Nov. 13, 2015. The joy and celebrations that swept Paris during the Games marked a major watershed in the city's recovery from that night of terror.

The closing ceremony saw the awarding of the last medals – each embedded with a chunk of the Eiffel Tower. Fittingly for the first Olympics that aimed for gender parity, they all went to women – the gold, silver and bronze medalists from the women's marathon earlier Sunday.

The women's marathon took the spot of the men's race that traditionally closed out previous Games. The switch was part of efforts in Paris to make the Olympic spotlight shine more brightly on the sporting feats of women. Paris was also where women first made their Olympic debut, at the Games of 1900.

The U.S. team again topped the medal table, with 126 in all and 40 of them gold. Three were courtesy of gymnast Simone Biles, who made a resounding return to the top of the Olympic podium after prioritizing her mental health instead of competition in Tokyo in 2021.



Above: Actor Tom Cruise drives out of the Stade de France stadium on Sunday with the Olympic flag on the back of his motorcycle. JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES



Right: Women's marathon gold medalist Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands waves on the podium during the closing ceremony. NATACHA PISARENKO/AP



French athletes shake hands with spectators during the closing ceremony. Thousands of Olympic competitors parted into the night. TINGSHU WANG/REUTERS

Every Canadian medal won at the Paris Olympics

Team Canada had a record-breaking run at the Paris Olympics. Canadian athletes won 27 medals – nine gold, seven silver and 11 bronze – more than any Summer Olympics since the boycott-plagued 1984 Games 40 years ago in Los Angeles.



Christa Deguchi holds her gold medal after her win in the women's under-57 kilogram judo event on July 29. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Summer McIntosh won three gold medals: in the 200-metre butterfly and the 200-metre and the 400-metre individual medley events. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Katie Vincent poses with her gold medal in the women's single 200-metre canoe sprint event at the Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium on Saturday. MOLLY DARLINGTON/REUTERS



From left: Andre De Grasse, Brendon Rodney, Jerome Blake and Aaron Brown struck gold in the men's 4x100-metre relay on Friday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Maude Charron poses on the podium with her silver medal after competing in the women's 59-kilogram weightlifting category on Thursday. AMANDA PEROBELLI/REUTERS



Ilya Kharun, left, won a bronze medal and Josh Liendo won a silver medal in men's 100-metre butterfly swimming last Saturday. MANAN VATSYAYANA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Members of the women's rugby sevens team pose for a selfie with their silver medals in Paris on July 30. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alysha Newman celebrates after winning a bronze medal in the women's pole vault final event at Stade de France on Thursday. ANNE-CHRISTINE POUJOLAT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Eleanor Harvey poses after winning a bronze medal in the women's foil individual competition at the Grand Palais on July 28. FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Skylar Park celebrates after winning the bronze medal in the women's 57-kilogram repechage in Paris on Thursday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Kylie Masse poses in front of the Eiffel Tower after winning a bronze medal in the women's 200-metre backstroke swimming event on Monday. STEPHANIE LECOQCQ/REUTERS

McIntosh, Katzberg finish off Paris Olympics as flag bearers

GRANT ROBERTSON
RACHEL BRADY PARIS

Canadian Olympic officials chose a pair of history-makers to carry the flag at the closing ceremony of the Paris Summer Games, selecting two athletes who rewrote the record books on their way to the podium. Summer McIntosh, a swimming phenom who became the first Canadian to win three gold medals at a single Olympics, and Ethan Katzberg, the country's first hammer-throw champion, were tapped for the symbolic honour of carrying the flag.

For 17-year-old Ms. McIntosh, the announcement capped a whirlwind week in which she racked up a lot of time at airports.

After winning four medals at the pool – three gold and one silver – Ms. McIntosh flew home to Toronto last Tuesday to spend time with family and friends at their Ontario cottage. Several days later, she turned around and came back for the closing ceremony Sunday.

“My perception of time right now is a little messed up, to be honest. It's kind of been all over the place with time changes and flights and things like that,” Ms. McIntosh said.

“But I was able to go home for a few days and celebrate with my friends and family at my cottage and it was really cool just to be home and kind of appreciate all that we've done.”

“And obviously, when I got the call that I'd be flag bearer, I was very honoured, and I was very excited to come back.”

Mr. Katzberg, 22, had also left Paris

when he got the call. Because the track and field season is still in full swing, he was already preparing for his next event.

“I was in Slovakia for a training camp, but I'm happy to interrupt it a little bit for this,” said Mr. Katzberg, who is from Nanaimo, B.C.

“It was an incredibly successful Olympics for Canada, and that's really great to see.”

The Paris Olympics were Canada's most successful Summer Games in a non-boycotted year, winning 27 medals, including nine gold, seven silver and 11 bronze. Canada recorded 49 top-five finishes.

By comparison, Canada won 24 medals, including seven gold, at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago and 22 medals, including four gold, at the 2016 Rio Summer Games.

For all of Canada's accomplishments on the field, in the pool and elsewhere, the team was also beset with controversies for much of the Paris Games.

David Shoemaker, CEO of the Canadian Olympic Committee, began Sunday's closing news conference in Paris by acknowledging that the COC had a nightmare start to these Olympics. A scandal enveloping the women's soccer team, which was caught using drones to spy on opposing teams' training sessions, overshadowed the events and tarnished Team Canada's reputation.

“I certainly don't think that was how

any of us wanted to start our Games,” Mr. Shoemaker said. “But I'm very happy with how we are ending them.”

Canada's nine gold medals in Paris provided some of the most indelible moments of the Olympics.

The trio of gold medals from Ms. McIntosh included a remarkable win in the 400-metre individual medley, an event in which she held the world record. Ms.

McIntosh led the race from start to finish and asserted herself as one of the world's best swimmers. She then added a gold medal in the 200-metre butterfly, the same event her mom, Jill McIntosh, swam for Canada at the 1984 Olympics.

Ms. McIntosh's haul was part of an eight-medal performance by Canada in swimming.

But the country also emerged as a force in the hammer-throwing cage of Stade de France, where Mr. Katzberg and Camryn Rogers stamped Canada as a world power in the field event.

Among the other most notable images of the Games was the unforgettable night at the track, when the quartet of Jerome Blake, Aaron Brown, Brendon Rodney and anchor Andre De Grasse shocked the track world by winning gold in the men's 4x100-metre relay.

That relay gold was especially emotional for Canada's Chef de Mission in Paris, Bruny Surin, who was on the last Canadian team to earn Olympic gold in that event at Atlanta in 1996.

“My perception of time right now is a little messed up, to be honest. It's kind of been all over the place with time changes and flights and things like that.”

SUMMER MCINTOSH
CANADIAN SWIMMER

“That night, I didn't sleep,” Mr. Surin said of cheering on Canada's relay team in Paris. “When Andre took [the baton], the emotion that brought, it was incredible.”

There were other dramatic showings, such as the silver won at the beach volleyball court at the foot of the Eiffel Tower by Melissa Humana-Paredes and Brandie Wilkerson, the first podium by Canadian women in that event.

There were moments of heartbreak as well, like world-leading athletes such as decathlete Damian Warner and shot putter Sarah Mitton faltering on the Olympic stage. And for all its success at the pool, Canada came up uncharacteristically empty-handed in the relay events, where it has won multiple medals at the past two Summer Games.

The soccer drone story was not the only scandal the COC faced in Paris. The federation had to revoke the credential of Mr. De Grasse's personal coach in the midst of the decorated sprinter's competition. The COC learned of allegations of sexual abuse facing coach Rana Reider and ousted him from the Games. Those have not been tested in court.

Mr. Shoemaker insisted the COC wants to build a safer, more inclusive sports system. That, he used the occasion to remind, takes money. The Canadian government has not increased financing to its sports federations as costs to operate have only escalated. He worried about the future performance of Canadian athletes in the next two Games, 2026 in Milano Cortina, and 2028 in Los Angeles.

“Our athletes are doing more with less,” Mr. Shoemaker said. “I'd like to see the government of Canada do much more.”



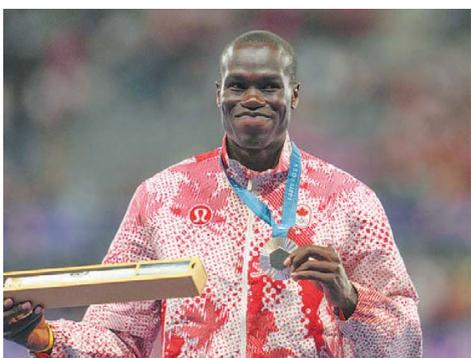
Gold medalist Philip Kim, known as b-boy Phil Wizard, poses after the b-boys finals in the breaking competition at La Concorde Urban Park on Saturday. FRANK FRANKLIN/AP



Camryn Rogers celebrates her gold medal in the women's hammer throw event in Paris on Tuesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ethan Katzberg poses with his gold medal in the men's hammer throw event on Tuesday, with the Eiffel Tower visible in the background. JACK GUEZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Marco Arop smiles as he displays his silver medal after the men's 800-metre final in Saint-Denis on Saturday. ALEKSANDRA SZMIGIEL/REUTERS



The women's rowing eight team poses with their silver medals during the Champions Park medalists celebrations on Monday. STEPHANIE LECOQC/REUTERS



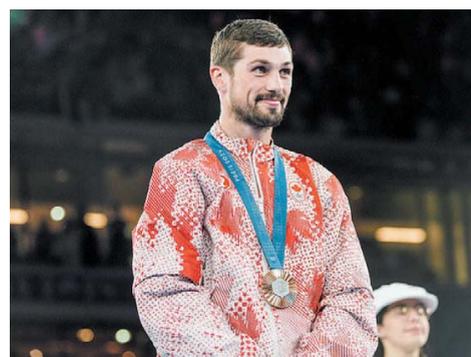
Women's beach volleyball silver medalists Brandie Wilkerson, left, and Melissa Humana-Paredes pose in front of the Eiffel Tower on Saturday. LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/REUTERS



Sloan MacKenzie, left, and Katie Vincent pose with their bronze medals in the women's canoe double 500-metre event on Friday. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/THE CANADIAN PRESS



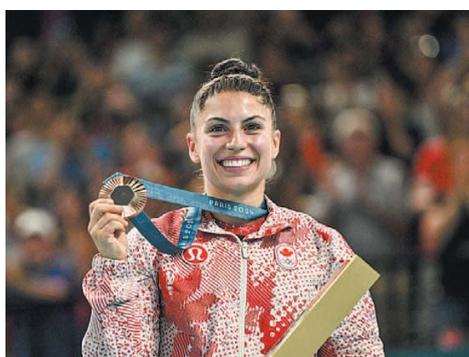
Divers Rylan Wiens, left, and Nathan Zsombor-Murray were bronze medalists in the men's 10-metre platform event in Paris last Thursday. HAMAD I MOHAMMED/REUTERS



Bronze medalist Wyatt Sanford poses during a medals ceremony for the men's 63.5-kilogram boxing event on Wednesday in Paris. ARIANA CUBILLOS/ASSOCIATED PRESS



Swimmer Ilya Kharun celebrates on the podium after winning a bronze medal in the men's 200-metre butterfly event on July 31. CLODAGH KILCOYNE/REUTERS



Sophiane Methot poses with her bronze medal after the women's trampoline gymnastics final at the Bercy Arena last Friday. LIONEL BONAVENTURE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Gabriela Dabrowski, left, and Felix Auger-Aliassime pose after winning a bronze medal in mixed doubles tennis at Roland Garros last Friday. CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

Canada topped the scandal podium at the 2024 Games

CATHAL KELLY PARIS

As a nation defined by its hammer throwing, it's important that Canada projects strength. We don't avoid problems. We fling them away from us with great vigour.

Watching Canadian Olympic Committee CEO David Shoemaker playing fun and games on a closing Sunday with the idea of whether Canada's Olympic outfit is privately funded or private-publicly funded and how the government should give it more money in either case, you get the sense of how the people in charge think: sport above all things.

At Paris 2024, Canada tested the limits of that approach.

The Games part of the Games was an enormous success. In an era of athletic expansionism, Canada is keeping pace. Nine golds and 27 medals – a contemporary high-water mark – isn't as important as our place in the world. Eleventh on the medal table in the previous Summer Olympics, and 12th in this one. We're no Italy, but we have once again proved our superiority over Uzbekistan.

It's the most medals in summer since the compromised Games at Los Angeles 1984 (though this event was compromised in a similar way).

That prompted the COC's sports chief, Eric Myles, to declare: "This is our best Games."

Maybe so, which makes the rest of it a hummer.

It's difficult in the immediate aftermath of an Olympics to say what will define them in the national memory, but it's always one thing. Atlanta 1996 is Donovan Bailey and

nothing else. Other things happened and were huge stories at the time. But they have been lost in the endless tide of Canadian sports news. Mr. Bailey was the moment.

What's the moment this time around? Summer McIntosh should be the bookies' favourite – an all-timer performance by a teenager who played it on the podium like she'd just won the same weekend swim meet three times.

The gold-medal hammer-throwing duo of Camryn Rogers and Ethan Katzberg would be another great pick. The yin and yang of it; the oddity of the sport; the charm of the winners.

A late-breaking possibility was the men's 4x100-metre relay team. They did provide the quote of the Games, via Aaron Brown: "This is the Mona Lisa. We're in Paris, right? Hang it in the Louvre." But the rule of firsts applies. The first thing to happen is the most memorable. And the first thing you're asked about after it ends reinforces that impression.

That first in both instances was the Canada Soccer spying scandal.

It will live on because, unlike all the medals Canada won, it is stupid. Stupid in its conception, stupid in its execution and then stupid in its aftermath. It's one big Indiana Jones boulder of stupidity. People love stupid, especially when it's coming from people who are smart.

On Sunday, the COC was still using its communications judo to push it aside.

In the opening remarks, it was referred to obliquely as one of several "surprises" (Tricia Smith, COC president). For Mr. Shoemaker, it's the "situation."

"The athletes themselves have done an enormous amount to remedy that situation," Mr. Shoemaker said.

Have they?

It's a bit rich to suggest that the people who haven't cheated have made it okay for the people who have by winning. This suggests that achievement is analogous to morality. Or at least that it balances the scale.

It doesn't. Canada screwed up in Paris. Everyone else kept their hands clean. The closest the United States came to a scandal was a snit between gymnasts. Only Canada had two bad ones – cheating at the Games and having a coach accused of sexual assault and harassment on the logistical books at track and field.

As The Globe and Mail's Paul Waldie put it to Mr. Shoemaker on Sunday: "Did we own the podium when it came to scandal?"

Mr. Shoemaker appeared to take offence, and one wonders why. It's not as though he's accused of doing anything wrong. Otherwise, the question is clear on its face. The right answer is, 'Yes, we did.'

So own it.

Canada did some wonderful athletic things in Paris, and it also screwed up big time. If the point of having an Olympic team is to burnish the national image among our international peers, the two things don't equal out.

Instead of congratulating themselves on another administrative act of collective genius or asking for more money – a constant theme with this group – maybe grapple with that a little.

People will forgive you for anything if you apologize. Doesn't matter what you did. People want to let you off the hook. This is a lesson sports executives seem incapable of accepting. Maybe because it's been a years-long knife fight to get where they're at.

Someone needed to stand up in front of Canada and take the blame, even if they specifically are blameless. Especially if they are blameless. That makes it so much more impactful.

No one could do that here. In the midst of it, it was just deflect, deflect, deflect. You could see the HR instincts take over immediately.

Everything about the mid-Games process in both instances was opaque. The only reason we know why national women's soccer team head coach Bev Priestman was sent home was because FIFA spilled the beans.

By the end, the hope was that it would all be forgotten.

It never is. You could flesh out the old adage about it being the cover-up that kills you ... because that's the part that makes the best news story. Canada kept serving up news stories that lasted for days. Both overshadowed some remarkable performances.

Nobody said it, but it must have been a real gear-grinder for many athletes, standing there after a lifetime memory, answering questions about something they had nothing to do with.

On Sunday, the COC leadership was asked about its plans to avoid similar scandals in the future. Mr. Shoemaker began listing off all the things the COC already does.

A different sort of outfit might feel strange bragging about how it is one of the only countries in the world to do background checks on full-time staff, when that process failed miserably here.

But that's Canada at the Olympics. We go big – even when we're headed in the wrong direction.

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

The petty politics of going personal

Does anyone other than the backroom geniuses who come up with them actually enjoy negative political ads? Because there is not a lot to like about them.

They can be unfair, snarky and reductive. They often trade in information that is deliberately taken out of context or interpreted in the worst possible light. Their distortions are an insult to the intelligence of voters. If a negative political ad was a guest who came to dinner, you'd never invite them back.

Try as you might, though, you will have a hard time keeping them out of your life between now and the federal fixed-date election in October of next year.

The Liberals, the NDP and the Conservatives already keep a steady drip of negative ads on their social-media feeds. The Conservatives, who have raised more than twice as much money in the past year-and-a-half as the other parties combined, are well positioned to buy millions of dollars worth of television and radio time for their relentless attacks on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his nine years in office, as they did last year.

And we have no problem with it, as long as the ads focus on substantial issues and don't take cheap personal shots.

Negative ads can serve a purpose in a democracy. It is the job of politicians to point out their opponents' flaws, contradictions and missteps because their opponents aren't going to do it. Negative ads are a counterweight to positive ads in which candidates and parties sell their virtues, often using (see negative ads above) partial information that is deliberately taken out of context or interpreted in the best possible light.

There is a perpetual debate about whether they actually work and whether their downsides turn people off of the electoral process and reduce voter turnout. Some studies say yes, others say no.

But one very important feature of them is that they can backfire if they make false accusations or become too personal.

The Conservatives crossed the line with a negative ad released in late July that mocks NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh's lifestyle and education, and suggests that the only reason he continues to support the minority Trudeau government, thereby preventing an early election, is so he can hit six years in office next year and become eligible for an MP's pension.

Going after an opponent's personal tastes and childhood education and imputing motives to them that don't bear scrutiny is more apt to turn off a voter than put them in the Conservatives' corner.

That happened in 1993, when a public outcry forced the Progressive Conservative party to pull a TV ad that seemed to make fun of Liberal leader Jean Chrétien's facial paralysis and manner of speaking.

In 2006, it was the Liberals' turn to eat crow when the party produced an outrageous negative ad suggesting Stephen Harper planned to use the Canadian military against the country's citizens. The Liberals had to pull the ad from their website.

Those kinds of personal or false attacks make no sense to voters because there is never a shortage of valid targets for criticism during an election campaign (which these days are permanent): things such as a candidate's past comments and voting record, the special interest groups they are close to, the governing party's policy failures, the state of the economy

The parties should limit their attacks to issues voters care about. And voters should remember that negative ads are exactly what they say they are: advertisements. They are no more trustworthy than a TV commercial that suggests that drinking a particular beer will draw unusually attractive people to your backyard, where they will dance enthusiastically.

Unpleasant as they can be, negative ads aren't in and of themselves a bad thing. The real problem comes when they reflect the coarsening of public discourse in the age of social media and Donald Trump - something Canada is not immune to.

The Conservatives and Liberals have spent an awful lot of time online lately accusing each other of being "wacko" and "weird" - insults imported directly from the two rival campaigns for president in the United States. It's embarrassing to watch and a further breakdown in civility. A poor advertisement for Canada's politicians, in other words.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONSERVATIVE NATURE

Re "Does Coach Walz push the Democratic ticket too far left?" (Aug. 9): I was pleasantly surprised to hear that Doug Ford, a Canadian conservative, had such a positive reaction to Tim Walz running for U.S. vice-president.

It is a reminder, if nothing else, of the sort of extreme difference between politics, alleging to be "conservative" in the two countries, and that reminder is to Mr. Ford's - and Canadian conservatism's - credit.

■ **Mary Lazier Corbett**
Prince Edward County, Ont.

BETTER DEBATE

Re "Canadians deserve decorum in their Parliament" (Aug. 6): Yes, we do, but is it not better than the "Rat Pack" days of the Liberals when they were in opposition?

Also, MPs should be electing a non-partisan speaker who has the respect of all parties, something our current government has failed to do.

■ **Tom Ham** Ottawa

Re "By example" (Letters, Aug. 8): A letter-writer who feels less concerned about the lack of decorum than the lack of substance should heed the observations of 19th-century philosopher Jeremy Bentham, who saw parliamentary procedure built around related fundamental principles, all aimed at encouraging the substantive debate which gives Parliament its purpose.

These were: the need to give notice for motions to allow members to better prepare for debate; a decision-making process that bills be given three readings so decisions are not rushed; the absolute impartiality of the presiding officer so that no one member, no matter their political status, has more rights than the other; the freedom of speech, the heart of parliamentary privilege.

Above all, Mr. Bentham stressed the need for decorum to encourage members to focus on what was being said, as opposed to how it was said, thus allowing the intelligence of the legislature to shine.

■ **Gary William O'Brien**
Former clerk of the Senate and clerk of the Parliaments; Ottawa

I believe substantive debate is far more important, and greater decorum won't solve the lack of it.

Most parliamentary votes are whipped. Minds are not changed by debate and MPs are not going to break ranks. I would rather have unruly parliamentary debate full of obscenities and insults if MPs were able to vote independently, according to the wishes of their constituents, without reprimands from their own party.

We should reform Parliament to give more power and inde-

pendence for MPs. But that would be useless so long as MPs can be denied the chance to be nominated for re-election by their party.

France has runoff elections and Australia has ranked choice voting. But it is the system used in Alaska, with an open primary election followed by a ranked choice runoff, that would ensure MPs are more independent, even in "safe" ridings.

■ **Brian Graff** Toronto

GREATER GOOD

Re "How can the Trudeau government fix its immigration mess? Press 'Rewind'" (Report on Business, Aug. 9): So 74 million adults from countries around the world want to come to Canada. Wow, it seems we have our pick, and a persuasive argument is made for "selectivity" and using immigration to fill "specialized, high-wage" positions.

Good idea, but let's not forget the humanitarian side of the equation. There are Canada's needs, and then there are the needs of those 74 million people. And even if adult immigrants do not bring with them the skills Canada needs today, we can bet that, in most cases, given the chance, their children will develop these skills and become significant contributors to Canada's future prosperity.

■ **Donald Hall** Ottawa

ALL ABOARD

Re "Why Air Canada wants more Canadians to take the train?" (Report on Business, Aug. 7): Analyst John Gradek wonders why Toronto Pearson "hasn't associated itself with any of these consortiums for Via's HFR project" or included stations in its development plans. I wish he'd asked us.

In April, we submitted a proposal to the high-frequency rail project team for bidders' consideration. It offers our partnership on an HFR station that could bring direct HFR and legacy Via services to Canada's busiest airport. This would enable integrated ticketing, make travel more competitive for underserved communities, reduce overall emissions and complement Union Station, Canada's busiest multimodal transit hub.

The proposal was framed as part of our 10-year strategic plan, offering to make our staff and consultants available to move talks forward. As we understand it, the HFR team is now considering three bids for the project.

We agree that including an airport connection in the project scope would build stronger ridership and better connections for Canadians.

■ **Karen Mazurkewich**
Vice-president, stakeholder relations and communications, Toronto Pearson

CHARGED UP

Re "Just drive" (Letters, Aug. 8): A letter-writer from Ontario describes driving an electric vehicle and preventing "tons of carbon emissions."

No mention is made concerning the quantity of used fuel-bundle nuclear waste produced from electrical generation in this province.

■ **Sidney Joseph Thornhill**, Ont.

The United Nations says the campaign of misinformation to slow down the transition to clean energy is coming from fossil fuel companies. If these companies want to have a future, they should be responsible and embrace change like the world's vehicle manufacturers are doing.

The future will belong to industries that are part of the solution to destructive climate change, not those that are dragging their feet at massive expense to the public. My experience tells me the cost of buying and operating a climate-friendly electric vehicle is already cheaper than a traditional vehicle, and it is rapidly getting much cheaper.

■ **Hugh Holland** Huntsville, Ont.

WHO'S TO BLAME?

Re "Ontario, Ottawa clash over private operators in national child-care program" (Aug. 5): In 2021, the Trudeau government promised \$10-per-day child care. Never mind that child care falls under provincial jurisdiction, that the country would need \$30-billion to pay for it, that the bulk of Canada's existing child-care infrastructure, both commercial and non-profit, is privately owned, or that owner-operators were not closely consulted.

Now Ontario is being blamed because the federal program is failing. In Ontario, all licensed centres have to adhere to the same regulations and quality standards, whether run as businesses or non-profits, or as part of the public sector. To minimize waitlists, the federal program should have allowed Ontario to expand all forms of licensed child care.

As it stands, some families are paying less for child care. But for how long? At what cost?

And what about the vast majority of families who've been left behind? They deserve better than just higher taxes and empty promises.

■ **Andrea Hannen**
Executive director, Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario; St. Catharines, Ont.

Letters to the Editor should be exclusive to The Globe and Mail. Include name, address and daytime phone number. Keep letters under 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. E-mail: letters@globeandmail.com

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Responsible gambling is part of the problem

The concept diverts the responsibility for problems associated with gambling to individuals

BRUCE KIDD

 OPINION

Former Olympian, member of the Campaign to Ban Ads for Gambling and a professor emeritus of sports policy at the University of Toronto

It's hard to imagine a current public policy more irresponsible than the promotion of "responsible gambling." That's the Ontario government's and the gambling industry's strategy to address the widespread public concern about the addictions and economic and social costs of sports betting and other forms of gambling. The idea, pushed out in endless ads and taglines and endorsed by star athletes like Connor McDavid, is that bettors should know their financial and psychological limits and rein

themselves in when at risk.

Knowing your limits is always wise. But responsible gambling messages are pernicious while the gambling industry pours out inducements to bet, weaponizes digital media to encourage addictions and strips countless bettors of their money.

Gambling can be very harmful. According to Statistics Canada, 1.6 per cent of adult gamblers in Canada, or 304,400 persons, are at moderate to high risk of gambling disorders, including mental health issues, runaway debt, stress to families, low self-esteem, anxiety, depression and even suicide. Problem gambling tends to be highest in younger males with lower levels of income and education. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto reports that for every person experiencing gambling problems, another 5 to 10 are negatively affected.

The system is designed to addict. According to Steve Joordens of the Canadian Psychological Association, the gambling industry exploits the psychological power of random rewards and manipulates the endless possibilities of cellphone prop bets in-

to a compulsion. "When players gamble, they lose more often than they win," he says. "The random nature of wins means they never know when that next win is coming. They start chasing that next win. At the neuroscientific level, the hormone dopamine is released when one is chasing a desired outcome and this release feels good, literally the thrill of the chase. Each loss can make the player feel one step closer to that next win. This makes the player "resistant to extinction." Once they start, they don't want to stop, especially after a string of losses."

The Globe and Mail recently reported a significant increase in the number of gamblers seeking help at Ontario's only in-patient treatment program, the Residential Centre for Problem Gambling and Digital Dependency at Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare in Windsor. We would know more about the extent of the problem, except that in 2019, the Ontario government eliminated funding for Gambling Research Exchange Ontario, a key organization that researched and provided resources for problem gambling prevention.

These days, ads promoting sports betting are impossible to escape. The CBC recently reported that sports fans are exposed to three gambling ads a minute during a typical game broadcast. Broadcasters such as Sportsnet, owned by Rogers, promote betting enthusiastically. While the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) prohibits ads directed at young people, that hasn't stopped ads on telecasts and in arenas and stadia where children and youth watch and participate in great numbers. It was only when the Campaign to Ban Ads for Gambling formally complained about ads on signboards and dressing room doors in a youth hockey arena that the AGCO persuaded the betting company to take them down.

"Responsible gambling" is thus more than an oxymoron — it's part of the problem. It normalizes a highly risky endeavour and marshals a blame-the-victim approach, diverting the responsibility for the mental health and other problems associated with gambling to individuals and their families. The governments and corporations that legalized

and profit from gambling take little or no responsibility for gambling harms.

We thus have a public health crisis being passed off as a problem of individual responsibility. What is needed instead, experts agree, is a comprehensive, holistic, public health approach, just as Canada eventually took with tobacco. The governments that created the problem have a responsibility to fix it.

Governments need to limit the inducements to gamble by banning the ads outright, in the same way that they previously banned ads for tobacco. There is now a private member's bill to regulate gambling ads under consideration by the Canadian Senate. The federal Liberals should make it a government bill and turn it into law.

The federal and provincial/territorial governments should conduct public education campaigns to reverse the normalization of sports betting and other forms of gambling, just as they once did for tobacco. And governments need to hold the betting companies responsible for the full costs of the social problems they create.

Wildfires foreshadow the looming crisis of internal displacement

ALI BHAGAT

 OPINION

Assistant professor in the School of Public Policy at Simon Fraser University and author of the new book *Governing the Displaced*

The wildfires that raged in Jasper last month indicate a new normal for summer in Canada and the United States. During the historic 2023 wildfire season, more than 230,000 people were evacuated, while 6,623 wildland fires burned over 15 million hectares of forest in Canada. Meanwhile, as I write this, in the U.S., wildfires are active in 13 states, with Texas experiencing 24 fires across 444,340 hectares and Oregon battling 81 fires across 255,348 hectares of land.

While there is widespread concern about health risks, forest sustainability, air quality and loss of life when it comes to wildfires, there has been little attention paid to the looming crisis of internal displacement as a result of these types of disasters. Internal displacement refers to the forced movement of people in their own countries who, unlike refugees, do not cross international borders. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) face challenges in accessing basic services, shelter and returning to their homes and livelihoods.

The crisis of internal displacement spans nearly all continents, particularly in countries facing longstanding conflict, such as Somalia, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Colombia, where conflict triggered 28.3 million people to be



A fire truck travels past a devastated residential block in Jasper, Alta., in July. Due to rampant wildfires, Canada is at the forefront of a crisis concerning internal displacement in high-income countries.

AMBER BRACKEN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

displaced worldwide. According to the International Organization for Migration, 75.9 million people live as IDPs; however, climate change-related internal displacement poses an alarming policy challenge to governments in the global North and global South. Between 2020 and 2023 alone, 113.7 million people were displaced due to various disasters. Surprisingly, there was a rise in disaster-related displacement in high-income countries where Canada

and New Zealand reported their highest figures ever.

Due to rampant wildfires, Canada is at the forefront of a crisis concerning internal displacement in high-income countries. In 2023, Canada accounted for 43 per cent of people displaced by wildfires globally, with British Columbia and Alberta taking the brunt of this crisis. Both provincial and federal levels of government have committed to budget increases in order to tackle wild-

fires; however, as the recent events in Jasper show, a much more co-ordinated effort is required. For instance, while British Columbians welcomed displaced Albertans with open arms, B.C.'s Emergency Management Minister stated, "The reality is British Columbia does not have the accommodations for those thousands and thousands of additional evacuees."

Although the fires in Jasper have made national headlines

due to its popularity as a tourist destination, a more insidious aspect of wildfire displacement is the impact it has on Indigenous communities in Canada, which often goes unreported. Wildfires from Nova Scotia to B.C. destroy the traditional and ancestral territories of Indigenous peoples, threatening important cultural activities. As such, Indigenous communities are disproportionately affected by wildfires and are also often left out of discussions about mitigation, forest management, and fire response. There are clear parallels here with people in global South countries who face the greatest risks of climate-related displacement while also being the least responsible for carbon emissions and climate change.

Calls to action around sustainable forest management practices, land-use planning, early warning systems, emergency planning and rapid deployment of emergency services are already on the table in provincial and federal budgeting and planning. However, Canada must also develop a concrete plan for internal displacement that includes immediate and longer-term support for IDPs. This includes robust infrastructure development in temporary housing, medical services, financial support, rebuilding assistance and mental health. Ideally, these supports will be co-developed and led by Indigenous groups who bear the brunt of internal displacement in Canada. As climate change worsens, Canada has to contend with who is responsible for internal displacement, particularly when those who are displaced cannot return to their homes and livelihoods.

War games and tribal passions

IAN BURUMA

 OPINION

Author, most recently, of *Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah*

When England defeated the Netherlands in the semi-final of the European soccer championship last month, British sportscasters hailed it as a "historic" victory that would "change all our lives." Sports commentators are known for hyperbole, that is their job, but these pronouncements seemed ridiculous. Smaller countries like the Netherlands often view these competitions as rare opportunities to shine on the world stage, but does the United Kingdom really need such validation? Evidently, it does.

The Hungarian-born writer Arthur Koestler famously distinguished between ordinary nationalism and "football nationalism." The latter, in his view, was the stronger. Despite being a proud naturalized citizen of the U.K., Mr. Koestler remained a lifelong devotee of Hungarian soccer. Football nationalism is flag-

waving, tribal and frequently aggressive. Close-ups on television of burly men in the stands, baring their teeth, thumping their bared chests and making roaring noises, remind us that we and apes are descended from a common ancestor.

Tribal sentiments feed on collective animosities. During matches against Germany, some British fans still sing *Ten German Bombers*, while spreading their arms to mimic Royal Air Force planes. When the Netherlands defeated West Germany in the Euro 1988 semifinal — fittingly held in Hamburg — and went on to win the championship, the celebrations in Amsterdam's streets surpassed even those of May, 1945, when the country was liberated from Nazi occupation. Perhaps that helped to lance a historic boil. Anti-German feeling quite quickly diminished after that.

For those of us taught to view nationalistic fervour as unseemly, feeling the pull of flag-waving emotions can be somewhat embarrassing. Yet their power cannot be denied. As a Dutchman, I, too, rejoiced when the Netherlands beat West Germany in 1988.

But can sports nationalism tri-

ly be considered a good thing, given that it can spill over into violence? In the late 19th century, this question sparked a heated debate between Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games, and the far-right ideologue Charles Maurras, leader of the antisemitic Action Française. Mr. de Coubertin believed that international sporting competitions would foster global unity and mutual understanding. By contrast, Mr. Maurras argued that such events fuel national animosities, which he, as a nationalist, welcomed.

While Mr. Maurras was right to question Mr. de Coubertin's romantic notions of universal brotherhood, his racist views helped pave the way for the horrors of World War II. But this does not mean that sports nationalism is inherently bad. It can also be seen as an expression of shared emotions that require a theatrical or ceremonial outlet.

Tribalism, in sports and beyond, can reflect religious, ideological, ethnic, regional, or national affinities. This is most evident in team sports such as soccer. The longstanding rivalry between the Scottish football clubs Celtic

and Rangers is rooted in their respective Catholic and Protestant affiliations. Liverpool and Manchester fans hate clubs from London. Ajax (Amsterdam) and Tottenham Hotspur (London) are associated by their rivals with Jews (Amsterdam and North London once had fairly large Jewish populations), which provokes some very nasty language.

But such associations no longer have any basis in reality. Nowadays, such clubs are global enterprises, recruiting talent from all over the world. Only a handful of British players actually play for the top U.K. teams, and the same is true for the major clubs in the Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

In fact, Mr. de Coubertin turned out to be right about the players, but he was wrong about the fans. Today's professional athletes belong to a highly paid cosmopolitan elite, free of national, racial or religious animosity, often embracing as colleagues and friends even after fiercely contested international matches. But this camaraderie seems to have little effect on the fans, many of whom still treat clubs such as Tottenham, Ajax or Bayern Munich — largely

staffed by foreign coaches and players — as local teams.

This shows that sports nationalism is less about traditional notions of blood and soil, as Mr. Maurras believed, than about something more abstract: a yearning for togetherness, for the experience of sharing emotions and adulating heroes. In short, the kind of thing that places of religious worship have always provided. Worship needs an object, but this, too, can be abstracted — which is why some religions forbid the depiction of human beings.

Sports nationalism, then, functions like a secular faith, which explains sportscasters' hyperbole and fans' near-religious zeal. Tribal rituals at religious festivals as much as in sporting venues can sometimes get out of hand and lead to violence. But on the whole, ritualized tribalism allows people to indulge in emotions that could otherwise be dangerous. We can only wish for a world in which Palestinian and Israeli sports fans don't face paint, wave flags and roar while doing battle in a soccer stadium.

KELLY CRYDERMAN will return.

LIFE & ARTS

HEALTH & WELLNESS | OPINION | PUZZLES | WEATHER

Living a zero-proof summer without shame

Gen Z has embraced sober curiosity without ridicule and now older generations are raising their glasses, too

DAVID SILVERBERG

OPINION

The first time I ordered a non-alcoholic drink at a bar in west Toronto, I felt eyes on me. The gaze of the bartender seemed to say, "You sure? Look at this long line of cool beers we have on tap." The guy sitting on a stool at a bar looked at me with a glance that said, "How many months sober?"

When I brought the booze-free beer back to my table, I endured a few smirky jokes from friends who couldn't help but rib me with lines to the effect of: "Hey Dave, don't sit too close to us, you might get a second-hand buzz from our breaths, full of that dreaded alcohol."

After all, they knew me as a drinker who enjoyed downing pints with them as we watched Raptors games, or indulged in a Dark and Stormy on a cold winter night checking out a live band.

That was two years ago, and it's safe to say "sober-curious" isn't a term loaded with stigma any more. Non-alcoholic drinks – now ubiquitous – are having their avocado toast moment. These days, no one looks twice when I break out a Partake at a BBQ.

A friend professed their similar fondness for the non-alcoholic beer at one such outing when I



The zero-proof trend is winning favour with major alcohol brands, including Heineken. It tapped Paul Rudd to front its non-alcoholic beer commercials during the Super Bowl in 2023. JOYCE PHILIPPE/REUTERS

began to swig from my can. He then dipped into his knapsack to take out his zero-booze beer of choice, and we spent the next 20 minutes discussing the finer points of what makes a tasty alcohol-free brew. And our exchange felt so typical I forgot we were chatting about something that might've made eyes roll around beer aficionados years ago.

After all, our numbers are surging in Canada. Much research has established that Gen Z drinks less. What's more notable is that similar trends are reported in the 35-54 age group, where I fall. Data from NielsenIQ found that in the U.S. in 2023, non-alco-

holic beer, wine and spirits reached US\$565-million in sales, a 35 per cent surge compared with the year before.

Supply is growing to meet this demand in the form of de-alcoholized spirits, wines and beer which, up against the products of yesteryear, actually taste great. Sure, I felt something was missing when I sipped that first zero-alcohol beer but I got used to it, much like I got accustomed to almond milk when I transitioned away from dairy milk.

I contend that if the industry didn't meet this demand with better-flavoured drinks and deeper variety, the sober-curious wouldn't be so open-minded and

may even turn back to alcohol. The refreshing range of options available makes me feel like I'm being noticed by a sector that used to see my ilk as too niche a market to cater to regularly.

I've also noticed how this trend is winning favour with major brands. In July, A&W announced it was partnering with Labatt to pilot serving non-alcoholic beer in its Ontario restaurants. Courting Gen X, Heineken tapped Paul Rudd to front their non-alcoholic beer commercials during the Super Bowl in 2023. Sports fans are also treated to superstar athlete-dads joining the party: Soccer giant Lionel Messi has teamed up with White Claw

to promote a new non-alcoholic beverage brand to be released later this year.

The millennial mom who used to sip pinot grigio is finding refreshing comfort in booze-free wine (actress Blake Lively has her own line of non-alcoholic sparkling mixers, Betty Buzz), while the young metalheads are trading vodka shots for cans of Liquid Death, an edgy water and carbonated beverage brand. I've seen non-alcoholic drinks sprinkled across comedy shows, outdoor festivals, poetry slams, technology conferences.

I'd estimate around a third of my friends and family have tried non-alcoholic drinks, up from zero five years ago.

When I first made the transition, I expected questions about why I bothered to drink beer without the alcohol. The answer is simple: We former boozers still revel in the flavour and vibe of the beverage, but want to abstain from the accompanying buzz. I like to be present and in control, not slurring my words and falling asleep two hours before they do, waking up with a migraine and an insatiable hunger to eat every greasy food imaginable.

I never struggled with alcohol, but I've long been at odds with how others think of me. It might seem silly, but it's a tough hang-up to shake. At first, reducing alcohol was a strange source of anxiety, leaving me feeling like friends and strangers were casting judgement on me for going this route. But that's long behind me, as I raise booze-free cans with friends in a raucous chorus of "cheers!" during these hazy summer months, the familiar taste of comradery on our lips.

Introducing a different type of cycle to your workout

ALYSSA AGES

When it comes to athletic performance, everyone wants to get an edge. That might mean taking supplements or testing driving a new sneaker that promises to make you lighter on your feet. But what if instead of seeking outside assistance, you could hack your body's internal system to optimize your health and fitness?

When 26-year-old weightlifter Monica Knowlton tried syncing her workout intensity to her menstrual cycle two years ago, she noticed improvements in both her physical performance and mental strength. She scheduled her highest intensity days to correspond with her follicular phase when she feels her strongest and matched her de-load week (a drop in volume and intensity at the end of one training program and before the start of the next) with the days when she tends to experience premenstrual symptoms.

"This makes me feel better mentally, knowing when to push the gas and when to pump the breaks," she says.

Still, Knowlton is careful not to give full credit for this shift to her hormone levels. "Performance-wise, although I was improving, it is impossible to say if it was because of the cycle syncing," she said.

Cycle syncing is the practice of adjusting your workout intensity, diet and recovery based on phases of your menstrual cycle. Proponents believe the hormonal peaks and valleys can help to determine when to go for a personal record and when to pull back. So, how does it work?

THE BASICS OF CYCLE SYNCING

Most people who experience a naturally occurring menstrual cycle go through four phases: menstruation, follicular, ovulation and luteal. With each phase, hormone levels rise and fall which for some can lead to bouts of tiredness, changes in mood, bloating, headaches and cramps.

To adjust your workout accordingly, that might look like low-intensity activities such as walking or yoga during menstruation when energy levels might be lower; cardio-based and high-intensity workouts like running and heavy lifting as energy levels increase in the follicular and ovulation phases; and strength training or medium-intensity exercise during the luteal phase leading into menstruation.

WHY IS IT SO POPULAR?

"A lot of women sincerely feel like fitness and science and health has left them out for a long period of time," says exercise scientist Alyssa Olenick, PhD.

Between 2014 and 2020, only 6 per cent of studies in sports and science journals focused exclusively on women, writes Christine Yu, author of *Up to Speed: The Ground-breaking Science of Women Athletes*. So, it



Cycle syncing is the practice of adjusting your workout intensity, diet and recovery based on your menstrual cycle. ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

makes sense that a practice based solely around sports and the female reproductive system would feel compelling.

While you can now hire a coach or buy a program to help you schedule workouts around your cycle, there still isn't a lot of research to back up the notion of basing your training on typical – but by no means universal – cycle lengths and symptoms.

BUT DOES IT WORK? YES AND NO

The average cycle is 28 days but can range anywhere from 21-35 days for someone not on a contraceptive, with the number of days spent in each phase differing from person to person. Similarly, symptoms such as exhaustion and cramping are typical but not a given, which means not everyone will see the same benefits from taking a week of rest, just as not everyone will hit a personal record simply because they're in a specific phase of their cycle.

For those on a contraceptive, the structured form of cycle syncing may also be a poor fit, as they don't experience those typical hormone fluctuations. That can make a one-size-fits-all program challenging to adhere to.

Lauren Colenso-Semple, PhD, and fellow researchers at McMaster University evaluated a series of meta-analyses and systematic reviews on the influence of the menstrual cycle on sport performance and strength performance. They concluded that "in the absence of high-quality evidence to support designing resistance training programs based on menstrual cycle phase, coaches and athletes should tailor an exercise plan to the individual."

Other reports on cycle syncing, including a 2020 meta-analysis of 78 studies based on endurance- and strength-based outcomes, have come to similar conclusions. When it comes to adjusting a training session because you have menstrual symptoms, Colenso-Semple says, it can be impactful to listen to your body. "But that's really different from saying 'For these two weeks you should be doing yoga and for these two weeks you should be doing strength training,'" she says. "Because

those sorts of recommendations are really antithetical to everything we know about sound exercise programming."

The advice to force yourself to rest can also feel a bit archaic as a pre-set program may or may not coincide with the sensations in your own body.

"When we start getting into the advice of 'Don't do any intensity, you just need to sit and abstain from anything intense or heavy for somewhere between seven to 14 days a month,' it starts becoming belittling and kind of increasing this narrative around fragility in females which I think we've worked really hard to move past," Olenick says.

HOW YOU CAN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF

Sonya Romanowski, a 33-year-old strong-woman athlete, doesn't experience impactful enough hormone fluctuations throughout her cycle to shift her entire training regimen, but like Knowlton, she tries to plan her de-load for the start of menstruation. "I ease off higher percentage training and don't attempt any personal records during that time," she says.

If you're curious about what it might feel like to take your cycle into consideration when planning your workouts, Olenick recommends following the lead of your own body.

"I encourage people to track their cycle for three to six months to figure out their true pattern and recognize where sometimes things shift or change," Olenick says.

She suggests assessing your rate of perceived exertion – how hard you think you're pushing yourself during exercise – on a scale of one-to-10 and using that to adjust training intensity. Exercisers should keep in mind that things like nutrition, hydration, stress and life fatigue – not just your hormone levels – all have an impact on your training.

"Adjusting your training based on your own individual response and needs isn't cycle syncing," Olenick adds. "It's just good training."

Special to The Globe and Mail

And Olympic gold goes to ... the chocolate muffin

SYLVIE CORBET

Freshly cooked bread and a selection of French pastries were meant to be the stars of the Olympic village where athletes from across the world have packed the on-site bakery. But the gold medalist was a surprise: the American-inspired chocolate muffin is what went viral on social media.

Norwegian swimmer Henrik Christiansen has been dubbed "muffin man" after he posted a series of videos featuring the "choccy muffin," accumulating millions of views on TikTok. He gave it an "insane" 11/10 star review.

"It's been an unreal experience," he told the Associated Press on Saturday. "I never imagined it to become this big, but it's fun," said Christiansen, who swam in the 800-metre freestyle, the 1,500-metre freestyle and the 10-kilometre marathon races.

As an endurance athlete, he said he can afford to eat high-calorie food – like the dense chocolate muffin studded with chocolate chunks – every day. Over the two and a half weeks he stayed at the Olympic village in the northern Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, Christiansen ate "seven or eight" of these muffins known for their melted fudge centre.

About 40,000 meals are served each day of the Games to thousands of athletes from more than 200 countries and territories who are staying in the Olympic village. And the bakery became the meeting point for many, chief baker Tony Dore said.

Dore and his team produce fresh baguettes – added in 2022 to the UN's list of intangible cultural heritage – and a variety of other bread cooked every day on site. "It's unbelievable," he said, describing how quickly athletes adopted the very French habit of getting their fresh baguette every morning.

Another champion product, Dore said, is the "cocoa bread" specially created for the Olympics, basically a piece of double chocolate French bread but with less sugar and butter to better fit with athletes' diets.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biking has become a remedy for me

FIRST PERSON

It's during these rides that I confront and conquer life's challenges, **Bernie Goodman** writes

Pedalling through the freezing rain, I couldn't help but wonder if this was the universe's way of testing my commitment to biking to work. The pelting raindrops felt like tiny, icy spears attacking my face, and I was grateful that I'd worn my not-so-stylish 1970s safety goggles left over from my high school shop days many years earlier.

Yet, despite the weather's attempts to drench my enthusiasm, the joy of biking has a timeless quality. It's a joy that refuses to grow up, unlike my fond memories of the monkey bars that now tear tendons I wasn't even aware I had, or swings that now give me motion sickness. Biking, with its dirt trails and pavement adventures, still fuels the little kid in me, the one who used to have feathered, blown-back hair after a 10-minute sprint — my own version of the Eddie Van Halen hair flip (or so I hoped).

Now, it's no longer about the wind tousling my hair. It's about the sheer thrill of exploration, a pleasure that transcends responsibilities and worries. The early morning rides are reminiscent of my childhood escapades that made me feel like a member of a cool bike gang, with only parental curfews to contend with and the directive to be home before the streetlights came on.

Adulthood hasn't dampened my love for biking; if anything, it's



ILLUSTRATION BY MARLEY ALLEN-ASH

become a remedy for the crowd-infested public transit blues. Rain, shine, snow or wind — I welcome the challenge. The physical and mental strength gained from conquering adversity on two wheels is its own reward. And the sometimes cold and wet dreary rides in the dark of Vancouver are often brightened by sightings of coyotes, owls, herons and seals, reminding me that there's beauty even in the bleakest moments.

Biking has become my daily decompression, a meditative journey through trails and seawalls. It's during these rides that I confront and conquer life's challenges. Angry at the boss? Leave work furious and arrive home with a

plan of action, completely oblivious to the ride in between. Mad at my spouse? Cycle through the frustration, and by the time I've reached the destination, I've hopefully evolved from grumpy to optimistic — often without a single memory of the commute.

As a parent, I'm determined to pass on my joy of biking to my son. Our early adventures involved him snug in a bike trailer, critiquing my pedalling speed and the "bumpiness" of the ride. "Daddy, you must be tired, your legs aren't moving very fast." Predictably, as he grew, my legs slowed down and the trailer got heavier and his complaints and demands more frequent.

Unfortunately, not every attempt to share my passion went smoothly. A trip to the local BMX track ended with me attempting a gravity-defying feat only to somersault over the handlebars and introduce my shoulder to the rough reality of the track. With bruised pride and limbs, I hopped back on my bike, while my son nonchalantly rolled up with a grin, saying, "Hey dad, how's it going?"

Despite the occasional tumbles and humbling moments, biking remains a passion that propels me forward. It's a journey that, much like life, demands you face obstacles and challenges head-on. Biking is not just transportation; it's an invitation to be part of

the landscape, to savour the journey rather than just rush to the destination.

My feathered hair may be a thing of the past, but biking keeps me looking ahead. Life, like a bike ride, is about navigating obstacles, overcoming challenges, and relishing the journey. In a world of fast cars and crowded buses, life on a bike allows me to become the driver of my own adventure.

Bernie Goodman lives in North Vancouver.

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

New research underscores the heart and kidney benefits of fruits and veggies

LESLIE BECK

OPINION

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



You've heard it over and over again. Eat more fruits and vegetables. Eating plenty of produce is tied to many health benefits — lower risk of stroke, cataract, macular degeneration, osteoporosis, arthritis, asthma, depression, cognitive decline and digestive tract cancers is among them.

If you have hypertension and early chronic kidney disease, consider adding at least two cups of fruits and vegetables to your daily diet.

According to a new study published this month in the American Journal of Medicine, doing so not only helps lower blood pressure, it also protects kidney and heart health.

THE HYPERTENSION-CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE LINK

High blood pressure, affecting almost one in four Canadians, is a leading preventable risk factor for

heart disease, heart attack and stroke if uncontrolled.

It's also a risk factor for chronic kidney disease, which involves a gradual loss of kidney function and can range from mild to severe.

Damage caused by high blood pressure impairs the ability of blood vessels in the kidneys to filter waste and excess fluids from the bloodstream. The kidneys balance the pH level of the blood by removing acidic substances. A low blood pH level (acidic) can cause life-threatening health conditions.

ABOUT THE NEW RESEARCH

The study, a five-year randomized controlled trial, involved 153 adults, ages 18 to 70, with high blood pressure and early (stage 1) chronic kidney disease. In stage 1 chronic kidney disease, the kidneys are still filtering normally but there are signs of mild kidney damage.

The aim of the study was to test the effectiveness of reducing dietary acid on slowing the progression of chronic kidney disease and improving cardiovascular health.

Fruits and vegetables are alkaline (basic) foods, meaning they produce alkaline (base) compounds in the bloodstream after they're digested, which increases the pH level in the bloodstream. Beans and lentils are alkaline-producing too.

The digestion of animal foods, such as meat, chicken, fish and cheese, produces acidic compounds in the bloodstream, which decreases blood pH. Grains and carbonated drinks are also acid-producing.

Participants were assigned to one of three groups: one that added two to four cups of fruits and vegetables a day to their usual diet, one that took baking soda tablets twice daily and another that continued with usual medical care. Like fruits and vegetables, baking soda is acid-reducing.

All participants were receiving standard drug therapy prescribed by their family doctor to protect cardiovascular and kidney health.

Participants in all three groups experienced a decline in blood pressure during the study, with those in the fruit and vegetable group having the largest reduction.

Those in the fruit and vegetable group and the baking soda group had a slower decline in kidney function over five years compared to participants receiving drug therapy only.

While both acid-reducing diet strategies resulted in similar kidney protection, only participants eating the additional two to four cups of fruits and vegetables a day had improvements in cardiovascular disease risk factors such as LDL cholesterol and body mass index.

The new findings are in line with results from earlier studies conducted by the researchers. In both animals and people, they showed that an acid-producing diet (high in animal foods) was harmful to kidneys while an alkaline-producing diet (high in fruit and vegetables) was healthy for kidneys.

The researchers concluded that "fruits and vegetables should be viewed as foundational" in the management of hypertension.

RAMP UP YOUR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INTAKE

High blood pressure or not, increasing your daily fruit and vegetable intake offers plenty of nutritional and health benefits. Prior-

itize these foods at every meal.

Include both fruit and vegetables in smoothies. Blend leafy greens, raw carrot or pumpkin puree with frozen berries, mango or pineapple, for example.

Fortify meals with greens. Stir spinach, chopped kale or Swiss chard into soups, chilis, stews and pasta sauces. Top a vegetable pizza with baby arugula before serving. Add baby spinach, diced red pepper and sliced mushrooms to omelettes and frittatas. Snack on fruits and vegetables instead of reaching for a granola bar or crackers.

Prep vegetables ahead. Wash and slice carrots, celery and bell pepper and refrigerate for quick meals and snacks. Grill extra vegetables to top pizzas, toss into salads or add to sandwiches.

To keep up your produce intake when short on time, stock a variety of frozen vegetables. Serve fresh fruit for dessert to satisfy a sweet tooth. Toss dried or fresh berries, orange segments or apple slices into leafy green salads.

Leslie Beck, a Toronto-based private practice dietitian, is director of food and nutrition at Medcan. Follow her on Twitter @LeslieBeckRD

'When it's just you': One-woman shows flourish at Edmonton fringe festival

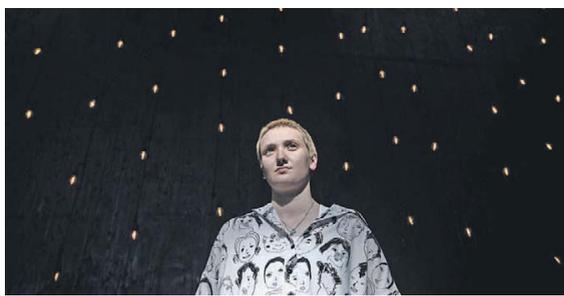
JACK FARRELL EDMONTON

Artists and shows at the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival this year are as varied and eclectic as ever, though attendees may notice a plethora of one-woman productions.

Edmonton playwright Madi May and her modern adaptation of *Fantomina*, a nearly 300-year-old novella by English writer Eliza Haywood, is one of at least 20 one-woman productions on the festival's bill. In both versions of *Fantomina*, a woman repeatedly disguises herself in order to dupe a man into believing he's met four different women.

"I'm not super married to the idea that the stories that plays tell have to be realistic," May said when asked if she thought an endeavour like *Fantomina* would be possible in today's world. "I think theatre is the most unrealistic form of art. And you have to suspend your disbelief and you have to just go with the story, because otherwise it's just not as fun."

May said she decided to make *Fantomina* a one-woman show to keep the play in line with the novella, which was written in the



Playwright Madi May is set to put on a one-person show called *Fantomina* during this year's Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

third person. It's also long been a goal for her to perform solo.

"Everyone knows it's daunting," she said of performing on her own, adding that the pressure is "part of the fun."

Another one-woman performer at the festival this year is Ontario comedian and playwright Laura Piccinin. Her show *GO* tells the tale of conquering the massive East Coast Trail hike in Newfoundland and Labrador. "I'm writing in my journal every single day. And at the end of every day, it's like, 'That was so awful and difficult. Tomorrow must be bet-

ter,'" Piccinin said. "And then you flip the page, and the next day it's like, 'Fell into a lake.'"

In all, Piccinin spent 19 days on the trail, which was three times longer than any of her previous hikes. Her journal entries serve as the show's script. While audience members might not be inspired to hike any time soon, she hopes people leave inspired to grow.

"I went through it with a lot of drama and a lot of pain and a lot of sadness. But then at the same time, I came out of it very strong and I really felt that I had talked myself into being a better version

of myself," she said. "That was really what I wanted to share with everyone, the process of what I went through. It wasn't easy. It wasn't linear. It was chaos, and it did bring me where I needed to be."

Like May, the pressure of a solo act falls heavily on Piccinin's shoulders. "All I'm doing is thinking about how do I get people there?" she said. "That's my number one problem."

The same problem worries festival organizers, who announced in March that a funding shortfall heading into this year's event was threatening the festival's long-term sustainability. Megan Dart,

the festival's executive director, said her team needs to raise \$300,000 before the 2024 festival wraps up. So far, just over \$100,000 has been collected.

"Much like every arts organization across the country, the last year has been one of incredible financial struggle coming out of the pandemic," she said. "We find ourselves in a situation where previously predictable revenue streams simply aren't keeping pace with the cost of producing our event."

The 43rd annual festival runs Thursday to Aug. 25.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TODAY'S KENKEN SOLUTION

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6	2	4	1	5	3
	10+	1-	11+		
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7+	11+				
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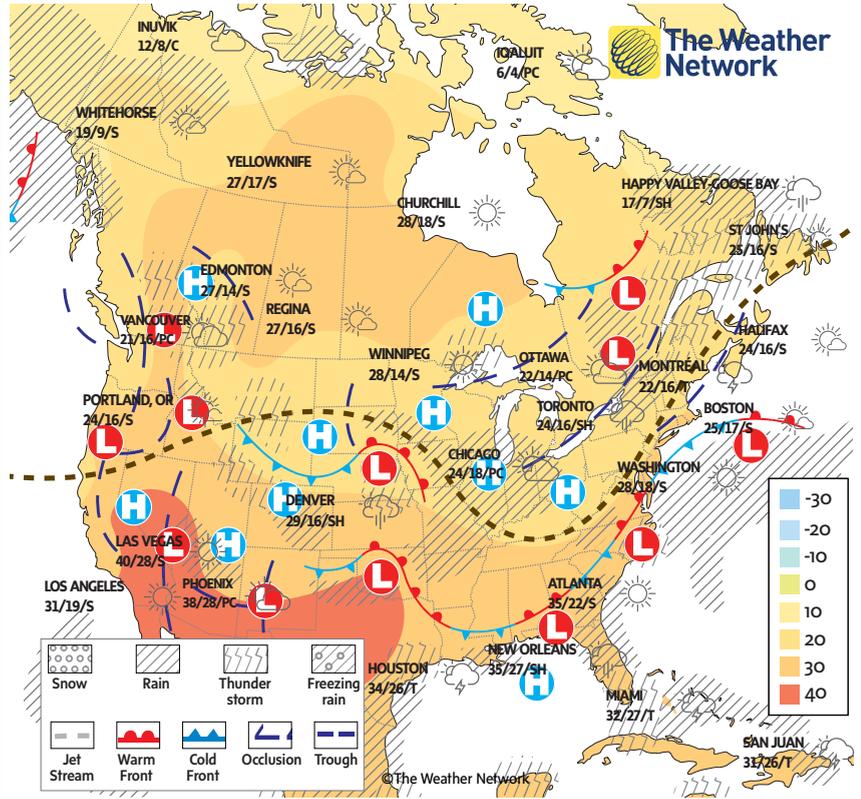
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WORLD FORECAST

	TODAY	TOMORROW	WEDNESDAY
AMSTERDAM	30/20 S	27/18 SH	22/15 R
ATHENS	35/24 S	37/24 S	38/23 S
BANGKOK	34/26 SH	33/26 T	33/27 T
BEIJING	30/22 S	27/23 PC	29/22 SH
BERLIN	27/15 S	30/19 S	32/20 SH
BRUSSELS	33/20 S	29/17 PC	24/15 C
COPENHAGEN	20/15 S	21/19 S	23/18 PC
FRANKFURT	31/20 S	32/19 S	28/19 PC
HONG KONG	30/28 T	30/27 T	29/27 T
JERUSALEM	30/21 S	32/22 S	32/21 S
LAS VEGAS	40/28 S	39/26 S	41/26 S
LONDON	32/15 S	26/16 PC	23/14 PC
LOS ANGELES	31/19 S	31/18 S	32/19 S
MADRID	36/22 S	32/21 PC	32/18 S
MIAMI	32/27 T	31/27 T	32/26 T
MOSCOW	19/12 SH	20/13 SH	22/12 SH
NEW DELHI	32/27 R	33/26 T	30/26 R
NEW YORK	27/17 S	26/19 S	28/18 S
NICE	32/25 S	31/24 S	30/25 PC
ORLANDO	33/25 S	33/26 T	34/25 S
PARIS	37/20 S	28/17 PC	27/17 PC
PHOENIX	38/28 PC	40/31 S	41/31 S
ROME	37/25 S	37/24 S	36/24 S
SAN FRANCISCO	16/12 PC	18/13 S	18/14 S
SEOUL	33/26 S	33/26 SH	34/25 T
SINGAPORE	29/27 T	30/27 SH	29/27 SH
TOKYO	17/14 SH	17/15 SH	16/12 R
SYDNEY	33/27 S	34/27 PC	33/27 SH
WASHINGTON	28/18 S	26/17 PC	28/19 S

NATIONAL FORECAST

	TODAY	TOMORROW	WEDNESDAY
BANFF	21/8 T	22/10 T	22/11 SH
BARRIE	21/13 SH	24/14 S	26/15 S
BRANDON	26/12 S	27/18 S	23/17 T
CALGARY	25/11 T	26/13 S	25/12 SH
CHARLOTTETOWN	24/16 T	23/14 T	23/16 S
CHICOUTIMI	22/14 SH	24/14 S	26/15 S
CHURCHILL	28/18 S	29/19 S	22/16 S
CORNER BROOK	24/16 S	18/10 R	20/12 PC
CORNWALL	22/14 SH	25/16 S	27/16 S
EDMONTON	27/14 S	26/16 T	25/13 PC
HALIFAX	24/16 S	25/17 SH	23/14 S
HAMILTON	23/13 SH	25/15 S	26/16 S
HUNTSVILLE	22/13 SH	26/14 S	26/15 S
IQALUIT	6/4 PC	9/9 C	14/7 PC
JASPER	24/10 T	23/13 SH	22/10 SH
KELOWNA	27/16 T	29/16 S	30/17 S
KINGSTON	23/16 SH	25/17 S	26/18 S
LONDON	23/12 S	25/15 SH	26/15 S
MONTREAL	22/16 T	27/17 T	27/17 S
NIAGARA FALLS	23/16 PC	24/17 S	26/17 S
NORTH BAY	21/13 SH	25/16 S	26/16 SH
OTTAWA	22/14 PC	26/15 S	27/16 S
PRINCE GEORGE	27/15 S	23/14 PC	25/12 S
PETERBOROUGH	22/14 SH	25/15 S	27/16 S
QUÉBEC	21/15 SH	27/14 S	27/16 S
REGINA	27/16 S	29/16 T	26/16 T
SASKATOON	28/17 S	29/15 T	25/15 SH
SAULT STE MARIE	24/14 S	25/15 S	26/16 S
SAINT JOHN	22/15 SH	24/16 SH	22/15 S
SEPTÎLES	18/14 PC	17/11 SH	18/15 PC
ST JOHN'S	25/16 S	20/13 SH	16/13 SH
SUDBURY	24/14 PC	28/16 S	28/16 S
THUNDER BAY	27/16 S	27/16 T	25/19 S
THOMPSON	29/16 S	28/17 S	27/18 PC
TORONTO	24/16 SH	24/18 S	26/19 S
VAL-D'OR	23/13 PC	26/14 S	27/15 S
VANCOUVER	21/16 PC	20/16 C	22/15 PC
VICTORIA	21/15 PC	19/15 C	22/14 PC
WHISTLER	24/16 T	22/16 PC	24/16 PC
WHITEHORSE	19/9 S	16/7 SH	15/7 R
WINNIPEG	28/14 S	28/19 S	25/18 C
YELLOWKNIFE	27/17 S	20/15 PC	19/10 PC



LEGEND

Daytime high, overnight low, and conditions

C CLOUDY	RS RAIN/SNOW
FG FOG	S SUN
FR FREEZING RAIN	SN SNOW
HZ HAZE	SF SNOW FLURRIES
NA NOT AVAILABLE	SH SHOWERS
PC PARTLY CLOUDY	T THUNDERSTORMS
R RAIN	W WINDY

BRIDGE
BY STEVE BECKER
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1[H]	Pass	2[C]
Pass	2[D]	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5[H]	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6[D]	Pass	7 NT

Opening Lead – seven of diamonds.

NORTH
♠ J 8 7 3
♥ A Q 10 3
♦ K 8 3 2
♣ A

WEST
♠ Q 10 6 4
♥ J 8 7 5
♦ 7 5
♣ J 8 7

EAST
♠ 9 2
♥ 9 4 2
♦ J 10 9 4
♣ 10 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 5
♥ K 6
♦ A Q 6
♣ K Q 9 6 3

This deal occurred in the 1976 World Pairs Olympiad. It was played at 44 tables, but at only five of the 18 tables where a grand slam in notrump was bid did declarer make seven notrump.

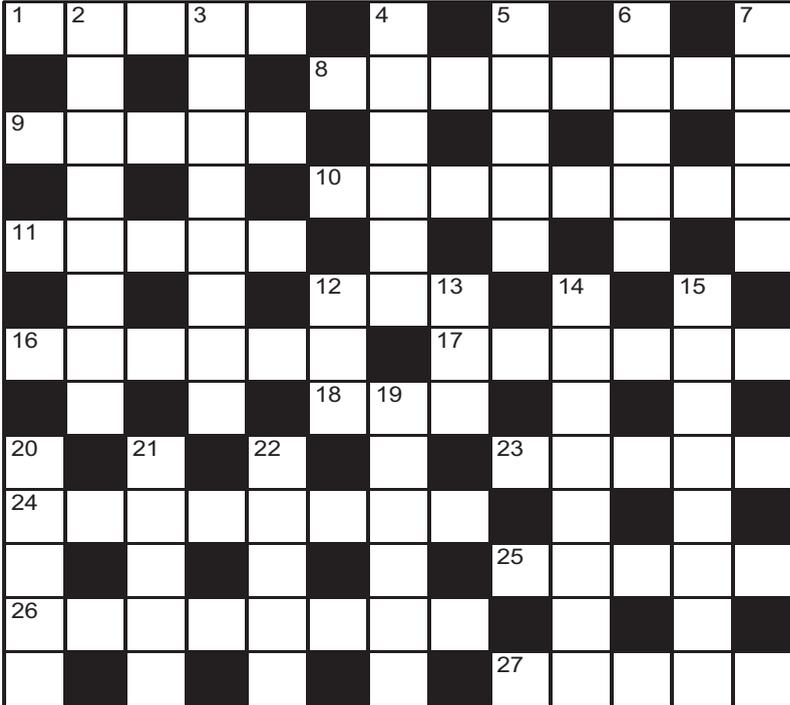
The bidding at one table went as shown, and West led the seven of diamonds. South won with the ace, played a club to dummy's ace and cashed the A-K of spades, hoping the queen would fall. When it didn't, declarer cashed the K-Q of clubs, hoping to find either defender with the J-10-x of clubs. In that case, he would have had 13 easy tricks, but this possibility also failed

to materialize. South's chances of making the grand slam were getting worse by the minute, but, undaunted, he next played the king and another heart and successfully finessed dummy's 10, creating this position:

North	West	East
♥ A Q	♠ Q 10	♥ 9
♦ K 8 3	♥ J 8	♦ J 10 4
	♦ 5	♣ 10
	South	
	♠ 5	
	♥ Q 6	
	♣ 9 6	

Declarer cashed dummy's ace of hearts, discarding a spade, and then led the queen of hearts. This last play put East out of commission. It didn't matter whether he discarded a diamond or a club; either way, South would make the grand slam.

CHALLENGE CROSSWORD



CRYPTIC CLUES

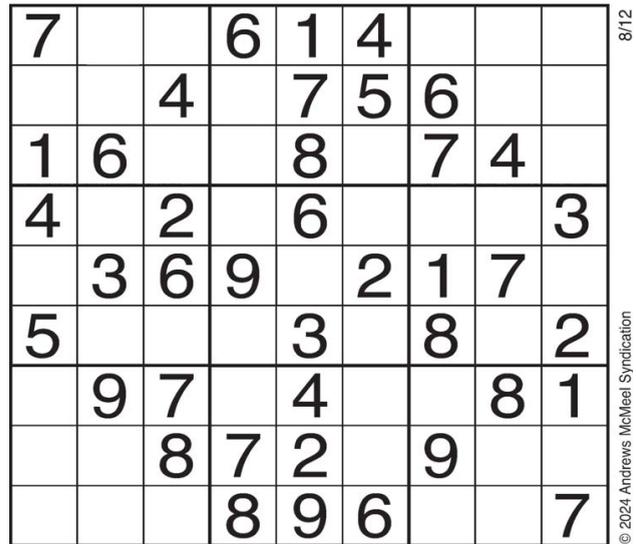
- ACROSS**
- Modern city can be built around an old one (5)
 - Explorer is holding last of the sledge dogs (8)
 - Just the girl for an excursion (5)
 - Sort of banana has insect visible on the outside (8)
 - Union notice that may be objected to (5)
 - A love note enclosed produces excitement (3)
 - Gets engaged when he is in a bit of trouble (6)
 - We slid around before finding controls (6)
 - A layer of rich enamel (3)
 - Worked at providing a song at the piano (5)
 - Rash but not so destructive we hear (8)
 - He may make money – about a pound (5)
 - It's Bob's turn to be obstinate (8)
 - Show travelled round (5)
- DOWN**
- Girl restrained but persistent (8)
 - A hot line arranged for the operetta (8)
 - Climbed – then peeled off (6)
 - Weight of a gem? (5)
 - Old monarch – dim as can be (5)
 - Gun is out of order in practice (5)
 - Wood found in a tray? (3)
 - Confess one's love at two points (3)
 - Boring task for the rich (4-2-2)
 - A small deposit secures! (8)
 - Possibly run and see to make certain (6)
 - Vessel is said to be sailing (5)
 - He must be prepared to go on ahead (5)
 - Fifty cubs around but only thirteen in the pack (5)

QUICK CLUES

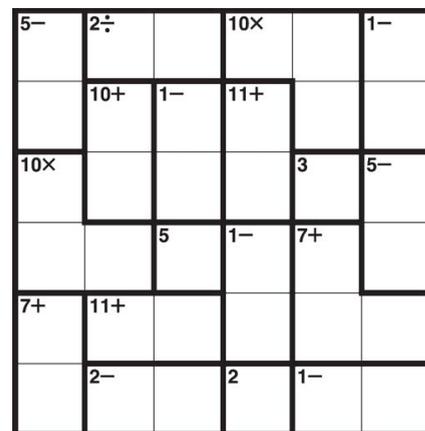
- ACROSS**
- Quiet and serious (5)
 - Admittedly (2,2,4)
 - Fish of ray family (5)
 - Dismiss as unimportant (5,3)
 - Assembly of witches (5)
 - Part of circle's circumference (3)
 - Respectful opinion (6)
 - Tumult (6)
 - Scheduled (3)
 - Border (5)
 - Conclusive trial (4,4)
 - Establish (5)
 - Routine (3-2-3)
 - An enticement (5)
- DOWN**
- Assume control of (4,4)
 - Virtually secured (2,3,3)
 - Fuss (6)
 - Capital of South Korea (5)
 - To stage (3,2)
 - Muscular (5)
 - Say further (3)
 - A signal for action (3)
 - Sweetheart (8)
 - Fail to give back (4,2,2)
 - Oust from political office (6)
 - Tastelessly bright (5)
 - A plastic material (5)
 - Lower oneself morally (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.



KENKEN INSTRUCTIONS

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating.
- 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 single-box cages with the numbers in the top-left corner.

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FRIDAY'S CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1 Meeting, 5 Which, 8 Come about, 9 Cur, 10 Arch, 12 Unchaste, 14 Callow, 15 Harass, 17 Nominative, 18 Stab, 21 Off, 22 Reinstated, 24 Mused, 25 Glitter.
DOWN: 1 Mocha, 2 Elm, 3 Iran, 4 Ground, 5 Watchman, 6 Incessant, 7 Harness, 11 Cellmates, 13 Cornered, 14 Conform, 16 String, 19 Their, 20 Asti, 23 Art.

FRIDAY'S QUICK

ACROSS: 1 Delight, 5 Weber, 8 Out of turn, 9 Asp, 10 Left, 12 Maniacal, 14 Maroon, 15 Revoke, 17 Stealthy, 18 Stab, 21 Ant, 22 Leviathan, 24 Tarry, 25 Legible.
DOWN: 1 Droll, 2 Let, 3 Gift, 4 Toucan, 5 Winnipeg, 6 Branch out, 7 Repulse, 11 Far better, 13 Foul play, 14 Miscast, 16 Shovel, 19 Binge, 20 Fang, 23 Hub.

Solutions to today's Sudoku and Kenken can be found in the Life & Arts content area of the A section. Crossword solutions will be with tomorrow's puzzles.

Families of Brazilian plane crash victims gather in Sao Paulo

The state government said searches ended Saturday night, with the remains of all 34 males and 28 females among the victims recovered

MAURICIO SAVARESE
TATIANA POLLASTRI
SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

More than 40 families of victims of an airliner crash in Brazil gathered Sunday at a morgue and hotels in Sao Paulo as three French government investigators arrived in the country. Forensics experts worked to identify the remains of the 62 people killed.

Sao Paulo state government said in a statement Sunday morning that the searches ended at 10:45 p.m. on Saturday, 33 hours after the crash, with the remains of all 34 males and 28 females among the victims recovered. It added that the wreckage remains at the site so investigators can continue their work.

The ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop operated by Brazilian airline Voepass was headed for Guarulhos international airport in Sao Paulo with 58 passengers and four crew members aboard when it went down Friday in Vinhedo, 78 kilometres north of the city. Vo-

epass said that three passengers who held Brazilian identification also carried Venezuelan documents, and one had Portuguese identity.

ATR is a French-Italian company. International aviation protocols recommend that investigators from the country of origin of the airplane maker follow inquiries on foreign soil whenever a crash involving one of those planes takes place. Local authorities said that the three French investigators in Brazil work at BEA, the European country's body for civil aviation security.

The bodies of the pilot, Danilo Santos Romano, and his co-pilot, Humberto de Campos Alencar e Silva, were the first to be identified. Another 10 have been identified since, local authorities said. One body is already set for burial, and another seven are expected to follow on Sunday, Sao Paulo's state government said.

The airliner said in a statement to the Associated Press that Mr. Romano had just finished his first full year as commander. He was hired by the Brazilian company in November, 2022, as a co-pilot. His experience with Voepass included 5,202 flying hours, all in planes of the ATR model, the only one the company owns.

At least eight physicians were aboard, Parana state Governor Ratinho Junior said. Four professors at Unioeste university in

western Parana were also confirmed dead.

Liz Ibba dos Santos, a 3-year-old girl who was travelling with her father, was the only child known to be on the passenger list. The remains of Luna, a dog that was travelling with a Venezuelan family, were also found in the wreckage.

Sao Paulo's morgue began receiving the bodies Friday evening, and it asked victims' relatives to bring in medical, X-ray and dental records to help identify the bodies. Blood tests were also done to help identification efforts.

The few family members speaking about the tragedy did so on social media.

Tania Azevedo, who lost her son Tiago in the crash, was put up in one of the hotels in Sao Paulo but said that she was waiting to go to the morgue.

"I believe Tiago is somewhere trying to help the other people wounded who also need light and love," she said. "I couldn't go there [to the morgue]. I am here waiting. It is dark here, I need some light and love myself."

Images recorded by witnesses showed the aircraft in a flat spin and plunging vertically before smashing to the ground inside a gated community, leaving an obliterated fuselage consumed by fire. Residents said that there were no injuries on the ground.

It was the world's deadliest airline crash since January, 2023, when 72 people died on a Yeti Airlines plane in Nepal that stalled and crashed while making its landing approach. That plane also was an ATR 72, and the final report blamed pilot error.

Metsul, one of Brazil's most respected meteorological companies, said Friday that there were reports of severe icing in Sao Paulo state around the time of the crash. Local media cited experts pointing to icing as a potential cause for the crash.

A video shared on social-media channels Saturday shows a Voepass pilot telling passengers on a flight from Guarulhos to the city of Cascavel that the ATR 72 has flown safely around the world for decades. He also asked passengers to be respectful to the memory of his colleagues and the company and asked for prayers.

"This tragedy doesn't hit only those who perished in this accident. It hits all of us," the unidentified pilot said. "We are giving all our hearts, all our best to be here and fulfill our mission to take you safely and comfortably to your destination."

Police restricted access to the main entrance of the Sao Paulo morgue, where bodies from the crash were being identified. Some family members of the victims arrived on foot, others came in minivans. None spoke to journal-

ists, and authorities requested that they not be filmed as they came.

A flight carrying more family members from Parana state landed Saturday afternoon at Guarulhos airport. A minivan sponsored by the airline was provided to transport them to the morgue.

Sao Paulo's state government said that 26 families have already gone to the morgue for identification efforts, with more expected on Sunday.

An American Eagle ATR 72-200 crashed on Oct. 31, 1994, and the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board determined the probable cause was ice buildup while the plane was circling in a holding pattern. The plane rolled at about 8,000 feet and dove into the ground, killing all 68 people on board. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration issued operating procedures for ATRs and similar planes telling pilots not to use the autopilot in icing conditions.

Brazilian aviation expert Lito Sousa cautioned that meteorological conditions alone might not be enough to explain why the Voepass plane fell in the manner it did on Friday.

Brazil's air force said Sunday that the results of its investigations are expected to be published within 30 days.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zelensky: Russia's near 2,000 cross-border strikes deserved a response, President says

■ FROM A1

"Ukraine is proving that it can indeed restore justice and is ensuring the exact kind of pressure that is needed — pressure on the aggressor."

Russia's Defence Ministry said on Sunday it had destroyed 14 Ukrainian drones and four Tochka-U tactical ballistic missiles overnight over the Kursk region and 18 drones over other Russian regions that Ukraine frequently attacks.

In a statement, it called the ground incursion "barbaric" and said it made no military sense.

Ukraine has at most occupied several tens of square kilometres of Russian territory without laying claim to it, while Russia controls more than 100,000 square kilometres of Ukraine's internationally recognized territory.

Russia's top general, Valery Gerasimov, said on Wednesday the attacks had been halted, but Russia has not pushed the Ukrainian forces back over the border.

Russian military bloggers said the situation had stabilized after Russia's reinforcements, though they said Ukraine was swiftly building up forces.

Mr. Zelensky said on Sunday Russia had launched nearly 2,000 cross-border strikes on Ukraine's Sumy region from the region of Kursk this summer and that such strikes deserved a Ukrainian response.

"Artillery, mortars, drones. We



Russia had launched nearly 2,000 cross-border strikes on Ukraine's Sumy region from the region of Kursk this summer, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday. VIACHESLAV RATYNSKYI/REUTERS

also record missile strikes, and each such strike deserves a fair response," the Ukrainian leader said.

Earlier, Kursk officials said 13 people were injured in the city after debris from a destroyed Ukrainian missile fell onto a nine-storey residential building.

An image posted by Kursk's mayor showed flames rising

through a shattered apartment block surrounded by charred debris.

It was not clear whether there was further damage. Moscow and Kyiv rarely disclose the full extent of damage inflicted by attacks on them unless there are injuries or damage to residential buildings.

Alexei Smirnov, Kursk's acting governor, ordered local author-

ities to speed up the evacuation of civilians in areas at risk. On Saturday, Russia's TASS state news agency reported that more than 76,000 people had been evacuated.

Kyiv and Moscow deny targeting civilians in their attacks in the war, which has displaced thousands of people and displaced millions of Ukrainians, and has no end in

sight.

Russian military bloggers say fighting is taking place as deep as 20 kilometres inside the Kursk region, prompting some of them to question why Ukraine was able to pierce the Kursk region so easily.

A few dozen Russian soldiers, including fighters from Chechnya, who were captured allegedly in Kursk were shown in a video posted by "I want to live," a project which is linked to Ukraine's military spy agency. Reuters could not immediately verify the video.

After a father and his four-year-old son were killed near Kyiv in what Mr. Zelensky said was a Russian air attack using a North Korean missile, the Ukrainian leader asked Western partners for "strong decisions," allowing his troops to strike deep inside Russia with Western weapons.

"When Ukraine's long-range capabilities have no limits, this war will definitely have a limit," Mr. Zelensky wrote on X.

Russian Human Rights Commissioner Tatyana Moskalkova said she had sent an appeal to the United Nations demanding it condemn Ukraine's actions in Kursk.

In a Telegram post, Ms. Moskalkova said she was asking the UN Human Rights commissioner to "take measures to prevent gross mass violations of human rights."

REUTERS

Mpox: Cases of viral illness recently reported spreading to 14 other African countries

■ FROM A1

Nicholas Janveau, a spokesperson for PHAC, said the agency has no plans to provide any of Canada's vaccines to other countries. It has not received any formal requests from any governments or international health agencies, he told The Globe and Mail in response to questions.

In addition, Canada cannot donate any vaccines to other countries unless PHAC officially declares that it has a surplus beyond the country's requirements, which it has not done, Mr. Janveau said. But he said Canada is "exploring avenues" to help the response to the mpox outbreak in other ways.

Reported cases of the viral illness, formerly known as monkey pox, have surged by 160 per cent in Africa this year, compared to the same period last year, the Africa CDC says.

The vast majority of the 38,500 mpox cases since 2022 have been recorded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but the outbreak has recently spread to 14 other African countries. Cases have been reported for the first time in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda within the past month.

Some of the African cases are a new mutation, known as Clade 1b, which has a much higher



Nurse Christian Musema collects water at the treatment centre in Munigi last month, following Mpox cases in Nyiragongo territory in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. ARLETTE BASHIZI/REUTERS

death rate and can spread through routine close contact, including from mothers to children. The vast majority of deaths this year have occurred among children.

To bolster its response to the mpox outbreak, the Africa CDC plans to declare a public-health emergency in Africa this week, Dr. Kaseya said. The World Health Organization is also convening an expert committee this week to decide whether to declare a global emergency. An earlier outbreak of mpox in West Africa in 2022 led to a global epi-

demic.

Health activists say the mpox vaccine issue is an echo of similar controversies during the COVID-19 pandemic, when wealthy countries were accused of hoarding huge stockpiles of surplus vaccines at a time when millions of people in poorer countries were falling sick because of vaccine shortages in their countries.

Critics say the Canadian government should be doing more to share its vaccines. "It shows that all the lessons of COVID have not been learned, particularly by higher-income countries

and pharmaceutical companies that play God, deciding who should get priority access in a pandemic," said Fatima Hassan, a South African human-rights lawyer and founder of the Health Justice Initiative.

"It's disheartening," she told The Globe. "Should Canada be sharing? Yes, they should. They probably won't. Their self-interest and nationalism will prevail."

The situation, she said, is an "exact replica" of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Companies deciding which countries they will first sell to, prioritizing certain customers, and countries such as Canada and the U.S. hoarding or over-ordering, not sharing, talking equity but not practising equity."

Adam Houston, medical policy and advocacy adviser at Doctors Without Borders Canada, noted that Canada was one of the first countries to build a stockpile of the Bavarian Nordic vaccine, with contracts dating back over 15 years.

"Now we see countries like the United States pledging doses, but need in countries like Congo still drastically outstrips what is being made available," he told The Globe.

"Particularly given Canada's abysmal record on vaccine hoarding, not just for COVID-19 vaccine but during previous out-

breaks like H1N1 in 2009, it would be helpful to know what Canada plans to do with its stockpiles."

The World Health Organization, at a briefing last week, said it is grateful for mpox vaccine donations from Japan, the United States, the European Union and some manufacturers.

It announced the launch of a process for emergency use listing for the two authorized vaccines, including the Bavarian Nordic vaccine, to make it easier to distribute doses in poorer countries where regulatory studies are slower.

In a statement last week, more than two dozen global health experts said the world's response to the latest mpox outbreak has been "wholly inadequate." Access to vaccines, tests and treatments in Africa has been completely insufficient, they said.

So far, they said, only 50,000 vaccine doses have been sent to Congo, which has a population of more than 100 million.

"The lack of funding to date is likely a contributing factor to this now expanding outbreak," the health experts said.

To reduce its reliance on donations, Africa must begin manufacturing its own vaccines, Dr. Kaseya said. "Local manufacturing of vaccines and medicines will be the second independence of Africa."

THE CLIMATE EXCHANGE



Does climate change cause wildfires?
Is climate change part of a natural cycle?
Is there anything we can do as individuals?

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That's why we've launched **The Climate Exchange**, a digital hub where The Globe answers your most pressing questions on climate change in Canada and beyond.

Scan the QR code or head to **tgam.ca/theclimateexchange** to be part of the conversation.



BROUGHT
TO YOU BY



Real estate insolvencies set to surpass levels during financial crisis

RACHELLE YOUNGLAI
REAL ESTATE REPORTER

Residential property developers are facing rising insolvencies as they struggle with higher borrowing and construction costs – and industry experts warn the trend is likely to worsen as interest expenses remain elevated.

The number of insolvent real estate companies and projects has been rapidly climbing over the past year and is now on track to surpass levels of the global financial crisis, according to data from the federal Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy.

“This has been a long time coming,” said Colin Doran, head of development advisory for commercial real estate firm Altus Group, who has been providing advice on distressed real estate projects for 15 years.

“There are no doubt more real estate projects in distress, but it’s hard to tell how many can be worked out before ending up in an insolvency position. We expect there will continue to be more unsophisticated developers in trouble,” he said.

From January to May this year, there was an average of 20 real estate, rental or leasing insolvencies in Canada every month. Companies either sought bankruptcy protection or filed creditor proposals to make it easier for them to manage their debts under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.

■ REAL ESTATE, B6

FinTRAC still working to restore full service after cyberattack

ALEXANDRA POSADZKI
TELECOM REPORTER

Canada’s financial intelligence unit is still working to bring all of its services back online more than five months after a cyberattack, creating headaches for some businesses and sparking concerns about gaps in the country’s anti-money laundering regime.

The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada, also known as FinTRAC, took some of its systems offline to protect its data after a cyber incident on March 2. The financial intelligence unit has not provided details of the attack, but noted on its website that it has “found no evidence that information was lost or that data was removed.”

Businesses such as banks, money services businesses, securities dealers, real estate brokers and casinos are legally required to report certain transactions to FinTRAC, including suspicious ones and those involving large sums of cash or virtual currency.

However, some of FinTRAC’s systems remain offline, as the watchdog is in the process of replacing them amid a push to modernize its digital infrastructure that began prior to the attack. Those offline services include the online platform that companies with lower reporting volumes use to flag transactions for the watchdog remains offline, as well as FinTRAC’s registration system for money services businesses.

Meanwhile, as of April, companies that report high volumes of suspicious transactions have been able to do so through FinTRAC’s new API system, which stands for application programming interface.

■ FINTRAC, B6

[RETAIL]



Instagram-worthy experiences lure social-media shoppers

Canadian businesses capitalize on experiential retail to attract consumers whose spending habits are shaped by digital platforms

PIPPA NORMAN

In early July, Rik Ocvirk was practising office chair wrangling on the second floor of a Victorian industrial building in Toronto’s Distillery District. As the director of experiences and events for the district, he was perfecting his lasso skills in anticipation of the arrival of some wooden cattle he had commissioned for the summer’s Picks and Bricks Country Festival.

The chance to rope an immobile steer was one of multiple activities Mr. Ocvirk had dreamt up to allow festivalgoers to enjoy themselves while capturing a moment to share with their followers on social media. Line-dancing lessons, mechanical bull riding, whiskey tastings, a doggy dress-up contest – a plethora of photo ops with props such as a vintage tractor he had shipped in from Prince Edward County, a farm-

ing community to the east of the city.

“City folk don’t get to sit on a tractor often. So if I can get a couple of tractors and put them out there and people can just sit on a real live tractor and take a picture, it would be funny,” he said.

The Distillery District’s emphasis on creating Instagram-worthy experiences to draw people into its commercial space, with its restaurants, shops and entertainment venues, is part of a larger trend to appeal to the social-media-minded consumer. Delivering an experience that will generate likes and shares for customers is a powerful way for businesses to promote themselves.

“This user-generated content has become the marketing of the future,” Mr. Ocvirk said.

An Ipsos study of 1,500 Instagram users found that 65 per cent of those who identified as frequent travellers in Canada said they use Instagram for destination inspiration.

■ SOCIAL MEDIA, B6

The Distillery District in Toronto draws people into its commercial space by delivering an experience that will generate likes and shares for customers. CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

When Olympians can’t make a living off their sport, it shames us as a country

ERIN GEE

OPINION

After Alysha Newman won an Olympic pole-vault bronze medal last week, an interviewer asked what had kept her going throughout a sometimes tumultuous career.

Of course, “there is nothing quite like sports,” said Ms. Newman, the first Canadian woman to win an Olympic medal in her field. “We stick to our guns through this because of this feeling tonight.”

But Ms. Newman also said: “I do make good money [when I’m] off the track, and I’m very proud of my entrepreneurial skills.”

Ms. Newman is a noted OnlyFans influencer, and she is not the only such athlete.

There is nothing wrong with that. Making money on OnlyFans is hard, and Ms. Newman has every reason to be proud of her entrepreneurial skills. But the fact

that she and so many other athletes have side hustles shames us as a country.

Athletes spread a country’s name abroad, and they uplift their compatriots back home. It’s a service to their nation. That has value. Maybe it’s difficult to quantify. But when you watch an Olympics stream and gain some enjoyment from it, and then talk about it with friends afterward, there is no doubt you are reaping a little bit of that value.

But as a country we don’t want to pay for that. At home, we fail to provide athletes with the support they need, even as we expect them to bring home the gold on the world stage.

I remember receiving my first cheque for playing softball; I was in complete disbelief. I was making money to do what I loved, being a full-time member of the women’s national team and pursuing my dream of representing Canada at the Olympics. But reality quickly set in.

As an Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) recipient with a Senior-level card

for several years under Softball Canada, I received \$3,000 every two months to offset the living and training costs of being a national-level athlete. At the time, the coaches of the softball program lived and worked (i.e., coached at NCAA Division I universities) in the United States, which meant that any off-season training – outside annual winter training camps – with the coaching staff required athletes to cover those costs themselves. This meant taking time off work or school to spend thousands of dollars to visit Las Vegas and Lincoln, Neb.

During that period, I was fortunate to be in my last year of university and living with my parents, but since I had completed my four years of collegiate eligibility, I was left to do much of my training alone with the costs of trainers, gym memberships, practice equipment and various health care professionals ballooning. I worked part-time but had to accommodate my priorities: school and training.

■ GEE, B4

TRANSPORTATION

Shrinking air travel to smaller communities pushes up fares, cuts links to rest of country ■ B3

TECHNOLOGY

China’s growing dominance is built in university classes and by corporate budgets ■ B5

GLOBE INVESTOR

The greatest Canadian stock of all time is one that likes to stay ‘out of the limelight’ ■ B9

[LEBANON]



Empowering displaced women

Farah Ali Hijazi works in an agriculture field Saturday in Tyre as part of a UN women-funded project to empower displaced women by employing them in cultivating lands around shelters

AZIZ TAHER/REUTERS

Chinese mining firm subsidiary disputes Ottawa's review of deal

Minister found gold and copper mine purchase 'could be injurious to national security'

DARRYL GREER

A subsidiary of a Chinese state-owned mining firm says Canada is wrongly considering a national security review in its agreement to purchase a gold and copper mine in Peru.

In May, Vancouver-based **Pan American Silver Corp.** announced an agreement worth almost US\$300-million to sell its stake in Peru's La Arena gold mine to Jinteng (Singapore) Mining, a subsidiary of China's Zijin Mining Group.

Pan American said then that the agreement was "subject to customary conditions and receipt of regulatory approvals."

Since then, however, Canada's Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne has found the agreement "could be injurious to national security" and told the company in late June that he "may" order a formal review under the act.

Certain types of foreign investments involving Canadian companies are reviewed on national security grounds, and Jinteng voluntarily notified the Director of Investments at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada shortly after the agreement was announced.

The federal government maintains a list of nearly three dozen critical minerals "essential to Canada's economic or national security," and reviews of investments involving foreign companies such as Zijin are a protective measure to maintain Canadian control of materials essential to "the green and digital economy."

Zijin is partially owned by the Chinese government and overseen by members of the Chinese Communist Party.

Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy outlines how allies in Europe have "experienced the consequences of dependence upon non-like-minded countries for strategic commodities."

Jinteng claims in a judicial review application filed in Federal Court in late July that the minister "lacks jurisdiction under the act" to order a national security review of the La Arena deal.

"The targets are Peruvian entities. They do not have a place of operations in Canada or other-

National security experts have warned of the geopolitical consequences of letting foreign actors scoop up Canadian companies in the sector, and Jinteng's actions to skirt the national security review process represent a test of Ottawa's reach on companies incorporated in Canada, but that have no domestic operations and exist only to hold foreign assets.

wise carry on operations in Canada, they do not have individuals in Canada who are employed or self-employed in connection with their operations, and they do not have asset in Canada used in carrying on their operations," the application says.

National security experts have warned of the geopolitical consequences of letting foreign actors scoop up Canadian companies in the sector, and Jinteng's actions to skirt the national security review process represent a test of Ottawa's reach on companies incorporated in Canada, but that have no domestic operations and exist only to hold foreign assets.

Despite the voluntary notification sent to Ottawa about the deal, Jinteng claimed it doesn't involve a "Canadian business" as defined by the act because the target companies and their assets are in Peru, though they're owned by Pan American subsidiaries incorporated in B.C. and Ontario.

The company claims in its application that the Minister's decision is "based on an untenable and unreasonable interpretation of the act, and is therefore wrong in law."

Jinteng claims the Minister "lacks jurisdiction under the act" to order a national security review of the La Arena deal.

Aaron Shull, managing director and general counsel at the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Ontario, said the case presents a "fairly complicated story that is actually quite simple."

He said the deal boils down to a Canadian parent company selling Peruvian assets to a Chinese company, and the structure of the subsidiaries involved could be for various reasons such as shielding liability and tax purposes.

Mr. Shull said the Canadian government has indicated its intention to scrutinize and "get tougher on" foreign investments involving things like strategic minerals involving "hostile states."

"Especially from state-owned enterprises or enterprises that are so closely affiliated with the state," he said.

The deal, he said, is not only for gold mining assets, but also for a nearby gold-copper mine and a power transmission facility.

"You could probably make a fairly compelling case that this is part of a strategic play on China's part in Latin America," he said. "The Canadian government, the American government, a whole bunch of others have been mak-

ing a lot of noise about being tougher on this type of stuff. I think that's what you're seeing here is the kind of implementation of that sabre rattling in this kind of contested geopolitical environment."

Jinteng's Canadian lawyers did not respond to a request for comment.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada also declined to speak about Jinteng's Federal Court application.

"The Government of Canada does not comment on matters before the court. Due to confidentiality provisions of the *Investment Canada Act*, the Government cannot comment on specific transactions," the agency said in an e-mailed statement.

The federal government announced "significant changes" to the act in March this year.

"While foreign investment is essential to economic prosperity, the Investment Canada Act is a key lever that allows the government of Canada to act quickly and decisively when foreign investment would threaten national security," the department said at the time. "As the world changes and threats evolve, Canada needs new tools to continue protecting the economy and keeping Canadians safe."

Mr. Shull said the case documents don't indicate what specific national security concerns the Minister may have, but said he'll be watching the case closely for the outcome.

He said if the company's successful in staving off a national security review, it would put Canada in an "odd spot" by potentially giving foreign companies a means of structuring deals outside of the legislative regime with "just a bunch of creative lawyering."

The underlying issues beyond the specifics of the case involve the intersection of national security, prosperity and economic security, which "we tend not to think about ... in a strategically integrated fashion in this country," Mr. Shull said.

"It's part of a much bigger puzzle," he said. "The primary concern that I have is that hostile states and strategic adversaries are looking at this stuff in an integrated way."

Mr. Champagne said when announcing the changes in March that Canada is a "top destination for foreign investment worldwide."

Harris says she would never interfere with Fed independence

JEFF MASON PHOENIX

U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris said on Saturday that she disagreed strongly with rival Donald Trump's views on the Federal Reserve and pledged not to meddle with the central bank if she wins the Nov. 5 presidential election.

Ms. Harris's view contrasts sharply with that of the Republican nominee and former president, who on Thursday said that U.S. presidents should have a say over the Fed's decisions.

"The Fed is an independent entity and as president I would never interfere in the decisions that the Fed makes," Ms. Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, told reporters in Phoenix, Ariz.

Ms. Harris, speaking before flying to Las Vegas for a campaign rally, said she planned to unveil policy positions next week.

"It'll be focused on the economy and what we need to do to bring down costs, and also strengthen the economy overall," she said.

A jump in the July U.S. unemployment rate reported last week helped to spark a global stock market rout that continued into Monday before equities made a partial recovery.

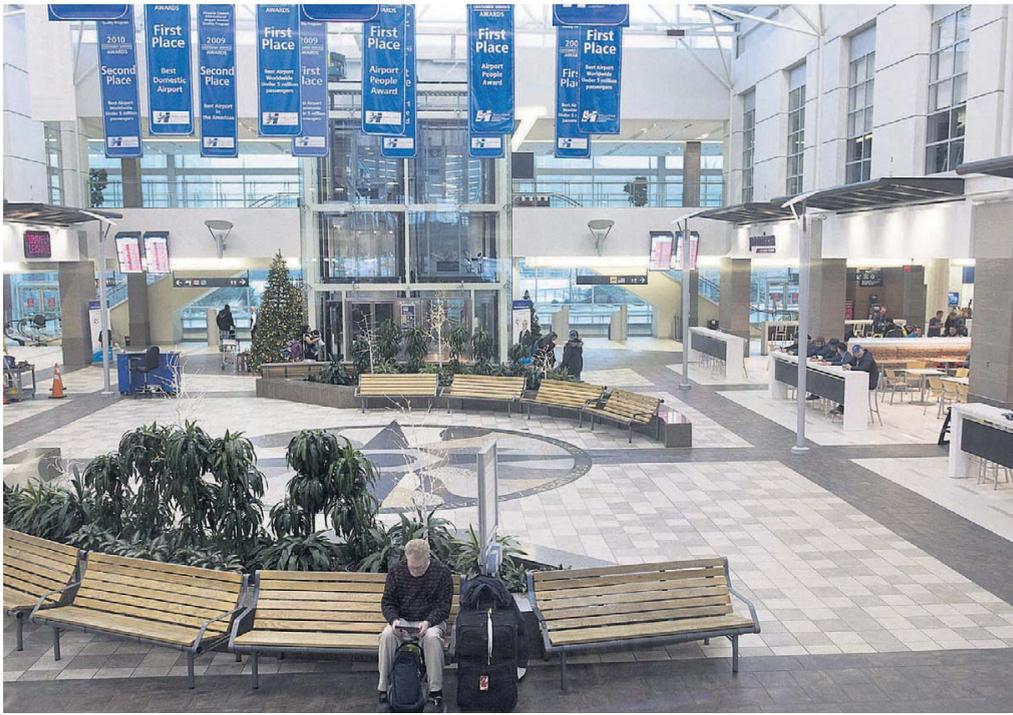
Investors had taken flight because of fears of a potential U.S. recession and that the Fed would need to act aggressively in response.

Asked about those concerns and how the Fed would react, Ms. Harris said: "As we know, there was turbulence this week, but it seems to have settled itself. And we'll see what ... decisions they make next."

Mr. Trump's comments on Thursday offered the most explicit indication so far of his interest in infringing on the Fed's independence should he regain the White House.

"I feel the president should have at least [a] say" on Fed decisions, Mr. Trump told reporters at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida.

His comment followed a Wall Street Journal report this spring that said Trump allies have drafted proposals that would attempt to erode the central bank's independence if he wins.



In Cape Breton, residents now have to go through Montreal or Toronto if they want to fly to Halifax airport, pictured in 2018, after both WestJet and Air Canada cut back from a combined 240 flights per month to zero. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. retailers rush holiday imports, fearing strikes

SIDDHARTH CAVALE
LISA BAERTLEIN NEW YORK

Retailers are fuelling a summer rush of imports to the United States this year as companies guard against a potential strike by port workers and continuing shipping disruptions from attacks in the Red Sea ahead of a shortened holiday shopping season.

Container imports and freight rates surged in July, signalling an earlier than usual peak season for an ocean shipping industry that handles about 80 per cent of global trade.

July is expected to be the peak for U.S. retailers, which account for about half of that trade, and August is expected to be almost as robust, analysts said.

Companies that import toys, home goods and consumer electronics have brought forward holiday promotions to capture customers who are shopping earlier each season. "Retailers don't want to be caught back-footed," said Jonathan Gold, the National Retail Federation's (NRF) vice-president for supply chain and customs policy.

Many shippers expedited holiday goods orders, with some putting Christmas items on the water as early as May, said Peter Sand, chief analyst at pricing platform Xeneta.

The influx is not a result of consumer spending, which has been tethered by stubborn inflation and high interest rates, experts said. Rather, it is a precaution against a potential U.S. port strike and the late Nov. 28 date for Thanksgiving this year, squeezing the peak shopping and delivery season running to Christmas Eve.

In July U.S. container imports registered the third-highest monthly volume on record with 2.6 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs), up 16.8 per cent from a year earlier, in part owing to record imports from China, according to supply chain software provider Descartes Systems Group.

The NRF, which is chaired by the chief executive officer of Walmart's U.S. business and includes the CEOs of Target, Macy's and Saks on its executive committee, said it also expects strong August imports. Walmart, the nation's largest container shipping importer, reports second-quarter earnings on Aug. 15.

Retailers are concerned about a possible Oct. 1 strike at seaports stretching from Maine to Texas after talks between the International Longshoremen's Association and the United States Maritime Alliance stalled.

"Should a general work stoppage occur on the U.S. Gulf and East Coasts, even a one-week shutdown could take 4-6 weeks to recover from, with significant backlogs and delays compounding with each passing day," Maersk said in a U.S. market update.

Non-contract spot rates for a container going from the Far East to the U.S. West Coast jumped 144 per cent between the end of April and start of July but have since fallen 17 per cent, with similar trends seen in container routes to the U.S. East Coast and into northern Europe and the Mediterranean, according to Xeneta. "We should now see the spot market fall further, but the decline is unlikely to be as rapid as the rise, so it is still going to be a painful end to the year for shippers," Mr. Sand said.

REUTERS

Airlines flee small cities, cutting key links to the rest of Canada

Lack of routes to smaller communities is pushing up fares and leaving parts of the country less connected

CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS MONTREAL

From his office overlooking the runway at Gander International Airport, Reg Wright can see all flights in and out of his corner of Newfoundland.

But in recent years, those plane spottings have been fewer and farther between.

"In Newfoundland, we have a saying called the fisherman's widow, which is typically anyone that keeps eyes to the sea to see that their husband will return. During the pandemic, I did spend a lot of time in the posture of looking out the window, counting numbers and wondering when recovery was coming," Mr. Wright said.

He's still counting. The airport has lost four routes since 2019, including a WestJet route to Halifax, he said. "A third of our passengers have vanished into thin air. ... By no means are we recovered."

Gander serves as a microcosm for numerous towns and cities across the country. While Canada's total domestic passenger numbers now hover at around pre-COVID levels, air travel to smaller communities and even medium-sized cities has withered, pushing up fares and leaving parts of the country less connected.

The 30 biggest airports in Canada have seen passenger capacity return to 98 per cent of 2019 levels on average, according to the Canadian Airports Council. The next 30 are at barely 70 per cent.

Driving the travel rebound is a surge along big-city routes. Flight volumes

rose 19 per cent for Vancouver-Montreal, 12 per cent for Toronto-Vancouver, 10 per cent for Calgary-Vancouver and a whopping 51 per cent for Ottawa-Calgary over the past five years, according to figures provided to The Canadian Press by aviation data firm Cirium.

Correspondingly, air fares fell between 2 and 11 per cent on those routes despite rampant inflation and widespread fare increases.

However, regional air travel still sits far below 2019 levels.

A random sampling tells the tale. The number of direct flights plunged 49 per cent for Sault Ste. Marie-Toronto, 41 per cent for Regina-Calgary and 100 per cent for Quebec City-Rouyn-Noranda between May, 2019, and May, 2024. Driving between those cities would take at least five to seven hours, with zero stops.

Meanwhile, fares on flights linking those city pairs rose 54 per cent, 16 per cent and 173 per cent, respectively, according to Cirium.

Airports in far-flung communities serve as key hubs for critical services.

"If you're in the Yukon and you need to travel to Vancouver for your medical appointments, these are the essential roles ... whether it's fighting fires, moving health care workers, even getting food on our grocery store shelves," said airports council president Monette Pasher.

A lack of timely air access also puts communities at an economic disadvantage.

"Aviation is really a load-bearing wall holding our country together. And there's a lot of rural and remote communities like my own that are wholly dependent on air travel to have that economic and social utility and be meaningful participants in the global village," Mr. Wright said.

"The stakes are very high." Fewer flights can complicate leisure and business travel as well, extending

total travel times and sometimes result in exhausting layovers.

The dearth of departures has prompted some travellers to look south for flights - out of Detroit, Plattsburgh, N.Y., and Bellingham, Wash., for example - draining revenues from Canadian airlines and airports.

Several reasons account for the drop in regional flights.

During the pandemic, carriers took the opportunity to streamline their fleet by ditching older planes in favour of newer, bigger ones. The fresher aircraft are more efficient, as are business models that operate fewer flights and carry more passengers over longer distances. More customers per trip mean wider profit margins, while fewer takeoffs mean lower fuel costs, since airplane ascents guzzle up so much fuel.

A shortage of pilots, particularly on regional carriers, and a rise in salaries also help explain the dearth of service after a drop in enrolment at flight schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. "You don't get [pilots] out of a vending machine. It takes time," Mr. Wright said.

"When pilot costs get to an inflection point like they have over the last three years, amortizing a pilot salary over 17 seats becomes virtually impossible," added Duncan Dee, former chief operating officer at Air Canada.

Competition on many routes has declined too. WestJet withdrew from virtually all short-haul markets east of Winnipeg during the pandemic. Air Canada mirrored this move, remaining in Central and Eastern Canada while scaling back in the West.

In Cape Breton, residents now have to go through Montreal or Toronto if they want to fly to Halifax after both airlines cut back from a combined 240 flights per month to zero.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DIVIDENDS

FINNING CAT

ELIGIBLE DIVIDEND NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a regular dividend of 27.5 cents per share on the outstanding Common Shares without par value of Finning International Inc. has been declared payable on September 5, 2024 to shareholders of record at the close of business on August 22, 2024. This dividend will be considered an eligible dividend for Canadian income tax purposes.

By Order of the Board
Jane Murdoch
Executive Vice President, Chief Development and Legal Officer

LEGALS

FTI CONSULTING

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
SUPERIOR COURT
(Commercial Division)

CANADA
DIVISION OF QUEBEC
DIVISION NO.: 01-MONTREAL
COURT NO.: 500-11-064451-244

IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF ARRANGEMENT OR COMPROMISE OF:

MEDXL INC.
LIEBEL-FLARSHEIM CANADA INC.
9431-0091 QUÉBEC INC
9190-2395 QUÉBEC INC.

Debtors

FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC.
having an address at 1000 Sherbrooke St. W, Suite 915,
Montreal, Québec, H3A 3G4.

Monitor

On July 26, 2024, MedXL Inc., Liebel-Flarsheim Canada Inc., 9431-0091 Québec Inc. and 9190-2395 Québec Inc. (collectively, the "Debtors") sought and obtained from the Superior Court of Quebec (Commercial Division) (the "Court") an initial order (the "Initial Order") pursuant to the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (the "CCAA") pursuant to which, inter alia, a stay of proceedings (the "Stay") was ordered in respect of the Debtors and FTI Consulting Canada Inc. was appointed to monitor the business and financial affairs of the Debtors as an officer of the Court ("FTI" or the "Monitor").

The Initial Order as well as other materials filed in the context of the aforementioned proceedings (the "CCAA Proceedings"), including FTI's pre-filing report, are available on the Monitor's website at: <http://cfcanada.fticonsulting.com/Medxl>.

The Debtors, with the assistance of the Monitor, intend on gradually resuming their operations and implementing certain restructuring measures that will allow them to maximize the value of their business and assets for the benefit of their creditors and other stakeholders.

If you have any questions in respect of the CCAA Proceedings, please communicate with us at 514-446-5093 or at medxl@fticonsulting.com, leaving your name, telephone number as well as your email address.

At this stage, no procedures relating to the review of the Debtors' creditors' claims have been put in place, so for the time being, creditors are not required to produce proofs of claim. The Monitor will inform creditors of any developments in this regard in due course.

FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC.
Court-appointed Monitor of the debtors

COURT FILE NO. CV-24-00725021-00CL
ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
(COMMERCIAL LIST)

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C.1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF
1000370759 ONTARIO INC. AND GALAXIE BRANDS CORPORATION
(collectively, the "Galaxie Group")

Take notice that on August 6, 2024, court-supervised restructuring proceedings under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act ("CCAA") were commenced by The Vancor Group Inc. in respect of the Galaxie Group.

KPMG Inc. has been appointed by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) (the "Court") as Monitor (the "Monitor") in the Galaxie Group's CCAA proceedings pursuant to the Order of the Court dated August 6, 2024 (the "Initial Order").

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the Initial Order and the application materials are posted on the Monitor's website at: <https://kpmg.com/ca/galaxie>.

The Monitor will post additional relevant information and documentation related to these CCAA proceedings on the Monitor's website as they become available. Interested persons may contact the Monitor directly for further information at:

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OPINION & ANALYSIS

Investment management industry needs wide review to hold high standards

In July, the Globe reported that there was a potential conflict of interest by the founder of the brokerage firm Wellington-Altus

ANDREW AUERBACH
JEAN BLACKLOCK

OPINION

Andrew Auerbach and Jean Blacklock are contributing columnists for The Globe and Mail. They are co-founders of Delisle Advisory Group, an independent wealth management firm serving high-net-worth families.

In years past, there was clear distinction in the investment management world between different types of client-adviser relationships.

One option was for investors to delegate their investment decision-making to an investment manager without requiring ap-

proval for each transaction, referred to as discretionary investment management. These clients clearly expected a fiduciary relationship, similar to that of a lawyer-client relationship, in which the adviser only acted in the clients' best interest.

Other investors wanted to control the decision-making, retaining investment brokers to provide advice and to execute transactions based on the clients' decisions. With ultimate control and decision-making resting with the client, the broker was arguably not a fiduciary in the legal sense.

Firms offering discretionary investment management were often referred to as investment counselling firms. Ones that took decisions from clients were known as brokerages. Firms were generally understood to offer one type of service and not the other.

But over the last 20 years, the line between these two distinct investment approaches has blurred. Brokerage firms, which traditionally only took decisions from clients, started offering to manage funds on their behalf.

These sorts of discretionary re-

lationships, where the investment counsellor or broker makes the investment decisions have grown increasingly popular across the board. Today, approximately 60 per cent of discretionary relationships reside in brokerage firms.

Fiduciary standards haven't fully caught up with this shift in the industry, and a recent case illustrates the issues that can arise from the increase of discretionary management in brokerage firms.

Today, approximately 60 per cent of discretionary relationships reside in brokerage firms.

A family of ETFs from Emerge Canada was delisted last year by the Ontario Securities Commission and ordered to liquidate owing to its significant debt. Last month, the Globe and Mail reported that there was a potential conflict of interest on the part of the founder of brokerage firm Wellington-Altus, which was holding 25 per cent of the delisted ETFs' as-

sets on behalf of its clients. The founder was also a significant personal investor in the ETF company itself – and the connection was disclosed in a single sentence within a 12-page document.

Many of the brokerage firm clients holding these ETFs did so through discretionary client relationships, meaning fiduciary standards should have applied, including full disclosure of this type of conflict of interest.

This particular story is not concluded and it is possible that the disclosure given by the firm was in fact compliant with regulatory requirements. However, the incident calls for a broad-based review of how fiduciary standards are applied across the investment industry. The industry must pay close attention to the application of fiduciary standards, given the unique trust clients place in discretionary relationships.

Regulators in Canada introduced significant legislation in 2021 to ensure that potential conflicts of interest are brought to investors' attention. While this is commendable, the sea change over the past 20 years in the size

and scale of discretionary management requires the industry to take a serious look at how fiduciary standards are applied in practice.

For example, commission grids and other compensation programs prevalent in brokerage firms offer significant financial incentives to advisers based on the types of products offered to their clients. Such forms of compensation are a holdover from when the brokerage did not conduct discretionary investment management. Given the crucial fiduciary element of discretionary investment management, this type of compensation requires a close look.

An important step forward would be a standardized compensation framework for all discretionary relationships in any type of firm. This framework should be clear and consistent between investment counsel and brokerage firms, and easily explainable to clients. To hold the industry to the highest possible standards, other forms of compensation such as incentives and referral fees should be eliminated.

The rise of the store-within-a-store, a retail concept to save physical shopping

JOANNE MCNEISH

OPINION

Professor at the Ted Rogers School of Management at Toronto Metropolitan University

Popular opinion and retail consultants have been predicting the decline of physical stores for decades.

Such forecasts gained a new poignancy in recent years, when COVID temporarily closed most physical retail stores and the associated financial fallout closed some permanently.

Yet, Statistics Canada's latest annual retail survey reports that 89 per cent of retail sales still occur in a physical store.

One innovation that has been helping physical retail spaces stay relevant is the "store-within-the-store." I predict that more large-space retailers will use this strategy to increase revenue and manage costs.

It's not a new phenomenon. Early players in the store-within-the-store space were perfume and clothing designers. Canada Post also entered this space by partnering with drug stores to put post offices in their stores.

Depending on how you define a store, another example is Service Ontario offices nested within Canadian Tire.

And the concept of stores within stores has become more popular recently.

Examples include department stores such as The Bay partnering with Mountain Equipment Company. Big-box retailers such as Toys "R" Us have been partnering with Rooms + Spaces.

In the United States, the likes of Target, Macy's and Walmart have been embracing the concept.

In 2022, Target more than tripled the Apple stores it had in-house. That same year, Walmart counted more than 360 instances of the fashion retailer Claire's in its outlets.

The store-within-a-store is a way for retailers with large retail space to increase revenue per square foot and to provide customers with complementary products in an unexpected way that increases convenience.

Part of its rise can be attributed to de-



U.S. big-box retailers such as Target, Macy's and Walmart have been embracing store-within-a-store, an innovation that benefits the depressed retail landscape. In 2022, the company more than tripled its in-house Apple stores. TED SHAFFREY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

pressed retail landscape. Recent cost management activities resulted in retail stores with large retail spaces having lots of unused space. It's a smart way of using space in the remaining locations to create pop-up stores (short-term partners) and stores-within-a-store (longer-term partnerships).

However, the difference between presenting multiple brands within a store and a store-within-a-store may not immediately be obvious to consumers. A store-within-a-store creates a separate retail entity operating inside the host store. That means the resurrection of the Zellers brand by its owner, Hudson's Bay, for example, is not a store-within-a-store.

In a store-within-a-store arrangement,

the host retailer collects rent for the space occupied as a way to increase overall revenue. The partner retail brand using the space decides on the products and prices offered; the employees work for and are trained by the retail brand. They don't sell or have knowledge of the products and services of the host store.

The store-within-a-store concept is a win-win for both partners as long as the two brands are complementary.

What do complementary brands look like? They share a similar customer profile and the quality of products and services meet the needs of both customer groups.

The success of this format depends on the brand fit between the two retailers. In

most cases, the host retailer is at greater risk of damaging its brand image so picking a partner brand with an equivalent quality brand image should be carefully managed.

With multiple brands within the retail space, foot traffic is increased. Customers come in to look for a specific product and may discover the partner retail brand in the same space. The competitive but complementary offering can be good for both retail brands.

If done well, the store-within-a store concept is a profitable way for retailers to respond to shifting consumer habits amid high inflation and competition from several old and new retailers.

Gee: Winning medals doesn't mean you no longer live paycheque to paycheque

FROM B1

Holding down a job – even a part-time one – was challenging since I needed long periods off, especially in the summers. The \$1,500 would be spent quickly when I was travelling for training and paying for services previously received for free.

It was one of the best times in my life, but it was also hard. Looking back, I realize that I should have been better supported to improve my skills and achieve my dreams.

Sport in Canada is funded in two ways. The first is AAP, a federally funded program that "seeks to relieve some of the financial pressures associated with preparing for and participating in international sport and assists high-performance Canadian athletes to combine their sport and academic or working careers while training intensively in pursuit of

world-class performances." The carding system requires athletes to meet certain eligibility criteria to receive a monthly stipend. AAP-carded athletes are also eligible for tuition support.

The second way Canadian athletes receive funding is through Own The Podium (OTP), founded in 2006. OTP is a non-profit that assesses the performance potential of high-performance sports and through a series of criteria, identifies sports that have the highest likelihood of podium prospects for the Olympics and Paralympics. This process determines how funding is allocated to Canada's sports associations, with the organizations with the highest probability of podium finishes receiving the most support.

The result? Funding between sports is wildly different. For example, swimming received more than \$4.5-million this Olympic cycle (with eight medals), and both

judo and fencing received more than \$200,000 with one medal each. (Athletics, of which Ms. Newman's pole-vaulting is a part, did receive \$4.7-million, which is on the high end, but note the sheer number of sports and athletes that label encompasses – a total of 48 events this year.)

Yet, every Olympic cycle the public is shocked to learn that many Olympians – both domestically and internationally – are unable to be full-time athletes, with many having careers, while others lead a more precarious lifestyle with several part-time jobs. United States water polo player Kaleigh Gilchrist told USA Today, "The reality is that's only the top 5% [that earn money from endorsements]; the rest of us are living paycheque by paycheque."

When I had a Senior card through AAP, I received \$1,500 monthly. That amount is now over \$1,750, but would not cover

rent in most Canadian cities. Gym memberships, personal trainers, physical therapists, facility rentals, travel to meet with coaches – all those things cost money. Not to mention the sheer volume of food a high-performing athlete must consume to fuel their body.

Winning a medal (or several – hi Summer McIntosh!) doesn't mean you're suddenly a household name that no longer needs to live paycheque to paycheque. Forbes reported that 33 countries will provide medal winners with a cash bonus with only 15 paying more than US\$100,000. American gold medalists will bring home a US\$37,500 bonus while Canadians will receive \$20,000. AAP will provide carded athletes who win medals with additional funding based on a sliding scale dependent upon their annual income. Those earning over \$65,000 are not eligible for funding, while those earning less than

\$60,000 can be given \$6,000.

Undoubtedly these bonuses will help any athletes who receive them, but it is not enough to allow them to quit working and focus on their sport. Instead, they continue to uphold the systemic issues that persist. Corporate sponsorship can go a long way to help alleviate the financial stress of athletes yet so few businesses invest in Canadian athletes and Canadian culture.

As the Olympics wind down this weekend, we can be hopeful about what Milan 2026 will bring for Canadian athletes. But we can also wish they received better financial support from all the various entities, including corporate partners. Canadian pride won't pay the bills.

Erin Gee is the host of the All-Text podcast and a former full-time member of Canada's national softball team.



[CHINA]

Spish splash!

A waitress wearing a bathrobe walks by mannequins set up to look like bathers at a restaurant in Beijing on Sunday

ANDY WONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS



Judokas Mimi Huh of South Korea, from left, Christa Deguchi of Canada, Haruka Funakubo of Japan and Sarah-Léonie of France pose for a selfie with a Samsung phone in Paris. SIEGFRIED MODOLA/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Paris sets new summer trend as the Olympics of product placement

SHEILA DANG
MIMOSA SPENCER PARIS

Winning athletes in Paris have received their medals on Louis Vuitton trays before being handed a Samsung flip phone to take a “victory selfie,” heralding a new era of product placement at the Olympics that Los Angeles looks set to build upon.

The medalists’ podium photo didn’t happen by chance. Samsung told Reuters it began talks with the International Olympic Committee 18 months ahead of the Games to plot the product placement drive.

The boundary-pushing placement of wares by high-profile sponsors LVMH and Samsung in Paris is illustrative of how sponsors are seeking new commercial opportunities from an event that still has strict rules around advertising inside competition venues.

Samsung said the strategy was “driving awareness of the new Galaxy Z Flip6 globally,” though it did not provide details on sales since the Paris Games opened.

Meanwhile online searches for LVMH grew 43 per cent in the United States during the first week of the Games, according to digital-analysis provider Captify.

The opening ceremony saw artists Lady Gaga, Aya Nakamura and Celine Dion all clad in LVMH brand Dior, whilst the event included a minutes-long video showcasing Louis Vuitton’s design and crafting of the Olympic flame trunks and medal trays.

“Paris has moved things on significantly for all and created something that’s been like a playground for brands – the ultimate playground,” said Steve Martin, founding partner of MSQ Sport and Entertainment, a sports-marketing agency.

Paris 2024 has seen sponsors and broadcasters turn to product placement, influencers and celebrity commentators such as U.S. rapper Snoop Dogg to reach younger audiences and new markets.

The International Olympic Committee this week said it was embracing the trend and facilitating it.

Organizers of Los Angeles 2028 say their Games – with a

budget estimated at US\$6.9-billion – will be privately funded through a combination of sponsorship, ticket revenue, broadcast and merchandise revenues, and not taxpayer money.

LA28 officials told Reuters they had raised more than US\$1-billion in domestic sponsorship to date, more than Paris had achieved at the same point, and was two-thirds of the way toward its goal that exceeds US\$2-billion.

LA28 anticipates announcing an auto sponsor by the end of the year, LA28 CEO Casey Wasserman told Reuters.

“We’re in the market for the category, we’ve got very active discussions and I imagine that, before year-end, we’re likely to announce our partner,” he said.

The increased product placement at Paris 2024 is likely to prompt debate over just how far to push it.

Michael Payne, a former IOC marketing director, said the overt display of LVMH wares during the opening ceremony and the “victory selfies” with Samsung’s flip phone threatened to cross a fine line.

“Other sponsors will say, ‘well, why can’t I have something on the medal stand?’” he said. “If you let that genie out of the bottle, you will never put it back,” he told Reuters.

Nonetheless, the IOC appears set on its course.

“This is the path that we are taking, deliberately, and you will see things evolve in that direction in future Games,” Anne-Sophie Voumard, the IOC’s managing director of television and marketing services, told reporters this week.

The IOC’s shift was “encouraging,” said Martin Sorrell, the founder and former chief executive of WPP, a leading global advertising group.

Los Angeles’s reputation as a city that oozes celebrity glamour, wealth and ostentation was a tantalizing prospect for sponsors, said Harry Poole, vice-president of marketing solutions at Excel Sports Management.

“There couldn’t be a better commercial market,” he said.

REUTERS

How China came to dominate electric cars and batteries

More students major in science, math and engineering than in other countries, while research spending tripled in past decade

KEITH BRADSHAW CHANGSHA, CHINA

China’s domination of electric cars, which is threatening to start a trade war, was born decades ago in university laboratories in Texas, when researchers discovered how to make batteries with minerals that were abundant and cheap.

Companies from China have recently built on those early discoveries, figuring out how to make the batteries hold a powerful charge and endure more than a decade of daily recharges. They are inexpensively and reliably manufacturing vast numbers of these batteries, producing most of the world’s electric cars and many other clean energy systems.

Batteries are just one example of how China is catching up with – or passing – advanced industrial democracies in its technological and manufacturing sophistication. It is achieving many breakthroughs in a long list of sectors, from pharmaceuticals to drones to high-efficiency solar panels.

Beijing’s challenge to the technological leadership that the United States has held since the Second World War is evidenced in China’s classrooms and corporate budgets, as well as in directives from the highest levels of the Communist Party.

A considerably larger share of Chinese students major in science, math and engineering than students in other big countries. That share is rising further, even as overall higher education enrolment has increased more than tenfold since 2000.

Spending on research and development has surged, tripling in the past decade and moving China into second place after the United States. Researchers in China lead the world in publishing widely cited papers in 52 of 64 critical technologies, recent calculations by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute reveal.

Last month, China’s leaders vowed to turn up the nation’s research efforts another notch.

A once-a-decade meeting of China’s Communist Party leadership chose scientific training and education as one of the country’s top economic priorities. That goal received more attention in the meeting’s final resolution than any other policy, except strengthening the party itself.

China will “make extraordinary arrangements for urgently needed disciplines and majors,” said Huai Jinpeng, the Minister of Education. “We will implement a national strategy for cultivating top talents.”

A majority of undergraduates in China major in math, science, engineering or agriculture, according to the Education Ministry. And three-quarters of China’s doctoral students do so.

By comparison, only one-fifth of American undergraduates and half of doctoral students are in these categories, although U.S. data defines these majors a little more narrowly.

China’s lead is particularly wide in batteries. According to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 65.5 per cent of widely cited technical papers on battery technology come from researchers in China, compared with 12 per cent from the United States.

Both of the world’s two largest makers of electric-car batteries, CATL and BYD, are Chinese.

China has close to 50 graduate programs that focus on either battery chemistry or the closely related subject of battery metallurgy. By contrast, only a handful of professors in the United States are working on batteries.

Undergraduates in the United States are becoming interested in battery research, said Hillary Smith, a battery physics professor at

Swarthmore College. But, she added, “they are going to compete for a very few spots if they want to do battery research, and most will have to choose something else.”

The roots of China’s battery successes are visible at Central South University in Changsha, a city in south-central China and a long-time hub of China’s chemicals industry.

Central South University has nearly 60,000 undergraduate and graduate students on an extensive, modern campus. Its chemistry department, once in a small brick building, has moved to a six-storey concrete building with labyrinths of labs and classrooms.

In one lab, which is filled with glowing red lights, hundreds of batteries with new chemistries are tested at the same time. Electron microscopes and other advanced equipment occupy other rooms.

“For us, the experimental equipment is sufficient to meet everyone’s testing needs,” said Zhu Fangjun, a doctoral student.

Peng Wenjie, a professor, has set up a battery research company nearby that employs more than 100 recent doctoral and masters program graduates and over 200 assistants. The assistants work in relays for each researcher so the testing of new chemistries and designs continues 24 hours a day.

“There are many people on site to do the tests, so the efficiency is very high,” Prof. Peng said.

China’s broadening expertise in manufacturing has created an active debate in other countries, notably the United States, over whether to invite Chinese companies to build factories or whether to try to duplicate what China has accomplished.

“If the U.S. wants to build up a supply chain quickly, the best way is to invite Chinese companies, and they will set it up very quickly and bring technology,” said Peng An, founder of the Innovation Center for Energy and Transportation, a non-profit research group in Beijing and Los Angeles.

Manufacturing makes up 28 per cent of China’s economy, compared with 11 per cent in the United States. China’s hope is that investments in scientific education and research will translate into efficiency gains that will help lift the entire economy, said Liu Qiao, dean of the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University.

“If you have a large manufacturing sector,” he said, “it’s easy to improve productivity levels.”

China’s manufacturing prowess has become a geopolitical issue, however. The government subsidies and policies that have helped fuel the factory boom have left many other countries wary of buying more of China’s exports.

The European Union has imposed formidable provisional tariffs on electric vehicles from China. In the United States, which has also used tariffs to effectively block China’s EV companies, political and commercial pressure has impeded ventures with Chinese battery makers.

Still, China’s battery companies are looking for ways to produce in the United States for the American market. Building and equipping an electric-car battery factory in the United States costs six times as much as in China, said Robin Zeng, chair and founder of CATL.

The work is also slow – “three times longer,” he said in an interview.

The United States still leads China in overall research spending, in terms of dollars spent and also in terms of the share of each country’s economy. Research and development represented 3.4 per cent of the American economy last year after several years of increases.

But China is at 2.6 per cent and rising. “What happens when China passes the U.S. in RandD and they have the manufacturing base?” asked Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, which represents American companies doing business in China.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE



People take photos on a couch installation during a jazz performance in Toronto's Distillery District last month. The area sees an uptick in Instagram impressions in November and December, its Winter Village months. CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Social media: Instagrammable settings help draw customers

■ FROM B1

And of 300 Instagram business users surveyed, 53 per cent said it helps them find customers outside their city, and nearly three in five said the platform helps them bring in local clients.

The influence of social media on consumer behaviour is a firmly embedded trend that's shaping the way businesses attract customers, said Jenna Jacobsen, an associate professor at the Ted Rogers School of Management at Toronto Metropolitan University.

"People recognize that the experiences of the offline world are also amplified and shared in the digital world. So people who are creating these spaces are purposefully thinking: 'How do we create an Instagrammable, shareable moment?'" Prof. Jacobsen said.

Mr. Ocvirk said he's constantly asking his team what they're tuning into online to get new ideas for promotions. The country festival, for example, came to fruition because they noticed the genre had become more mainstream after the release of Beyoncé's country album, *Cowboy Carter*, in March.

About a 45-minute walk west of the Distillery District, Craig Perlmutter is also designing his business to meet a certain Instagrammable aesthetic. The president of Arcadia Earth Toronto, an immersive art and technology experience in the city's new mixed-use space, the Well, said his business's social-media

presence is a large part of its marketing strategy.

Visitors spend about an hour walking through the multisensory exhibit, which features various environmental themes.

"When rooms were developed for the space, it was really important that there were those Instagrammable, picturesque moments that people are going to want to share," Mr. Perlmutter said.

Since opening in December, he said, some 1,600 influencers have come through the space, generating more than 80 million impressions – the number of times a social-media post has been seen – on Arcadia Earth Toronto's Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and X accounts, as well as creating a series of mini-commercials through Reels or TikTok.

At the Distillery District, Mr. Ocvirk said, the power of social media plays out most heavily during the holiday season, when its Winter Village is in full swing. The district's data show November and December alone account for about 41 per cent of its impressions on Instagram, more than 40 per cent of likes on its Instagram posts and about 53 per cent of its Instagram follower growth.

Restaurants across Canada are also tapping into social media to increase their online exposure and cater to diners' tastes for an aesthetically pleasing experience that extends beyond their meal, said Matt Davis, country director for OpenTable Canada.

"It's not just about the food any more. It has to be about the full experience of the ambience and the feeling you get from being in the restaurant, and that has to be visually compelling enough for diners then to share it," Mr. Davis said.

Charles Khabouth, the chief executive and founder of INK Entertainment Group, which owns several restaurant brands and trendy clubs, said he's noticed that visual appeal and atmosphere resonate strongly on social media and that presence on people's accounts often brings new guests through the door.

"It's not just about showcasing our food; it's about capturing the essence of the experience we offer," he said in an e-mail.

In one of his Toronto restaurants, Daphne, a striking mirror-lined hallway with moody lighting caters to the ideal night-out selfie. Of the more than 1,000 photos under the Daphne location tag on Instagram, it stands out as a highly photographed part of the space.

In the digital age, Prof. Jacobsen said, businesses could miss out if they choose to ignore the social-media-minded consumer, whose ideal purchase may be more about the memory and personal brand it helps them curate than the product.

"These are often things that you have to purchase access to, but it's something that happens in a moment and isn't necessarily something you take with you," she said. "It's a different kind of wealth."

FinTRAC:

■ FROM B1

The watchdog has implemented some workarounds for the offline systems. For instance, businesses that are not able to file suspicious transaction reports through their usual channels are being asked to triage them, sending priority reports through Canada Post's online ePost system and holding onto the others to submit once the online service is up and running.

However, Dwayne King, an anti-money-laundering compliance officer at WFCU Credit Union based in Windsor, Ont., said that, in order to be meaningful, intelligence needs to be timely.

Additionally, some organizations are likely finding it challenging to discern which suspicious transaction reports qualify as priority ones, Mr. King said, as they have not received adequate training or guidance.

"The fear of making a mistake is going to 100-per-cent make people file a ton of [suspicious transaction reports] that probably were not priorities," he said.

Meanwhile, companies looking to newly register as Money Services Businesses (MSBs) with FinTRAC, as required by Canadian law, are advised to e-mail the watchdog while the registration portal remains offline.

However, Adam Atlas, a lawyer who advises MSBs and other payments companies, said prospective registrants are not receiving timely responses from the watchdog.

"There are new entrants into the Canadian market who simply cannot register with FinTRAC because FinTRAC does not reply to e-mails," he said.

Mr. Atlas added: "It is a matter of national security that someone who is moving money around in Canada should actually be able to comply with Canadian law."

FinTRAC spokesperson Mélanie Goulette Nadon said processing new registration requests is a priority for the agency.

"In July, FinTRAC has begun processing registrations received since its systems have been offline, and has started responding to requests received in a phased approach," she said in an e-mail.

Ms. Goulette Nadon noted that the watchdog is continuing to receive, assess and act on transaction reports, and that it has been disclosing financial intelligence to law enforcement and national security agencies to assist with money laundering and terrorist financing investigations.

Working through the backlog of non-priority reports once FinTRAC's systems are fully operational again will also be a challenge, according to experts.

"There's got to be some good guidance from FinTRAC on what are the expectations to clear the backlog in your organization," Mr. King said.

Real estate: Canada is on track with 240 insolvencies this year, 57% higher than 2023

■ FROM B1

At this pace, Canada is on track to reach about 240 real estate insolvencies this year, which would be 57-per-cent higher than 2023 and 13-per-cent higher than 2009, when a wide swath of businesses ran into problems owing to the financial crisis and global recession.

And that does not include the number of developers and projects that have been forced into receivership for not paying bills. The Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy does not include receiverships with its publicly available bankruptcy statistics. However, insolvency experts say they are seeing more projects go into receivership.

So far this year, the real estate sector accounts for 55 per cent of the receiverships recorded by Insolvency Insider Canada, a website that tracks the largest insolvencies in the country. That compares to 30 per cent last year and 33 per cent in 2022.

Sam Mizrahi's luxury downtown Toronto condo tower The One has been one of the highest profile projects to default on its loans, with lenders owed \$1.6-billion. And dozens of other developers have faced similar pressure from their lenders or have filed for bankruptcy protection.

"For the first time in a really long time in Canada, we are seeing some stress in the system," said Syl Apps, who co-heads the Canadian operations of Hines Interests LP, a Houston-headquartered real estate firm that owns and manages about 850 properties in 30 countries.

So far, that stress is being felt amongst the relatively smaller developers or those that do not have the financial strength to weather interest costs that have soared since 2022.

Take Maplequest Ventures, a small developer that had plans to build housing on two parcels of land in Brampton, Ont. Maplequest took out a \$24-million loan from KingSett Mortgage Corp. in 2017 to develop one of its Brampton sites into 147 townhouse

units, 288 mid-rise apartment units and 1,599 high-rise apartment units, according to court filings.

The loan soon had an interest rate that was tied to a major bank's prime lending rate, which moves in tandem with the central bank's benchmark rate. By 2021, the KingSett loan had an interest rate that was the bank's prime lending rate plus 5.8 per cent.

The loan eventually became much more expensive as the Bank of Canada raised interest rates from 0.25 per cent to 5 per cent over 2022 and 2023. During that time, the prime lending rate jumped from 2.45 per cent to 7.2 per cent.

This year, Maplequest defaulted on its loan to KingSett Mortgage Corp., as well as another loan with First Source Mortgage Corp., court filings show. The lenders lost confidence in the developer, triggering them to apply for a court-appointed receiver to oversee the project.

The court filings did not explain the reasons for Maplequest's default. The developer's CEO and its lawyer did not respond to a request for comment. KingSett did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Some of the current problems in residential development can be traced back to 2017 when home prices were rising quickly in Toronto and demand exploded for new condos.

That year, there were nearly 31,000 preconstruction condo sales in the Toronto region, according to industry research firm Urbanation Inc. That was a record level and led to a surge in demand for construction workers and building materials – which started driving prices up.

The cost of construction rose 10 per cent from 2017 to 2018 in the Toronto region and 8 per cent across the country's major cities, according to Statistics Canada's residential building construction price index.

Developers quickly expanded, including less experienced builders who were able to sell out

preconstruction projects as waves of mom-and-pop investors flooded the market.

At that point, investors were able to easily make a profit on the condo's price appreciation and the majority of them could cover their mortgage costs by renting their units out.

But the torrid pace of launches and sales helped mask problems that developers were starting to face. By 2021, low interest rates were fuelling the pandemic real estate boom and preconstruction sales soared to near record highs of 30,550 units in the Toronto region. By then, the cost of building was 34-per-cent more expensive across the major cities compared to 2017, according to Statscan data.

Then the pandemic slowed down development. Construction was hindered because workers had to socially distance on site. Developers delayed the start of construction – and they also delayed project launches.

This all added to the costs. Developers had to carry their mortgages for longer. Building materials were in short supply. And when the Bank of Canada raised interest rates, developers had to pay much more for their loans. Now that mortgages are more expensive, some preconstruction condo buyers are not able to qualify for the loan needed to close on their purchase, which is contributing to the malaise in the sector.

Today, the cost of residential construction is 81-per-cent higher across Canada's major cities compared to 2017 and more than double – up 107 per cent – in the Toronto region, according to Statscan data.

The higher borrowing costs are pushing a growing number of developers over the edge and lenders are no longer patient.

"A lot of lenders did that to the best of their ability. They entered into forbearance agreements, accepted some missed payments and basically worked with the borrowers," said Jeffrey Berger, managing director with restructuring and insolvency firm TDB

Restructuring Ltd., whose company is working on between 10 to 15 insolvent real estate projects.

"Two or three years passed, and then it became clear that this was the new normal and things were changing and these loans had to be dealt with in some manner," he said.

That is what occurred with two plots of land on King David Inc.'s luxury condo development site in Markham, Ont. Part of the project is under construction, according to court documents. King David planned to continue developing on the other two plots and in December, 2021, it borrowed \$54-million from First Source Financial Management Inc. The loan had an interest rate of the greater of 8.85 per cent or prime plus 6.4 per cent.

At the time, prime was 2.45 per cent. But by the time the loan was due in April, 2023, prime was 6.7 per cent. King David did not repay First Source by the deadline, according to court documents.

The lender cut King David some slack and agreed to a forbearance agreement, which gave the developer more time to repay the loan. The new deadline was July 8, 2023, the court documents said.

When the company failed to repay the loan by the new deadline, First Source provided a second forbearance agreement that extended the loan repayment deadline to Oct. 8, 2023. Then, when First Source learned that King David would not meet that deadline either, it provided a third forbearance agreement with a deadline of Dec. 8, 2023, that required the borrower to make a monthly interest payment in November.

King David failed to make that interest payment, according to court documents, and First Source decided to take action. In early December, it asked the Ontario Superior Court to appoint a receiver to take over the undeveloped land.

"The lender is concerned by the borrower's failure to advance the project. The property remains vacant," First Source chief

executive David Mandel said in an affidavit filed with the court. "Despite having been granted forbearance since April, 2023, the borrower has been unable to refinance the loan or bring the loan back into good standing."

A lawyer for King David said the company is not insolvent or in receivership and that only this specific block of land, known as phase 2 and 3 lands, is in receivership. Asked what led King David to default on payments, the developer's lawyer, Avi Bourassa, a partner with Ross Nasser LLP, declined to comment.

First Source did not respond to a request for comment.

The Bank of Canada started cutting its benchmark interest rate this summer, but borrowing remains expensive and there is little demand for preconstruction condos.

Developers used to be able to pass on their higher costs to buyers but prices have jumped so much that buyers will not buy the new condo units.

For those who have already bought investment properties, the purchase price is now at a point that an overwhelming share of new condo owners are burning cash because the rent they can charge is not enough to cover their mortgage payments and other expenses. For example, in the Toronto region, the asking price of a preconstruction condo has nearly doubled from 2017 through this year to around \$1,345 per square foot, according to data from Altus. That puts the price of a 550-square foot condo at \$740,000.

"There is less room for error. In the past, a developer could be good at sales and make their way to completion. Now they have to be good at all aspects, including planning and execution," said Altus' Mr. Doran.

"If developers were already struggling with lower margins impacted by planning delays, construction delays, cost escalation, then the impact of the rising interest rates were a double whammy to their proforma and project profitability," he said.

The path to a sustainable future starts with investing in young leaders

Youth changemakers are making a difference through the Eureka Fellowship

Professional soccer player Farkhunda Muhtaj, 26, knows how to be an active global citizen both on and off the pitch – the Afghan-Canadian brings the same passion to her midfielder position as she does to supporting newcomers to Canada through sport and wellness initiatives.

University of Alberta student Reegan Jungkind, 22, aspires to represent the Northwest Territories through activism, and does so by contributing to youth councils and climate conventions, focusing on climate change after flooding and wildfires severely damaged her home community of Hay River last year.

And Ronaar Qureshi, 21, whilst studying health sciences at the University of Calgary, co-founded Inform Cannabis to combat youth cannabis abuse and teach youth how to make proactive choices related to substance abuse, through gamification and AI.

Despite vastly different backgrounds, these changemakers all have one thing in common: They are among the 13 inspirational young leaders selected for the Eureka Fellowship for Youth Changemakers in Canada (Eureka Fellowship) for 2024, an initiative created in partnership between biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca Canada and Plan International Canada, a leading humanitarian charity dedicated to advancing children's rights and equality for girls around the globe.

Selected from more than 800 applications, these 13 changemakers stood out for their passion and drive to fuel positive, sustainable change for the health of people, society and the planet. Each Eureka Fellow will attend the 2024 One Young World Summit in Montreal (Tiohtià:ke) this September, the largest annual youth Summit bringing together bright young leaders from over 195 countries to tackle some of the biggest sustainability challenges facing humanity.

"Global issues require global solutions," says Muhtaj. "This is the per-



Farkhunda Muhtaj (top) is the co-founder of Scarborough Simbas; Reegan Jungkind (lower right) is a member of the NWT Climate Change Youth Council; Ronaar Qureshi (lower left) is the co-founder of Inform Cannabis. All three youth have been named to the Eureka Fellowship for Youth Changemakers in Canada.



fect opportunity for young leaders to join forces and maximize their impact through their global endeavours."

An advocate for gender equity, refugee rights and newcomer integration, Muhtaj uses sport as the most engaging way to advance her humanitarian causes. She is the co-founder of Scarborough Simbas, a recreational soccer program in Toronto that empowers and supports marginalized community members and newcomers to Canada.

Muhtaj, whose parents became refugees in 1992, resettled in Canada in 2000 when she was two years old. She helped evacuate more than 300 citizens from Afghanistan in 2021 following the Taliban seizing power. The rescue, which included the Afghanistan Youth National Female

Footballers, is retold in the documentary *We are Ayenda* and won a 2024 Cannes Lion Grand Prix.

This kind of commitment to creating a better, more sustainable world is all about. Designed to spotlight and amplify the impact of young changemakers, the Fellowship provides networking and capacity-building opportunities to further accelerate the positive changes they are leading.

"The work we do helps young leaders realize their rights and gain the skills, networks and confidence needed to effect positive change in their communities and around the world," says Lindsay Glassco, President and CEO of Plan International Canada. "It is thanks to committed

partners like AstraZeneca Canada, who share our vision of a just and equal future, that we can continue this work. We encourage other companies to bring young people to the tables where decisions are being made."

According to the World Economic Forum, corporate support for sustainable investment tripled among global executives in 2023 compared to 2022, and 52 per cent of private sector companies pledged to increase sustainability investments in 2024. Where better to start than with young changemakers?

"At AstraZeneca, we believe our future depends on the health of people, society and the planet, and that to create a more sustainable future it takes new thinking and

fresh ideas," says Gaby Bourbara, President, AstraZeneca Canada. "That is why we are so proud to partner with Plan International Canada and to invest in the next generation of sustainability leaders through the Eureka Fellowship, shining a spotlight on the tremendous impact these young changemakers are already making to create a better, more equitable and sustainable world."

As Qureshi puts it, "We are the future."

Qureshi sees mental health as a pressing issue affecting youth in Canada and around the world, citing academic pressures, social media and the lack of mental health resources among the root causes. Disparities in health care – which often disproportionately affect immigrants – is one social inequity he hopes to rectify through education and technology.

"Our world is so interconnected that the discoveries we make have the ability to affect people across the world," he says. "The impact of investment into young people and our ideas helps prepare an entire generation to solve the issues of tomorrow."

Jungkind would agree. Like all the 2024 Eureka Fellows, she's excited to connect with other young people from across Canada and around the world who want to build opportunities to support and accelerate positive change in their communities.

Currently pursuing a degree in political science and sociology, along with a certificate in sustainability, Jungkind has been an environmentalist and youth advocate since she was 17. She has organized events with Ecology North in Yellowknife and participated in the United Nations Climate Change Conference to participate in policy negotiation and facilitate climate change discussions for youth.

"Finding other youth who care about the future and are passionate about social issues is really important to me," she says. "[The Eureka Fellowship] builds a whole sense of community. Everything is interconnected – all of our issues are intertwined."



Positively impacting people, society and the planet

The Eureka Fellowship is shining a spotlight on inspiring young leaders across Canada who are tackling some of the biggest sustainability issues of our time.

To learn more, visit:
astrazeneca.ca/eureka-fellowship

Harvesting rewards from small value stocks

Small portfolio example is top performer with highest average annual return of 16.1 per cent

NORMAN ROTHERY

OPINION

PhD, CFA and founder of StingyInvestor.com

Some Canadian gardeners are starting to pick perfectly sized zucchinis. Those of us who are less attentive will tarry and discover obese specimens when they next visit the vegetable patch.

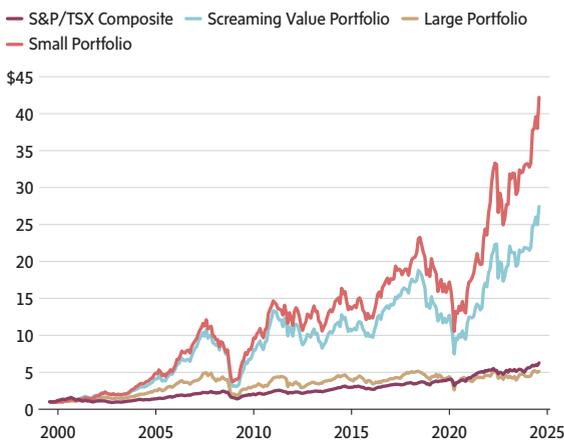
Size also matters for investors and small value stocks can be quite rewarding. The Screaming Value portfolio is a case in point because it tends to buy smaller stocks. I'm going to check in on it today and divide it up by size.

The original Screaming Value portfolio outperformed this century with average annual returns of 14.2 per cent over the 25 years to the end of July, 2024. It beat the S&P/TSX Composite Index, which gained an average of 7.6 per cent annually over the same period.

(The returns herein are based on monthly data from Bloomberg and include dividend reinvestment but not fund fees, commissions, inflation or other

Screaming value favours small stocks

Growth per \$1 invested



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: NORMAN ROTHERY; BLOOMBERG

The large portfolio failed to keep up with the market index with an average annual return of just 6.8 per cent over the same period.

trading costs.)

The Screaming Value portfolio starts its search for bargains with the largest 300 stocks on the Toronto Stock Exchange by market capitalization (share price times shares outstanding).

It then picks the 10 with the lowest EV/EBIT ratios and puts an equal amount of money in each one. (In simple terms, enterprise value, or EV, is the market value of a company's equity plus its net debt, while EBIT is an abbreviation for earnings before interest and taxes.) The portfolio is refreshed or reba-

lanced monthly.

The original method is modified to form a large portfolio and a small portfolio. The large portfolio starts with the largest 100 stocks on the TSX and then picks the 10 with the lowest EV/EBIT ratios.

On the other hand, the small portfolio starts with the 200 smallest stocks from the 300 largest stocks on the TSX and then picks the 10 with the lowest EV/EBIT ratios.

As a result, the large portfolio currently picks from stocks with market capitalizations between \$211-billion and \$5.8-billion. The small-stock portfolio picks from stocks with market capitalizations between \$5.8-billion and \$580-million.

You can examine the return history of the three value portfolios, and the market index, in the accompanying graph.

The small portfolio was the top performer of the bunch with an average annual return of 16.1 per cent over the 25 years to the end of July, 2024.

On the other hand, the large portfolio failed to keep up with the market index with an average annual return of just 6.8 per cent over the same period.

(Last November, I discussed the Screaming Value portfolio's propensity to suffer from shockingly big downturns and both the large and small versions of it also performed poorly on the downside.)

The large and small portfolios aren't only separated by size. They also happen, at the moment, to be separated by EV/EBIT.

The large portfolio currently contains companies with EV/EBITs ranging from 5.8 to 10.6. On the other hand, the small portfolio has stocks with ratios ranging from 1.1 to 5.4.

The small stocks are better bargains than the large stocks based on their EV/EBIT ratios, which may help to explain the return difference between the large and small portfolios. Of course, there are more small stocks to choose from than large ones, which improves the odds of finding bargains among the small fry.

I hasten to add the Screaming Value portfolio currently holds the same stocks as the small portfolio thanks to the 10 lowest EV/EBIT stocks making their home in the small portfolio.

It'll be interesting to see how the portfolios perform and grow over time, but I tend to favour the smaller low-ratio stocks. Just be warned, the portfolios are far from risk-free and will likely provide a very bumpy ride that may bruise some zucchinis along the way.

You can find the stocks in the Screaming Value portfolio via a link in the online version of this article, which also provides updates to many of the other portfolios I track for The Globe.

Understanding deposit insurance rules could help simplify your holdings

JOHN HEINZL

OPINION



INVESTOR CLINIC

I am currently juggling accounts at six different banks because it is my understanding that each bank provides a maximum of \$100,000 of Canada Deposit Insurance Corp. coverage. I have visited the CDIC website (cdic.ca) several times and remain confused. Question: If I have multiple accounts at a single CDIC-insured bank, does the \$100,000 CDIC limit apply to each account or to total holdings at the same institution? My husband claims that he was told by his bank that it applies to each account, but that is not my understanding of how CDIC insurance works. Could you please clarify the situation for me? I can't be the only person confused by the rules.

In the interest of promoting marital harmony, let me start by saying you're both partly right.

The key thing to understand is that CDIC insures up to \$100,000 for each deposit category at each institution. Because there are several deposit categories, a person could have much more than \$100,000 at the same institution and still receive full CDIC coverage.

For example, registered retirement savings plans, tax-free savings accounts, registered education savings plans and non-registered chequing accounts are considered separate deposit categories, with each benefiting from its own \$100,000 limit. Joint accounts held in more than one name are also a separate category, as are deposits held in trust.

So if you have, say, \$300,000 in deposits spread across four or five different categories at the same institution, you could very well be able to stay under the \$100,000 CDIC limit for each category. The same goes for your husband.

Keep in mind, however, that all non-registered accounts in one individual's name at the same institution are treated as part of the same category. For example, if

you have \$50,000 in a chequing account, \$40,000 in a non-registered savings account and \$20,000 in non-registered guaranteed investment certificates at the same bank, you will be \$10,000 over the combined \$100,000 limit for non-registered deposits held in one name at the same bank.

The good news is that some financial institutions provide convenient ways for customers to stay under the \$100,000 limit. For instance, many discount brokers offer multiple versions of their high-interest investment savings accounts (ISAs), each of which qualifies for its own \$100,000 of CDIC coverage. BMO InvestorLine, for instance, offers ISAs from Bank of Montreal, Bank of Montreal Mortgage Corp. and BMO Trust Co. At TD Direct Investing, clients can choose ISAs from Toronto-Dominion Bank, TD Mortgage Corp., TD Pacific Mortgage Corp. or Canada Trust Co. These products make it easy to keep more of your money insured under the same roof, potentially eliminating the need to open accounts at separate institutions to avoid going over the \$100,000 cap.

Juggling accounts at six banks sounds like a lot of work. Armed with a better understanding of CDIC's rules and the savings options available, you may want to review your accounts to see if you need to keep all of them open. You might find that you can consolidate your holdings at fewer institutions and still benefit from full deposit insurance.

If that's not the case, then you're doing the right thing by spreading your money around to make sure all of it is insured in the highly unlikely event that one of your financial institutions goes bust.

I have held A&W Revenue Royalties Income Fund units in a non-registered account since 2008 and am sitting on an unrealized capital gain. Regarding the proposed merger of the royalty fund with A&W Food Services of Canada Inc., will exchanging my units for shares constitute a deemed disposition for capital-gains purposes? This was not addressed in the royalty fund's

news release or in your recent article.

Details about the tax treatment of the deal have not yet been disclosed. While it's clear that a capital gain (or loss) would apply to any units redeemed for \$37 in cash – which is one of the options available, subject to proration – the tax consequences of exchanging units for shares of the combined company haven't been communicated.

But stay tuned. "The tax matters will be part of the disclosure to unitholders in the circular and materials provided for the special meeting, and the company is mindful of not getting ahead of that disclosure with any selective communication," said Trevor Zeck, a partner with FGS Longview, a public-relations firm working with the Vancouver-based burger chain, in an e-mail.

The royalty fund has said it plans to mail the management information circular to unitholders in September in advance of a special meeting to vote on the transaction, with closing expected in October if the deal is approved. The circular will also be posted on Sedar.com.

Canadian stock markets were closed on Monday, Aug. 5, for the Civic Holiday, while U.S. markets remained open. So how could the value of Canadian indexes change that day?

I don't know what website you were viewing, but I can assure you that the S&P/TSX Composite Index did not change on Aug. 5. Perhaps you were looking at the index's closing value from the previous Friday and assumed it was a live quote for the Monday. Whatever the case, you may have noticed that U.S. indexes surged higher Tuesday after plunging the previous day, but the S&P/TSX opened Tuesday sharply lower. That's because Canadian markets were essentially playing catch-up after being closed Monday.

E-mail your questions to jheinzl@globeandmail.com. I'm not able to respond personally to e-mails, but I choose certain questions to answer in my column.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

- Canada building permits for June. BMO expects a 10-per-cent rise, rebounding from May's 12.2-per-cent decline.
- U.S. budget balance
- Earnings include:** Barrick Gold, Sun Life Financial, Ballard, Extencare

TUESDAY

- Germany ZEW business expectations survey
- U.K. June payrolls report
- U.S. NFIB small business economic trends survey for July
- U.S. Producer Price Index for July. Consensus is for a monthly increase of 0.2 per cent.
- Earnings include:** Franco-Nevada, Cargojet, Home Depot, HudBay Minerals, Silvercorp Metals, Superior Plus, Algoma Steel, Northwest Healthcare, Minto Apartment REIT, Dream Unlimited, AutoCanada

WEDNESDAY

- Euro area GDP for the second quarter and June industrial production
- France and Britain release July inflation reports
- U.S. consumer prices for July. Consensus is for a 0.2-per-cent monthly increase, or 2.9 per cent from a year earlier – slightly lower than June's 3-per-cent rise. Excluding food and energy, it's expected to be up 3.3 per cent from a year ago.
- Earnings include:** Tencent, Cisco, UBS Group, Hydro One, Metro, Northland Power, H&R REIT, Chorus Aviation, CAE

THURSDAY

- China industrial production and retail sales for July
- Japan GDP for the second quarter and June industrial production
- U.K. GDP for the second quarter, plus the latest services index, industrial production and trade deficit
- Canada wholesale trade for June
- Canada new motor vehicle sales for June
- U.S. retail sales for July. Consensus is for a 0.4-per-cent rise, or 0.2 per cent when excluding autos and gas.
- U.S. initial jobless claims for last week. BMO forecasts an increase of 7,000.
- Canada existing home sales for July. BMO expects a 3-per-cent annual rise. Average prices are seen gaining 0.5 per cent from a year ago, after June's reading that saw a 1.6-per-cent decline. Also, MLS Home Price Index.
- Earnings include:** Walmart, Alibaba, Deere & Co, Macy's

FRIDAY

- Euro area trade surplus for June, British retail sales for July
- Canada housing starts for July. BMO expects a 1.4-per-cent rise to an annualized rate of 245,000.
- Canada manufacturing sales and new orders for June
- Canada international securities transactions inflows and outflows for June

MEETING DATES

DATA SUPPLIED BY ISSUING COMPANIES THROUGH THE SERVICE OF CDS CLEARING AND DEPOSITORY SERVICES INC.

* = CHANGE IN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED INFORMATION % = CANCELLED MEETING; @ = ADJOURNED MEETING; A = ANNUAL; S = SPECIAL; G = GENERAL; X = EXTRA; E = EXTRAORDINARY

RECORD MEETING TYPE DATE DATE	RECORD MEETING TYPE DATE DATE	RECORD MEETING TYPE DATE DATE	RECORD MEETING TYPE DATE DATE	RECORD MEETING TYPE DATE DATE
A-Labs Capital IV Corp. *Aug 02 Sep 20 AS	Badger Capital Corp. Aug 12 Sep 16 AG	Flying Nickel Mining Corp. Aug 28 Oct 07 S	Lithium Chile Inc. *Aug 28 Oct 07 S	Taktu Resources Ltd. Aug 26 Oct 09 AGS
Abaxx Technologies Inc. Jul 29 Sep 12 AG	Blast Resources Inc. Aug 14 Sep 20 AG	Foran Mining Corporation Aug 12 Sep 16 S	Nexoptec Technology Corp. Aug 16 Sep 25 AGS	TAAT Global Alternatives Inc. Aug 26 Oct 07 AGS
Aether Catalyt Solutions, Inc Aug 27 Oct 01 AG	Blueberries Medical Corp. Sep 03 Oct 18 AG	Frontier Lithium Inc. Aug 26 Sep 30 AG	Pambili Natural Resources Corp Aug 26 Oct 02 AGS	Victory Battery Metals Corp. Aug 30 Sep 30 S
AlphaGen Intelligence Corp. Aug 13 Sep 24 S	China Keli Electric Company Aug 15 Sep 27 AGS	Galore Resources Inc. *Aug 01 Sep 05 AGS	Pampa Metals Corporation Aug 26 Oct 01 AGS	Vizsla Silver Corp. Aug 23 Oct 03 AG
Arctic Star Exploration Corp. Aug 26 Oct 04 AG	CopperEx Resources Corporation Aug 30 Oct 07 AGS	GreenFirst Forest Products Inc *Aug 08 Sep 19 S	Personas Social Incorporated Aug 27 Oct 01 AGS	Volt Lithium Corp. Aug 27 Sep 26 AGS
Arya Resources Ltd. Aug 26 Oct 04 AGS	Datum Ventures Inc. Aug 26 Sep 30 AG	Highrock Resources Ltd. Aug 26 Sep 27 AGS	Railtown AI Technologies Inc. Aug 27 Oct 01 AG	Wildsky Resources Inc. Aug 28 Oct 17 AG
Athena Gold Corporation %Jul 02 Aug 30 AGS	Egana Technologies Inc. Aug 16 Sep 26 AGS	Hybrid Power Solutions Inc. Aug 29 Oct 17 AG	Starcore Intl Mines Ltd Sep 06 Oct 17 AG	WBM Capital Corp Aug 27 Oct 01 S
Aurum Lake Mining Corporation Aug 28 Oct 07 AS	Evertz Technologies Limited Aug 28 Oct 02 AGS	K9 Gold Corp. Aug 30 Oct 07 AGS	Stroud Resources Ltd. Aug 28 Oct 15 A	
AuQ Gold Mining Inc. Aug 26 Sep 27 AG	Filo Corp Aug 20 Sep 26 S	Legacy Lithium Corp. Aug 14 Sep 24 AG	Teako Minerals Corp. Aug 27 Oct 02 AG	



A woman waves at a robot during the AI for Good Global summit in Geneva, Switzerland, in May. New research shows investors were less inclined to seek advice from humanized, AI robo-advisers. DENIS BALIBOUSE/REUTERS

Why humanizing AI can backfire

Study finds investors with robo-advisers held losing bets for longer, sold winners too quickly

PREET BANERJEE

OPINION

Consultant to the wealth management industry with a focus on commercial applications of behavioural finance research

The term “robo-adviser” might one day live up to its name, and it turns out that might not be great for investors.

A new study reveals a possible future paradox: By making AI-driven investment advice appear more human in how it’s delivered, investors might end up with worse returns.

In Canada, virtually all services that are considered robo-advisers do not refer to themselves as robo-advisers (except when quoting media accolades). If you go to the homepage of any “robo-adviser” in Canada and check, you’ll see they all mostly refer to themselves as some version of managed investing.

But the rise of AI-driven investment management for retail investors is already taking place around the world and is likely to spread in Canada. And once again, as the paper published last year in the *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics* suggests, investors’ behaviours can get in their own way.

While AI-driven investment advice showed potential in reducing behavioural biases like the disposition effect (the tendency to hold onto losing investments too long while selling win-

ners too quickly), adding human-like features appears to make investors less likely to seek and follow the AI robo-adviser’s guidance.

This is a striking finding. The very features designed to make these platforms more approachable could push investors away from advice. Why?

When we interact with a clearly artificial system – think a basic interface with buttons and data – we approach it as a tool. We don’t worry about judgment or feel the need to protect our ego. But add a friendly avatar and a name such as “Charles,” and suddenly the dynamic shifts. Now we’re dealing with a “person,” albeit a digital one. And with that comes the psychological baggage of human interaction.

The very features designed to make these platforms more approachable could push investors away from advice.

Augmenting an online investment platform with a human-like digital adviser complete with an avatar, name and conversational abilities that mimic human interaction sounds like a good thing. The thinking goes: If we make these AI-powered advisers more friendly, surely investors will feel more comfortable using them.

Except the research suggests this humanization trend could backfire spectacularly.

The study showed that investors using AI robo-advisers with social design elements exhibited a stronger disposition effect compared to those using more neutral interfaces. In other words,

they held onto losing investments longer and sold winners too quickly – exactly the behaviour the AI robo-advisers were trying to prevent.

(It’s important to note the difference in the general nature of investment management between the study and a contemporary, Canadian robo-adviser platform. The study looked at the buying and selling of individual assets in a trading environment while Canadian robo-advisers tend to offer fully-managed portfolios.)

The investors in the study were less inclined to seek advice from these humanized, AI robo-advisers. The researchers found that participants in their study requested 43 per cent less guidance when the robo-adviser appeared more human compared to the non-humanized interface. Further, almost 30 per cent of participants in the humanized interface group didn’t ask for advice at all – compared with 12.5 per cent in the non-humanized interface.

It’s as if the psychological cost of admitting we need help to a “human-like” entity outweighs the potential benefits of the advice. This reluctance to engage translated directly into poorer investment decisions.

Herein lies the paradox. On one hand, robo-advisers and other AI-powered investment management tools have the potential to improve investment outcomes for the average person. They could be accessible, cost-effective and capable of overcoming many of the behavioural biases that plague human decision-making.

On the other hand, if we design them in a way that makes people reluctant to use them, we’ve solved nothing. Perhaps this phenomenon could be called the irony of inaccessible rationality.

Rollercoaster week in U.S. stocks leaves many braced for bumps

DAVID RANDALL

A week of wild market swings has investors looking ahead to inflation data, corporate earnings and presidential polls for signals that could soothe a recent outbreak of turbulence in U.S. stocks.

Following months of placid trading, U.S. stock volatility has surged this month as a run of alarming data coincided with the unwinding of a massive, yen-fuelled carry trade to deal equities their worst sell-off of the year. The S&P 500 is still down around 6 per cent from a record high set last month, even after making up ground in a series of rallies after Monday’s crushing sell-off.

At issue for many investors is the trajectory of the U.S. economy. After months of betting on an economic soft landing, investors rushed to price in the risk of a more severe downturn, following weaker-than-expected manufacturing and employment data last week.

“Everybody is now worried about the economy,” said Bob Kalman, a portfolio manager at Miramar Capital. “We are moving away from the greed portion of the program and now the market is facing the fear of significant geopolitical risks, a hotly contested election and volatility that is not going away.”

Though stocks have rallied in recent days, traders believe it will be a while before calm returns to markets. Indeed, the historical behaviour of the Cboe Volatility Index – which saw its biggest one-day jump ever on Monday – shows that surges of volatility usually take months to dissipate.

Known as Wall Street’s fear gauge, the index measures demand for options protection from market swings. When it closes above 35 – an elevated level that it topped on Monday – the index has taken 170 sessions on average to return to 17.6, its long-term median and a level associated with far less extreme investor anxiety, a Reuters analysis showed.

One potential flashpoint will be when the U.S. reports consumer price data on Wednesday. Signs that inflation is dropping too steeply could bolster fears that the Federal Reserve has sent the economy into a tailspin by leaving interest rates elevated for too long, contributing to market turbulence.

For now, futures markets are pricing in a 55-per-cent chance the central bank will bring down benchmark interest rates by 50 basis points in September, at its next policy meeting, compared with a roughly 5-per-cent chance seen a month ago.

“Slower payroll growth reinforces that U.S. economic risks are becoming more two-sided as inflation cools and activity slows,” said Oscar Munoz, chief U.S. macro strategist at TD Securities, in a recent note.

Corporate earnings, meanwhile, have been neither strong enough nor weak enough to give the market direction, said Charles Lemonides, head of hedge fund ValueWorks LLC.

Overall, companies in the S&P 500 have reported second-quarter results that are 4.1 per cent above expectations, in line with the long-term average of 4.2 per cent above expectations, according to LSEG data.

Walmart and Home Depot are among companies reporting earnings next week, with their results seen as offering a snapshot on how U.S. consumers are holding up after months of elevated interest rates.

The end of the month brings earnings from chip giant Nvidia Corp., whose shares are up around 110 per cent this year even after a recent sell-off. The Fed’s annual Jackson Hole gathering, set for Aug. 22-24, will give policy makers another chance to fine tune their monetary policy message before their September meeting.

Mr. Lemonides believes the recent volatility is a healthy correction during an otherwise strong bull market, and he initiated a position in Amazon.com Inc. to take advantage of its weakness.

The U.S. presidential race is also likely to ramp up uncertainty. Democrat Kamala Harris leads Republican Donald Trump 42 per cent to 37 per cent in the race for the Nov. 5 presidential election, according to an Ipsos poll published on Thursday.

With nearly three months until the Nov. 5 vote, investors are braced for plenty of additional twists and turns in an election year that has already been one of the most dramatic in recent memory.

“While early events suggested a clearer picture of U.S. Presidential and Congressional outcomes, more recent events have again thrown the outcome into doubt,” analysts at JPMorgan wrote.

REUTERS

What is the greatest Canadian stock of all time? The case strengthens for Constellation

TIM SHUFELT
INVESTMENT REPORTER

ANALYSIS

The flame in Paris has now been extinguished, but let’s not forget there is a financial Olympics happening nearly every day.

It’s called the stock market, and it’s got everything the sporting version has: furious competition, triumph and failure, a rich history of cheating.

So, who is the stock market GOAT? It now seems settled, for example, that Simone Biles is the greatest gymnast of all time. Which stock is a comparably singular towering force against which all other corporate listings are measured?

Arizona State University finance professor Hendrik Bessembinder has the answer in a new research paper. And it’s not exactly a feel-good story.

From a century’s worth of data involving nearly 30,000 stocks, the stock that rises above all others is none other than Altria Group Inc., formerly known as Philip Morris, the maker of Marlboro cigarettes.

This is a company for which “faster, higher, stronger” refers to the delivery of nicotine into the bloodstream rather than the extremes of human athleticism. But the numbers don’t lie.

Over a 98-year time span up to

the end of 2023, Altria’s stock generated a cumulative return of 265 million per cent. In other words, one dollar invested would have grown to US\$2.65-million over that time.

This isn’t just a matter of trivia. The stock market as a whole is a proven compounder of wealth over decades. But it’s a paper-thin minority of companies, like Altria, responsible for almost all that growth.

As for the Canadian GOAT, we argued in these pages a couple of years ago the title belongs to Constellation Software Inc. The case has only strengthened since.

Since Constellation went public in 2006, the stock has generated a compound total return, after factoring in dividends, of 36.3 per cent annually. That’s better than any other TSX name over the same time frame. And incidentally, it’s neck and neck with Nvidia Corp., the chip maker at the heart of the hottest trend in investing.

The difference between the two is that Nvidia has catapulted to the very peak of the stock-market pantheon over just the past few years, while Constellation has risen with absurd consistency, year-after-year.

The stock has had just one negative calendar in its history. That came in 2022 when long-duration stocks and those with high valuations were pummeled marketwide. The company’s shares declined by 9.9 per cent. A

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It is often the companies out of the limelight that in fact are the true champions and compounders of shareholder wealth.

JASON DEL VICARIO
PORTFOLIO MANAGER,
HILLSIDE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

gain of 55 per cent followed in 2023. Year-to-date, the stock is up another 24 per cent.

The company is built on a pretty simple formula. Scoop up high-growth software businesses at good prices. Never sell them. And reinvest the cash flows in more companies. Repeat ad nauseum. Constellation has now acquired roughly 1,000 businesses over the past 30 years.

If you stay disciplined, you can create a “perpetual compounding machine,” said Barry Schwartz, chief investment officer at Baskin Wealth Management. “Constellation may be one of the best businesses the world has ever seen.”

The problem with rollup strategies like this is that you end up getting so big that it makes it difficult to stay disciplined on acquisitions. Skeptics have long predicted that Constellation will falter in the same way.

The company itself has always been alive to the risks. In a 2017 letter to shareholders, chief executive Mark Leonard wrote: “I don’t know if the analysts and journalists who predict reversion to average performance for CSI will be proved correct in the next few years.”

It hasn’t happened so far. “No one that I am aware of has done this better for as long as Constellation,” said Richard Liley, an analyst at Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel, which has held shares of Constellation since the

initial public offering.

The company has targeted bigger deals in recent years, while also lowering its expected returns to compete for larger takeover targets. But it’s bread and butter has remained mission-critical software companies in niche businesses with relatively modest valuations.

“Their addressable market is massive,” said David Driscoll, chief executive of Liberty International Investment Management. “The vast majority of software companies are bootstrapped, tight on cash and talent-constrained.”

For a greatest stock contender, Constellation is distinctly low profile. But that’s the case, more often than not, in an arena filled with fads and hype. “It is often the companies out of the limelight that in fact are the true champions and compounders of shareholder wealth,” said Jason Del Vicario, a portfolio manager at Hillside Wealth Management.

This tracks with Prof. Bessembinder’s research, which has shown that the vast majority of stocks are duds. Over the past century or so, 96 per cent of publicly listed U.S. stocks failed to outperform Treasury bills.

The remaining 4 per cent is responsible for all of the net stock-market gains. Miss out on that short list – topped of course by the GOAT – and good luck even keeping up with the market.



SPORTS

Assessing how Canada's contingent could look for L.A. 2028 ■ B12

Athletes reveal how they let loose in Paris after their Games ended ■ B14

{ PARIS 2024 }



Canadian athletes celebrate and soak in the atmosphere at the Paris Olympics closing ceremony at Stade de France on Sunday. Canada won nine gold, seven silver and 11 bronze for a total of 27 medals at the Games. PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS

We see thee rise

Canada's journey in Paris was marked by scandal but the COC's David Shoemaker says the athletes were able to 'remedy that situation' and close the Olympics with historic overall success on the podium

PAUL WALDIE PARIS

The Canadian Olympic Committee is celebrating one of Canada's best medal totals in Games history, but it's also facing difficult questions about a pair of scandals that cast a shadow over the performances.

Canada won 27 medals in Paris — nine gold, seven silver and 11 bronze — more than any Summer Olympics since the boycott-plagued 1984 Games 40 years ago in Los Angeles. Canada won 44 medals in 1984, but 14 Eastern Bloc countries didn't participate, including the Soviet Union and East Germany. Russia has also been largely absent from the Paris Olympics because of sanctions related to its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

"What a journey we've been on these 2024 Games," said Tricia Smith, president of the COC. "And as is the case at every Olympic Games, there have been some highs, some lows, some surprises, a lot of surprises, joy and heartbreak, and we've seen it all here in Paris."

Despite the success, the Canadian team also faced two major scandals in Paris: reports of spying by Canadian soccer officials and questions about

why the COC gave, and then withdrew, Games' accreditation for U.S.-based track coach Rana Reider, who is facing allegations of sexual assault and harassment by three former athletes in three lawsuits filed in Broward County, Fla. Those allegations have not been tested in court and Reider has not been charged with any crimes. Details of the lawsuit emerged last weekend in articles in *The Guardian* and *Times of London* newspapers.

"I certainly don't think that was how any of us wanted to start our Games, but I'm very happy with how we are ending them," the COC's chief executive David Shoemaker said.

The spying scandal dominated the opening week of the Olympics and the Canadian women's team was docked six points in the Olympic tournament by the sport's governing body, FIFA. Canada's coach, Bev Priestman, has also been suspended for a year by FIFA. The Canadian team still progressed to the medal round but lost in the quarter-finals to Germany.

Shoemaker said the COC will cooperate with any other potential investigations into the spying reports, including possibly by members of Parliament. "Certainly, if asked to participate by Parliament, or any committee of Parliament, we'll be happy to collaborate and share what we did," he said.

While the soccer scandal tarnished the start of the Games for Canada, Shoemaker added, "I can sit here, nearly three weeks later, and feel that the athletes on the field of play have done an enormous amount of good to remedy that situation."

Shoemaker also defended the COC's accreditation system and said that Reider was given a specific credential that allowed him to work with certain athletes, notably sprinter Andre De Grasse, who has been coached by the American for years.

The COC gave Reider a "personal coaching credential" at the request of Athletics Canada, Shoemaker explained. As far as the COC understood, Reider was not facing any sanctions

and he had served a year-long probation put in place by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, a non-profit organization responsible for preventing emotional and physical abuse of U.S. Olympic athletes.

Reider "didn't violate any of our rules and was granted, therefore, this limited personal-coach credential that allowed him to be present in training venues and a warm-up area," Shoemaker said.

Last Sunday, the COC pulled Reider's credentials after Athletics Canada was told by U.S. track officials that Reider had been the subject of a safety order.

"We learned on, I believe it was Sunday, the fourth of August, while Andre was sprinting, that in fact, [Reider] was subject to a safety order by USA Track and Field and overnight pulled his credential," Shoemaker said.

He added that the COC performs background checks on its Olympic delegations in the months leading up to the Games.

"We come away from Games always taking a look at what went right and what went wrong, and we'll certainly revisit this situation and others to understand if there's something that we need to change," he said.

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I certainly don't think that was how any of us wanted to start our Games, but I'm very happy with how we are ending them.

DAVID SHOEMAKER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OF THE CANADIAN
OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



Phil Wizard, who won gold for Canada on Saturday, says he's optimistic about breaking's future despite no plans for it to return to the Games. 'The Olympics is not the be-all and end-all ... I think people will fall in love with breaking.' SIEGFRIED MODOLA/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

How to understand breaking? Just watch and pay attention

It's clear that the sport, in an Olympic debut that may be its swan song, needs evangelists as much as it needs champions

CATHAL KELLY

OPINION



PARIS

There are still some sports you can't cry in, but break dancing seems to encourage it.

Canada's Phil Wizard won gold on Saturday. The day before the event, he cried tears of fear. Then he won and cried with happiness. Later, he cried with relief. "I doubted myself my entire life, so to be here means a lot," Wizard, a.k.a. Phil Wizard, said.

His win was Canada's ninth of these Games. It's the most in the summer iteration since the boycott-plagued Games of Los Angeles in 1984.

Wizard's will be a little different from everyone else's. He is not just the greatest b-boy at this moment, but possibly in history. Breaking debuted here, and there are no plans to repeat it next time around. So, Wizard has the greatest superlative of all — one of a kind.

There were two sections to break dancing at the Olympics — the dancing part, and then the explaining afterward part.

For instance, after Japan's Hiroto lost to Victor of the United States early in the competition. The crowd didn't like it. They booed. Hiroto burst into tears. Then a few people in the crowd cried as well. Which forced Victor — the defending world champion — to come out and explain what was going on to a bunch of reporters who weren't even trying to pretend they understood anything about what they were watching.

"He's very physical," Victor said. "But I have more originality."

Okay, but what about the booing?

"I understand the booing," Victor said, aglow with patience. "They booed because they don't understand breaking."

Not understanding breaking is one of the real secrets of breaking, because breakdancers love to explain it to you. The Coles Notes — it's not just funky freshness and spinning around on the ground. There are subtleties.

One thing that was easy to understand — Paris fans loved breaking. This is the first event I've been to where there were just as many people standing outside the arena watching as there were inside.

Every venue here in Paris has been hopping, but the X Games theme park they've constructed at the Place de la Concorde throbs. Maybe it's the fact that none of it is covered. Everyone seems a little loopy.

Breaking takes this idea of discombobulation to the aesthetic max. It feels like this is what would happen if you let Zoolander run the Olympics.

The exaggerated greetings, the MCs shrieking while the competition is happening, the middle-aged DJs given the deference of great conductors, the *noms de dance*, the judges on risers, some of them inexplicably wearing fur Kangols in the midst of a heat warning. Every competitor goes into the ring like a heavyweight champ and leaves the same way.

If you watched someone here long enough — a fan, a security guard, a person in a mascot uniform — they would eventually begin rocking to the music the way breakdancers do. It's called top rocking. We are all susceptible to it.

To enjoy this, you need a strong appetite for kitsch, as well as what Victor called "an appreciation of the new, evolved breaking."

The break dancing you may know from back when you wore a pair of unlaced Adidas? Not evolved.

Nevertheless, the breakout star on the first night of competition was Rachael (Raygun) Gunn. She's a 36-year-old Australian university instructor who teaches "the cultural politics of breaking."

Let's just say she may be better at theory than practice. She was annihilated by the judges but became a viral sensation.

On the men's side, most of the competitors are professionals who work a global circuit. They all say they're great friends, and may actually be telling the truth.

As Wizard spoke midway through the competition, the Frenchman he would later defeat in the gold-medal battle walked by and touched him on the shoulder. Wizard spun like a top.

"Good job, brother! Respect! Let's go!" Wizard is the sort of person who speaks in exclamation marks.

You don't see this sort of thing in professional, well, anything. The pros respect each other, but they don't trust each other. That other guy is trying to snatch the lunch out of your mouth.

Breaking is in a different position — it needs growth. Which means it needs evangelists more than it needs champions. The result is a flat hierarchy and a lot of lingering hugs.

That growth is not going to come via the Olympics long term. Organizers at Los Angeles 2028 have already declined to schedule the sport. It may resurface in Brisbane 2032, but it's a long shot.

"The Olympics is not the be-all and end-all," Wizard said. "I'm sad that this is a one-and-done, but I have a positive mindset moving forward. I think people will fall in love with breaking."

This was their chance. Roughly 10 hours over two days wedged in at the end of a Games when people are beginning to tire of the whole thing. Was that enough to make an impression? The result will not be known for years.

Speaking as someone who now has a nuanced understanding of the sport gleaned over three, possibly, four hours of study, I'll be sad, too. There aren't many sports where the participants come out after spinning on their heads for five minutes and start talking like they're quoting from the Tao Te Ching.

For instance, Victor on the topic of Wizard: "He's amazing. He reminds me of me."

Like Wizard, Victor said he was more focused here on conversion than personal achievement. He won a bronze and seemed genuinely elated. Afterward, he came back out to try converting a few new disciples.

How should one come to an understanding of this new, evolved breaking?

"Just watch. Pay attention," Victor said, speaking slowly, as if to children. "Naturally, you will find the essence of it."

Arop looks to push his limits after earning 'bittersweet' 800-metre silver medal

RACHEL BRADY PARIS

Canada's Marco Arop earned an Olympic silver medal in the men's 800 metres, after a thrilling final push down the stretch Saturday night in Paris.

The race went down to the wire as the 25-year-old from Edmonton ran the two laps of the purple track inside Stade de France in 1 minute 41.20 seconds, finishing neck-and-neck with Emmanuel Wanyonyi of Kenya, who clocked 1:41.19, just a sliver ahead. Algeria's Djamel Sedjati took bronze in 1:41.50.

"It was a little bit bittersweet," Arop said. "I wanted that gold medal so bad, but also, I couldn't have asked for a better race."

The Sudanese-born Canadian, who stands 6-foot-4, ran at the back of the pack for much of the first lap and then started to make his move. Arop had used a similar tactic at last year's world championship in Budapest, launching an attack off the last bend in the final, going on to become Canada's first world champ in the men's 800 metres.

In the Olympic final on Saturday, Arop made things exciting again as he navigated through the pack and thrust himself into second place in the final 100 metres.

Wanyonyi had led the race from start to finish and was just a hair in front of the Canadian as the two men lurched over the finish line.

It was a personal best for Arop and a North American area record. His previous best time was 1:42.85.

He was a three-time All-American while competing for Mississippi State University.

Arop is a second-time Olympian. This is a huge step up from his debut in Tokyo three years ago. There, Arop had led wire to wire in his first heat but faded badly down the final stretch in his semi-final to finish seventh.

This time, Arop's parents were in the Olympic stands, watching and celebrating — the first time they'd attended one of his races outside of Canada.

It reminded him that they'd given him a better life by moving to Canada.

"I can never thank them enough," he said. "They've sacrificed so much for me and my brothers."

They had witnessed a special 800 metres. The Kenyan gold medalist also achieved a personal best in Paris. Arop was gracious about his rival.

"It's not going to be the last time we have a race like that. Hopefully next time we race, it'll be me on top," Arop said. "But I've got to give credit where it's due. The entire field was amazing and I'm going to look back at the race and watch it over and over again."

Arop says he has his heart set on setting the world record.

"I think I'm definitely capable of it," he said. "I've still got a few more races this year, so now I've got that target. It's something that has been sitting in the back of my mind for a long time."

Vincent's pursuit of paddling pays off with C1 200-metre sprint gold

PAUL WALDIE
VAIRES-SURE-MARNE, FRANCE

When she was 14 years old, Katie Vincent had to make a decision about which sport to pursue, and the choice left her in tears.

She'd been canoeing with her older brother, Chris, and the kids next door at a club in Mississauga, and she showed real promise. But she loved skiing. On the slopes she was known as "Kit Kat" and she tried everything from downhill to slalom to Super G.

Her canoe coaches gave her some harsh truths; had she been training harder on the water she would have gone to the world championships. It was time to make a commitment, they said.

"There were a lot of tears and whatnot, but she made the decision to focus on the paddling," recalled her father, Paul Vincent, who didn't mind the switch too much since the cost of canoeing — \$400 for a paddle that lasts



Canada's Katie Vincent claimed gold in the C1 200-metre canoe sprint in a world-record time of 44.12 seconds, just ahead of American Nevin Harrison (44.13) and Cuban Yarisleidis Cirilo Duboys (44.36). CHARLES McQUILLAN/GETTY IMAGES

forever and about \$2,000 for a used canoe — is a fraction of ski racing.

Seven months later she entered her first major international competition in Rio de Janeiro and came home with three gold medals and two bronze. "So, it was a pretty good start," her father said.

The medals soon started pil-

ing up: at world championships, Pan American championships and a host of other international competitions. Then came the Olympics.

Women's canoe events were only added to the Olympic program at the Tokyo Games and Vincent took a bronze in the C2 500-metre with Laurence Vincent Lapointe.

On Friday in Paris, she won another bronze in the C2 500-metre this time with Sloan MacKenzie.

On Saturday she paddled the race of her life.

Vincent won the C1 200-metre canoe sprint in a world-record time of 44.12 seconds. Nevin Harrison of the United States finished second in 44.13 and Cuba's Yarisleidis Cirilo Duboys took bronze with 44.36.

The finish was so close that Vincent and Harrison had to wait a few minutes for officials to announce the winner. "Deep down, I thought I'd won," Vincent said. "When Canada popped up, I looked over and I saw many Can-

adian flags waving in the crowd and that was a really special moment, and that made me really excited."

She spoke later about how far the 200-metre sprint has come in the past decade. Not that long ago, 44 seconds was a dream. On Saturday, five finalists went under 45 seconds.

Canada's Sophia Jensen, 22, finished sixth in 45.08, her best time yet and is an indication of the strength of Canada's canoe and kayak program. She, too, marvelled at the quality of the final. "The difference between Katie and me is less than a second. So, it's pretty incredible being out there with such a strong field of girls," she said.

After she got her medal on Saturday and stood for the national anthem, Vincent headed off to see her family. There were hugs from a group of friends and family, including Paul and her mother Maryanne McDougald. And then she was embraced by her big brother Chris who couldn't resist shouting "Kit Kat."

Looking ahead at how Canada could shape up for 2028

MORGAN LOWRIE PARIS

Canada's sporting future is looking bright after the Paris 2024 Olympics, with a 27-medal haul that set a record for a non-boycotted Games. The stars for Canada included plenty of young talent, such as swimmer and four-time medalist Summer McIntosh, who at only 17 years old is expected to lead the team into Los Angeles in 2028.

But what about the others? Here's what some of Canada's Olympians have said about their competitive futures.

When McIntosh and the Canadian swimming team head to L.A., they'll be without Tokyo three-time medalist Maggie Mac Neil. The London, Ont. swimmer said before the Games that Paris would be her last, and the 24-year-old confirmed that in an Instagram post paying tribute to her team-

mates. "Couldn't be prouder of these girls for finishing such a great week for Canada in the pool," she wrote, alongside a photo of her cheering poolside. "No one else I'd rather swim my last Olympic race with."

Breaststroke specialist Kelsey Wog, 25, has also confirmed she won't be returning, while Finlay Knox, 23, on the men's side, and Mary-Sophie Harvey, 25, on the women's, said they were eager to continue.

Bronze-medal backstroker Kylie Masse, 28, has also not declared her third Olympic Games her last, saying "I'm going to just reassess everything after the Games and really just kind of take a little bit of a break and think about what I want to do next."

Canada will be losing Natalie Achonwa, a stalwart forward of the Canadian women's basketball team, who confirmed her retire-

ment after four Olympics. While the Olympic tournament ended in disappointment for the team, the 31-year-old Achonwa said she's looking forward to seeing what the next generation of players can do.

"When I take this jersey off, I hope that I left it better than I found it," she said.

Other retirements include Kristen Kit, the 35-year-old coxswain of the women's eight rowing team that won gold in Tokyo and silver in Paris. She's also a two-time Paralympian.

Four-time Olympic gymnast Ellie Black has already helped to push the boundaries of her sport by showing athletes can remain competitive well into their 20s. While she said she'll take it day by day, the 28-year-old from Halifax isn't ruling out Los Angeles.

"I'm just looking forward to taking a rest but also still continuing as long as my body can han-

dle it and I'm finding joy and I have goals I want to achieve," she said as her competition wrapped.

The athletics field for Canada in Paris saw the highest of Olympic highs, as well as crushing disappointments.

Four-time Olympic decathlete Damian Warner experienced the latter when he crashed out in the pole vault, dashing his hopes of defending his gold medal from Tokyo 2020.

After pulling out from the competition, Warner told a news conference that he felt he still loved the decathlon and had more to give. However, he acknowledged that at the age of 34, it's unclear how much longer that will be.

Sprinter Andre de Grasse, 29, who anchored Canada's 4x100 metre relay team to a historic gold last week, has previously said he'd like to go to L.A. in 2028, and said in Paris he still feels he has more to do in the sport.

While some athletes are reluctant to discuss their futures so quickly after a Games, others have made it clear they're continuing.

Beach volleyball player Brandie Wilkerson, 32, who teamed up with Melissa Humana-Paredes, 31, for a silver medal, indicated the team is looking to top the podium one day.

"There's some great competitors out there in the world, but Canada is right there with everyone," she said. "So we should be proud of that and we'll continue to show that we'll end up on top next time."

Bronze-medal-winning pole vaulter Alysha Newman, 30, made it even more clear.

"Now I'm hungry for more," she said, after winning Canada's first medal in the women's event. "Bronze is cute, but silver and gold? I got to get up there."

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CANADA'S MEDALS: BREAKING DOWN A HISTORIC HAUL

GOLD

- Breaking, Phil (Wizard) Kim: The wizard of popping, locking, backspinning and windmilling.
- Canoe sprint, Katie Vincent: "Canada is a canoeing country."
- Hammer throw, Ethan Katzberg: Social media says he looks like Burton Cummings.
- Hammer throw, Camryn Rogers: Canadians are good at this Celtic god sport.
- Judo, Christa Deguchi: "Yay to me" said Canada's first gold medalist in Paris.
- Swimming, Summer McIntosh, 400-metre medley: dominates for gold No. 1.
- Swimming, Summer McIntosh, 200-metre butterfly: Olympic record in her mom's 1984 race for gold No. 2.
- Swimming, Summer McIntosh, 200-metre medley: Hat trick and another Olympic record.
- Track and field, men's 4x100 relay: Fab Four.

SILVER

- Beach volleyball, Melissa Humana-Paredes Brandie Wilkerson: Dynamic duo under the illuminated Eiffel Tower.
- Rowing, women's eights: Heave away.
- Rugby sevens women: Mammoth upset of Aussies to reach the final.
- Swimming, Summer McIntosh, 400-metre freestyle: Laid foundation for triple gold.
- Swimming, Josh Liendo, 100-metre butterfly: First Black Canadian swimmer to stand on the podium.
- Track and field, 800 metres, Marco Arop: "I'm gonna look back at the race and watch it over and over again."
- Weightlifting, Maude Charon: Weight-class mergers forced Tokyo champion up against two other Tokyo champions.

BRONZE

- Boxing, Wyatt Sanford: The Kennecook Kid drew a big watch party in Nova Scotia.
- Canoe sprint, Katie Vincent, Sloan MacKenzie: Photo finish with silver-medal Ukraine.
- Diving, men's synchronized, Rylan Wiens, Nathan Zombor-Murray: NSYNC for the medal.
- Fencing, Eleanor Harvey: En garde. An Olympic fencing medal at last.
- Pole vault, Alysha Newman: Gold for the celebration. Faked an injury and then twerked.
- Swimming, Ilya Kharun, 100-metre butterfly: Double podium with teammate Liendo.
- Swimming, Ilya Kharun, 200-metre butterfly: Son of acrobats ended medal drought for men's swim team.
- Swimming, Kylie Masse, 200-metre backstroke: Big-game backstroker strikes again.
- Taekwondo, Skylar Park: Repechage rebound for the medal.
- Tennis, mixed doubles, Gabriela Dabrowski, Félix Auger-Aliassime: No mixed results in bronze-medal match.
- Trampoline, Sophieane Méthot: Qualified last for final. Big bounce back.

- Swimming, Ilya Kharun, 200-metre butterfly: Son of acrobats ended medal drought for men's swim team.
- Swimming, Kylie Masse, 200-metre backstroke: Big-game backstroker strikes again.
- Taekwondo, Skylar Park: Repechage rebound for the medal.
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- Trampoline, Sophieane Méthot: Qualified last for final. Big bounce back.

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MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	70	49	588	—
New York	70	49	588	—
Boston	61	55	526 7/8	—
Tampa Bay	59	58	504	10
Toronto	54	64	458 15 1/2	—
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Cleveland	69	49	585	—
Minnesota	65	52	556 3/4	—
Kansas City	65	53	551 4	—
Detroit	56	63	471 13/8	—
Chicago	28	91	235 41 1/2	—
WEST DIVISION				
Houston	62	55	530	—
Seattle	62	56	525 1/2	—
Texas	55	63	466 7/8	—
Los Angeles	52	66	441 10 1/2	—
Oakland	50	69	420	13

L.A. Angels 6, Washington 4
 Tampa Bay 2, Baltimore 1
 Oakland 8, Toronto 4
 Houston 10, Boston 2
 N.Y. Yankees 8, Texas 7
 Cleveland 5, Minnesota 3
 Detroit 5, San Francisco 4
 N.Y. Mets at Seattle

Saturday

N.Y. Yankees 8, Texas 0, 1st game
 Oakland 1, Toronto 0
 San Francisco 3, Detroit 1
 Houston 5, Boston 4
 Texas 9, N.Y. Yankees 4, 2nd game
 Cleveland 2, Minnesota 1
 Washington 5, L.A. Angels 4, 10 innings
 Kansas City 8, St. Louis 3
 Chicago Cubs 3, Chicago White Sox 1
 Baltimore 7, Tampa Bay 5
 Seattle 4, N.Y. Mets 0

Monday

All Times Eastern

Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 3-10) at Cleveland (Lively 10-7), 6:40 p.m.
 Houston (Valdez 11-5) at Tampa Bay (Bradley 6-6), 6:50 p.m.
 Texas (Mahle 0-1) at Boston (Bello 10-5), 7:10 p.m.
 Kansas City (Singer 8-7) at Minnesota (Lopez 10-8), 7:40 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees (Gil 12-5) at Chicago White Sox (Bush 0-1), 8:10 p.m.
 Toronto (Francis 4-3) at L.A. Angels (Daniel 1-3), 9:38 p.m.

Tuesday

Washington at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m.
 Chicago Cubs at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.
 Seattle at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.
 Houston at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.
 Oakland at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
 Texas at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
 Kansas City at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.
 Toronto at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	69	49	585	—
Atlanta	61	56	521 7/8	—
New York	61	56	521 7/8	—
Washington	54	65	454 15 1/2	—
Miami	44	75	370 25 1/2	—
WEST DIVISION				
Milwaukee	67	50	573	—
St. Louis	60	58	508 7/8	—
Chicago	59	60	496 9	—
Cincinnati	57	61	483 10 1/2	—
Pittsburgh	56	61	479 11	—
WEST DIVISION				
Los Angeles	69	49	585	—
Arizona	66	53	555 3/8	—
San Diego	66	53	555 3/8	—
San Francisco	61	59	508 9	—
Colorado	44	75	370 25 1/2	—

L.A. Angels 6, Washington 4
 Miami 7, San Diego 6
 Cincinnati 4, Milwaukee 3
 Colorado 9, Atlanta 8
 Arizona 12, Philadelphia 5
 Detroit 5, San Francisco 4
 L.A. Dodgers 6, Pittsburgh 5, 10 innings
 N.Y. Mets at Seattle

Saturday

San Francisco 3, Detroit 1
 San Diego 9, Miami 8, 10 innings
 Milwaukee 1, Cincinnati 0
 Washington 5, L.A. Angels 4, 10 innings
 Kansas City 8, St. Louis 3
 Chicago Cubs 3, Chicago White Sox 1
 Arizona 11, Philadelphia 1
 Atlanta 11, Colorado 8
 L.A. Dodgers 4, Pittsburgh 1
 Seattle 4, N.Y. Mets 0

Monday

All Times Eastern

Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 3-10) at Cleveland (Lively 10-7), 6:40 p.m.
 St. Louis (Gray 11-6) at Cincinnati (Abbott 9-9), 6:40 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 0-2) at Milwaukee (Peralta 7-6), 8:10 p.m.
 Colorado (Quantill 7-8) at Arizona (Pfaadt 6-6), 9:40 p.m.
 Pittsburgh (Gonzales 1-1) at San Diego (Munro 3-4), 9:40 p.m.
 Atlanta (Sale 13-3) at San Francisco (Snell 2-3), 9:45 p.m.

Tuesday

Washington at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m.
 Chicago Cubs at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.
 Miami at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.
 St. Louis at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m.
 Oakland at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.
 Colorado at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.
 Atlanta at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.

2024 MLS-LIGA MX LEAGUES CUP

ROUND OF 32 Friday				
Cincinnati 1 Santos (Liga MX) 1 (Cincinnati wins 6-5 on penalties)				
Colorado 3 Juarez (Liga MX) 2				
Columbus 4 Kansas City 0				
Cruz Azul 0 Orlando 0 (Cruz Azul wins 5-4 on penalties)				
Mazatlan (Liga MX) 2 D.C. 1				
New York City F.C. 1 New England 1 (New York City F.C. wins 7-6 on penalties)				
Philadelphia 2 Montreal 0				
St. Louis 3 Portland 1				
Toluca (Liga MX) 2 Houston 2 (Toluca wins 5-4 on penalties)				
America (Liga MX) 2 Atlas 1				

ROUND OF 16 Monday

All Times Eastern

Pumas (Liga MX) vs. Seattle, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Philadelphia vs. Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.
 Miami vs. Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
 Toluca (Liga MX) vs. Colorado, 10 p.m.
 San Jose vs. Los Angeles F.C., 10:30 p.m.
At Washington, D.C.
 Cruz Azul (Liga MX) vs. Mazatlan (Liga MX), 8 p.m.
At Harrison, N.J.
 New York City F.C. vs. Tigres UANL (Liga MX), 8 p.m.
At Carson City, Calif.
 America (Liga MX) vs. St. Louis, 10:30 p.m.

CPL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Ottawa	18	8	5	5	30	24	29
Hamilton	17	8	5	4	31	22	28
York	17	8	5	4	27	23	28
Calgary	18	6	9	3	21	17	27
Vancouver	18	6	7	5	23	20	23
Victoria	17	5	7	5	14	17	20
Winnipeg	17	5	10	2	20	29	17
Halifax	16	4	8	4	22	26	16

Sunday

Vancouver 1 Victoria 0
 York at Winnipeg

Saturday

Calgary 3 Halifax 2
 Hamilton 3 Ottawa 0

CEBL PLAYOFFS

CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

At Montreal
CEBL CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunday
 Niagara (E1) 97 Vancouver (W1) 95

CONFERENCE FINALS

Friday
West
 Vancouver (E1) 89 Calgary (3) 87
East
 Niagara (1) 78 Montreal (host) 75

CFL

WEEK 10

EAST DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt		
Montreal	9	8	1	0	261	191	16		
Ottawa	8	5	2	1	196	189	11		
Toronto	9	5	4	0	256	234	10		
Hamilton	9	2	7	0	234	287	4		
WEST DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt		
Saskatchewan	9	5	3	1	236	222	11		
British Columbia	8	5	3	0	206	195	10		
Calgary	9	4	5	0	217	259	8		
Winnipeg	9	3	6	0	188	186	6		
Edmonton	8	1	7	0	216	247	2		

Saturday

Montreal 33 Hamilton 23

Friday

Toronto 39 Calgary 25

Thursday

Saskatchewan 22 Ottawa 22 (OT)

HLINKA GRETZKY CUP

PLAYOFFS

At Edmonton

Saturday

THIRD PLACE

Sweden 6 United States 3
CHAMPIONSHIP
 Canada 2 Czechia 1

Friday

FIFTH PLACE

Slovakia 5 Germany 2

SEVENTH PLACE

Finland 5 Switzerland 2

SEMIFINALS

Czechia 5 Sweden 1
 Canada 5 United States 1

NFL PRESEASON

Sunday

Denver 34, Indianapolis 10
 L.A. Rams 13, Dallas 12

Saturday

N.Y. Jets 20, Washington 17
 Chicago 33, Buffalo 6
 Minnesota 24, Las Vegas 23
 Green Bay 23, Cleveland 10
 Jacksonville 26, Kansas City 13
 Tampa Bay 17, Cincinnati 14
 Tennessee 17, San Francisco 13
 Seattle 16, L.A. Chargers 3
 New Orleans 16, Arizona 14

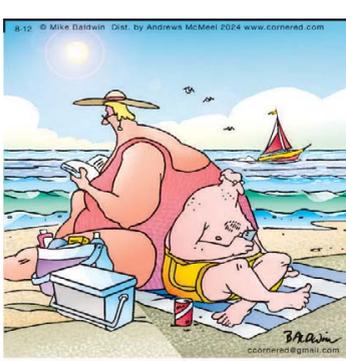
Friday

Houston 20, Pittsburgh 12
 Miami 20, Atlanta 13
 Philadelphia 16, Baltimore 13

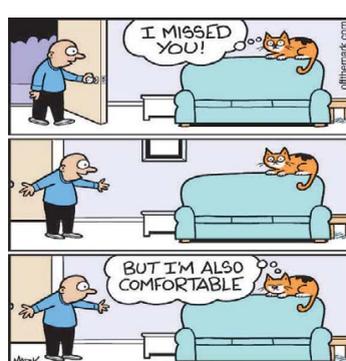
Thursday

N.Y. Giants 14, Detroit 3
 New England 17, Carolina 3

CORNERED



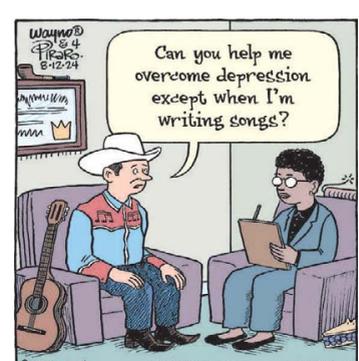
OFF THE MARK



SPEED BUMP



BIZARRO



Canada at the Games

CANADIANS SAY ADIEU

Canadian gold medalists Summer McIntosh and Ethan Katzberg held the Maple Leaf high Sunday, part of the final spectacle of the Paris Olympics. The duo were among the nearly 200 Canadians who participated in a ceremony to close out what has been a record-setting Games for the country. “Our Olympians have made us proud,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement. “They competed with athletes from around the world and brought home a total of 27 medals. They showed everyone that Canada belongs on the world stage – as leaders and champions at the pinnacle of sport.” More than 100 other Canadian athletes poured in to the open-air Stade de France minutes later, leading off two groups of thousands of athletes entering the stadium. The Canadians all came dressed in shorts and T-shirts in a dark, galaxy-like pattern with “CAN” written vertically down the back in white letters.

Around the Games

HASSAN WINS WOMEN'S MARATHON

Nobody will ever accuse Sifan Hassan of taking the easy route at the Olympics. Heading into the last 150 metres of her 10-day Olympics odyssey that spanned three events and 62 kilometres, the Netherlands’ runner traded elbows with Tigst Assefa of Ethiopia, and then sprinted by her to win the last track event of the Paris Games. Hassan added gold to the bronze medals she won in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres. The finish had everything: suspense, speed, grit and feistiness, all against the stunning backdrop of a golden dome glittering under the morning sun. Hassan, an Ethiopia native, finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours 22 minutes 55 seconds. Assefa got silver, and Kenya’s Hellen Obiri took the bronze. In the men’s marathon on Saturday, Ethiopian runner Tamirat Tola won to end Kenya’s dominance of the race. Tola finished in an Olympic record time of 2:06:26, with Belgium’s Bashir Abdi finishing 21 seconds behind and Benson Kipruto taking bronze for Kenya, 34 seconds back.

ATHLETICS

WOMEN

MARATHON

- Sifan Hassa, Netherlands, 2:22:55.
- Tigst Assefa, Ethiopia, 2:22:58.
- Hellen Obiri, Kenya, 2:23:10.
- Asharon Lokedi, Kenya, 2:23:14.
- Amane Beriso Sherkule, Ethiopia, 2:23:57.
- Yuka Suzuki, Japan, 2:24:02.
- Delvine Relin Meringor, Romania, 2:24:56.
- Siella Chesang, Uganda, 2:26:01.
- Lomah Chemtai Salpeter, Israel, 2:26:08.
- Eunice Chebichii Chumba, Bahrain, 2:26:10.
- Fatima Ezzahra Gardadi, Morocco, 2:26:30.
- Dakotah Lindworm, United States, 2:26:44.
- Jessica Stenson, Australia, 2:26:45.
- Sardana Trifimova, Kyrgyzstan, 2:26:47.
- Peres Jepchirchi, Kenya, 2:26:51.
- Fabienne Ortiz Moroch, Switzerland, 2:28:10.
- Majida Maayouf, Spain, 2:28:35.
- Thalia Valdivia, Peru, 2:29:01.
- Hanne Verbruggen, Belgium, 2:29:03.
- Mekdes Woldeu, France, 2:29:20.
- Florencia Borelli, Argentina, 2:29:29.
- Helen Bekele, Switzerland, 2:29:43.
- Emily Sisson, United States, 2:29:53.
- Gemevieve Gregson, Australia, 2:29:56.
- Mirteille Soler, Spain, 2:29:56.
- Tejera Hachova, Czech Republic, 2:30:00.
- Citlali Cristian Moscate, Mexico, 2:30:03.
- Fabiana McCormack, Ireland, 2:30:12.
- Doménika Mayer, Germany, 2:30:14.
- Sofia Yaremchuk, Italy, 2:30:20.
- M. Blandina Makatsi, Lesotho, 2:30:20.
- Gian Oldknow, South Africa, 2:30:29.
- Zhanna Mamazhanova, Kazakhstan, 2:30:51.
- Magist Gashaw, Bahrain, 2:30:53.

- Talifi Elmor, Canada, 2:31:08.
- Aleksandra Lisowska, Poland, 2:31:10.
- Irvette van Zyl, South Africa, 2:31:14.
- Laura Hottenrott, Germany, 2:31:19.
- Kaoutar Khoukhou, Morocco, 2:31:34.
- Madalena Shauri, Tanzania, 2:31:58.
- Daiana Ocampo, Argentina, 2:32:02.
- Esther Navarrete, Spain, 2:32:07.
- Rose Chelimo, Bahrain, 2:32:08.
- Rebecca Cheptegei, Uganda, 2:32:14.
- Gerda Steyn, South Africa, 2:32:51.
- Clara Evans, Britain, 2:33:01.
- K. Galbaldrakh, Mongolia, 2:33:26.
- Munkhbayar Bayartsog, Mongolia, 2:33:27.
- Auror Tiyouy, Israel, 2:33:37.
- Anne Luijck, Netherlands, 2:33:42.
- Mae Ichijima, Japan, 2:34:13.
- Carolina Wikstrom, Sweden, 2:34:20.
- Mary Zenaída Granja, Ecuador, 2:34:34.
- Julie Perrier, Mauritius, 2:34:56.
- Maria Mayer, Austria, 2:35:14.
- Gledys Tejeda, Peru, 2:35:36.
- Susana Santos, Portugal, 2:35:57.
- Dolshi Tesfu, Eritrea, 2:36:30.
- Yuang Deshun, China, 2:36:47.
- Melanie French, New Zealand, 2:37:21.
- P. Patricia Ortiz Moroch, Ecuador, 2:37:23.
- Luz Mery Rojas, Peru, 2:37:24.
- M. Hernandez Flores, Mexico, 2:37:24.
- Angelika Mach, Poland, 2:37:56.
- Camilla Richardsson, Finland, 2:38:02.
- Maria Stewartova, Czech Republic, 2:38:07.
- Giovanna Epis, Italy, 2:38:26.
- Helalia Johannes, Namibia, 2:38:36.
- Mercyline Chelangat, Uganda, 2:39:40.
- Melina Rollin, France, 2:40:17.
- Melina Breljak, Croatia, 2:41:13.
- Xia Yuyu, China, 2:42:10.
- Rosa Alva Chacha, Ecuador, 2:42:14.

SUNDAY'S NINTH

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES,

FRANCE Bittersweet. That’s how Maggie Coles-Lyster described her ninth-place finish in the omnium at the Paris Olympics, despite turning in one of the stand-out performances on Canada’s track cycling team. Coles-Lyster positioned herself wonderfully in third after the first three events – the scratch race, tempo race and elimination race – but a 16th place in the points race caused her to slip six spots down on Sunday. American Jennifer Valente, now a two-time Olympic champion and reigning world champion in the discipline, captured gold with 144 points. Poland’s Daria Pikulik (131) claimed silver and New Zealand’s Ally Wollaston (125) took bronze. Coles-Lyster, a 25-year-old from Maple Ridge, B.C., only collected five points in the final race, finishing with 101.

JUST SHORT OF THE PODIUM

Canadian wrestler Ana Paula Godinez Gonzalez came up short in the bronze-medal match in the women’s 62-kilogram freestyle division on Saturday. The 24-year-old from Burnaby, B.C. lost to Grace Jacob Bullen of Norway by a score of 11-0. Earlier Saturday, Godinez Gonzalez defeated Romania’s Kriszta Tunde Incze 2-0 in a repechage at the Champ-de-Mars arena to reach the medal round. Brooke Henderson continued a late charge up the women’s golf leaderboard, at one point climbing into a tie for fourth, before finishing three under for the tournament, four shots behind third-place Lin Xiyu of China. And speaking of close calls, Canada’s chief sport officer Eric Myles said Sunday that eight members of the team’s delegation tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival in Paris, but the virus was contained and it wasn’t believed illness hampered any athlete’s performance.

ATHLETICS HAD HUGE GAMES

Head coach Glenroy Gilbert loved the resilience he saw from Canada’s athletics team in Paris. Five of Canada’s 27 Olympic medals were won by track and field athletes. While there were mishaps, with some medal favourites missing the podium, there were also a handful of historical moments made under the bright lights of Stade de France. Three of the five medals were gold thanks to Ethan Katzberg and Camryn Rogers sweeping the men’s and women’s hammer throw for Canada as they did at the world championships a year ago. Then, there was the men’s 4x100-metre relay team. The group of Aaron Brown, Jerome Blake, Brendon Rodney and Andre De Grasse snagged a gold medal that most did not see coming. Alysha Newman, from Delaware, Ont., earned bronze in the women’s pole vault after making her first Olympic final in her third appearance at the Games. And Marco Arop’s silver in the 800 metres.

LOOKING AHEAD

The COC and Canadian Paralympic Committee asked for a \$104-million infusion into the system for national sport organizations in this year’s federal budget, which was not forthcoming. Winning Olympic and Paralympic medals in both winter and summer sport is a big ask in a geographically vast country. “I was thinking about that today just walking over, 27 medals, and that’s really close to where we land in winter sport,” said Own The Podium chief executive officer Anne Merklinger. The COC provides bonus money for medals of \$20,000 for gold, \$15,000 for silver and \$10,000 for bronze. Health care technology entrepreneur Sanjay Malaviya of Hespeler, Ont., has donated a top-up of \$5,000 per medal won. The Paralympic Games in Paris start Aug. 28 and finish Sept. 8.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. WINS MEN'S, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GOLDS

A’ja Wilson scored 21 points and the U.S. women’s basketball team survived the biggest challenge of its unprecedented run to eight straight Olympic gold medals with a 67-66 win over France at the Paris Games on Sunday. No team had been able to push the Americans during this impressive streak of 61 consecutive wins. Only two of those victories had been by single digits before the game against France. The eight straight golds broke a tie with the American men’s program that won seven in a row from 1936-68. The women’s victory came less than 24 hours after the U.S. men’s team also beat France in the title game. This was the first time in Olympic history that both gold medal games featured the same two teams. Unlike the men’s game this one came down to the final minute and one last shot by France that was just inside the three-point line. On Saturday, Stephen Curry scored 24 points and led the way. It was the fifth consecutive gold medal for the U.S. And LeBron James, wearing metallic gold shoes that needed no explanation, scored 14 for the U.S. as he won his fourth Olympic medal and third gold.

U.S. TOPS BRAZIL IN WOMEN'S SOCCER, AGAIN

After 185 appearances, including six World Cups and six Olympics, Brazil great Marta said farewell to international soccer on Saturday. Olympic gold eluded her to the end. At the age of 38, Marta had said ahead of the Paris Games that it would be her last major tournament with the national team. There was to be no perfect ending for a player who has been a flag-bearer for the women’s game – a 1-0 defeat to the United States in the Olympic final consigning her to silver once again. It will have been an all-too familiar feeling for the six-time world player of the year. The U.S. has proved a frequent roadblock to her international ambitions. Add Paris 2024 to Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008. On all three occasions Marta and Brazil were beaten to gold by the Americans. As the whistle blew on Saturday, it signalled the end of Marta’s pursuit of international triumph. She consoled teammates and congratulated the U.S. players. An Olympic journey that had started when she was just 18 years old in Athens, ended with another final, another medal. Just not the one she was so desperate to get her hands on.

KO WINS GOLF GOLD

Lydia Ko delivered a dream finish at Le Golf National with a one-under 71 for a two-shot victory on Saturday. The win pushed her career total to 27 points for the LPGA Hall of Fame, one of the strictest criteria for any shrine. This final chapter featured Ko building a five-shot lead, watching it cut to one over the final hour and then delivering a steady diet of pars until she made a seven-foot birdie putt at the end to finish at 10-under 278. Esther Henseleit of Germany finished birdie-birdie for a 66 to make Ko work for it. Henseleit wound up with the silver. Xiyu Lin of China birdied the final hole for a 69 to take the bronze. Brooke Henderson of Smiths Falls, Ont., threatened midway through the final round but faded with two bogeys on the back nine and closed with a one-under-par 71. Henderson had a four-round total of three-under-par 285. Alena Sharp of Hamilton shot a 73 for a nine-over-par 297.

BACH WILL NOT SEEK TO STAY ON BEYOND 2025

IOC president Thomas Bach plans to leave office next year, telling the membership Saturday that the Olympics will be “best served with a change in leadership.” Bach has led the International Olympic Committee since September of 2013 and his 12-year presidency was to expire next year – a term limit introduced as part of anti-corruption reforms passed after the Salt Lake City bidding scandal 25 years ago. Speculation has grown since last October that Bach could stay on after IOC members asked him to consider changing Olympic Charter rules that would end his leadership. The 70-year-old Bach ended that speculation Saturday in Paris – saying the IOC needed a new leader who could steer the Olympic movement through an increasingly digital and politically pressured world. “New times are calling for new leaders,” Bach told the IOC membership in Paris in a speech where he paused to hold back tears. An election is now scheduled when the 115-strong IOC membership next meets, from March 18-21 in Greece.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHAT CANADA DID

FRIDAY

(distances in metres)

ATHLETICS

Women’s marathon — Malindi Elmore of Kelowna, B.C., finished 35th overall in a season-best time of two hours, 31 minutes and eight seconds.

CYCLING

Women’s Omnium — Maggie Coles-Lyster, Maple Ridge, B.C., was second in the scratch race and finished ninth overall for the event with 101 points.

Women’s sprint — Kelsey Mitchell of Sherwood Park, Alta., was 0.493 seconds behind the winner in the classification race to finish eighth in the event.

Men’s Keirin — James Hedgcock, Ancaster, Ont., did not qualify for the semifinals after finishing 0.31 seconds behind the winner to place sixth in his quarterfinal heat.

BASKETBALL

WOMEN

Sunday, August 11
BRONZE MEDAL
Australia 85, Belgium 81
GOLD MEDAL
United States 67, France 66

GOLD MEDAL GAME

UNITED STATES 67, FRANCE 66

UNITED STATES (67)

B. Griner 2-3 0-0 4, A. Wilson 6-14 9-12 21, N. Collier 3-7 1-2 7, K. Copper 3-8 6-6 12, K. Plum 2-6 6-6 12, B. Stewart 2-8 6-6 8, J. Young 1-7 0-0 2, A. Thomas 0-1 1-2 1, C. Gray 0-1 0-0 0, S. Ionescu 0-1 0-0 0, TOTAL 19-56 27-34 67
FRANCE (66)
L. Lacan 3-6 1-1 7, G. Williams 7-16 2-2 19, M. Badiane 2-5 4-4 8, V. Ayayi 3-9 2-9 9, A. Chery 2-6 0-0 4, M. Fauthoux 2-8 2-8 8, J. Salauun 1-4 0-0 2, M. Johannes 3-13 2-9 2, D. Malonga 0-2 0-0 0, S. Michel Boury 0-0 0-0 0, I. Rupert 0-4 0-0 0, R. Bernies 0-0 0-0 0, TOTAL 23-73 13-13 66
United States 15 10 20 22 — 67
France 9 16 18 23 — 66
HalfTime—United States 25, France 25.
3-Point Goals—United States 2-12 (K. Plum 2-5, K. Copper 0-3, B. Stewart 0-2, N. Collier 0-1, J. Young 0-1), France 7-36 (G. Williams 3-6, M. Fauthoux 2-6, M. Johannes 1-8, V. Ayayi 1-5, I. Rupert 0-4, A. Chery 0-3, L. Lacan 0-2, J. Salauun 0-2).
Rebounds—United States 44 (A. Wilson 13), France 34 (G. Williams 7).
Assists—United States 18 (K. Plum 4), France 12 (M. Badiane 3).
Total fouls—United States 13, France 25.

CYCLING

MEN

Sunday

FINAL

MADISON

- Portugal (Luri Leitao; Rui Oliveira), 55.
- Italy (Simone Consonni; Elia Viviani), 47.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

Multi-medalist Summer McIntosh (swimming) and Ethan Katzberg (athletics) were chosen to carry the Canadian flag into the closing ceremonies.

OVERVIEW

Canada won 27 medals (nine gold, seven silver and 11 bronze) — the highest accumulation for a non-boycotted Games in both total and gold medals won — trailing only Los Angeles in 1984 (10-18-16—44). The total has now successively risen over the past three meetings (Rio de Janeiro, 2016: 4-3-15—22; and Tokyo, 2021: 7-7-10—24).

NOTABLES

— Summer McIntosh of Toronto became the first Canadian to win three individual gold medals at a single Games (swimming: women’s 200 butterfly, 200 and 400 individual medleys) and added a silver in the 400 freestyle to leave Paris with four in total.

3. Denmark (Niklas Larsen; Michael Moerkoev), 41.

4. New Zealand (Aaron Gate; Campbell Stewart), 33.

5. Germany (Theo Reinhardt; Roger Kluge), 23.

6. Japan (Kazushige Kuboki; Shunsuke Imamura), 12.

7. Czech Republic (Denis Rugovac; Jan Vones), 12.

8. Spain (Sebastian Mora Vedri; Albert Torres Barcelo), -5.

9. Britain (Oliver Wood; Mark Stewart), -9.

10. Belgium (Lindsay de Vylder; Fabio van den Bossche), -11.

11. France (Thomas Boudat; Benjamin Thomas), -18.

12. Australia (Kelland O’Brien; Sam Welsford), -49.

13. Canada (Michael Foley; Mathias Guillemeffe), DNF.

14. Austria (Maximilian Schmidbauer; Raphael Kokos), DNF.

15. Netherlands (Jan Willem van Schip; Yoeri Havik), DQ.

WOMEN

OMNIUM

SCRATCH RACE 1/4

- Jennifer Valente, United States.
- Maggie Coles-Lyster, Canada.
- Georgia Baker, Australia.
- Maik van der Duin, Netherlands.
- Ally Wollaston, New Zealand.
- Amalie Diderksen, Denmark.

— for an event in which a Canadian had never won a gold medal, Camryn Rogers of Richmond, B.C., (women) and Ethan Katzberg, Nanaimo, B.C. (men), stood on top of their respective podiums for the hammer throw.

— the Canadian men’s 4x100 relay team (Brendon Rodney and Aaron Brown, both Toronto; Jerome Blake, Kelowna, B.C., and Andre De Grasse, Markham, Ont.) came together to win the gold medal and erase any disappointment they might have felt as none had qualified for the finals in the 100 or 200 individual events. The win marked the third-straight Games that the squad has posted a top-three finish in the relay (bronze at Rio de Janeiro (2016) and silver in Tokyo (2021)).

— with his victory, De Grasse (two gold, two silver and three bronze) tied Penny Oleksiak (swimming, 1 G, 2 S, 4 B) for the most medals won by a Canadian during their Olympic careers.

8. Anita Stenberg, Norway.

9. Aline Seitz, Switzerland.

10. Letizia Paternoster, Italy.

11. Ebbissam Zayed, Egypt.

12. Liu Jiali, China.

13. Maria Martins, Portugal.

14. Daria Pkiluk, Poland.

15. Lara Gillespie, Ireland.

16. Yumi Kajihara, Japan.

17. Lotte Koepcke, Belgium.

18. Franziska Brausse, Germany.

19. Lee Sze Wing, Hong Kong.

20. Victoria Velasco Fuentes, Mexico.

21. Valentine Fortin, France.

22. Neah Evans, Britain.

TEMPO RACE 2/4

1. Lara Gillespie, Ireland, 24.

2. Jennifer Valente, United States, 9.

3. Daria Pkiluk, Poland, 8.

4. Georgia Baker, Australia, 4.

5. Franziska Brausse, Germany, 1.

6. Lotte Koepcke, Belgium, 0.

7. Amalie Diderksen, Denmark, 0.

8. Maria Martins, Portugal, 0.

9. Ally Wollaston, New Zealand, 0.

10. **Maggie Coles-Lyster, Canada, 0.**

11. Aline Seitz, Switzerland, 0.

12. Anita Stenberg, Norway, 0.

13. Lee Sze Wing, Hong Kong, 0.

14. Olivia Balesiyte, Lithuania, 0.

15. Letizia Paternoster, Italy, 0.

16. Liu Jiali, China, 0.

17. Yumi Kajihara, Japan, 0.

18. Neah Evans, Britain, 0.

19. Valentine Fortin, France, 0.

20. Maik van der Duin, Netherlands, 0.

21. Ebbissam Zayed, Egypt, -20.

22. Victoria Velasco Fuentes, Mexico, -40.

ELIMINATION RACE 3/4

1. Jennifer Valente, United States.

2. Georgia Baker, Australia.

3. **Maggie Coles-Lyster, Canada.**

4. Lotte Koepcke, Belgium.

5. Anita Stenberg, Norway.

6. Letizia Paternoster, Italy.

7. Maik van der Duin, Netherlands.

8. Amalie Diderksen, Denmark.

9. Lara Gillespie, Ireland.

10. Daria Pkiluk, Poland.

11. Valentine Fortin, France.

12. Ally Wollaston, New Zealand.

13. Olivia Balesiyte, Lithuania.

14. Ebbissam Zayed, Egypt.

15. Maria Martins, Portugal.

16. Liu Jiali, China.

17. Neah Evans, Britain.

18. Lee Sze Wing, Hong Kong.

19. Aline Seitz, Switzerland.

20. Victoria Velasco Fuentes, Mexico.

21. Yumi Kajihara, Japan.

22. Franziska Brausse, Germany.

POINTS RACE 4/4

1. Jennifer Valente, United States, 144.

2. Daria Pkiluk, Poland, 131.

3. Ally Wollaston, New Zealand, 115.

4. Lotte Koepcke, Belgium, 126.

5. Georgia Baker, Australia, 108.

6. Maik van der Duin, Netherlands, 106.

7. Amalie Diderksen, Denmark, 105.

8. Anita Stenberg, Norway, 102.

9. **Maggie Coles-Lyster, Canada, 101.**

10. Lara Gillespie, Ireland, 99.

11. Olivia Balesiyte, Lithuania, 80.

12. Aline Seitz, Switzerland, 69.

13. Letizia Paternoster, Italy, 64.

14. Maria Martins, Portugal, 61.

After winning medals at track, it was time for athletes to party on an Olympic level

While some feasted on late-night chicken and pizza, others wrapped up the Games with an early night

**PAT GRAHAM
ANDREW DAMPF**
SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE

They won their Olympic medals after making so many sacrifices and spending so many hours training. Then came the fun part – celebrating with family and friends, even strangers.

Newly minted medalists in track and field went out for meals to toast their accomplishments. Some hit the dance floor, while others took a dip in the pool. There were those who went straight to bed – too exhausted to go out – and those who spent time answering the hundreds and hundreds of messages that lit up their phone.

“I’ve never been so locked in in my life than in these past three months,” Swedish pole vaulter Armand (Mondo) Duplantis said after defending his Olympic gold by setting a world record. “Now I’m just ready to eat a bunch of food. The party is going to be pretty big.”

CHICKEN CRAVING

Pole vault silver medalist Sam Kendrick craved chicken from the fast-food restaurant Popeyes. Only trouble, it was late at night and the place was closed.

His buddy Duplantis, though, had some connections, and made a call. A little bit later, they were feasting on chicken wings.

“Best chicken ever. But I can’t just summon Popeyes like that. I’m not the world-record holder,” Kendrick cracked as he and his family partied at the Puma House until the early hours. “Mondo was still swimming and playing water polo until about 6.”

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

First, Nina Kennedy of Australia had a bunch of media interviews after winning gold in the pole



Athletes from Britain celebrate during the Paris Olympics closing ceremony in Saint-Denis, France, on Sunday. LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS

vault. But she finished up about 3 a.m. and headed straight for the dance club.

She danced and danced until the sun came up.

“One of the best nights of my life,” Kennedy said. “It was so much fun.”

PIZZA PARTY

Mattia Furlani, the 19-year-old who won a bronze in the long jump, celebrated like any good Italian would – with pizza. He devoured a pizza margherita (a cheese pizza).

It doesn’t get much more Italian than that.

Julien Alfred, the sprinter from St. Lucia who won gold in the 100 and silver in the 200, was focused on one thing from the moment she received her second medal – “Unhealthy food,” she said.

“I’m not going to lie,” Alfred added. “Because for the past few days I’ve been eating very healthy and I think I deserve [it]. A pizza ... I really crave that.”

Her toppings of choice? Ham

and pineapple – Hawaiian style – or pepperoni.

American pole vaulter Katie Moon went for pepperoni pizza and pasta, too, despite a gluten intolerance. It was the only place open at the time.

She and her family found a dive bar and settled into a back room to celebrate her silver.

She had a glass of wine, too. “Everything,” Moon said, “tasted so good.”

COME ON IN

Alysha Newman and her family were looking for a restaurant after earning a bronze for Canada in the pole vault. But nothing was open at that hour.

They saw a pub just outside the Olympic village that was about to close. The owner, though, was watching the Olympics, happened to recognize Newman and invited them in. Not only that, but he cooked for her party of about 15 and stayed there until 4 a.m. They feasted on homemade pesto pasta with

shrimp and mushrooms.

She had a glass of red wine to go with it.

“It was awesome,” Newman said. “A really fun environment.”

BURGER TIME

At around 2 a.m., American discus thrower Valarie Allman bit into the best burger she ever tasted. The sides included fries – and memories of defending her gold medal.

“It was literally, perfect,” she said.

The burger had the works, too – cheese, tomato, onions, pickles and sauce.

“That hit the spot,” she said.

OFF TO SLEEP

It was already a long two days for British heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson. But after two hours of interviews and two more hours to get through drug testing protocols, the silver medalist only wanted to return to the village and sleep.

“Pending,” Johnson-Thompson said of her celebration plans.

TOASTING WITH STEAK AND TEQUILA?

After winning the long-jump title, American Tara Davis-Woodhall was hungering for a sirloin steak.

Along with it, “a tequila shot or something,” Davis-Woodhall said of her plans with her husband, Paralympian sprinter Hunter Woodhall.

CELEBRATING WITH – BROCCOLI?

Not all athletes were in search of pizza, steak or a burger. Annette Nneka Echikunwoke, the American silver medalist in the hammer throw, had a more healthy wish list: salmon and broccoli.

FOR DESSERT?

“Maybe some sour candy,” Echikunwoke said. “Sour candy hurts my stomach, that’s why it’s been low key. But it doesn’t matter now.”

POPULAR PERSON

If responding to congratulatory texts were an Olympic discipline, Andy Díaz would be in the running for another medal. The Cuban-born triple jumper who took bronze in his debut for Italy was busy all night trying to keep up with his constantly buzzing phone.

“Every time I take it out of my pocket,” Díaz said, “I have at least 100 messages.”

SILVER’S GREAT, GOLD IS BETTER

Norway’s Karsten Warholm won silver in the 400-metre hurdles three years after winning the event. He had a low-key celebration – one glass of champagne – with family and friends.

“To me, silver is not something I would get super drunk for,” said Warholm, the world-record holder in the event. “You’ve got to let the moment sink in and have a good time with the people that helped you get there. But still it’s not something I celebrate super hard.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Paris, cities and countries discreetly made their cases to host in 2036

PARIS

If historic waterway settings are the new must-have accessory for Olympic host cities, then Istanbul’s mayor wants the IOC to know his city has one.

If the key to getting the 2036 Summer Games is having hosted world championships in top-tier Olympic sports, then Qatar can point to its track record over the past decade.

If winning over the International Olympic Committee is about ambition, finance and relationship-building, then India’s project backed by the Ambani family and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is well placed.

Saudi Arabia is following a similar path and in Paris sealed an Esports Olympic Games hosting deal with the IOC for 12 years, beyond the next Summer Games that is available to be awarded.

If the 2036 Olympics must go to Asia – a logical option to follow Paris, Los Angeles in 2028 and Brisbane in 2032 – then Indonesia will push its case as a fast-emerging economy of 280 million people.

In Paris, interested parties dis-

creetly made their case for hosting the Olympics in a process run by the IOC that is now more discreet, less obviously a campaign and which critics say is too opaque. It can end with a winner far quicker than the old way of holding a multicandidate vote seven years before the Games open. Brisbane outpaced Qatar to get the 2032 award 11 years in advance.

If just one thing is clear, the 2036 Olympics host will be known long before 2029 and strongly shaped by the high bar Paris has set.

“I mostly focus on what the IOC expects, what they dream of, what the world wants to see,” Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu told the Associated Press in an interview in Paris. “Personally, I’m not really interested to know what city is the competitor.”

The IOC has said it has a “double-digit” number of cities or countries in talks, maybe informal at this stage, about their interest in hosting a future Summer Games which can be later than 2036.

Still, those that hosted hospitality houses in Paris over the past

two weeks were showing clear intent.

At the opening of India House on July 27, IOC member Nita Ambani said hosting an Olympics was “a dream that belongs to 1.4 billion Indians.”

If just one thing is clear, the 2036 Olympics host will be known long before 2029 and strongly shaped by the high bar Paris has set.

The Ambani family, India’s richest and owners of the Reliance Industries conglomerate, now has a global reputation for lavish hosting. Celebrations over several months for their son Anant’s wedding in Mumbai drew world leaders, A-list performers and several IOC members who ultimately vote to confirm Games hosts.

Qatar did not have a public hospitality venue, though the ruling Emir, Sheik Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, was in Paris for meetings of the IOC of which he

has been a member since 2002, and the opening ceremony.

Istanbul House opened in the final week of the Paris Olympics, reminding visitors the city will host the 2027 European Games, a kind of audition project.

“You are also competing with the past experiences of Olympic Games,” Imamoglu said in translated comments. “You need to do better than what has been done in the past.”

What Paris has done is show an IOC focused on sustainability that the Olympics can be staged without building white elephant venues that stand long after the closing ceremony as a reminder of wasted taxpayer costs.

Los Angeles in 2028 will go further using only already existing or temporary venues. This goal is met by taking two sports that could not be staged locally – softball and canoe slalom – about 2,000 kilometres east to Oklahoma City.

Indonesia hopes to impress Olympic evaluators by having hosted the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang. The Asian Games has more sports and athletes than the Olympics, and

Saudi Arabia does not host it until 2034, in Riyadh. Qatar did in 2006 in Doha and will again in 2030.

“Indonesia has the infrastructure, the ambition and the willingness to do it,” Indonesia’s team leader at the Paris Olympics, Anindya Bakrie, said.

When Indonesia would not host Israel games at the Under-20 World Cup in men’s soccer last year, FIFA moved the tournament from the world’s most populous Muslim-majority country just weeks before it opened.

“By saying that we want to bid for 2036, it also means that we know that we have to deal with the issue. If we do it right,” Bakrie said, “we have enough time to educate the public.”

And if Istanbul is to win – in 2036 or 2040 – why not another athlete parade at an opening ceremony by the Bosphorus strait that connects Europe and Asia?

“If you have the scenario, the right choreography, it can be very formidable,” Imamoglu said. “You can dream of having 500,000 people watching the inauguration in such a setting.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France exceeds expectations with best medal haul since 1900 at Games

PARIS

President Emmanuel Macron had set the bar high by calling for 50-60 French medals at the Paris Olympics and Les Bleus duly delivered, reeling in the country’s biggest medal haul since 1900, as the Games came to an end on Sunday.

The women’s basketball team delivered the delegation’s 64th medal when they took silver after their final defeat against the U.S., the highest number since the 1900 Games – also held in Paris – when fewer nations competed and some events were only contested by French athletes.

With 16 golds, France also beat its tally from Atlanta 1996 (15), and its 64 medals overall easily eclipsed their Beijing 2008 tally of 43.

The United States finished with 126 medals, including 40 gold.

“This result is an exceptional result,” Claude Onesta, high-performance manager at the French National Sports Agency, told a news conference on Sunday as France finished fifth in the medals table.

“I wanted to share our big satisfaction, with results that reflect the structural strength of our nation,” Sports Minister Amélie Oudéa-Castéra added.

Two athletes in particular shone and gave the host country a huge boost in confidence, as swimmer Léon Marchand and judoka Teddy Riner claimed four and two golds respectively, and sent the crowds wild across the capital.

Team sports also contributed with seven medals – one more than in Tokyo – although the handball defending champions, women and men, lost their titles.

The U.S. easily won the total medal count. Aside from the 40 gold, the Americans won 42 silver and 44 bronze.

China came in second in the total medal race with 91. China won 40 gold, 27 silver and 24 bronze.

Japan was a distant third with 20 gold medals, 45 overall. Britain won 65 medals, but only 14 were gold for an overall ranking of seventh.

The medal rankings are done by gold, and the last time the United States didn’t top the standings was at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, when the Americans finished second to China, 48-36.

The U.S. has won the most overall medals in eight consecutive Summer Games. The last time the Americans failed to top the medal leaderboard was the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. The “Unified Team” featuring athletes from ex-Soviet republics won

both the most golds (45) and total medals (112), while the Americans were second in both categories with 37 golds and 108 medals.

The United States won a total of five medals on Sunday, including a silver in women’s freestyle 76 kg (wrestling), a team silver in women’s volleyball and a bronze in men’s water polo.

Three years ago at the Tokyo Olympics, the U.S. beat China with 39 gold medals to 38. The U.S. won 113 medals in Tokyo. The Americans were far more dominant at the Rio Olympics in 2016, when they won 46 gold medals to 27 for Britain and 26 for China.

REUTERS, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anisimova beats Navarro to make National Bank Open final

Sebastian Korda, Alexei Popyrin advance to the men's singles semi-finals with a pair of upsets

JOSHUA CLIPPERTON



Amanda Anisimova returns a ball against Emma Navarro during the National Bank Open semi-finals in Toronto on Sunday. She'll face Jessica Pegula in Monday's final. JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS

Amanda Anisimova is into the final at the National Bank Open. The 22-year-old upset fellow American and No. 8 seed Emma Navarro 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 on Sunday to advance in more windy conditions at Sobey's Stadium.

Anisimova will face third-seeded defending champion Jessica Pegula in the final Monday in another all-American match. Pegula beat No. 14 Diana Shnaider of Russia 6-4, 6-3.

The aggressive Anisimova, ranked 132nd on the WTA Tour after taking an eight-month mental break away from tennis in 2023, picked up 12 of the first 13 points against the world No. 15 to take a 3-0 lead in the first set.

Navarro started to respond, but Anisimova blasted an ace to help her go up 5-2 before holding serve.

With both players taking part in their first WTA 1000 semi-final — one level below the sport's four majors — Anisimova went up a break at 2-1 in the second set after a long service game.

Navarro broke back twice to go up 4-2 and held serve to grab another game before Anisimova called for a trainer to tape a blister on her left foot. The 23-year-old Navarro kept up the pressure to take the set with another break.

Anisimova, who made the French Open semi-finals in 2019 at the age of 17, went from down love-40 to deuce with Navarro serving tied 1-1 in the third set before finally breaking her opponent for a 2-1 advantage.

Anisimova picked up another

break to go up 5-2 when Navarro sent her shot into the net. She sealed the match on serve with an ace to grab a spot in the final at Canada's national championship.

Pegula, ranked No. 6 in the world, owned a 15-2 all-time record at the NBO entering Sunday, including last year's victory that followed back-to-back semi-final appearances at the US\$3.2-million event.

Shnaider, the tour's 24th-ranked player, upset No. 1 seed Coco Gauff of the United States in the third round before topping No. 6 seed and compatriot Liudmila Samsonova in the quarter-finals for a pair of top-15 victories in Toronto.

Play at York University on Toronto's northern boundary, which had presented tricky conditions much of the week with swirling winds that gusting to more than 40 km/h Sunday, was delayed a little over an hour by rain just prior to when Navarro and Anisimova were scheduled to first hit the court at 1 p.m. ET.

Leylah Fernandez of Laval,

Que., and younger sister Bianca met Ottawa's Gabriela Dabrowski and New Zealand's Erin Routliffe in one of two doubles semi-finals.

The other saw another all-American matchup with Caroline Dolehide and Desirae Krawczyk taking on Sofia Kenin and Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

In Montreal, Sebastian Korda of the United States and Australia's Alexei Popyrin advanced to the men's singles semi-finals with a pair of upsets.

Korda, ranked 18th in the world, defeated tournament No. 2 seed Alexander Zverev of Germany 7-6 (5), 1-6, 6-4 in the quarter-finals on Sunday at IGA Stadium.

The 62nd-ranked Popyrin topped No. 4 seed Hubert Hurkacz of Poland 3-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5.

Korda and Popyrin were scheduled to meet in the semi-finals later Sunday night at the ATP Masters 1000 event.

No. 5 Andrey Rublev of Russia beat Italy's Matteo Arnaldi 6-4, 6-2 in the other semi-final.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Guerrero's hit streak comes to an end as Blue Jays drop series vs. Athletics

TIM WHARNSBY

Vladimir Guerrero Jr.'s 22-game hit streak fizzled out in his final at-bat on Sunday when he hit into his second double play in as many innings to kill a Toronto Blue Jays rally in the eighth.

Guerrero and the Blue Jays (54-64) suffered an 8-4 loss, their second successive defeat to drop their series against the Oakland Athletics (50-69).

Oakland starter JP Sears (10-8) cajoled Guerrero into a ground out to short in the first inning, a fly ball to right in the fourth and a double play in the seventh.

Athletics reliever Michel Otañez also got Guerrero to hit into a double play in the eighth inning with runners on first and second and three runs already in.

"That's the guy you want out there to try to make it a one-run game," Toronto manager John Schneider said. "It just wasn't his day."

Guerrero made his day over the past few weeks by being patient and not overswinging. The big swing crept back into his game before 38,797 at Rogers Centre.

"You get to the point where you probably try to do a little too

much," Schneider said. "I thought his swing was little bit big today."

With his first-inning single on Saturday, he equalled his career-high of 22 consecutive games with a hit, batting .494 (40 for 81), with 11 doubles, 10 homers, 11 walks and 22 RBIs.

According to OptaSTATS, the 25-year-old infielder became the first player since 1937 to register 35 or more hits, 10 or more doubles, 10 or more home runs and 10 or more walks over a 20-game span, joining Babe Ruth (1922), Rogers Hornsby (1928), Lou Gehrig (1936) and Joe DiMaggio (1937).

"I've seen Vlad do some cool things over the years," Schneider said. "That stretch right there was pretty high up there."

"To do that and to hit the ball with as much power as he did. I think when you're in the midst of a 22-game hit streak usually you see days like [Saturday] with a soft single to right. But he was doing damage and having multiple hits every single night it seemed."

Sears gave up three runs on three hits with three walks and four strikeouts. He departed after back-to-back walks to Spencer Horwitz and Davis Schneider to begin the eighth. They later scored on George Springer's single off Otanez in a three-run

Toronto rally.

Daulton Varsho ended Sears's no-hit bid with a one-out homer down the right-field line for his 14th.

Sears became the first 10-game winner for Oakland since four starters, including current Blue Jay Chris Bassitt, hit the mark in 2021.

Bassitt (9-11) faced Sears. The Toronto starter fell behind early after a six-run first inning, in which JJ Bleday and Zack Gelof hit two-run homers and Oakland sent 11 hitters to the plate.

Bassitt lasted only four innings. He gave up seven runs on eight hits with walks, a hit batter and five strikeouts.

Bleday, Lawrence Butler and Gelof each had three of the Athletics' 12 hits.

Blue Jays' rookie third baseman Luis De Los Santos checked in with his first career hit, an infield hit in the sixth, and doubled in a run in the eighth for his first RBI.

The Blue Jays begin a six-game trip with stops against the Los Angeles Angels and Chicago Cubs on Monday. Toronto's Bowden Francis (4-3) will start in the opener in Anaheim.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

CANADA'S CRICKET WIN STREAK ENDS

VOORBURG, NETHERLANDS Canada suffered its first loss in five matches in ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 play, beaten by five wickets by the Netherlands on Sunday. After Canada finished at 194 all out in its innings, the Dutch reached their victory target in the 46th over, finishing at 195 for five. New Zealand-born opener Max O'Dowd, whose mother is Dutch, led the way at 79 out with eight fours in his 119-ball innings and was named player of the match. The Dutch (3-2) are ranked 14th and the Canadians 15th in the International Cricket Council's one-day international rankings. Canada (4-1) faces the 19th-ranked United States on Tuesday and Aug. 19 and the Netherlands again on Aug. 17. The Canadian men previously posted a pair of wins over both United Arab Emirates and Scotland in February-March in Dubai. THE CANADIAN PRESS

AMES SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDS TITLE

SNOQUALMIE, WASH. Stephen Ames of Calgary successfully defended his Boeing Classic title Sunday, birdieing the par-five 18th for a five-under 67 and one-stroke victory over Ernie Els, Steven Alker and Robert Karlsson. The 60-year-old Ames won his third PGA Tour Champions title of the season and ninth overall. He won four times on the PGA Tour. Ames finished at 11-under 205 at The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge. At the Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, N.C., Aaron Rie of England shot a final-round 64 to win by two strokes over Max Greyserman of the United States. Adam Svensson of Surrey, B.C., finished 12 under, a tie for seventh, Roger Sloan of Merritt, B.C., was 11 under in a tie for 12th, Mackenzie Hughes of Hamilton and Adam Hadwin were both nine under, tied for 28th. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALOUETTES TAME TIGER-CATS

MONTREAL The Montreal Alouettes jumped out to an early lead, then held off the Hamilton Tiger-Cats' late rally in a 33-23 win at Percival Molson Stadium on Saturday night. Montreal's defence made the difference on the night, forcing two turnovers and frustrating Hamilton's offence early, after registering three takeaways in their 33-16 win last week in Hamilton. Ticats starting quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell was pulled from the game in the first quarter after throwing an early interception. Taylor Powell came on in relief, completing 30 passes for 319 yards and two touchdowns, while also leading Hamilton in rushing with 52 yards on the ground. In his second straight start, Als quarterback Davis Alexander connected on 17 of his 24 passing attempts for 247 yards and two touchdowns. The CFL action wrapped up for the week on Sunday night, with the B.C. Lions in Edmonton to face the Elks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DEATHS

FREDERICK THOMAS LESLIE

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Fred Leslie on Tuesday, August 6th, in his 91st year.

Fred's life was a remarkable journey. Born into challenging circumstances, Fred spent his early years as a ward of the Toronto Children's Aid Society being shuffled from foster home to foster home in Toronto. At age 12, his life took a dramatic turn when he was fostered and subsequently adopted by the Leslie family of Parkdale. This act of love and kindness set him on a path that would lead to an extraordinary life.

After attending St. Andrew's College in Aurora, Fred began his professional journey at the family business, Canada Cartage, where he learned the trucking industry from the ground up. In 1973, he acquired the company from his father, Rodger Leslie, and, together with his business partner, transformed it into a leader in the Canadian trucking industry. Fred's tenure with the company spanned 50 years, during which he played a crucial role in its expansion and success. When not working, Fred enjoyed sports, including tennis, golf, curling and skiing. He was an active member at Mississauga Golf and Country Club for over 55 years, where he was the second of four generations of members.

Service and faith were central to Fred's life. He was a dedicated member of Islington United Church in Etobicoke, where he served faithfully in many capacities including Church Elder, Trustee, and ultimately earned the designation Honourary Trustee. A particular passion of Fred's was the church's Mabelle Food Program, where he volunteered well into his 80s.

Fred also found joy in serving his broader community. As a Rotarian for 25 years, he was named a Paul Harris Fellow, the organization's highest honour. He was involved with Goodwill Services for 12 years, and served on many professional and volunteer boards over the years. But family was everything for Fred and brought him his greatest joy. He was a devoted husband to Donna, the true love of his life. He was a loving and devoted dad to Heather, Rodger, Kimberley, and Susan. His love for Donna and their children was boundless, and together they created a home filled with warmth, love, and laughter. When grandchildren and then great-grandchildren came along, he became their beloved Grumps and loved them boundlessly as well.

Fred Leslie's life was marked by gratitude, service, and immense love. He lived a remarkable life and was grateful for every moment of it. This legacy will live on in our hearts forever. We will miss his humour, his generosity, his gentle kindness, and his unwavering love.

He is survived by Donna, his loving wife of 65 years; his brother, Robert Leslie (Jenny Beeson) of Nelson, NZ; his four children, Heather (David Muir), Rodger (Marion Brennan), Kimberley, and Susan (Randall Ugolini); his grandchildren, Thomas (Stephanie Gagnon), Lindsay (James Hackey), Brennan, Trevor, Kevin, Erin, Alexandra, and Carter; and his great-grandchildren, Leo and Isla.

The family extends its gratitude to the staff at Parkland on Eglinton for their kindness over the last two years.

Visitation to be held at Islington United Church in Etobicoke from 5:30 - 9 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14th. A private family service will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Fred's memory either to the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada by visiting cafdn.org/FredLeslie, or to his church home, Islington United Church, at Give in Memory or by e-transfer to give@islingtonunited.org ("In Memory of Fred Leslie"). Online condolences may be made through www.turnerporter.ca.

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KIRSHIN, Barry - 12:30 Pardes Shalom Cemetery.

MONDAY

FREEMAN, Adeline - 1:00 Dawes Road Cemetery.

SHIVA

GOULD, Beatrice - 4 Luverne Avenue.
BERGER, Gail - 23 Garnier Court.
COVANT, Benji - 19 Sisley Crescent, Thornhill, Ontario.
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KAZIMIERZ (CHUCK) KONKEL

STAFF SERGEANT, 73

POLICE VETERAN SPUN A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT INTO THRILLING NOVELS

Throughout his five decades of work in places from Toronto to Hong Kong, he travelled the world teaching North American policing procedures, working closely with agencies like the RCMP, Interpol and the FBI

SUSAN FERRIER MACKAY

During a long, often dangerous career with international law enforcement, Toronto Police Staff Sergeant Kazimierz (Chuck) Konkel's commitment to combatting organized crime never wavered. Even a rare form of soft tissue cancer that afflicts only one in two million people couldn't stop him from working until his final days. He died after experiencing a hemorrhage in Toronto on July 21, just short of his 74th birthday.

Throughout his five decades of police work, Mr. Konkel travelled the world teaching North American policing procedures to other countries. He worked closely with agencies such as the RCMP, Interpol, and the FBI, occasionally giving lectures at their training facility in Quantico, Va. Fluent in six languages including Cantonese, he became an expert on East European and Asian cartels.

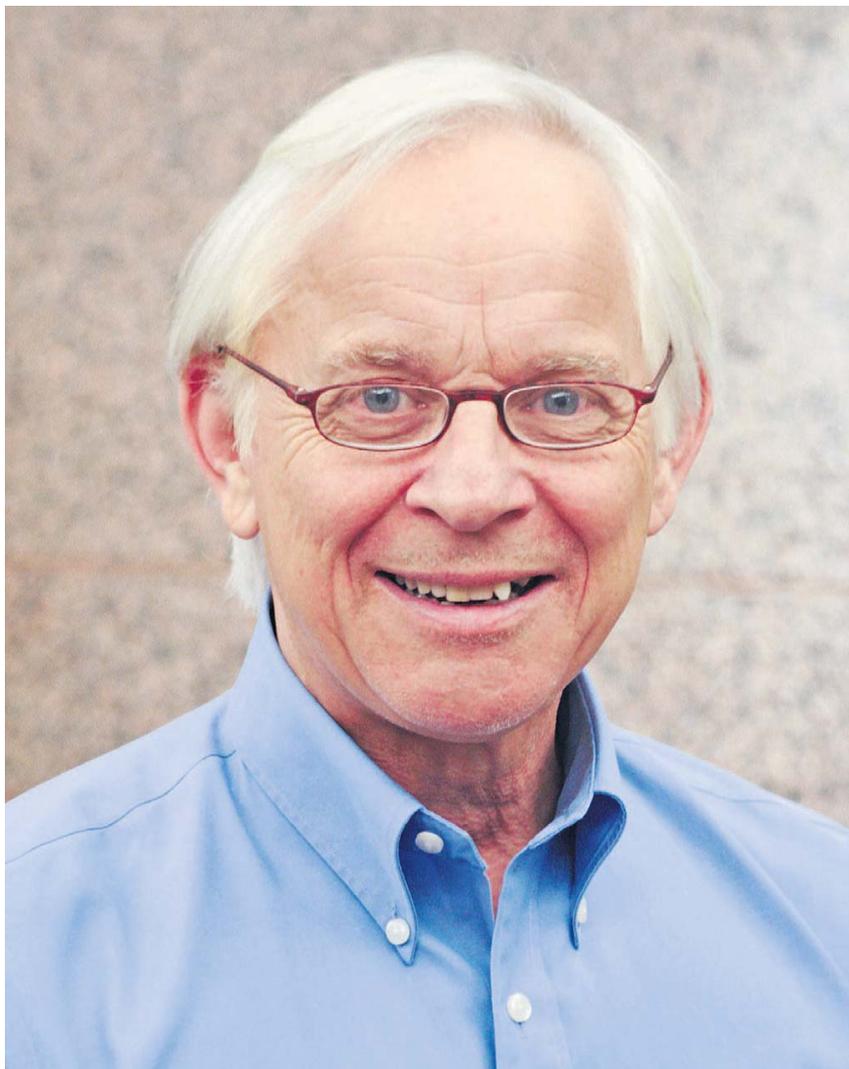
One operation that occupied him intensely was the tracking of cars stolen in Toronto then shipped to Russia for nefarious purposes. His execution of international search warrants led all the way down to a Russian submarine. Mr. Konkel was ultimately successful in locating crates of stolen vehicles and discovering who was behind the ring.

In another case, the warrant led to the discovery of an illegal missile site in Russia. After the missile incident, Mr. Konkel turned down the opportunity to handle another Russian file. "He'd been to Poland on behalf of the FBI and trained their National Polish police. Because of that, the Russian mafia did not want him around," explained entrepreneur Robin Devine, Mr. Konkel's wife of 47 years.

"We were warned to get out of Poland," she said. "At the time, we'd been staying in a compound across the street from the Russian Embassy. This was in the final throes of Communism falling. Our room was bugged and the doors had to be opened from the outside. We slept all night with the lights on. Nobody said a word on the way to the airport. Six weeks later, the Polish Police Commissioner, with whom Chuck had been working, was shot and killed at close range." The incident was alarming enough that police surveillance cameras were installed in their house and on the street to ensure the safety of the Konkel family. Precautions such as checking the undercarriage of Mr. Konkel's car for a bomb became routine.

Later in his career, Mr. Konkel took to writing international thrillers under the name KGE Konkel, and contributed book reviews to this paper. Detail oriented, fact driven and renowned for his expertise on geopolitical affairs, he possessed the ideal background to develop engrossing plots that simultaneously aimed to educate readers about history and the evils of undemocratic regimes.

"He was forever making notes



Long before taking a stab at federal politics, Kazimierz (Chuck) Konkel, a long-time supporter of refugees, was instrumental in the formation of Canada's hate crime laws, one of the first in the world. COURTESY OF FAMILY

in a horrible chicken scrawl so they're practically illegible," daughter Laura Konkel said. "He loved investigating, digging for obscure facts and clues. The world was always a little puzzle for my father and if he could find things to help others, so much the better. He did a lot of work piecing together the identities of unknown soldiers in order to help their families find peace, something that was recognized by the Chicago Tribune on Remembrance Day."

Intelligence and erudition made Mr. Konkel a popular guest on CBC and CTV as well as on U.S. talk shows hosted by TV titans Larry King and David Letterman. Long before a stab at federal politics as a Conservative, Mr. Konkel, a long-time supporter of refugees, was instrumental in the formation of Canada's hate crime laws, one of the first in the world.

"His upbringing fundamentally altered his experience and created a desire to do the right thing because he dealt with so much adversity growing up. He had a strong character and a moral compass to help him make the right decision," Ms. Konkel said. "There was a very rational

analysis to everything he did. His decisions were always defensible because he had a very analytical mind."

The wartime experience of Chuck Konkel's father, Edward, a much-decorated Polish war veteran, exerted a powerful influence on his only child. Edward Konkel served with the French Army and Polish brigades before joining both the French and Dutch underground resistance, twice escaping prisoner of war camps. He was eventually sent to the only SS concentration camp in the Netherlands. It was a zero-tolerance prison where every inmate was shot. For unexplained reasons, perhaps because of a commanding physical presence, Edward Konkel was spared. At the end of the war, he was told if he went back to Poland he would be killed by the new communist regime for being a Pole who had served in the West. He stayed away but remained proud of being Polish, and proud of his country's transition from communism to democracy during the years 1989 to 1991.

Edward Konkel met his wife Ann, a high-school principal in Rotterdam during the late 1940s. Their son, Kazimierz (Chuck)

Gerard Edward, also known by the initials 'KGE' was subsequently born in Rotterdam on Aug. 27, 1950. The boy was two years old when the family immigrated to Hamilton. They were officially displaced persons, just three of more than 157,000 refugees who came to Canada seeking a new life after the war.

Lacking the necessary paperwork to pursue a career in education, Chuck's mother Ann worked as cleaner before eventually earning a degree in nursing while her husband obtained work in Hamilton's steel industry. Even though he was technically Dutch, their son Chuck strongly identified with his Polish heritage. His first experience of racism was in a Canadian schoolyard where he was picked on and regularly punched in the nose by bullies for being both a foreigner and a Catholic. Despite the cruelty, or perhaps fuelled by the urge to understand it, he obtained a master's degree in international relations from the University of Waterloo. He was also an expert on the history of the Second World War and a passionate advocate for freedom.

While obtaining his degree, he

concurrently served as a lieutenant in the Canadian Armed Forces before receiving an honourable discharge for a severe knee injury. In the early 1970s, he read an advertisement for people to join the Royal Hong Kong Police. The idea of learning about a different culture appealed to him. He applied successfully and worked in Hong Kong as an inspector from 1974 to 1977 before returning to Canada. He then joined the Toronto Police Service and was eventually promoted to staff sergeant. His work was his passion. He never officially retired even as illness overtook him.

Poland was never far from the thoughts of Mr. Konkel. Not only did he help train that country's police force but in 1999, after the Cold War, he was instrumental in Poland joining NATO with the support of Canada.

Bill Graham, at that time Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave him the affectionate nickname 'Mr. Poland.'

During an interview for a Polish newspaper about his latest novel, *Who Has Buried the Dead? - From Stalin to Putin: The last great secret of World War Two*, Mr. Konkel told the interviewer: "I felt I owed it to my parents and the Polish in me to write about the Polish experience in World War Two with Stalin and our input into the Allied victory. We never surrendered. I also brought Hitler, Truman and Roosevelt into the mix along with some fictitious characters." To support the novel's point of view he added, "There's a hundred-page bibliography of historic documents and texts I've read to draw my conclusions."

Asked to comment on today's world and culture, Mr. Konkel said that both Russian leader Vladimir Putin, and Chinese leader Xi Jinping are evil. "Communism is inherently evil. I don't know how often I was talking to students who were afraid to speak their mind at Chinese Association meetings because they could end up in jail or worse."

During the interview, he recalled a horrifying experience during his time in Hong Kong when it was under British rule, and narrowly separated from communist China by a harbour. "We were on a marine launch and given long poles used to bring ships back and forth to the dock. We kept hitting body parts with them. Those body parts were Chinese people fleeing Communism. I always say no one ever swam into a Communist world, they all flee from it. I'm proud that I was once a member of the Royal Hong Kong police force, but today, that police force are a bunch of brutes and animals. There's a whole cornucopia of evils that we allow quietly to go on. We just choose not to see it. We have actually walked away from our responsibility as democratic citizens and thinking adults."

Mr. Konkel leaves his wife Robin and daughter Laura.

Special to The Globe and Mail

SUSAN WOJCICKI

BUSINESS EXECUTIVE, 56

Former YouTube CEO played a key role in Google's creation

KEN MILLER

Susan Wojcicki, a pioneering tech executive who helped shape Google and YouTube, has died, her husband said. She was 56.

Ms. Wojcicki played a key role in Google's creation and served nine years as YouTube's chief executive officer, stepping down last year to focus on her "family, health, and personal projects I'm passionate about," she said at the time.

She was one of the most respected female executives in the male-dominated tech industry.

Her collaboration with Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin began shortly after they incorporated their

search engine into a business in 1998. Ms. Wojcicki rented the garage of her Menlo Park, Calif., home to them for \$1,700 a month, cementing a formative partnership. Mr. Page and Mr. Brin - both 25 at the time - continued to refine their search engine in Ms. Wojcicki's garage for five months before moving Google into a more formal office and later persuaded their former landlord to come work for their company.

"Her loss is devastating for all of us who know and love her, for the thousands of Googlers she led over the years, and for millions of people all over the world who looked up to her, benefited from her advocacy and leadership, and felt the impact of the incredible things she created at Google, YouTube, and beyond," Google*



Susan Wojcicki /

and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai said in a note to employees.

"My beloved wife of 26 years and mother to our five children left us today after 2 years of living with non-small cell lung cancer," her husband, Dennis Troper, said in a social-media post late Friday.

"Susan was not just my best friend and partner in life, but a brilliant mind, a loving mother, and a dear friend to many," Mr. Troper said.

No other details of her death were immediately provided.

Ms. Wojcicki and Mr. Troper's 19-year-old son, Marco Troper, died in February at the UC Berkeley campus where he resided as a freshman student.

ASSOCIATED PRESS