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Skirting scams

Protect yourself from fraud as the holiday season ramps up B1

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Deadly strikes

Hezbollah launches heaviest barrage in months A12



TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH 10 C | CLOUDY AND SHOWERS | MAP A20 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024

SEASON OPENER

Around 750,000 people came out to the Santa Claus Parade on Sunday A3



Woodland creatures, dancing food and marching bands travelled through downtown to the St. Lawrence Market on Sunday.

Trudeau adviser warns RCMP facing ‘unsustainable pressure’

Politician threatens a strain on personal protective service

ALEX BALLINGALL OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's top national security adviser warned earlier this year that the RCMP's personal protective service was facing "unsustainable pressure" amid a surge of threats

against public figures, a government document shows. Dated March 5, the briefing note from National Security and Intelligence adviser Nathalie Drouin said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's branch for protective security was struggling to meet increased demand. The service, called the RCMP Protective Policing Program, had been forced to draw unspecified resources from other "important RCMP operations," and was facing recruitment challenges as demand for its services increased "sharply" over the previous two years.

"It is critical that the gap is addressed, both in the short term, and longer term by establishing a sustainable program for protection of public figures," said Drouin's note, which was prepared for the top bureaucrat in the federal government, Privy Council clerk John Hannaford. "Should anything happen to a public figure, the result would be catastrophic, not just for affected individuals, but to public confidence in federal institutions." In an emailed statement to the Star, RCMP spokesperson Robin See Security, A5

Should anything happen to a public figure, the result would be catastrophic NATHALIE DROUIN NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

STAR EXCLUSIVE

Fire chief feared bike lanes slow emergency response

Documents show new paths surprised first responders

FRANCINE KOPUN SENIOR WRITER

Toronto Fire Services officials were concerned that bike lanes, including lanes on Bloor Street West in Etobicoke, would slow emergency response times, and conducted internal research that supported those concerns, according to documents released to the Toronto Star. The decision to install temporary bike lanes during COVID — most of which became permanent — seemed to come as a surprise at the time to then-fire chief Matthew Pegg, according to an email he sent to City of Toronto transportation chief Barbara Gray on May 25, 2020, after learning about the lanes on CP24 that morning. "Have we had the opportunity to analyze the impacts to emergency response travel times, both now and under "normal" traffic conditions," he asked Gray, Toronto's general manager of transportation services. "Are these lanes intended to remain in place moving forward or will this be cancelled once traffic starts back up?" Gray said that the routes weren't exactly news — they were in the city's 10-year cycling plan and the three-year implementation strategy — but admitted the city had not conducted the same kind of consultations it would normally conduct when implementing bike lanes. "The piece that did not happen is the typical door-to-door style consultation that we do with businesses and residents," she wrote in response to Pegg's email. In the fierce debate about bike lanes on Bloor Street West in Etobicoke, between Runnymede and Resurrection roads, few angles have been more hotly contested than whether bike lanes have affected TFS emergency response times. The question of whether Toronto Fire was properly informed and consulted about bike lanes has also been raised. SEE BIKE LANES, A4

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# City moving homeless from here to there



**ROSIE DIMANNO**  
OPINION

There are children playing in Allan Gardens — a pleasant sight that had long disappeared from view.

Moms and nannies pushing prams without fear of a looming menace or having to sidestep needles underfoot. No annoying music assaults the eardrums from boom-boxes. Nobody cooking meth or blatantly consuming a host of street drugs.

Dogs are being walked — and not the curs kept as pets by homeless people who may not have had a single other source of companionship in their hardscrabble lives.

For the first time in two years of community upheaval and no-go zones for the public, Allan Gardens is free of tents. Actually, two remain but they relate to the Indigenous teepees — sacred fires kept burning — that have city permission to occupy this urban green space.

A year ago, the park “hosted” more than 90 tents in what was Toronto’s largest homeless encampment. I say homeless to avoid the semantic jargon that has sprung up among activists and advocates — unhoused, experiencing homelessness, housing insecure — adopting an over-weening derogatory-free vocabulary.

So yeah, Councillor Chris Moise, who represents Ward 13 and lives in the Cabbagetown periphery, is entitled to take a victory lap. Since elected to office in November 2022, nobody has worked harder to solve this specific crisis at this specific park.

“It took a long time,” he acknowledges.

And an accumulation of staff man-hours that he can’t even begin to estimate, all doggedly trying to coax the camp residents away from living rough, while ferreting out housing and shelter alternatives.

“Building trust, right? And finding spaces for people. We’ve permanently housed 98 people out of the park. We’ve referred 433 people to indoor spaces.”

Yet a significant chunk of the former park residents just picked up stakes and relocated to St. James Park further south, suddenly jammed with tents, and Moss Park, even as that neighbourhood is in messy construction redevelopment for an Ontario Line subway station.

To get from there to here — from



**All hail the end of the homeless siege of Allan Gardens and its restoration as an enjoyable greensward for downtown residents. But displacement for those for whom neither housing nor shelter could be found — or those who rejected it — has merely shifted homeless people elsewhere, Rosie DiManno writes.**

STEVE RUSSELL  
TORONTO STAR  
FILE PHOTO

**Resolute efforts to find the homeless a place to live entail complex undertakings, patient cajoling and a whole lot of money**

encampment to resurrected public park — required housing staff on site daily, exploring options with residents; 24-hour security, cleanups several times a day, garbage removal, toilet facilities, health checks, food distribution, an on-site office trailer for workers. “All that being said, it’s one of the successes we’ve had in the city on housing so many people,” Moise observes with understandable satisfaction.

At what cost? Because the anti-homeless industry has also grown exponentially. More than 10,000 people work in the homelessness support sector across the country (as of 2021), according to Statistics Canada. City data shows that council spent \$1.7 million on staff operational costs and services for the residents at Allan Gardens in the second half of 2023 alone. That’s one park, one encampment, involving six city departments.

Various reports and academic studies have pegged the cost of a shelter and wraparound services for a single homeless person in Canada at anywhere between \$35,000 and \$70,000 a year. Even at the lower end, that’s more than the annual salary of a worker in Ontario earning the minimum wage: \$28,391.

“I haven’t seen that stat but if you factor in the amount of resources we put into the whole thing, like parks and paramedics, fire and police, cleanups, Streets to Homes, garbage pickup, the amount of people-hours to gauge those who are under-housed, I wouldn’t be surprised by \$70,000,” says Moise.

Toronto Shelter and Support Ser-

vices has a 2024 operating budget of \$638.5 million for shelter and overnight services, including \$118.9 million sheltering refugee claimants, and \$4.4 million required for encampment response in the city. Data provided to the Star puts the average total cost per person, per day across the shelter system at approximately \$250.

“This includes the room rate and all required supports, including food, security, cleaning, laundry and wraparound services,” as stated in the email.

That is not financially sustainable. All part and parcel, though, of Toronto council’s updated homelessness strategy, whereby encampments are only cleared as a last resort. Which came on the heels of a dreadfully unbalanced Ombudsman’s report that followed clearance clashes at three park encampments and gave a free pass to the activists who recklessly encouraged residents to stand their ground.

In any event, that last resort was pulled out from under city officials with a precedent-setting ruling by a provincial judge in Kitchener who decreed a constitutional right to shelter outside when there are no accessible and available indoor spaces.

That put city administrators in potential legal violation if they authorized clearance. Mayors from a dozen cities across Ontario — but not Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow — have recently signed a letter urging Premier Doug Ford to use the notwithstanding clause to override the court decision as they struggle to deal with radiating encampment is-

sues in their communities.

In Toronto, the homeless calamity — which at its societal roots has been wrought by mental-health issues, addictions and a dire lack of affordable housing — has been exacerbated by federal policies that flung open the door to refugees and undocumented migrants. “There’s 500 refugees coming into the city every month,” notes Moise. “And 53 per cent of those people are in our shelters.”

The shelters have for years been straining under the weight of capacity shortfall. But now there’s zero hope of contending with the influx. On average, the city shelters about 12,000 people every night — up from 9,700 a year ago — with 9,500 in the shelter system and 2,600 in contracted hotels; only 17 of those leases extended for another four years, during which the city plans to build 20 smaller, purpose-built shelters. Ostensibly more cost-effective and stabilizing to the shelter system.

Taxpayers generally want to see an end to homelessness because encampments also impinge on the collective well-being of Toronto. It can’t always devolve to what’s best for homeless people because housing, inflation and cost-of-living vulnerabilities are swallowing up the blue-collar class and the middle class.

Everybody has to be somewhere but somewhere can’t be the public parks.

Sure, all hail the end of the homeless siege of Allan Gardens and its restoration as an enjoyable greensward for downtown residents. Well done, Moise et al. But displacement for those for whom neither housing nor shelter could be found — or those who rejected it — has merely shifted homeless people elsewhere.

Moise would like to see St. James Park, a pretty oasis with a gazebo alongside the cathedral, targeted next. And what then, a year or two down the park-hopping road? Eventually encampments will likely circle back to Allan Gardens again.

The homeless aren’t going away. Resolute efforts to find them a place to live, a bed for the night — and the nights after that — entail complex undertakings, patient cajoling and a whole lot of money, in a city with no shortage of societal plagues.

All lives matter, of course. No one should have to exist in such shabby, precarious conditions. But it isn’t always a heartless world that put them there.

## BRAMPTON

# One dead, five injured after Sunday morning crash

**VANESSA TIBERIO AND ELISSA MENDES**  
STAFF REPORTERS

Peel police say they’re investigating “potential links” to street racing after an early morning crash in Brampton killed one person and injured five others.

Police say they responded to a call for a two-vehicle crash around 12:30 a.m. Sunday in the area of Finch Avenue and Steeles

Avenue East.

An Audi was travelling east on Steeles Avenue and a Sienna van was going west on Steeles before turning left onto Finch Avenue, police told the Star in an email. Then “a violent collision ensued,” police said.

Police said emergency services found an adult male passenger of the Sienna van with life-threatening injuries and “began life-saving measures.”

The man later died from his injuries.

Peel paramedics added that the adult woman driving the Sienna was transported to a local trauma centre in critical condition.

The four Audi occupants were taken to the hospital in stable condition with non-life-threatening injuries.

According to paramedics, all of the people involved in the crash are adults.

“We are aware of and investigating potential links between street racing activity in the area and this fatal collision,” police added. “It is too early in the investigation to rule anything out.”

Police are asking anyone who may have witnessed this collision or anyone with dash cam footage to contact the Major Collision Bureau at 905-435-2121 ext 3710 or contact Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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## LOTTERIES

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SANTA CLAUS PARADE



Emma Memma, formerly of The Wiggles, dances on her float at Toronto's 120th Santa Claus Parade on Sunday.

# Holiday cheer takes over city streets — and screens

Parade, in its 120th year, was livestreamed on YouTube for the first time

KARON LIU  
STAFF REPORTER

There were dancing cups of Double Double, hundreds of woodland creatures shaking their tail feathers, a salute to garlic dipping sauce and the Hawaiian pizza, and the sound of steel drums battling it out with Mariah Carey's Christmas anthem as part of the 120th annual Santa Claus Parade Sunday afternoon. While the day started out grey and drizzly, as soon as the big man in red boarded his sleigh, the clouds parted and the blue skies broke out.

The parade, of which the Toronto Star is a sponsor, kicked off at Christie Pits park where thousands of families sipped free hot chocolate, nibbled on milk and cookies, met children's entertainer and former Wiggles member Emma Memma, and took selfies up-close with the floats and entertainers before the procession started.

This year an estimated 750,000 people were expected to line the route that started from Christie Pits, then east along Bloor Street West, then around Queen's Park and then south on University before it made its way east on Wellington toward the St. Lawrence Market. Additional viewers also tuned in online as this year's parade, consisting of 26 floats and 18 marching bands, was livestreamed on YouTube for the first time.

"What I love most is seeing the people who are new to the city and are a little cold, but they see all the



Above Children look up at the Santa Claus float as it passed along Bloor Street. Right A clown takes a selfie just before the parade commenced.

people along the side of the roads and they all participate in this tradition ... This is a place where people feel like they belong," said Mayor Olivia Chow, shortly before she marched in the parade. She remembers that decades ago, when her children were little, her late husband Jack Layton would bring a step ladder so they could peer over the crowds. "They can only last on your shoulders for so long."

Observers in person and online were treated to colourful floats including skating Smiles fries on the McCain Foods float; twirling Timbits on the Tim Hortons float; a



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TELECOM

## Swifties shatter data records at Rogers Centre

Usage at Nov. 21 show equivalent to streaming pop star's entire discography 6,300 times

ASMA SAHEBZADA  
STAFF REPORTER

Taylor Swift isn't the only one breaking records in Toronto, as her fandom now holds the title of highest amount of mobile data used at a single event in Rogers Centre's history.

Rogers Communications said fans who attended Taylor Swift's sold-out Nov. 21 Eras Tour concert in Toronto shattered the new traffic record by streaming and sharing content on Rogers 5G network, using 74 terabytes (TB) of mobile data in just a few hours — a total of 5G data usage equivalent to streaming Swift's entire discography 6,300 times, or to uploading 182,000 photos and 1,600 hours worth of streaming videos.

Rogers said a smashing sum of 42 TB of wireless data was used by Swifties at all six shows on the Rogers 5G network at Rogers Centre.

Bell and Telus, meanwhile, re-

ported that their customers who attended each of the first three Toronto Eras Tour shows used five times more mobile data than the average wireless data usage at other similar concerts and sporting events, and data upload volumes were up by seven to 10 times above the average at other large-scale events.

The record comes after Rogers completed an \$8-million project in October to improve cell service at the stadium for Swift's Eras Tour, which not only was a six-show sold-out stint that the city expected to bring more than \$282 million into the economy and up to 500,000 visitors, but also showcased Swift's unparalleled success, becoming the first act to perform six shows at the downtown stadium on one tour stop.

Before finishing the 5G network updates, the previous record of 5.4 TB of data usage was held by fans at singer Diljit Dosanjh's July concert



Rogers said fans at Thursday's concert used 7.4 terabytes of mobile data in just a few hours.

at the stadium. Rogers said the upgrades have let Swifties experience download speeds 2.7 times faster and upload speeds 3.8 times faster than fans at Dosanjh's show.

"Our network at Rogers Centre saw more traffic every night of the tour than any other event," said Mark Kennedy, chief technology officer at Rogers.

giant slice of Hawaiian pizza doing the hula and a smirking creamy garlic dip with legs on the Pizza Pizza float; a red, green and golden dragon from the city's Chinese community; and a sequined purple and silver float from the Toronto Caribbean Carnival complete with revelers bundled up for the chilly day.

Earlier this month, parade organizers told the Star this year's parade could be the last due to rising operational costs and the loss of corporate sponsors. A crowdfunding page was set up with the goal of raising \$250,000 toward the 2025 parade. At the time of publication, about \$135,000 has been raised. Toronto-based clothing company Peace Collective also released a line of official merch with proceeds going to the parade.

Days before Sunday's parade, Chow announced Toronto will be distributing \$100,000 to organizers as part of the municipality's Special Events Stabilization Initiative to support festivals citywide that were still struggling after pandemic restrictions were lifted. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also posted on X about wanting to help the parade, and a spokesperson for Heritage Minister Pascale St-Onge told the Star that government officials are discussing the next steps.

The Santa Claus Parade dates back to 1905, when the former Eaton's department store had a horse-drawn wagon carrying Santa that travelled from Union Station to the flagship store on Queen Street West. As the parade grew in size and spectacle, there were multiple milestones: In 1913, Santa arrived with live reindeer; the parade was first televised on CBC in 1952 and broadcasted in colour a decade later; and in 1989, the parade was aired live to 250 million viewers in the former Soviet Union.

By 1982, Eaton's stopped being a sponsor of the parade, resulting in the formation of a non-profit by local businesspeople such as then-Toronto Zoo chair Ron Barbaro and George Cohon (the man who brought McDonald's to Canada and Russia) to keep the parade going.

In addition to enlisting companies to sponsor floats, the Celebrity Clown program was established that year in which people who donate money get to dress up as clowns and entertain the crowds along the parade route. Among the first people who were down to clown was filmmaker Norman Jewison.

"I grew up in Toronto and the parade brings joy to the city, which we can all use a bit of," said Rino D'Onofrio, who has been marching as part of the Celebrity Clown program for the past 11 years. He adds that watching the parade pass by back when he was a student at the University of Toronto helped him calm down during stressful exam season. He was there Sunday with his son Michael and wife, Vivian, all dressed in the same uniform — a rainbow wig, white face paint and a red, yellow and green two-piece suit.

"I want to clown around and this is the one day I can do it," said Vivian.

The media and communications company said it incorporated 27 teams across its networking and IT crew to monitor the 5G performance and to identify and resolve any possible issues at the venue as well as surrounding areas within a one-kilometre radius.

Swift wrapped up her massive Rogers Centre residency on Saturday with an emotional speech to her Toronto fans as she shed and wiped away tears noting that fans gave her and her team a "moment that we'll never forget."

The global popstar's final stop on her Eras Tour will take her to Vancouver for three shows in December.

Enhancing service, Rogers said, took 6,000 hours of labour to plan the cell network upgrades and an additional 10,000 hours to install equipment including new antennas around the 500 level and on the roof.

WITH FILES FROM MARK COLLEY



# TFS data supported concerns, docs say

BIKELANES FROM A1

Premier Doug Ford weighed in on the matter on Friday, when he told reporters at an event in Hamilton that concerns he's heard from first responders are one reason his government has decided to remove bike lanes on three major arteries in Toronto, including Bloor West in Etobicoke, Yonge Street and University Avenue.

"When the firefighters jump in their trucks and they're trying to go down University and they're jammed behind traffic if they can't get there to save lives — or they're trying to go down Bloor Street and it's absolutely backed up from here to Timbuktu or Yonge Street — that doesn't make sense at all," said Ford.

"I've always believed that you don't put (bike lanes) on main arterial roads, you put them on secondary roads so you don't jam up the main roads."

Toronto Deputy Fire Chief Jim Jessop had appeared to settle the issue of emergency response times at a public meeting held in October, organized by local councillor Amber Morley (Ward 3, Etobicoke-Lakeshore), when he cited two statistics that show an improvement in response times in the ward.

Jessop said TFS was able to establish an effective firefighting force — which means getting the right number of trucks and firefighters to the scene at locations throughout the ward within a specified time frame — 89 per cent of the time before the bike lanes went in on Bloor Street West in Etobicoke, and 93 per cent of the time in 2024, after the bike lanes went in.

He also said there was almost no difference in how often the fire department was able to get first trucks to the scene in the required amount of time — TFS met the standard 70 per cent of the time in the ward in 2022, before the bike lanes, and 71 per cent of the time in the ward after the bike lanes.

Supporters of the bike lanes cheered the data, and have cited it as proof that bike lanes don't cause delays for TFS emergency vehicles. Skeptics pointed out that improvements in response times across an entire ward reveal little about response times in a specific area.

Email exchanges between fire officials and city staff and internal research conducted by Toronto Fire Services and obtained by the Star under freedom-of-information laws seem to indicate that TFS was not kept in the loop at all times when it came to bike lanes, and that senior TFS staff had concerns the bike lanes would adversely affect emergency response times.

The FOI documents also reveal that TFS conducted internal research that found delays in areas where bike lanes had previously been installed, and predicted similar delays if they were extended along Bloor Street West in Etobicoke.

"There will likely be an effect on emergency response to and through this area compared to the existing conditions," wrote Capt. Rob Mezzapelli, the TFS officer in the Emergency Planning Division tasked with looking into the issue, in an email to colleagues in August 2022.

The TFS data analytics department developed a methodology for doing an impact analysis of response times. The report compared the change in total response times along Bloor Street West between Shaw and Runnymede Road before and after bike lanes, in an effort to predict what might happen to emergency response times between Runnymede and Resurrection roads in Etobicoke if bike lanes were extended into that area.

The report found that total response times increased in the area between Shaw and Runnymede along Bloor West, before and after the bike lanes, but that the increase was roughly the same as an increase in response time across the city — about six per cent. Total response times count all the minutes, from the moment a call is received to the arrival of units at the scene. This is a variable that can be affected by changes that have nothing to do with actual travel times — for example, where a fire hall keeps the printer and maps, can affect total response times.

The internal TFS report also con-



cluded that the amount of time it takes trucks to travel from the station to the scene of the alarm — the amount of time spent on the road — did increase after the bike lanes were installed on Bloor between Shaw and Runnymede.

It found that between 2019 and 2022, travel times inside the bike lane area increased 52 seconds, from 257 seconds to 309 seconds. Events outside the area saw an increase in travel times of 40 seconds, from 322 seconds to 362 seconds.

"Travel time is increasing at a slightly higher rate in the 2020 extension area compared with events not occurring in the 2020 extension area," the report concluded.

After reviewing the report, Mezzapelli expressed concerns that extending the bike lanes into Etobicoke would, in fact, increase emergency response times there.

"Looking at these projects from an emergency response perspective, I feel it is safe to say that imple-

**Emails between fire officials and city staff and internal research conducted by Toronto Fire Services seem to indicate that TFS was not kept in the loop at all times when it came to bike lanes, and that senior TFS staff had concerns the pathways would affect emergency response times.**

MICHELLE MENGSHU CHANG  
TORONTO STAR  
FILE PHOTO

menting the changes mentioned above (installing bike lanes from Runnymede Road to Resurrection Road in Etobicoke) may have an impact on slowing response times and in certain situations may make truck turning manoeuvres more challenging," Mezzapelli wrote in an email on Feb. 1, 2023, to colleagues.

In response to questions from the Star about the study, a TFS spokesperson said: "This analysis was based on a small geographical area which represented a relatively small sample size, compared to ward or city level, which has less variability."

"TFS is unable to isolate a specific cause for travel time increases due to a wide variety of variables (e.g., weather, construction, motor vehicle collisions, traffic, to name a few)."

"Since the 2023 report, TFS has continually refined how this data is reported given smaller data sets have greater variability. Recently, in

2024, there was an Interim Condition Data Update by Transportation Services for the Bloor Street West Complete Street Extension which included updated emergency response time data." That data also shows an increase in emergency travel times — from October to December 2023, travel time for the first arriving truck at an incident increased 30 seconds compared over the same time period in 2022, while citywide it increased by two seconds.

Coun. Stephen Holyday (Ward 2, Etobicoke Centre) says the stats Jessop used at the meeting may have been reassuring to the public, but they don't mirror what people see when they're on the road — emergency response vehicles stuck in traffic.

"People couldn't square it up," said Holyday.

"That's central to this discussion and why the public are so irate."

WITH FILES FROM ROBERT BENZIE

## 'War on the car' marred by rhetoric



SHAWN MICALLEF  
OPINION

For decades, some have bleated on and on about a "war on the car."

Any tiny improvement in road safety for pedestrians, cyclists or even drivers themselves has been met with complaints. Even the act of asking (begging, really) for things that can save life or limb is greeted with alarm from some as if it were part of this "war."

So what if we declare an actual "war," then?

Clearly one side of this debate is itching to do so by using, even metaphorically, the word "war" to describe the excruciatingly slow and incremental addition of safe infrastructure in Toronto. The Ford government's Bill 212 to remove some of those relatively modest improvements is — to lean into the ridiculous rhetoric — an act of war. So is the surprise amendment banning lawsuits against the province if cyclists are killed or injured where lanes are removed. That's a clear indication they know what they're doing could grievously harm people.

Consider how the safe infrastructure fight is waged instead. Bike lanes on Bloor took decades of advocacy, but because a small group of business people with Progressive Conservative connections called "Balance on Bloor" have the premier's ear, as reported by The Trillium, they might be removed quickly. That such a move is politically popular with the majority of Ontarians, even if some live outside of or far from Toronto, gives Ford the cover he needs to make it.

The handful of high-profile lanes

notwithstanding, most streets in Toronto have zero bike infrastructure. The ironic shamelessness of including "balance" in the name of the advocacy group demonstrates a swaggering disrespect to Ontarians and disregard of good faith.

Good faith is important here. Bike lane implementation required studies, engineering reports and often extensive public consultation. Meanwhile, opponents of safer streets have been treated with kid gloves. Toronto police admitted to giving up on traffic enforcement, gaslighting residents by saying they were doing so. A city walk today is rife with red-light running, rolling stops and other aggressive behaviour.

Businesses leery or even against lanes were also treated the same, presented with studies showing businesses can thrive with lanes and cyclists are good customers. Business groups like Bloor Annex BIA have even spoken up and made that case themselves.

The response to that good faith has been "Balance on Bloor" and Bill 212.

As reported by the Star, the Ford government used outdated cycling ridership figures while new, higher, numbers have not been released publicly. Trillium reported that the draft of a briefing document prepared for Ford's cabinet contained research that demonstrated removing bike lanes could actually worsen congestion, but it hasn't been discussed publicly either. Why not be transparent? Why the bad faith?

All this obfuscation and scapegoating hides the truth from drivers: the main enemy in any perceived war is other drivers. Only fewer cars on the road will solve the issue of congestion.

In this rhetorical war, cyclists are

often characterized as soft, weak or even "woke," but there is nothing tougher than a cyclist in Toronto. They ride through heat, cold, rain and, yes, even the handful of days Toronto gets snow. Adults and children ride on fraught streets bereft of safe infrastructure. Rarely can a route from A to B be completed entirely using safe infrastructure, though until Bill 212 we were heading in the right direction.

Toronto cyclists and pedestrians contend with some drivers who use their vehicles as weapons. Drivers who creep toward them when using a crosswalk, as if trying to get them out of the way faster. When almost nailed by a driver's actions, pedestrians and cyclists frequently get a little happy wave of "sorry!" like it's no big deal. That's a microcosm of the problem in this debate: it's life or death, but one side doesn't see that.

But before heading into battle, it's worth asking if anyone would actually win such a war. If the cyclists stop shopping at the businesses fighting safety measures such as protected bike lanes, would that satisfy anyone? If bike lanes disappear, and every cyclist takes up an entire lane of traffic instead (calling it the "Doug Ford Express") who would come out ahead? It may be legally allowed under the Highway Traffic Act, and likely to happen when the separated lanes disappear, but it would also be extremely risky — to the person on two wheels and the one driving the car.

If declaring a "war on the car" seems extreme, it's simply a reflection of the rules of engagement and rhetoric established by Ford and those opposed to safer streets. If they accuse cyclists and pedestrians of waging war, a war they should get.

**If declaring a 'war on the car' seems extreme, it's simply a reflection of the rules of engagement and rhetoric established by Doug Ford and those opposed to safer streets**



# Examples of threats abound

SECURITY FROM A1

Percival declined to comment on how resources are used for security, but said the Mounties' personal protective service is trying to overcome staffing "challenges" by attracting new recruits, transferring officers and drawing from experienced officers and reserve programs.

"There has never been a time in the RCMP's history when we have experienced greater demands on our services, nor numbers this high of protectees requiring ongoing protection," Percival said. "We are working closely with our national and international partners, and our Protective Policing members continue to adapt and rise to the challenges of the ever-evolving protective landscape with the professionalism and the dedication that Canadians expect from the RCMP."

Examples abound of threats and intimidation targeting elected officials, with protesters routinely appearing on Parliament Hill to heckle passing MPs and sometimes accuse them of "treason" against Canada. Drouin's briefing note said that Pat McDonnell, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons responsible for security on Parliament Hill, had recorded a "significant increase in threat-related contacts" that targeted MPs, rising from 29 in 2019 to 231 in 2023.

In June, the Star reported that somebody set fire to Liberal MP Brendan Hanley's garage at his Yukon home, two years after a man was arrested and charged with arson after Mississauga MP Peter Fonseca's constituency office was destroyed in a fire. NDP MP Charlie Angus — who has written about his experience with a "staggering escalation in intimidation" — has said an unnamed parliamentarian from British Columbia had their office window smashed by an axe-wielding protester.



A briefing note from National Security and Intelligence adviser Nathalie Drouin dated March 5 said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's branch for protective security was struggling to meet increased demand.

SPENCER COLBY THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Two people were charged with threatening Conservative Deputy Leader Melissa Lantsman, while last year Liberal MP Tim Louis thanked police for arresting a man who allegedly threatened to kill him. Pierre Poilievre, the Conservative leader, also voiced outrage and filed a police report in 2022 after a prominent far-right figure made a lewd statement about sexually assaulting Poilievre's wife. The Star has reported public officials discussed concerns about security upgrades at the residence provided for Poilievre and his family.

Earlier this year, Liberal MP Pam Damoff said federal politics had grown so "toxic" and "hyperpartisan" she is afraid to appear in public and decided not to seek re-election.

Drouin's briefing note also said that government and police needed to improve security for public figures ahead of the next federal election, which is set to take place in the fall of 2025 but could happen sooner if the Liberal minority government falls earlier to a confidence vote.

"The RCMP and (Canadian Security Intelligence Service) are increasingly concerned by the vitriol in the public sphere and associated security challenges MPs may encounter during the next election period," the note said.

On top of efforts to speed up recruitment for the RCMP's protective policing service, the Sergeant-at-Arms was also "exploring ways" to better support parliamentarians, and had received funding from the House of Commons to provide "personal and residential private security for opposition leaders."

Olivier Duhaime, a spokesperson for the Sergeant-at-Arms, declined to comment because their office does not disclose specific security information.

He said their "highest priority continues to be the safety of the parliamentary community," and that their office "works in close collaboration with parliamentary security, intelligence and law enforcement partners to ensure that it is prepared to respond to any eventuality."

VANCOUVER

## Passerby stabbed during liquor store shoplifting

Injury so severe emergency first aid had to be applied

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VANCOUVER A passerby has been seriously injured after he was stabbed by a shoplifter who was trying to flee a liquor store in Vancouver's Olympic Village neighbourhood.

Vancouver police say the attack happened on Saturday at around 10:30 p.m., when a security guard was trying to stop a shoplifter from leaving the liquor store.

Police say the 63-year-old passerby intervened to try to help stop the alleged shoplifter, who in turn stabbed the man before fleeing the scene.

Vancouver police say the stabbing injury was so severe that officers had to provide emergency first aid by applying a tourniquet to slow the bleeding.

The shoplifting suspect, who fled the scene, along with three alleged accomplices were arrested shortly after midnight by patrolling officers in downtown Vancouver near Granville and Robson streets.

Police say they were able to identify the suspects through security images.

The alleged shoplifter is "expected to face criminal charges" upon further investigation.

All four people arrested in the case have been released on bail.

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## ANALYSIS



# Federal Liberals just got a little less progressive

GST 'holiday' cuts, \$250 cheque offers short-term gain for long-term pain

**TONDA MACCHARLES**  
OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA Take your pick.

The federal Liberals' GST two-month "holiday" on so-called essential goods plus a \$250 cheque for anyone who earned under \$150,000 last year is:

- a) an artful political move to steal NDP and Conservative thunder via an appeal to working-class Canadians;
- b) a tactical ploy to break a parliamentary logjam, and if it fails, to shrug and say, "It's not us, it's them";
- c) a shameless bid to buy votes using taxpayers' money, whether it passes now or turns into a useful stick with which to poke opponents in an election that could happen at any time;
- d) a blatant pocketbook appeal to out-populist the populist Conservatives on "axing taxes";
- e) not a very progressive move for a self-declared progressive government.

The answer, of course, is all of the above.

Canadians repeatedly tell pollsters that the high cost of living is a top priority, so it is a tactic to directly appeal to voters.

It borrows heavily from the Liberals' rivals. The Conservatives campaigned on a December sales tax break like this in 2021 (The Liberals opposed it then.) The NDP pitched a similar cut last week.

One thing is for sure, the 2024 Liberal version carries a hefty price tag of \$6.28 billion — according to early calculations — at a time when Canada's annual deficit, which Justin Trudeau's government promised would clock in at around \$40 billion, is certain to spike.

Before this announcement, the Parliamentary Budget Officer pegged the federal budget deficit for 2023-24 at \$46.8 billion. That's equal to 1.6 per cent of Canada's economic output. Ottawa hasn't yet released the actual number.

The PBO says it will analyze the latest promise, and won't comment until it does, but it doesn't have all the information from the Finance Department yet. Nobody does.

But for sure, the kiddies who get cheaper diapers or Christmas toys for the next two months will be the ones paying the tab plus interest, for years to come.

It breaks down this way: That GST tax cut on wine, beer, Christmas trees, toys, clothes, takeout and other miscellaneous items? It adds up to at least \$1.6 billion in lost revenue for federal coffers.

It could cost a little more if Ottawa

has to ante up money to appease the five provinces who may gripe about a lost share of revenue where provincial sales taxes are "harmonized" and come on top of a briefly suspended federal sales tax. Trudeau shrugged off that question Friday, saying provinces should realize "this is a way they can be there for people."

Ontario says it's already made a similar cut on certain essentials, but New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island complained they were blindsided. Newfoundland's government said it will go along with the federal plan for a sales tax pause.

And those Doug Ford-style, "chicken in every pot" cheques? They'll cost the federal treasury \$4.68 billion.

More than \$6 billion in all — money that could have been better targeted to more needy Canadians, in the view of some like David Macdonald, senior economist at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. "There's almost no progressivity to it whatsoever," Macdonald said in an interview.

The \$250 payment is "almost universal," he said, because only five per cent of Canadian workers earn over \$150,000, and the other 95 per cent make \$150,000 or less.

"So basically everybody is getting it."

Instead of sending \$250 to "basically everybody," Macdonald said the government could have sent \$500 or \$1,000 to the lowest-earning 30 per cent of workers, or the lower half of workers, and concentrated the help to those most in need of a boost right now.

"Presumably the visibility is what's important here, more so than necessarily substantially helping folks that are maybe turning to food banks because they can't afford food."

Macdonald flagged a risk that consumers may not get the full value of five per cent savings that Ottawa is promising via the sales tax break if, for example, grocery stores decide to take up some of that pricing space and it leads to only a two per cent savings for their customers.

That should eventually show up in Statistics Canada's data on the consumer price index.

"If we continue to see prices increase, what that means is it wasn't consumers that got the full value, that it was the stores themselves that took some of this profit," he said.

But, added Macdonald, "in the long run, it doesn't change the picture on food prices."

"It doesn't decrease prices by 20 per cent which is roughly the amount that they've gone up since 2019. It means that people that were turning to food banks in November are going to turn to food banks in March" when the tax holiday ends.

It also doesn't change the broader picture on housing costs — the other thing Canadians are "absolutely" upset about, said Macdonald.

He said that is another argument for a more targeted effort to send \$1,000 to low-income renters who are struggling with steep monthly payments and are the ones having to turn to those food banks.

Politically, what's really going on here? A lot.

Of course, the New Democrats claimed credit.

And of course, the Conservatives — under a new leader since 2022 — panned it.

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh says the Trudeau government should have followed his advice and presented a permanent sales tax cut, not a temporary one.

The NDP got out ahead of the Liberals with its own announcement last week that pledged to permanently remove federal GST on a broader range of essentials — home heating and monthly internet and cellphone bills, for example — estimating it would be about \$5 billion a year, and proposing to pay for it with a tax on excess corporate profits. Still, he said it was the Liberals who "caved" and the NDP will support the measure.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre would not say he'd vote against it. He is, after all, the "axe the taxes" poster boy.

But he said Conservatives would instead permanently cut "carbon taxes" and the GST on new home construction.

Poilievre said the Liberal move is inflationary, and hypocritical of Trudeau, whose past words Poilievre quoted when saying the more dollars the government injects into the economy, the more upward pressure it puts on prices.

Trudeau, in announcing the pre-holiday goodies, replied — in effect — that was then, this is now.

Inflation, he argued, is easing, and this temporary measure will bring broad-based relief without fuelling price hikes.

Jennifer Robson, a professor at Carleton University's school of public policy and administration, called the twin announcements "gimmicky."

"The GST holiday is going to be administered by having businesses

**Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's two-month GST cut on so-called essential goods plus a \$250 cheque for anyone who earned under \$150,000 last year is a shameless bid to buy votes using taxpayers' money, Tonda MacCharles writes.**

CHRIS YOUNG  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

**“Presumably the visibility is what's important here, more so than necessarily substantially helping folks that are maybe turning to food banks because they can't afford food.”**

DAVID MACDONALD  
SENIOR ECONOMIST AT THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES

adjust all of their tax calculations at the register and that's not cost-free," she said, adding registers will have to be reset once the holiday is over.

(The Canadian Federation of Independent Business agrees. It would rather broad-based permanent tax "relief" to increase consumer demand that it says has dampened sales for small business in Canada.)

Robson said the cheques may be a populist measure like Premier Doug Ford's promise of \$200 cheques to Ontarians despite his own budget's red ink, and a GST cut may persuade some people to shift the timing of some purchases — maybe parents will buy a child car seat earlier. But, she said, it doesn't ease the squeeze for many.

"I can't quite explain it except for maybe panic because \$250 one time, once, sprinkled across the board in this way, is really not going to fundamentally change the purchasing power of an awful lot of households."

As for deficit concerns? Pfft, says the government.

Trudeau and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland say the federal government can afford these two measures "because Canada has one of the strongest balance sheets in the world."

That essentially means that, while the federal budget is still awash in red ink, comparatively speaking there are a lot of other countries worse off than Canada.

University of Calgary Prof. Trevor Tombe posted on "X" that these "are very costly measures. They do nothing to address the mounting economic challenges that Canada faces."

"By doing this, the government invites valid critiques that it is not taking these pressing issues seriously," he wrote.

Trudeau dismissed his critics Friday.

He said with the latest moves, he is addressing the needs of more individual "hard-working middle-class Canadians" who didn't benefit from previous breaks for retirees, disabled people or families with children.

He called it a "thank you" of sorts for all they did to bring Canada out of the pandemic.

"We're focused on Canadians. I'll let the bankers worry about the economy," he said.

What that also means is that the Liberals and their erstwhile progressive government allies, the New Democrats, just got less progressive.

They are shifting away from saying government's role is to help the poorest to saying they should help as many as possible in an election year.

Where they once defended higher taxes on wealthier Canadians as an investment in health care, child care, long-term care, pharmacare, or dental care, they are now pivoting to using tax dollars as a way to take care of their own electoral prospects, too.

Short-term gain for long-term pain.



# Crown-Indigenous relations is more than just apologies



**MARTIN REGG COHN**  
OPINION

He is the embodiment of the crown. Which means Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree is the unlikely face of white colonialism in Canada—or at least its historical legacy.

Like any other Canadian, he may not be personally responsible for the sins of Canada's past. Today, however, the minister is politically accountable for solutions of the future.

As a Tamil immigrant from Sri Lanka—also colonized by the British crown—he is especially conscious of the colonial history that touches all Canadians. As a human rights lawyer and community activist in his previous life, Anandasangaree had been thinking about it since long before he entered politics a decade ago.

While many people may feel far removed from that colonial legacy today, geographically or historically, his answer hasn't changed: Whether you were born here or came here, Canada is a land of opportunity today largely because of the injustices of the past—from the early confiscation of land to the ongoing suppression of Indigenous identity.

"What I have been able to benefit from in this country—whether it's a top-notch education system ... whether it's economic, whether it's access to health care ... all of those things led me to a deeper understanding that I am benefiting from

this colonial process and this system," the minister told Friday's Democracy Forum that I hosted at Toronto Metropolitan University.

"All Canadians, I think, need to come on board and understand that this is our collective journey."

Anandasangaree himself has been on a journey of apology since becoming minister last year. Last summer he apologized to nine Dakota-Lakota First Nations communities for long-standing injustices. Last month he apologized to First Nations on Manitoulin Island for mismanagement of funds in the past, formally declaring, "The Crown failed to act honourably."

This past weekend, shortly after our event, he flew to Northern Quebec to deliver a promised apology to the Inuit in Nunavik for the mass slaughter of sled dogs that devastated communities in the 1950s and '60s, telling them: "On behalf of the government of Canada and of all the Canadians, I am sorry. Please forgive us."

Are the apologies accepted? The atmosphere can sometimes be tearful, but must always be truthful.

"Apologies are hollow if they're not meaningful ... ultimately this is about setting the record straight," the minister told me. "It's not about compensation, it's actually about telling the truth, acknowledging the truth."

The reality is that progress has been painfully slow. At a Democracy Forum a few years ago, Indigenous MPP Sol Mamakwa sipped a glass of water onstage while explaining to our campus audience that he couldn't safely do the same in his Northern Ontario riding of Kiiwetinoong because of boil water



**Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree, right, at the TMU Democracy Forum with Toronto Star columnist Martin Regg Cohn. While Anandasangaree may not be personally responsible for the sins of Canada's past, today, he is politically accountable for solutions of the future, Cohn writes.**

MARIANA RODRIGUES  
THE DAIS  
AT TMU

advisories on reserves.

I also recounted to the minister how as a foreign correspondent, I'd seen troops from the Canadian military's rapid-response DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) deployed to his native Sri Lanka to deliver clean water after the 2005 tsunami hit, while Indigenous reserves across Canada had to do without.

Anandasangaree acknowledged the double standard, on-reserve and off, but argued that the federal Liberals made it a priority to dramatically reduce boil water advisories that were once in the hundreds. A government tally shows there are still 20 boil water advisories in Ontario today. Against that backdrop, an epidemic of suicide among Indigenous youth is increasing at the very time that Canadians are talking openly about mental health and driving death rates down across the country. Anandasangaree himself raised the deaths of Indigenous people in recent police shootings, noting it has received relatively little media coverage.

Future economic opportunity is part of the answer, but so too is healing—and an accounting of history, including attachment to language and culture. Those themes came up frequently in audience questions from students, who asked him how to incorporate more Indigenous content in curriculums

across the country, as mandated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015.

Greater awareness of history could one day build broader public support for compromise and compensation by politicians in power, which isn't always forthcoming. I asked the minister about the political peril of getting too far out in front of voters who might begrudge costly land claims settlements or balk at child welfare compensation (First Nations chiefs recently rejected a \$47-billion package as inadequate).

The inertia isn't always with politicians; the resistance is sometimes with the public. Anandasangaree suggested that British Columbia's NDP government may have been seen by some voters, in the recent provincial election campaign, as making too many costly concessions on Indigenous issues.

"They have moved mountains on reconciliation, they have invested heavily ... they are looking at reconciliation in a very different way than any previous provincial government," he mused. "They have encountered resistance—a reaction—from voters ... there's a gap."

For better or for worse, that's democracy.

DISCLOSURE: I'M A SENIOR FELLOW AT THE DAIS AT TORONTO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY, WHICH HOSTS THE TMU DEMOCRACY FORUM.



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### Best Parade Floats and Entries

Chair's Award - Best Overall Entry

**KIWANIS CLUB OF BRAMPTON**

Runner up for the Chair's Award

**THE STUDIO SCHOOL OF DANCE**

2nd Runner Up for the Chair's Award

**MAPLE LODGE FARMS**

Best Large Corporation Entry - RAFAT GENERAL CONTRACTING

Best Small Business Entry - BINING TOWING

Best Service Club Entry - ROTARY CLUB OF BRAMPTON

Best Dance Entry - TAP LOVE TOUR KIDS

Best School Entry - BRAMPTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Best Community Entry - WEST FETE

Honourable Mentions:

KENDRUM YOUTH STEEL ORCHESTRA, BRAMPTON VILLAGE LIONS, ATTRELL TOYOTA

HANSEN TOWING, SWITZER-CARTY SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

### Best Bands

Best Band -

**FATHER BRESANI C.H.S MARCHING BAND**

Best Community Band -

**MICHAEL POWER/ST JOSEPH CHS DRUMLINE**

Best Float Band -

**YORK LIONS STEEL BAND**

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HEALTH CARE

# Inside new drug withdrawal centre

‘When you come to the door here, you’re given a sense of dignity and hope,’ specialist says

LIAM CASEY

Joshua Orson sits on the edge of a bed in a bright, clean room, thinking about his journey from addict to health-care worker.

The room is part of a new, 36-bed detox space in downtown Toronto that largely helps homeless patients, although it’s open to anyone who needs to get clean. There are private and shared rooms, a kitchen with cooked meals, laundry rooms and several lounges to play cards or watch television.

The space offers group and individual therapy, with addictions counsellors and nurses on the clock 24 hours a day.

Withdrawal Management Services, operated by Unity Health Toronto, is free and funded by the Ministry of Health. It is one of four publicly funded residential detox facilities in Toronto that helps people get off drugs and alcohol.

It is a vastly different space from its previous iteration where Orson got clean — a dorm-style room inside a homeless shelter without private beds. It sat in an ancient building with an old heating system and poor ventilation.

“When you come to the door here, you’re given a sense of dignity and hope after losing so much of yourself to get there and I think that’s really important,” said Orson, who is now a peer support worker at the site.

“The space here suggests what you can become rather than where you’re at, which I felt the former space was more like where you’re at. It’s an optimistic space.”

The withdrawal centre had its official opening a few weeks ago, but it began operating in the summer. Its 36 beds were filled very quickly and it remains full, said Dr. Irfan Dhalla, a physician at St. Michael’s Hospital and the vice-president of clinical programs at Unity.

But spots open up frequently as the program is designed for short-term residential stays, he said, and day programs are also available.

Unity also operates two other withdrawal centres in the city with 51 beds. They are full, as well.

The demand is further proof of a



severe shortage of detox beds across the province, Dhalla said.

Illicit fentanyl emerged in Ontario about a decade ago as the opioid crisis spread slowly eastward from British Columbia. Opioid overdose deaths spiked soon after.

Last year, nearly 2,600 Ontarians died from drug toxicity, the vast majority due to fentanyl alone, or fentanyl in combination with other drugs like benzodiazepines. That is a 50 per cent increase in deaths from 2019.

The prolonged crisis prompted the provincial government to fundamentally shift its approach to an abstinence-based model. It is set to close 10 supervised consumption sites, including five in Toronto, saying the spots are too close to day-cares and schools.

The changes came after a Toronto woman was killed by a stray bullet in what police described as a shootout between drug dealers next to a supervised consumption site.

The province will instead launch 19 new “homelessness and addiction recovery treatment” — or

HART — hubs, plus 375 highly supportive housing units at a planned cost of \$378 million.

The overdose crisis has hit the homeless population particularly hard.

Through gangs and organized crime, opioids have found their way into virtually every nook and cranny in Ontario, from big cities such as Toronto and Ottawa to remote, fly-in First Nations in the north and everything in between.

The problem is pronounced in downtown Toronto, particularly in the area near the withdrawal centre, where a number of shelters and services for those without homes are also located.

The detox centre project took about a decade from concept to launch, Dhalla said. The space’s design is crucial to the success of the program, he said.

“There’s something about our physical spaces that convey care and love. It’s hard to feel cared for and loved when you are in a physical environment that is decrepit,” Dhalla said.

“The space here suggests what you can become rather than where you’re at, which I felt the former space was more like where you’re at. It’s an optimistic space,” says peer support specialist Josh Orson, pictured in a room at Unity Health’s new Withdrawal Management Services site in Toronto in October.

FRANK GUNN  
THE CANADIAN  
PRESS FILE  
PHOTO

“But I would feel better if the people who needed the service had a home to go to after they left here.”

Patients can return for the day program to help maintain their recovery. The benefits of the new space aren’t just limited to patients, Dhalla said.

“To be honest, it’s very good for staff retention and staff well-being,” he said.

Getting off drugs wasn’t easy for Orson. He first tried them at 14 years old. He’d use a variety of substances, from heroin to benzodiazepines to alcohol.

“I was mostly an opioid user, that was the drug of choice,” he said.

He also lived with concurrent mental health struggles that included depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

Throughout his 20s, he visited the hospital more often. One day in the emergency room, Orson was referred to a case manager who got him into a detox program.

“I realized this is kind of what help looks like and if I go out again, I’m gonna end up back here,” he said.

“So I might as well do it now. I was more at the end of my rope rather than being ready to get off drugs.”

He spent seven days at the old detox centre. It was dingy and rife with temptation inside and outside the shelter.

“You have to deal with yourself after a long time from being away from yourself because the substances would provide a kind of blanketing,” Orson said.

“It’s just a very hard experience.”

That same case worker also suggested Orson become a peer support worker. Immediately after detox, he sought training and found volunteer work. It wasn’t long before he found work at a shelter.

“I don’t think I would have maintained that (abstinence) without becoming a peer support worker because when you’re helping other people, you help yourself and it gives you purpose and it gives you a place to be,” Orson said.

“What people really need is hope and this whole space is very hopeful and it’s able to penetrate into that dark place that people are in.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MONTREAL ANTI-NATO DEMONSTRATION

# Additional arrests expected

More evidence gathered during protest, chief says

SIDHARTHA BANERJEE

Montreal’s police chief said he expects more arrests stemming from a Friday anti-NATO protest that turned violent, while one of the protest organizers Sunday denounced political reaction as hijacking the underlying message of the demonstration.

Uniformed police officers could be seen Sunday both inside and outside Montreal’s Palais des congrès convention centre as the annual meeting continued with no signs of demonstrations, although some protesters had planned a “counter-summit” at a community centre just north of downtown.

Chief Fady Dagher told reporters Saturday more arrests would be coming thanks to additional evidence gathered during the protests, adding police were aware of who was behind the vandalism including smashed windows and burned cars as well as alleged assaults on police officers.

Police said that, during the march, smoke bombs were deployed, metal barriers were thrown into the street and windows smashed of nearby businesses and the convention centre where delegates from NATO parliamentary assembly, including members and partner states, gathered for a session set to wrap Monday.

Among the issues being broached were support for Ukraine, climate

change and the future of the alliance.

Dagher estimated that about 800 people took part in protests from several groups, but about 20 to 40 people were allegedly responsible for the trouble.

“I do not want to advertise these groups and glorify these groups, it is a big trap to do so,” Dagher said. “But I can assure to you ... it is a few groups.”

Montreal police arrested three people following Friday’s demonstration — a 22-year-old woman who allegedly obstructed police work and assaulted a police officer and two men, 22 and 28, also each face a charge for allegedly obstructing police work. All are scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

“Despite what you saw in the images, last-minute impromptu events are extremely difficult to anticipate,” Dagher added. “We have other pieces of evidence. So probably we will have other arrests.”

Friday night’s protest was condemned by politicians of all stripes Saturday as acts of antisemitism, which one organizer rejected, saying the protests were against the actions of the state of Israel and not Jewish people.

On Sunday, the Divest for Palestine Collective denounced what it called “dishonest attempts” of politicians to hijack the “anti-militarist, anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist messages” delivered by protesters. In an emailed statement, it refuted allegations of antisemitism.

“These are false accusations aimed at delegitimizing the solidarity movement for the liberation of Palestine and undermining the fight against antisemitism,” the group wrote.



The group defended setting ablaze a doll representing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the protest.

Earlier this week, the International Court of Justice issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu as well as his former defence minister and Hamas members. “It is a legitimate expression of collective anger against the political indifference at the heart of an ongoing colonial genocide,” the collective said.

The collective also denounced what it called police violence against demonstrators, saying at least four protesters had to be taken to hospital with various injuries.

Dagher said he couldn’t make a firm link between Friday’s acts and antisemitism, but added that, since the Oct. 7 attacks more than one year ago, incidents and acts of antisemitism and Islamophobia have both increased enormously in the city.

The police chief however, defended his officers handling of Friday’s event, which he felt could have been much worse. He added he would spend the rest of the weekend with his officers on the ground to lend support.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

People take part in a protest against NATO in Montreal on Saturday.

GRAHAM HUGHES  
THE CANADIAN  
PRESS

TORONTO BRIEFS

COLLISION

## Pedestrian in her 70s struck

A pedestrian in her 70s has serious injuries after she was struck by a vehicle in west-end Toronto on Sunday evening. Toronto Police responded to a call of a collision in the Bloor Street West and Dundas Street West area, near Roncesvalles, just before 6 p.m. The woman was rushed to hospital, though her injuries are not considered life-threatening.

HIT-AND-RUN

## Police looking for white SUV

Toronto police are looking for the driver of a white SUV after a man, 71, died in hospital Saturday from injuries sustained in a hit-and-run Thursday at a Scarborough crosswalk. Police say the incident happened just after 11:45 p.m. at Kennedy Road and McNicoll Avenue. The pedestrian was walking eastbound on McNicoll Avenue and was struck by a white Cadillac Escalade going west on McNicoll Avenue.

SHOOTING

## Man in hospital with injuries

A man has been taken to hospital after an overnight shooting in Toronto’s downtown core. Toronto police say they reported to King Street West and Brant Street after 4:15 a.m. and a shot man was transported to hospital with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries.

STAR STAFF



ENVIRONMENT

# Plastics treaty reaches its end game

UN negotiations will decide whether the world will work to reduce pollution

PATTY WINSA  
DATA REPORTER

When global representatives meet in Busan, South Korea on Monday, it will be the world's last chance to create a legally binding international treaty to reduce plastic pollution as part of a historic United Nations resolution adopted in March 2022.

But whether a coalition of "high-ambition" countries, including Canada, can get a meaningful treaty that phases out chemicals of concern and problematic plastics, and reduces plastic production — which many environmentalists see as key to reducing pollution — remains to be seen. The 64 "high ambition" countries are committed to reducing plastic pollution and eliminating waste by 2040 through a binding treaty.

Despite four previous rounds of meetings, critics say the latest version of the document created as a basis for negotiations by treaty chair Luis Vayas Valdivieso, who is also Ecuador's ambassador to the U.K., lacks the ambitious targets first identified when the resolution was adopted.

Nicholas Mallos, a vice-president of conservation, ocean plastics, for Ocean Conservancy, called the document "disappointing and frankly an embarrassment," in an online statement, for its failure to address "plastic reduction" or ghost gear.

Ghost gear, which refers to the nets and gear lost by the fishing industry, accounts for 10 per cent of the ocean's plastic pollution, according to estimates.

"A disproportionate emphasis has

been placed on managing plastic waste instead of turning off the tap," said Mallos.

It's estimated that between nine and 14 million tons of plastics are going into the ocean every year, said Eirik Lindebjerg, World Wildlife Fund's global plastics policy lead, a number that is growing rapidly because of the increase in plastic production and the mismanagement of plastic around the globe.

Plastic pollution is affecting marine ecosystems, as well as humans and animals who are "eating and drinking and breathing plastics that we get from living in a plastic world," said Lindebjerg, who is WWF's head of delegation for the talks in Busan.

Not getting a treaty will have "large global consequences for human health and for the environment," said Lindebjerg in an interview with the Star.

The last four rounds of negotiations, including the most recent in Ottawa in April, have advanced very slowly.

Some critics blame delay tactics, which the Center for International Environmental Law characterizes as "obstructionism," by oil-producing countries, as well as industry influence by lobbyists for the fossil fuel industry, which could be looking to profit from plastic production if and when demand for oil and gas declines.

"I haven't given up hope," said Melissa Gorrie, law reform manager for the Canadian environmental law charity Ecojustice, in an interview with the Star. "But we're really going to have to roll up our sleeves and move at a reasonable pace to



ANTHONY WALLACE / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

ensure that we can get to a treaty text in a week."

Gorrie said meaningful progress will depend on whether countries like Canada and others in the high ambition coalition continue to step up and advance "strong provisions around plastic production, chemicals of concern, reporting and Indigenous rights."

The UN process has so far embraced consensus decision-making, which has been a huge sticking point, with delegates who disagree essentially having a veto. Groups such as the Environmental Justice Foundation based in England argue it's time to bring in a one state, one vote approach so that measures agreed to by a majority of countries can be included in the treaty.

Environment and Climate

Change Canada said in an email that its goal going into the talks, which begin Monday, is to "finalize the text of an ambitious and effective global treaty on plastic pollution that addresses the full life cycle of plastics."

Among other measures, the federal ministry said the Canadian government supports "the development of a global list of problematic and avoidable plastic products and chemicals of concern under the treaty for elimination or restriction," as well as a "clear process to review, update, and amend the criteria and lists over time."

"The world has previously united to secure multilateral agreements in response to global crises," said the government in the email, "and this moment is no different."

Activists rally Monday outside the venue for the fifth session of the UN Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution in Busan. After four rounds of meetings, global representatives meet in South Korea Monday to try to create a treaty to reduce plastic pollution.

OBITUARY CHUCK WOOLERY

## Television icon was original host of 'Wheel of Fortune'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK Chuck Woolery, the affable, smooth-talking game show host of "Wheel of Fortune," "Love Connection" and "Scrabble" who later became a right-wing podcaster, skewering liberals and accusing the government of lying about COVID-19, has died. He was 83.

Mark Young, Woolery's podcast co-host and friend, said in an email early Sunday that Woolery died at his home in Texas with his wife, Kristen, present. "Chuck was a dear friend and brother and a tremendous man of faith, life will not be the same without him," Young wrote.

Woolery, with his matinee idol looks, coiffed hair and ease with witty banter, was inducted into the

American TV Game Show Hall of Fame in 2007 and earned a daytime Emmy nomination in 1978.

In 1983, Woolery began an 11-year run as host of TV's "Love Connection," for which he coined the phrase, "We'll be back in two minutes and two seconds," a two-fingered signature dubbed the "2 and 2." In 1984, he hosted TV's "Scrabble," simultaneously hosting two game shows on TV until 1990.

Woolery began his TV career at a show that has become a mainstay. Although most associated with Pat Sajak and Vanna White, "Wheel of Fortune" debuted Jan. 6, 1975, on NBC with Woolery welcoming contestants and the audience. Woolery, then 33, was trying to make it in Nashville as a singer.

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# OPINION

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## POLITICS

# How to get rid of bad immigration consultants

BARBARA JO CARUSO AND VANCE LANGFORD  
CONTRIBUTORS

What do Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, and Immigration Minister Marc Miller have in common?

Over the past week, they have all been critical of the bad immigration consultants who are exacerbating the unprecedented challenges faced by Canada's immigration system.

Unscrupulous immigration consultants charge exorbitant fees while denying their victims an opportunity to achieve their dreams in Canada. In addition to incurring monetary and social damage, victims potentially face five-year bans from entering Canada.

One increasingly common practice is for bad consultants to sell fake job offers via Labour Market Impact Assessments ("LMIA") to victims seeking employment in Canada or to existing temporary residents desperate to find a way to remain in this country. A cursory search on Kijiji and social media with the phrase "LMIA" (Labour Market Impact Assessment) shows these platforms are rife with consultants selling LMIA's, which is not only unethical, but also illegal.

While not all immigration consultants engage in this kind of behaviour, we still see far too many cases of consultants — or people calling themselves consultants — taking advantage of would-be immigrants to this country. Miller can't solve this problem overnight but there are a number of things he can do to crack down on the industry, starting with the professional association his own government initiated.

The College of Citizenship and Immigration Consultants, the regulator for licensed immigration consultants, was launched in 2021 after the federal government determined the previous two regulatory bodies failed to protect the public. The federal government passed a law in Parliament in 2020 designed to regulate the work of citizenship and immigration consultants. The law gives the college the power to uphold the integrity of the immigration system.

With this, the immigration minister should ensure the college has the means to thoroughly audit each one of its members and enforce regulatory changes to limit their mandate and the number of consultants if they do not comply.

Miller should also ensure that the college mandate its consultants to assist in maintaining the honour and integrity of the immigration system, and to expose all dishonest conduct.

We also recommend the minister launch a task force to combat ghost consultants. Ghost consultants are unlicensed consultants who account for a significant share of applications containing false or incomplete information. Often, ghost consultants charge their victims high fees but are not held accountable when the victims have incurred these costs, had their visa applications refused, and are barred from entering Canada.

Applicants who submit visa requests on their own can also be asked to submit a letter of attestation confirming they did not compensate a legal representative to help prepare their applications.

The federal government can also implement a whistleblower reporting system similar to what exists in criminal law wherein victims of immigration consultants can become co-operative witnesses.

These ideas are not panaceas but can help to reduce the prevalence of ghost consulting.

Miller can enact legal reform so that immigration consultants are only able to work under the supervision of an immigration lawyer. Lawyers are governed by strong regulatory bodies and face significant consequences such as disbarment for poor behaviour. Putting a lawyer's license on the line will help to significantly

**While not all immigration consultants engage in this kind of behaviour, we still see far too many cases of consultants taking advantage of would-be immigrants to this country**

strengthen the quality of advice immigration applicants receive as well as oversight of the conduct of immigration consultants.

We wish to be clear: not all immigration consultants are bad. There are some good ones who are honourable and competent.

Immigration lawyers have long argued that they are best able to represent visa applicants given these cases are often complex and raise legal issues involving Charter, family, employment, and criminal law. If consultants are going to continue to be given the right to provide legal services to the public, there must be stronger regulations. Consultants who are competent and ethical should be given the chance to continue to work but under a regime that ensures that the integrity of the immigration system is not brought into disrepute, and the public is adequately protected.

The Prime Minister, Ontario Premier, and federal immigration minister are correct to draw attention to this problem. Canadians remain supportive of immigration but are unsupportive of what they believe is an immigration system that has lost its way. Government leaders can help restore public confidence by limiting the ability of bad consultants to abuse victims and the immigration system.

BARBARA JO CARUSO AND VANCE LANGFORD,  
CO-PRESIDENTS, CANADIAN IMMIGRATION  
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



GREG PERRY FOR THE TORONTO STAR

## LETTERS

### Lawsuit ban can't survive Charter challenge

**Ford government to ban lawsuits against province if cyclists are hurt or killed on streets where bike lanes were removed, Nov. 22**

Is Premier Doug Ford actually out of his mind? He cannot legislate the province out of liability for bike accidents in removed bike lanes in Ontario. This will be challenged so fast in court, the premier's head will snap. This has to be against The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. What next? No liability on the province for any accidents on Ontario roads?

Joel Hertz, Toronto

### Usage stats shouldn't be only consideration

**Province-led survey suggests higher cycling rates in Toronto than Ford government has cited: city staff report, Nov. 18**

Why are we engaging in an argument about the percentage of people using bicycles to justify the removal — or retention — of protection for vulnerable road users? By the same logic would we remove wheelchair access if users are a minority? Remove sidewalks if there are fewer pedestrians? Remove car lanes altogether on the many roads where automobiles are a minority? Removing lanes on University Avenue, Bloor and Yonge streets makes a viable cycle network in this city an impossibility. Doing it without evidence or consideration of the above is at best misguided, at worst deliberately dishonest. This isn't a pro vs. anti-cycling discussion; it's a question of fact vs. fiction.

Dennis Wheeler, Toronto

### Bloor bike lanes also make driving safer

I love the bike lanes and I'm not even a cyclist. I find driving along Bloor Street much safer and more enjoyable with the bike lanes. I don't have to worry about aggressive drivers cutting me off and the actual time lost is negligible. With right turn lanes and left turn lanes, driving is smooth sailing. Who's paying for the cost of removing the lanes and is the city being reimbursed for the cost of installing in the first place? This government is taking us backwards. I hate what you're doing. We're

going to see more bike deaths and accidents as a result of this reckless move. Stop listening to a few drivers who hate cyclists. You need to encourage more people to get out of their cars and use public transit, walk and cycle. It's much better for the environment which I also suspect your government cares nothing about.

Carol Cormier, Toronto

### Look to Finland for solution to homelessness

Finland has a homelessness rate of 0.08 per cent on a given night, yet in 1989 it had about 16,000 people experiencing homelessness. In contrast Ontario has a rate of 1.5 per cent of the population. Finland used a housing first model to accomplish this. Essentially every homeless person is given a flat without conditions. This was accomplished by creating a broad political and private coalition so that the success of the project would not be subject to whatever party was incumbent. Housing was enshrined as a human right. Ironically it is a Canadian psychologist, Sam J. Tsemberis, who created this model. It is obvious from polls, media attention, etc. that Canadians want to end homelessness. There is a model, housing first, with demonstrated success at achieving that end.

Moses Shuldiner, Toronto

### Cost of splurge will outlive its recipients

**Trudeau government announces \$250 cheques for some Canadians, plus GST cuts on food, beer, children's clothes, Nov. 21**

The federal Liberal government was projected to incur a whopping \$39.8 billion national financial deficit in 2024/25. This was before handing out a Christmas splurge of a \$1.6 billion in GST alleviation, plus a \$4.68 billion cash handout. To put this in the context of an individual, it is tantamount to someone with enormous credit card debt celebrating the taking out of a cash advance to increase their debt to enable them to go out on a holiday spending spree and whoop it up. There is one significant difference, however. The principle and interest on the credit card debt must be paid off in the near future by the errant borrower. With a national debt already at \$1,453 billion our grandchildren will be paying for this largesse

many years after we recipients are long gone.

Anthony Moscrop, Willowdale

### So, retired Canadians no longer matter?

I was awestruck when I heard the Liberal government is deleting the GST for a few months and giving Canadians who are working but did not earn more than \$150,000 a cheque of \$275. What about Canadians who are not working? I retired five years ago. I am appalled at the fact that I no longer matter, just because I no longer work. I would though like to advocate for those Canadians who really need the monies. I am certain that there are social programs or food banks who could use these monies to provide the necessities rather than pay for votes.

Kathryn van der Horden, Erin, Ont.

### Trudeau taking a page from Ford's playbook

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is taking a page from Premier Doug Ford's election playbook and attempting to buy votes. A GST tax holiday that will cost \$1.6 billion and a working Canadian rebate, for those earning less than \$150,000 that is estimated to cost \$4.68 billion. Would it not be better to use this money to assist those who cannot afford to eat in restaurants or buy prepared foods and must rely on food banks, and those who are unemployed or retired and struggling?

Greg Sheehan, Mississauga

### Families are also serving a life sentence

**Parole board now trying to 'accommodate' families of Paul Bernardo victims after being told they could not attend his hearing in person, Nov. 20**

Kudos to Tim Danson, the lawyer for the French and Mahaffey families, who wrote the open letter about the parole board's decision to not allow the families to attend the Paul Bernardo parole hearing. It obviously had the effect it should have garnered, and the parole board reversed its poor decision. Those families are also serving a life sentence created by what Bernardo and his accomplice did.

Rick Clarke, Orillia



# It's time for homebuyers to get relief

Vaughan has slashed development charges in an effort to kick-start home construction

STEVEN DEL DUCA  
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

There is broad acceptance that we have a housing affordability crisis, created at least in part because we don't have enough supply to meet our demand.

Finding a way to overcome this challenge is deeply personal for me.

My wife and I bought our first home in 2004. Four years later, we moved to our current address in a neighbourhood that we love, and this is where we've been raising our daughters, who are 17 and 13.

When I consider what to do about our housing crisis, I don't focus exclusively on stats or macroeconomic trends.

I think of my daughters and their future.

I think of how too many politicians over too many years at all levels of government have allowed the dream of home ownership to become too difficult for our young women and men to realize.

And it pains me to see how that has eroded their faith in a system that we built.

When I was younger, the grand bargain at the heart of being Canadian was straightforward: show up, work hard, save your money and when the time was right, you'd be able to buy a place of your own. And maybe start a family. Dream big dreams. Achieve. Contribute. And give back by ensuring that the next generation had the opportunity to do even better than yours.

One of my most important goals is that, one day, my daughters, and all the other young people like them, will have a real shot at being able to afford a home in the community where they grew up.

In my current role, I don't have



the authority to fix the problem all on my own. But I do have the ability to make decisive, impactful changes within my area of responsibility.

And that's what I've decided to do regarding the development charges that my city levies on new housing.

Development charges are fees imposed by municipalities to help fund the initial capital costs required to support growth, and they help pay for important things like roads, sewers, parks and libraries.

But they are also a cost passed on directly to anyone purchasing a home, so while we call them development charges, I believe they function like a tax on homebuyers.

In Vaughan, this "tax" rose 229 per cent between 2009 and 2021, and then jumped again in 2022. The result was a \$94,466 levy that

**Development charges for new homes in Vaughan rose 229 per cent between 2009 and 2021, to a whopping \$94,466 per lot, Mayor Steven Del Duca writes.**

PATRICK DOYLE  
THE CANADIAN PRESS  
FILE PHOTO

everyone buying a new lowrise home in Vaughan would effectively be paying, as it was being embedded in their purchase price.

To be clear, building infrastructure is expensive and municipalities have limited funding tools. And for a very long time, the housing market was hot and people were buying and builders were building, so no one was looking closely at these charges.

But then the music stopped and the market cooled. Today, few are buying and there's not enough new residential construction activity.

I believe in responding to one's changing circumstances and adapting to a new reality. And more than anything else, I want homebuyers to get some relief.

In September, I introduced a reso-

lution directing staff to report back with options to reduce our development charge rate to lessen the burden on homebuyers.

Earlier this week, Vaughan council decided to cut our development charge rates almost in half, and we approved other provisions that should kick-start housing construction while lowering housing prices for our residents.

I sincerely hope that other municipalities follow our lead.

I'm not naïve enough to think that this change will make all the difference. But I've always believed in the old saying that it's better to light a candle than curse the darkness, and I will never stop doing whatever I can for our next generation.

STEVEN DEL DUCA IS THE MAYOR OF VAUGHAN.

# No, Trudeau isn't forcing us all to eat bugs

JUSTIN LING  
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Even after trying the delicious cricket Bolognese, I was skeptical of the cricket hot dog. Rightly so: It sure tasted like whatever a hot dog is supposed to taste like, but it had the consistency of ground bugs.

I was sampling the insect fare while visiting the test kitchen of One Hop Kitchen, a Toronto-based start-up trying to figure out how to make crickets an affordable, sustainable, less-weird food staple. "We don't want it to be that people are eating bugs because they have to," Eli Cadesky, company co-founder told me. "That's dystopian."

That dystopia is here, if you listen to Conservative party Leader Pierre Poilievre.

"Whereas Justin Trudeau is attempting to impose a global woke agenda on Canadians, whereas Justin Trudeau used \$9 million of Canadian taxpayer dollars to bet big on an edible bug factory," begins a petition launched by the party this month. It asks supporters to sign their name to declare "no international body will have the right to impose its policies on our country."

The Conservatives invited their militants to stand up and declare: "We WON'T Eat Bugs."

Let's state the obvious: Watching the leader of the official opposition — the likely future prime minister, and a former Minister of the Crown — debase himself with bug-brained conspiracy theories designed to continue ratcheting up the paranoia of a small subset of the population is embarrassing. Sad, even.

But this is, unfortunately, a core part of the Conservative party strategy these days. Poilievre and his team now see this wing of their party, one taken by conspiracy theories, as useful agents of chaos to be exploited. They see a right-wing online media ecosystem, slobberingly happy to engage in any cooked-up fantasy if it makes them money, as a partner in this mission. And they welcome the negative coverage from the mainstream press — myself included — as a useful foil in their quest to delegitimize journalism.

At the core of all this is a trait that has rarely been central to Canadian

conservatism: Nihilism. Poilievre's movement has decided that exploiting grievance and paranoia, no matter how irrational and destructive, is worth it if it means winning.

But let's go back to where this insect obsession comes from.

Humans have been eating bugs since we've been human. Today, mealworms are a staple of some East Asian cuisines, whilst lobsters are really just sea bugs. Insects are cheap and efficient protein — in recent years, there has been optimism that insects could reduce our CO2 emissions and fight hunger.

This was, generally, uncontroversial. Even if most people aren't keen to nosh on antipasti, processed insects showed promise as pet food, livestock feed, and for those with a rugged kind of try-anything attitude. Even Tucker Carlson ate a cicada snack on-air in 2021.

The trouble came when the World Economic Forum, the elite club for world leaders and internationalists, began touting the possible benefits of a bug-based diet. As anti-vaccine activism grew in 2021, and the Forum became a particular target for uber-online conspiracy theorists, a refusal to eat bugs became a rallying cry.

"They," proclaimed prolific conspiracy theorist Alex Jones in 2021, wanted to "feed the insects chemical and bioweapons-type stuff" in order to achieve the ultimate goal: To "control your mind."

This claim bounced around various anti-vaccine groups, and became a focal point of Poilievre's beloved Freedom Convoy in 2022.

When the party launched a leadership race to replace Erin O'Toole, candidate Leslyn Lewis first took up the mantle of the bug-eating refuseniks, telling fellow conspiracy theorist Jordan B. Peterson in an interview: "They've been programming us to want to eat bugs."

Lewis, of course, lost that race: She earned less than 10 per cent of the vote on the first ballot. But she is now infrastructure critic in Poilievre's caucus, and the leader often echoes her out-to-lunch pronouncements.

"Dr. Lewis was right," Poilievre proclaimed on Twitter. "Weird, woke Liberals pushed us to eat bugs."



**Watching Tory Leader Pierre Poilievre debase himself with bug-brained conspiracy theories is embarrassing, Justin Ling writes. But this is, unfortunately, a core part of the Conservative party strategy these days.**

ADRIAN WYLD  
THE CANADIAN PRESS  
FILE PHOTO

Singing Alex Jones karaoke might seem like a bizarre move from the Conservative leader. But, as senior Conservatives have admitted to me multiple times over the years, Poilievre sees his path to victory in the next general election by siphoning support from People's Party Leader Maxime Bernier, who has been all too happy to regurgitate the bug-eating trope. And there is, apparently, nothing Poilievre won't do to win the fealty of that grumpy and paranoid three per cent of the electorate.

Poilievre making a mountain out of an anthill is just the most recent example of this plan to win power. He has also vowed to ban "digital ID," playing into baseless fears of Ottawa trying to impose a Chinese-style social credit system; echoed the "great reset" theory, a lazy repackaging of Illuminati hokum; tipped his hat to anti-vaxxers by trying to forbid vaccine mandates; and has said he'll preclude his ministers from going to Davos for the World Economic Forum, if elected. He has spent years harnessing the intense distrust of a small minority, issuing warnings of "global elites" trying to orchestrate a "power grab" here in Canada.

It would be one thing if this were merely an unhinged fantasy, but real people do bear the brunt of these attacks.

The \$9 million for an "edible bug factory" he howled at is quite real; the factory is run by the Aspire Food Group. With federal grants and loans, they moved from Texas to London, Ont., to build an advanced manufacturing facility to turn bug protein into protein shakes, candles, animal feed, and a host

of other products. This is actually an entrepreneurial success story, and now they've become the target of a Conservative-led smear campaign.

The Conservative party still has serious concerns and reasonable policy objectives. Its caucus still holds thoughtful and serious people.

And I don't doubt that the architects of this insect-obsessed communications strategy see it as little more than an act, a useful technique to extract money and energy from people who harbour genuine fear of an international conspiracy to ban meat and mandate bugs. But that nihilism, that obsessive belief that these manipulations can be justified in pursuit of power, that offensively dim view they take of voters — it's depressing.

Nobody can fault Poilievre for tilting hard at a deeply unpopular government — and there's certainly a lot to go after — but we are in the midst of a trust crisis. People no longer trust government, the media, our institutions, and at the extreme end, people have stopped trusting their fellow citizens. Populists, at their best, recognize that lack of trust and convey a plan to fix the institutions and restore what's been lost. Populists like Poilievre, however, seem intent on intensifying that distrust until the anger becomes an end in itself, feeding a perpetual culture war that prioritizes fighting over governing.

Poilievre should be careful about the damage he's doing to the system that he hopes to run. The Conservatives will, sooner or later, govern again.

Will they bother trying to convince the masses, those afraid of our supposed dystopia, to trust again? Or will they continue feeding this anxiety, blaming all their problems on some unseen dark forces, like president-elect Donald Trump does?

I, for one, hope Poilievre stops feeding these paranoid delusions and tries eating some bugs for a change.

JUSTIN LING IS AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST BASED IN MONTREAL AND A CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST FOR THE STAR.  
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MIDEAST CONFLICT



Residents embrace near the site of a rocket attack on Sunday in Rintatya, Israel. Air raid sirens blared across northern and central Israel as scores of rockets were fired from Lebanon.

AMIR LEVY  
GETTY IMAGES

# Hezbollah blasts Israel with rockets, projectiles

## Seven wounded in bombardment

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT Hezbollah fired about 250 rockets and other projectiles into Israel on Sunday, wounding seven people in one of the militant group's heaviest barrages in months, in response to deadly Israeli strikes in Beirut while negotiators pressed on with ceasefire efforts to halt the all-out war.

Some of the rockets reached the Tel Aviv area in the heart of Israel.

Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on an army centre killed a Lebanese soldier and wounded 18 others in the southwest between Tyre and Naqoura, Lebanon's military said.

The Israeli military expressed regret, saying the strike occurred in an area of combat against Hezbollah and that the military's operations are directed solely against the militants.

Israeli strikes have killed more than 40 Lebanese troops since the start of the war between Israel and Hezbollah, even as Lebanon's military has largely kept to the sidelines.

Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, condemned the latest strike as an assault on U.S.-led ceasefire efforts, calling it a "direct, bloody message rejecting all efforts and ongoing contacts" to end the war.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel after Hamas's Oct. 7, 2023, attack out of the Gaza Strip ignited the war there. Hezbollah has portrayed the attacks as an act of solidarity with the Palestinians and Hamas. Iran supports both armed groups.

Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes at Hezbollah, and in September the low-level conflict erupted into all-out war as Israel launched airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon and killed Hezbollah's top leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

The Israeli military said about 250

projectiles were fired Sunday, with some intercepted.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said it treated seven people, including a 60-year old man in severe condition from rocket fire on northern Israel, a man, 23, who was lightly wounded by a blast in the central city of Petah Tikva, near Tel Aviv and a 70-year-old woman who suffered smoke inhalation from a car that caught fire there.

In Haifa, a rocket hit a residential building that police said was in danger of collapsing.

The Palestine Red Crescent reported 13 injuries it said were caused by an interceptor missile that struck several homes in Tulkarim in the West Bank. It was unclear whether injuries and damage were caused by rockets or interceptors.

Sirens wailed again in central and northern Israel hours later.

Israeli airstrikes without warning on Saturday pounded central Beirut, killing at least 29 people and wounding 67, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on an army centre killed a Lebanese soldier and wounded 18 others in the southwest between Tyre and Naqoura, Lebanon's military said

WAR IN UKRAINE

# Moscow offers forgiveness of debt to new army recruits

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law granting debt forgiveness to new army recruits who enlist to fight in Ukraine.

The measure, whose final version appeared on a government website Saturday, underscores Russia's needs for military personnel in the nearly three-year war, even as it fired a new intermediate-range ballistic missile last week.

According to Russian state news agency Interfax, the new legislation allows those signing up for a one-year contract to write off bad debts of up to \$96,430 (U.S.).

The law applies to debts for which a court order for collection was issued and enforcement proceedings had commenced before this Dec. 1. It also applies to the spouses of new recruits.

Russia has ramped up military recruitment by offering increasing financial incentives, in some cases several times the average salary, to those willing to fight in Ukraine.

The strategy has allowed the military to boost its ranks in the conflict zone while avoiding another mobilization order.

A "partial mobilization" in September 2022 sparked an exodus of tens of thousands of Russian men, who fled the country to avoid enlistment.

The intense and drawn-out war has strained Russian resources. In



A journalist views fragments of a rocket that struck Dnipro last Thursday, at a centre for forensic analysis in an undisclosed location in Ukraine on Sunday.

EVGENIY  
MALOLETKA  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

September, Putin called for the military to increase its troops by 180,000.

The U.S., South Korea and Ukraine say North Korea sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia in October, some of whom have recently begun engaging in combat on the front lines, piling more pressure on Ukraine's also weary and overstretched army.

The push for recruits coincides with the firing of a new intermediate-range ballistic missile at Ukraine on Thursday.

Putin said it was in response to Kyiv's use of American and British missiles capable of striking deeper into Russia.

Ukraine's Security Service showed The Associated Press on Sunday wreckage of the new experimental ballistic missile, which struck a factory in the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro.

The fragments of the missile called Oreshnik — Russian for hazel tree, and which the Pentagon said is based on Russia's RS-26 Rubezh intercontinental ballistic missile — have not been analyzed yet, according to security officials on site in an undisclosed location in Ukraine. Media were able to see the fragments before they were taken by investigators.

Charred, mangled wires and an ashy airframe the size of a large snow tire was all that remained of the weapon, which can carry either conventional or nuclear warheads.

"It should be noted that this is the first time that the remains of such a missile have been discovered on the territory of Ukraine," said an expert with Ukraine's Security Service, who identified himself only by his first name Oleh because he wasn't authorized to discuss the issue with the media.

ISRAEL

# Rabbi who went missing found dead, three arrested

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL Israel said Sunday the body of an Israeli-Moldovan rabbi who went missing in the United Arab Emirates has been found after he was killed in what it described as a "heinous antisemitic terror incident."

The UAE's Interior Ministry later said authorities arrested three suspects involved in the killing of Zvi Kogan.

The statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel "will act with all means to seek justice with the criminals responsible for his death."

Israeli authorities did not say how they determined the killing of Kogan was a terror attack.

Kogan, 28, an ultra-Orthodox rabbi who went missing on Thursday, ran a kosher grocery store in the futuristic city of Dubai, where Israelis have flocked for commerce and tourism since the two countries forged diplomatic ties in the 2020 Abraham Accords.

The agreement has held through more than a year of soaring regional tensions unleashed by Hamas's Oct. 7, 2023, attack into southern Israel. But Israel's devastating retaliatory offensive in Gaza and its invasion of Lebanon, after months of fighting with the Hezbollah militant group, have stoked anger among Emiratis, Arab nationals and others living in the UAE.

Iran, which supports Hamas and Hezbollah, has also been threatening to retaliate against Israel after a wave of airstrikes Israel carried out in October in response to an Iranian ballistic missile attack.

WORLD BRIEFS

POLAND

## Opposition chooses leader

Poland's conservative Law and Justice party, which is trying to regain its momentum after losing power last year, on Sunday chose historian Karol Nawrocki, 41, as its candidate for president ahead of next year's election. The decision caps a week-end in which the country's two largest parties announced their candidates in next May's election that will decide the successor to incumbent President Andrzej Duda, whose second and final term ends in August 2025.

ROMANIA

## Populist takes lead in election

A far-right populist took the lead in Romania's presidential election Sunday, electoral data showed, and will likely face leftist Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu in a runoff in two weeks, an outcome that rocked the country's political landscape. Calin Georgescu, who ran independently, led the polls with around 22 per cent of the vote, while Ciolacu of the Social Democratic Party, trailed at 20.6 per cent. Elena Lasconi of the Save Romania Union party stood at about 17.4 per cent and George Simion, the leader of the far-right Alliance for the Unity of Romanians took 14.3 per cent.

MEXICO

## Six shot to death in bar, 5 injured

Gunmen opened fire Sunday at a bar in southeast Mexico, killing six and injuring at least five others, according to local media reports. Public Safety Secretary Omar Garcia Harfuch said on X the shooting happened in Villahermosa and federal authorities are working with local officials to solve the crime.

STAR WIRE SERVICES



SPORTS

SCEPTRES, A14  
AUTO RACING, A15  
NFL WEEK 12, A16

MAPLE LEAFS



Maple Leafs goalie Joseph Woll gets a toe in the way of a point-blank chance by Utah's Michael Carcone on Sunday night at Scotiabank Arena.

A GAME OF INCHES

It's messy sometimes, but the short-handed Leafs are winning — hard to complain



ROSIE DIMANNO  
OPINION

No Auston Matthews for an eighth straight game.

Career-high 13-game pointless drought for Max Domi, now amongst the injury sidelined.

One goal in 17 games for hard-luck Nick Robertson after he led the squad in the pre-season with five.

All a-jumble in line combinations.

A team still adjusting to the north-south doctrine preached by Craig Berube: lots of dump-ins and chase the puck, a scarcity of rushing surges, once upon a time their signature style, showcasing speed and dazzling offensive talent. Stretch pass kiboshed. Drop pass mostly abolished.

Yet here the Maple Leafs are, rounding the quarter mark of the season atop the Atlantic Division standings, three points ahead of reigning Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers at puck drop on a rare Sunday evening game at Scotiabank Arena against the synthetically shape-shifted Utah Hockey Club — quasi expansion club but really the re-lo Arizona Coyotes. Who walked to the rink, by the way, giving up on a team bus gridlocked in uber-congested downtown Toronto traffic. Dead men walking toward a 3-2 defeat, turned out.

For the Leafs, spot-on actually where they were a year ago at this

juncture, but reinvented, net out, from the playoff gang that routinely trip-wired out of the post-season. Which is what this regenerated and rehabilitated outfit is all about, of course.

Definitely not as entertaining to watch, though, this iteration of the Leafs. Distinctly dim wattage across a lacklustre first period versus UHC, dreadfully 0-for-2 on the power play, the atmosphere churchlike as if the crowd was drifting off to sleep during the sermon and Utah up 1-0. From dozy to doozy though in the second, on a one-two goal punch by red-hot Mitch Marner and a flash of coast-to-coast brilliance from William Nylander.

Numbers seven and eight for Marner — 22 points in a 15-game span, first multi-goal game and 11th multi-point game of the season — as he and Nylander have co-shouldered the load in the absence of Matthews. First one a power-play goal on a breakaway. Second one ... still trying to figure out how Marner managed to score from the side of the next, 23 feet away and below the goal-line. Bent it like Beckham on a one-timer.

“We played a lot better straight-forward north,” Marner explained of their back-from-flat middle period. “As soon as we started doing that, we won a little bit more battles as well, and made quick plays off it and got rewarded for it.”

On his first goal, Chris Tanev pounced on a puck that had squirted loose and John Tavares headmanned it to Marner, who’d snuck



Leafs forward Mitch Marner scored twice in a second-period surge that erased a Utah lead.

behind the D. “Johnny turned up ice with his head up and free space in front of him. Just tried to read what I had in front of me. There was a big gap there, so just tried to find it and Johnny made a great pass.”

Berube’s restrained take on Marner: “Just business as usual. I think he can still shoot a little bit more.”

Not a group hug kind of guy.

From weird goal to wonderful on wind-shear speed by Nylander — forehand-backhand and beat Karel Vejmelka along the ice with his team-leading 14th goal. They failed, however, to make any scoring hay on a two-man advantage late in that second.

It nearly came back to bite Toronto on the arse as Utah pulled within a goal less than two minutes into the third, with Jack McBain deflecting a wrister past Joseph Woll on a puck that was otherwise going about three feet wide. Made for some manic waning minutes: Vejmelka twice pulled for the extra

attacker, Nylander just a tick late on an empty netter.

It was a disco ball of scoring highlights — three unanswered goals in the second — which injected buzz into what had been a deadhead affair. And maybe par for the course on a team that has scored more than four goals just three times across 21 games.

But losing with flair is still losing, so no kvetching from Leafland about how the Leafs have been doing it. In this particular case, with a decimated forward group and a clutch of call-up Marlies baby-faces. Included in that reconstituted roster: the debut of a Nylander twosome, Willie and brother Alex, fresh off signing a contract with the parent. They even got a bit of power-play time together. Thrilled a deux.

“I think William more than Alex, if that makes any sense,” observed teammate Morgan Rielly. “A really special thing for them and their family, and they’ve earned it. It’s not like you’re doing anything just for good karma.”

Bad karma has killed the Leafs, year after year.

Instant fan favourite Nikita Grebenkin put it in his endearingly fractured English: “Five guys go straight. Five guys go back. Five guys go fight. Five guys speak.”

Constant communication on the ice, he meant, himself included. “Maybe five years ago my English was zero. I use only hello and goodbye.”

Well hello honey.

BLUES SWITCH TO EX-BRUINS COACH

Drew Bannister is out as coach of the St. Louis Blues after less than a full year on the job. And Jim Montgomery is back behind the bench of an NHL team five days after he was fired by the Boston Bruins. The Blues fired Bannister on Sunday and hired Montgomery — the 23rd head coaching change in the NHL since January 2023.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maple Leafs 3

Utah HC 2

Next: Wed. at Panthers

RAPTORS

Cavaliers prove too much for defence

DOUG SMITH  
SPORTS REPORTER

There had been a marked improvement in the Raptors’ defence in a five-game span heading into Sunday.

They were still in the bottom third of the NBA on the season, but they’d been in the top 10 over the last 10 days.

They took a few steps backward in Cleveland.

Cavaliers 122

Raptors 108

Unable to sustain a few good stretches of high-energy defence, the Raptors suffered a 122-108 loss to the Cavaliers and fell to 4-13. Cleveland shot 50 per cent from the floor, went 16-for-41 from three-

point range and answered every Toronto defensive flurry with a spate of hot shooting.

There is no shame in losing to the Cavaliers; basically the entire NBA does these days.

With an imposing interior defensive duo of Jarrett Allen and Evan Mobley and an explosive offence engineered by Donovan Mitchell, Cleveland is a league-best 17-1 and unbeaten in 10 home games.

SEE RAPTORS, A17



Ty Jerome was trouble for the Raptors defence, exploding for 26 points in 28 minutes.

DAVID LIAM KYLE  
NBAE VIA  
GETTY IMAGES

TONIGHT

Pacers at Raptors  
7:30 p.m. (SN1)



# CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL (NOT THIS TIME)



South Carolina's Ashlyn Watkins guards UCLA's Janiah Barker on Sunday. UCLA handed South Carolina — which went unbeaten on the way to the NCAA title last season — its first loss since April 2023: 77-62 in Los Angeles. South Carolina will lose the No. 1 ranking on Monday.

ERIC THAYER  
THE ASSOCIATED  
PRESS

SCEPTRES

## Jackson is 'everybody's best friend'

Toronto's third-string goalie is an advocate for inclusion, hot dogs and the perfect mullet

KERRY GILLESPIE  
SPORTS REPORTER

When Kristen Campbell won the Professional Women's Hockey League goaltender of the year award, Carly (C.J.) Jackson, then Toronto's third-stringer, remembers exactly what happened.

She reached out to Jackson and backup goalie Erica Howe to say: "This is us. I just won it, but I wish you guys were here, you know. This is all of us."

That notably tight netminding trio from last season has, by necessity, undergone change. Howe — who is fighting breast cancer at age 32 years — has retired and Raygan Kirk, fresh out of the NCAA, has joined the Sceptres as a draft pick.

Even before training camp, Jackson had declared this would be a similarly great trio: "Kirkie is so solid and the energy she's giving off, she's just so happy to be here and excited to learn and that makes me excited."

On Jackson, Kirk said: "C.J. is just everybody's best friend."

The Amherst, N.S. goalie's approach to hockey and life has long made Jackson a favourite among teammates and fans alike.

Jackson, who prefers the pronoun they, is well known at the rink and beyond on social media for delighting in everything from mullets ("the perfect balance of masculinity and femininity") to hot dogs ("a small thing in life that brings me a



TORONTO SCEPTRES

Carly Jackson

lot of joy").

In Year 5 as a pro, having previously played with the Buffalo Beauts and Toronto Six in the Premier Hockey Federation, Jackson wants to fill a leadership role with Sceptres rookies.

Jackson recalled how impactful it was when Howe and former forward Jess Jones "made me feel like I belong" with the team. "How can I help people feel like they belong, too?"

Belonging and being comfortable — sometimes too comfortable — in one's skin are themes Jackson explored in the off-season with a foray into acting. Jackson was cast in "Pink Light," a short film by Harrison Browne, pro hockey's first publicly transgender player.

"After we did the first scene and then the second one, (Browne) comes up to me and goes, 'C.J., I know you're comfortable now, so you need to start acting because my character in this scene is supposed

to be really awkward, unsure of himself, feeling out of place and misgendered and all that kind of stuff. So, you need to act,'" Jackson recalled.

Jackson clicked with the film about "gender identity and feeling confident in who you are," and the culture on a movie set.

"People were so open with their emotions, their vulnerability, and that was cool to experience because I think you get there in a hockey season. But to jump right onto a set with a bunch of people you've never met before, and then for them to make you feel so safe and willing to go outside of your comfort zone so quickly, I was blown away."

Jackson, 27, started hockey at age nine and would sleep wearing full goalie gear. The path forward was cemented.

"Hockey has been a place where pretty consistently I've felt most like myself."

The biggest struggle has been coming to terms with the uncertainty of the professional game. Jackson has been on one-year contracts since playing NCAA hockey at the University of Maine.

"I love being a hockey player; it's one of the greatest joys of my life," Jackson said.

The threat of losing that used to cause "anxiety and fear," but Jackson has worked to replace those feelings with "love and gratitude" for the present.

"It's a been a much better mindset

for me, but developing that was really hard. Living through that was really hard."

Jackson was the primary goaltender in Buffalo for the 2021-22 season, but wanted the chance to chase a championship and moved into a backup role with the Toronto Six, who won the title in 2023.

Last season, Toronto topped the regular-season standings but faltered in the playoffs, losing in the first round to Minnesota, the eventual champion.

Last week in a training camp scrimmage, the Minnesota Frost again got the better of Toronto. It was the first PWWHL appearance for Jackson, who stopped all eight shots in the third period.

Toronto's goalie depth chart last season was well defined: Campbell, Howe, then Jackson.

Sceptres coach Troy Ryan said at the time that players embraced those roles while also pushing and supporting each other. "When you get that on a team, it just works better."

At this season's camp, Ryan said: "We're really excited about who we have in goal."

Whatever role Jackson plays, the plan of action is unchanged: "I totally see that if you do things with love and gratitude, great attitude and effort, good things are going to happen. And whether they do or not, to be honest, I take pride in doing it that way. That's where the joy comes from."

“Hockey has been a place where pretty consistently I've felt most like myself.”

CARLY (C.J.)  
JACKSON  
TORONTO  
SCEPTRES  
GOALIE

NCAA HOCKEY

## Opening door to CHLers could lead to more changes

ILYAS HUSSEIN  
STAFF REPORTER

The hockey landscape will see a seismic shift next season.

The NCAA recently voted to make Canadian Hockey League players eligible for the U.S. college game starting Aug. 1, 2025. It's a decision that will reshape the standard for juniors pursuing professional careers in North America, and coaches, general managers and agents can already see the benefits.

CHL players will be eligible for NCAA Division I if they are not "paid more than the actual and necessary expenses associated with their participation." Prospects in the CHL's three leagues — the OHL, QMJHL and WHL — have been classified as professional by the NCAA because they get \$600 a month for living expenses, losing Division I eligibility after 48 hours of training camp. The stipend isn't considered income for personal tax purposes.

Allan Walsh, co-managing director of Octagon Hockey and a sports

agent representing about 30 players across the CHL and NCAA, said the ruling was long overdue: "The concept of CHL players being classified as professionals never made any sense."

Six months ago, American goaltender Nick Avakyan, a Walsh client, sued the NCAA when he was deemed ineligible after three years in the Western Hockey League. In response, the NCAA said it would revisit the rule.

And in August, Canadian defenceman Rylan Masterson filed a proposed class-action lawsuit in a U.S. district court, alleging that the NCAA and several schools violated antitrust and anti-competitive laws by excluding him and other CHLers. Masterson played two pre-season games for the Ontario Hockey League's Windsor Spitfires in 2022 and hasn't appeared in a CHL game since, but was ruled ineligible.

The Division I council launched a review of eligibility rules in June, spurred in part by the fact that NCAA student-athletes them-

selves have been earning income from name, image, and likeness (NIL) rights since 2021.

Brandon Naurato, head coach of the University of Michigan Wolverines men's hockey team, says the ruling on CHL eligibility will benefit players the most.

"They can have the best of both worlds," Naurato said about 15- and 16-year-olds who will no longer have to choose between the CHL or another league that would leave the NCAA open as an option when they're older.

But more change is needed. As it stands, NHL teams that draft CHL players retain their rights for two years. If they haven't signed a contract by then, they can re-enter the draft.

For NCAA picks, it's four years. And if they remain unsigned, they become free agents.

NHL players and owners are expected to begin talks toward a new collective agreement early next year, and this issue is likely to be on the agenda.

"It should probably be four years

across the board," Naurato said.

Simon Gagné, a former NHL all-star and now general manager of the QMJHL's Quebec Remparts, shares Naurato's interest in the NHL rights question and expects major benefits for major junior leagues across Canada when losing NCAA eligibility is no longer a concern.

"I think it's going to give us a chance to have better players in all of our leagues," Gagné said. "There are more positives than negatives."

The full impact of structural change can be hard to predict. Walsh expects NCAA and CHL representatives to meet in the new year and iron out a formal structure for players who want to make the switch to Division I.

"Without any understanding, it will only take one or two rogues to come in and upset the system, which will not bode well for players," he said.

"We're going to need to get people in a room to talk about all of the issues that will be thrown off from this new reality."



Previously prospects in the CHL's three leagues had been classified as professional by the NCAA



AUTO RACING

# Verstappen makes it four titles in a row

Fifth in Las Vegas settles season race with two to spare

JENNA FRYER

LAS VEGAS Asked how he planned to celebrate his fourth consecutive Formula One championship, Max Verstappen did a quick scan of the room searching for a drop of alcohol.

“Well, I ran out of beer, so I don’t know,” he said. “Maybe another one, and then maybe I switch to something else. I don’t need to drive anymore, so we don’t do the drink and drive. I don’t need to do that.”

Actually, Verstappen can do pretty much anything he wants after finishing fifth in the Las Vegas Grand Prix to beat Lando Norris for the title with two races remaining.

The Red Bull driver is now a king of Las Vegas, one year after he arrived in Sin City extremely negative about the extravagant race on the famed Strip. He won and completely changed his tune last November, even singing “Viva Las Vegas” as he crossed the finish line.

Early Sunday, he used the street circuit — where 306,000 fans turned out over three days of racing — to become only the sixth driver in F1 history to win at least four titles. Verstappen needed only to finish ahead of Norris to win the title. He started fifth, but was up to second by the 10th lap and Norris never challenged.

Verstappen is 63 points up on Norris and a four-time series champion. His father Jos was once teammates with Michael Schumacher, one of the best in F1 history. But despite being surrounded by greatness, Verstappen insisted he never expected his own career to be so successful.

“When you’re growing up racing some legendary drivers, it’s very impressive that I can even be on the podium, whenever it is,” he said. “Maybe win a championship? It’s already hard enough to win one, and then of course, you also need a bit of luck to be in the right team situation to maybe win more. Luckily, we did that.”

The team celebrated as soon as the race ended.

“That is a phenomenal, phenomenal achievement,” team principal Christian Horner said on the radio. “You can be incredibly proud of yourself.”

Verstappen sounded unusually emotional: “Oh my God, what a season. Four times. Thank you, thank you guys. We gave it all.”

The race was won by George Russell, followed by Lewis Hamilton for the first one-two finish by Mercedes drivers since 2022. Hamilton roared from 10th on the grid.

The duo crossed the finish line under a checkered flag waved by actor Sylvester Stallone.

Carlos Sainz Jr. finished third for Ferrari, and the constructor championship remains a tight battle between leader McLaren and Ferrari. Teammate Charles Leclerc was fourth. Red Bull won that title — worth roughly \$150 million (U.S.) the last two seasons, but has slipped to third this season.

Verstappen held off Norris in a season where the McLaren driver had pushed him harder than he’d been challenged since Verstappen’s first title in 2021.

“Max deserved to win it. He drove a better season than I did, he deserved it more than anyone else,” Norris said.

“Max just doesn’t have a weakness. When he’s got the best car, he dominates and when he’s not got the best car, he’s still just there always.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A 63-point lead ensures Max Verstappen will be Formula One champion.

GOLF

# Big finish earns big prize

Thitikul takes Tour Championship and record \$4M with closing flurry

TIM REYNOLDS

NAPLES, FLA. Down by two shots with two holes to play, Jeeno Thitikul knew exactly what was needed to capture the biggest prize in women’s golf history.

And an eagle-birdie finish — for the second straight day — made it happen.

Thitikul claimed the record-setting, \$4-million (U.S.) cheque by winning the CME Group Tour Championship on Sunday. The payout was bigger than the winner’s share from three of this year’s four major men’s championships.

“Today, standing here with the trophy, it’s more than I can ask for,” Thitikul said.

The 21-year-old Thai golfer shot 7-under-par 65 and finished the weekend at 22 under, one shot ahead of Angel Yin — who had a two-shot lead walking to the 17th tee but wound up second, worth \$1 million. Yin, who missed the start of the season with a broken leg, hardly sounded defeated after more than doubling her 2024 earnings in four days.

“I’m pretty awesome,” Yin said.

Olympic gold medalist Lydia Ko shot 63 and finished third at 17 under, including nine birdies in a 13-hole span. Brooke Henderson of Smiths Falls, Ont. carded a 66 on the final day and tied for eighth at 13 under.

Ruoning Yin wound up alone in fourth at 16 under, and LPGA player of the year Nelly Korda finished at 15 under, along with Narin An.

Ayaka Furue, at 13 under, locked up the Vare Trophy as the LPGA’s season-long scoring champion.

“I feel very happy to have this trophy in my hands,” said Furue, the first Japanese golfer to win it.

The title chase came down to the 18th hole, with Thitikul and Yin tied at 21 under after a back-and-forth battle atop the leaderboard — knowing a mistake could cost them



Jeeno Thitikul shot a 7-under-par 65 on Sunday in Naples, Fla.

Both hit the fairway on 18. Thitikul’s approach was nearly perfect, stopping about five feet from the cup. Yin’s response wound up 15 feet away, giving Thitikul the edge as they walked up the fairway. She smiled broadly approaching the green, almost as if she knew what was about to happen.

Yin’s birdie putt just missed; Thitikul’s was dead centre, and history was hers.

Plans for all that cash?

Jeeno Thitikul shot a 7-under-par 65 on Sunday in Naples, Fla.

SCOTT TAETSCH GETTY IMAGES

SPORTS BRIEFS

TENNIS

## Sinner seals Cup repeat

No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner clinched a second consecutive Davis Cup for Italy, and capped a breakthrough season, by beating Tallon Griekspoor 7-6 (2), 6-2 for a 2-0 win over the Netherlands in Sunday’s final in Málaga, Spain. Matteo Berrettini had put Italy ahead with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Botic van de Zandschulp — the last man to beat Rafael Nadal before retirement — in the opening singles. The Italians, backed by a loud contingent of fans playing drums and armed with megaphones in the crowd of 9,200, became the first repeat champion since the Czech Republic in 2012 and 2013.

SOCCER

## Salah, Liverpool pulling away

Liverpool increased its Premier League lead to eight points — the largest margin after 12 rounds in more than 30 years — with a 3-2 win over Southampton, including a pair of second-half goals by Mohamed Salah. With 10 goals on the season, Salah is second only to Manchester City’s Erling Haaland, with 12. Elsewhere, Marcus Rashford scored 81 seconds in, but Manchester United was held to a 1-1 tie at Ipswich in Ruben Amorim’s debut as manager. United is in 12th place, 15 points out of top spot.

## MLS East final matchup set

Orlando City advanced to the MLS Eastern final with a 1-0 home victory over Atlanta United. Seeded fourth, Orlando City will host the No. 7 New York Red Bulls, who eliminated New York City FC, next Saturday with a trip to the Dec. 7 MLS final on the line.



## McNealy ends drought in style

From the 18th fairway at the RSM Classic, part of a four-way tie for the lead, Maverick McNealy hit to within five feet and made a birdie putt for his first PGA Tour victory after 134 starts. The win earned McNealy, who shot 16-under-par 266, a spot in next year’s Tournament of Champions in Maui and April’s Masters. Daniel Berger missed a 20-foot birdie attempt on the 18th and tied for second, but moved inside the season’s top 125 and kept full tour privileges for 2025. Canadian Mackenzie Hughes tied for fifth at 14 under.

CRICKET

## Auction record hits \$3.2 million

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant became the most expensive player in Indian Premier League history when he was sold to Lucknow Super Giants for \$3.2 million (U.S.) in cricket’s mega auction, which ends Monday in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Liverpool’s Mohamed Salah, battling for possession with Southampton’s Jack Stephens, scored a pair in Sunday’s Premier League victory.

SEAN RYAN THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OBITUARY RICO CARTY

## Batting champ ended career with Blue Jays

Rico Carty, who won the 1970 National League batting title with a major league-best .366 average for the Atlanta Braves, died at age 85. Major League Baseball, the players’ association and the Braves paid tribute to Carty on social media on Sunday. No further details were provided.

“Carty was one of the first groundbreaking Latino stars in the major leagues, and he established himself as a hero to millions in his native Dominican Republic, his hometown of San Pedro de Macoris, and the city of Atlanta, where he was a beloved fan favourite,” the players’ association said in a statement.

Nicknamed Beeg Mon, Carty finished his 15-year playing career with the Blue Jays. He made his debut with Atlanta in September 1963. He batted .330 with 22 homers and 88 RBIs in his first full season in 1964 and finished second to Dick Allen for rookie of the year.

The Braves moved from Milwaukee to Atlanta after the 1965 season, and Carty had the franchise’s first hit in its new home against Pittsburgh on April 12, 1966.

His best year was 1970, batting .366 with 25 homers and a career-best 101 RBIs. He also started the all-star game, joining Willie Mays and Hank Aaron in the NL outfield. Carty hit .299 with 204 homers and 890 RBIs with six teams and retired after the 1979 season, his second with Toronto.



Rico Carty retired as a Jay in 1979.



WEEK 12

After a botched point after in the dying seconds, the Commanders and their stunned fans saw the Cowboys return the ensuing onside kick for a game-clinching score



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After a 86-yard touchdown play gave Washington a chance to tie, Austin Seibert missed the convert (for the second time in the game) wide left with 21 seconds to go in Sunday's 34-26 loss to Dallas. The Commanders attempted an onside kick, which Cowboy Juanyeh Thomas took to the house for the final margin.

Mahomes does it again

Chiefs QB delivers win with drive in final seconds

STEVE REED

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Ten yards into a scramble, Patrick Mahomes could have easily slid for a first down or simply ducked out of bounds and moved on to the next play.

Instead, the three-time Super Bowl MVP cut back inside and raced another 23 yards up the field, helping to set up Spencer Schradler's 31-yard field goal as time expired and the Chiefs held on to beat the Carolina Panthers 30-27 on Sunday.

"At that point, yards are more important than getting out of bounds," Mahomes said. "With three timeouts, I just tried to just cut through, and Justin Watson had a great block and was able to get down the field and get out of bounds."

The game-winning drive was the

Chiefs30

Panthers27

21st of Mahomes' career, and the Chiefs won a game decided in the final seconds for the fifth time this season. Eight of the Chiefs' wins have come by one-score margins.

"You always want to have some blowouts and be a little calmer in the fourth quarter, but I've always said it could be a good thing when you get to the playoffs later in the season — knowing that you have been in those moments before, and knowing how to attack it play by play, not making it too big of a moment," Mahomes said.

Then he smiled and added: "But I would say this, more than anybody, I would love to win a game not by the very last play."



GRANT HALVERSON TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Ja'Tavion Sanders of the Panthers — who landed awkwardly after a catch, tackled by Drue Tranquill of the Chiefs — was taken to hospital, where he was evaluated for a neck injury and released

Mahomes completed 27 of 37 passes for 269 yards and three touchdowns in his first game at Bank of America Stadium and ran for 60 yards — including 33 on that last-minute play. The Chiefs scored on six of their eight possessions and improved to 10-1.

Noah Gray caught four passes for 66 yards and scored two touchdowns for the second straight week, and DeAndre Hopkins also found the end zone for the two-time defending champions. Kareem Hunt ran for 68 yards on 16 carries and caught three passes for 19 yards.

Quarterback Bryce Young played well for Carolina, finishing 21 of 35 for 262 yards and a touchdown and leading the Panthers back from an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter to tie the game — on Chuba Hubbard's one-yard touchdown run and two-point conversion with 1:46 remaining.

Panthers coach Dave Canales, who benched Young earlier this season for veteran Andy Dalton, said last year's No. 1 draft pick "absolutely"

will remain the team's starter next week.

"Bryce is certainly making the most of his opportunities," Canales said. "And he is making a statement to all of us. Showing us he can make plays in critical areas. He did a great job extending today."

Said Young: "For me, I just want to focus on what I can control. Regardless, I always have the same mindset and preparation, wanting to be better throughout the week. I am definitely grateful for confidence."

Still, there is room for improvement.

The Panthers moved the ball well, but struggled in the red zone resulting in field goals of 30, 32, 29 and 33 yards by Eddy Pineiro, the most accurate kicker in NFL history.

Kansas City's Travis Kelce finished with six catches for 62 yards and moved into third place on the NFL career list for receiving yards by a tight end, behind Tony Gonzalez and Jason Witten.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUNDAY YARDAGE LEADERS

PASSING

340

Caleb Williams, Bears

330

Sam Darnold, Vikings

RUSHING

119

Tony Pollard, Titans

106

Aaron Jones, Vikings

RECEIVING

162

Jordan Addison, Vikings

144

Jaylen Waddle, Dolphins

NOT INCLUDING LATE GAME

SCAN THIS CODE FOR MORE OF THE STAR'S NFL COVERAGE



NFL ROUNDUP

Buccaneers 30  
Giants 7

Tampa Bay quarterback Baker Mayfield embarrassed the woeful Giants with his arm and legs at East Rutherford, N.J. If that wasn't enough, he rubbed it in by mimicking New York fan favourite Tommy DeVito's celebratory dance after scoring a touchdown. "Tribute to Tommy," said a straight-faced Mayfield, who catapulted into the end zone on a spectacular 10-yard scramble for one of Tampa Bay's four rushing majors. The Buccaneers beat the Giants with new starting quarterback DeVito to snap a four-game losing skid and extend New York's to six.

Lions 24  
Colts 6

Jahmyr Gibbs rushed for two scores and David Montgomery added a third touchdown run, leading Detroit to a road win over Indianapolis. Gibbs finished with 21 carries for 90 yards and the Lions improved to 10-1, the best start in franchise history, by extending their league-high win streak to nine.

Dolphins 34  
Patriots 15

Tua Tagovailoa threw for 317 yards and four touchdowns, including two to running back De'Von Achane, and Miami routed visiting New England. The 5-6 Dolphins have a thin margin for error, but remain afloat with a three-game win streak. Tagovailoa, 7-0 against New England, entered the game with a league-high 73.4 per cent completion rate and went 29 for 40.

Titans 32  
Texans 27

Will Levis threw for 278 yards, and his 70-yard touchdown pass to Chig Okonkwo put Tennessee on top in the fourth quarter against Houston. The Texans had a chance to tie it with less than two minutes remaining, but Ka'imi Fairbairn's 28-yard field-goal attempt sailed wide left.

Broncos 29  
Raiders 19

Bo Nix passed for 273 yards and two touchdowns — bringing his total to 15, breaking the franchise rookie record set by Marlin Briscoe in 1968 — and Denver beat the reeling Raiders on the road for the first time since 2015. Las Vegas has lost seven in a row.

Vikings 30  
Bears 27 (OT)

Sam Darnold threw for 90 of his 330 yards in overtime to set up Parker Romo's game-ending 29-yard field goal, and Minnesota won in Chicago despite giving up 11 points in the final 22 seconds of regulation. Cairo Santos made a 48-yard field goal as time expired to force overtime. Caleb Williams threw for 340 yards and two touchdowns for the Bears, who have lost five straight.

STAR WIRE SERVICES

Manning can relate to Harbaugh's dilemma

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL SEGUNDO, CALIF. Archie Manning can empathize with what Jack Harbaugh will be going through again on Monday night.

For the first time in 11 years, the 85-year-old patriarch of the Harbaugh family has to be a neutral observer with Jim's Los Angeles Chargers hosting John's Baltimore Ravens in the third matchup between the coaching brothers.

Manning, more than anyone, knows the attention and conflicting emotions. He went through it three

times when his sons faced off: quarterbacks Peyton and Eli Manning. Peyton won all three meetings with Eli's New York Giants — with the Indianapolis Colts in 2006 and 2010, then the Denver Broncos in 2013.

At least Manning and wife Olivia had something to root for during those games: the offences their sons were leading. Jack and Jackie Harbaugh can't since the head coaches are responsible for all aspects.

"The first thing is, you're proud because it is pretty unique. The second thing is, you don't like it," Ar-

chie Manning said in a recent telephone interview. "You're proud that both are in the National Football League, but you just assume it wouldn't happen. It wasn't fun. I guess we were lucky it happened only three times. Heck, they could have been in the same division and done it 20 times."

Jack Harbaugh, who didn't do interviews this past week, and wife Jackie will be watching from a distance on Monday. They will be at daughter Joanie's house in Florida Thanksgiving, and to celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary.







A18

WEATHER

TODAY'S FORECAST:

High: 6

Low: 5

P.O.P: 30%

Mix, sun and clouds.

Wind: E, 21kmh

Feels Like: 2

Sunlight Hours: 3

Feels Like: 2

P.O.P: Probability of Precipitation

Air Quality

Toronto downtown today

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

3

Good Mod. V. Poor Hazard

Barrie	2	Hamilton	3	Mississauga	3
Brampton	3	Kitchener	2	Newmarket	2
Burlington	2	Niagara Falls	2	Oakville	2
Guelph	2	St. Catharines	2	Oshawa	2

UV Index

Toronto downtown peak today

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

1

Low Mod. High V. High Extreme

Barrie	1	Hamilton	1	Mississauga	1
Brampton	1	Kitchener	1	Newmarket	1
Burlington	1	Niagara Falls	1	Oakville	1
Guelph	1	St. Catharines	1	Oshawa	1

Barometer

Toronto downtown today

CHANGING...CLEARING...

STEADY: NO CHANGE

Pressure [kpa]:	101.4
Humidity [%]:	81

Barometer is **RIISING** compared to yesterday.

Local Almanac

Temperature Trend

Today is about AVERAGE.

Today's Average [°C]: 5

Expected [at 3pm ET]: 6

Difference: +1

Precipitation

November

Normal, Month [mm]: 65

Current: 33.5

Difference: -31.5

Percent of Normal: 52%

Moon and Sun

Today

Timing

Percent

Lunar

New

Dec 1

100%

Full

Dec 16

Sunrise: 7:23am

Sunset: 4:46pm

Moonrise: 1:46am

Moonset: 2:05pm

LOCAL FIVE-DAY FORECAST:

Tomorrow

7 2

P.O.P: 60%

Cloudy, showers.

Wind: W, 33kmh

Feels Like: 3

Sunlight Hours: 2

Wednesday

4 2

P.O.P: 30%

Cloudy, sunny breaks.

Wind: W, 20kmh

Feels Like: 2

Sunlight Hours: 2

Thursday

4 0

P.O.P: 40%

Mainly cloudy.

Wind: NE, 17kmh

Feels Like: 0

Sunlight Hours: 1

Friday

3 0

P.O.P: 40%

Mixed precipitation.

Wind: W, 21kmh

Feels Like: -1

Sunlight Hours: 1

Saturday

1 -2

P.O.P: 30%

Mix, sun and clouds.

Wind: W, 29kmh

Feels Like: -5

Sunlight Hours: 4

www.theweathernetwork.com

ONTARIO TODAY

SUBURBY

1/-2/PC

PARIS SOUND

3/0/PC

HUNTSVILLE

4/-1/PC

GRANDVIEW

3/0/PC

BARRE

3/1/PC

PETERBOROUGH

4/0/PC

OTTAWA

4/-3/5

COLLINGSWOOD

4/2/PC

KINCARDINE

5/3/PC

BRAMPTON

5/3/PC

TORONTO

6/5/PC

ST. CATHARINES

8/5/PC

NIAGARA FALLS

7/5/PC

WINDSOR

10/4/SH

SAWNA

9/4/SH

WINDSOR

10/4/SH

LEGEND:

C - Cloudy, FG - Fog, FR - Freezing Rain, HZ - Hazy, PC - Partly Cloudy, R - Rain, RS - Rain/Snow, S - Sunny, SF - Snowflurries, SH - Showers, SN - Snow, T - Thunder, W - Wind

TWO-DAY FORECASTS

Ontario

TODAY

TOMORROW

Canada

TODAY

TOMORROW

Bancroft	4/-3	S	3/-2	SN	Barrie	-3/-10	PC	-4/-12	PC
Barrie	3/1	PC	4/0	RS	Calgary	-13/-19	C	-5/-15	S
Bracebridge	3/-1	PC	3/-1	RS	Charlottetown	5/4	R	7/3	PC
Brantford	6/4	SH	6/-2	SH	Churchill	-9/-15	C	-13/-15	S
Camwall	5/-2	S	7/1	RS	Edmonton	-15/-18	PC	-12/-14	PC
Dryden	0/-6	SN	-4/-6	SN	Fredericton	8/1	PC	8/3	C
Goderich	7/5	SH	6/2	R	Goose Bay	4/0	C	2/-2	PC
Hamilton	6/4	C	6/-2	SH	Halifax	7/4	C	9/6	PC
Huntsville	4/-1	PC	2/-2	SN	Iqaluit	-9/-22	RS	-17/-21	S
Kenora	-3/-6	SN	-3/-7	PC	Kamloops	1/-6	PC	-1/-5	PC
Kingston	4/2	S	9/2	R	Kelowna	3/0	SN	3/-3	PC
Kitchener	5/3	RS	5/-2	SH	Moncton	6/4	SH	8/3	C
London	8/5	R	5/-3	PC	Montreal	5/-2	S	6/1	RS
Niagara Falls	7/5	PC	7/-1	SH	Prince George	-13/-17	S	-12/-16	S
North Bay	2/-2	PC	1/-4	SN	Quebec	6/0	PC	4/1	R
Ottawa	4/-3	S	4/-1	SN	Regina	-15/-19	PC	-14/-16	SN
Owen Sound	4/2	PC	4/2	R	Saint John	8/3	PC	7/4	PC
Parry Sound	3/0	PC	4/-1	RS	St John's	6/4	SH	6/3	SH
Pembroke	4/-3	PC	4/-2	SN	Saskatoon	-17/-22	PC	-17/-17	PC
Peterborough	4/0	PC	6/0	RS	Vancouver	6/3	SH	6/3	PC
Sudbury	1/-2	PC	2/-5	PC	Victoria	7/5	SH	7/5	PC
Sault Ste Marie	1/2	SN	4/-1	RS	Whistler	0/-6	PC	0/-6	PC
Thunder Bay	1/-3	SN	0/-7	SN	Whitehorse	-14/-14	SN	-8/-13	SN
Timmins	0/-3	SN	0/-4	SN	Winnipeg	-5/-8	PC	-5/-9	PC
Trenton	4/1	S	7/1	SH	Yarmouth	7/3	PC	7/6	PC
Windsor	10/4	SH	5/-1	PC	Yellowknife	-8/-9	C	-9/-21	SN

NORTH AMERICA TODAY

WINDSOR

14/14/SH

YELLOWKNIFE

8/-9/C

ICELAND

9/-22/RS

ST. JOHN'S

6/4/SH

OTTAWA

4/-3/5

HAMILTON

6/4/C

NIAGARA FALLS

7/5/PC

WINDSOR

10/4/SH

SAWNA

9/4/SH

WINDSOR

10/4/SH

LEGEND:

C - Cloudy, FG - Fog, FR - Freezing Rain, HZ - Hazy, PC - Partly Cloudy, R - Rain, RS - Rain/Snow, S - Sunny, SF - Snowflurries, SH - Showers, SN - Snow, T - Thunder, W - Wind

U. S. A

TODAY

TOMORROW

Anchorage	2/-6	SN	-5/-12	C
Aspen	3/-6	SN	4/-3	RS
Atlanta	20/14	PC	18/3	PC
Atlantic City	11/10	S	14/5	PC
Baltimore	16/9	S	17/5	SH
Boston	9/0	S	12/2	R
Chicago	11/-2	R	2/-1	S
Dallas	20/6	PC	16/2	S
Honolulu	29/21	SH	28/21	SH
Houston	29/15	S	22/17	S
Las Vegas	15/11	SH	20/12	S
Los Angeles	19/14	R	17/14	R
Miami	27/19	S	26/18	S
Myrtle Beach	21/13	S	23/9	SH
New Orleans	24/19	PC	21/18	R
New York	11/5	S	14/4	R
Orlando	26/13	S	27/14	R
Palm Springs	24/13	S	27/15	S
Philadelphia	12/9	S	14/3	SH
Pittsburgh	10/6	SH	6/-1	PC
Salt Lake City	7/4	PC	7/0	R
San Francisco	12/11	R	12/8	C
Saint Louis	15/0	C	7/5	PC
Tampa	25/16	S	26/16	S
Washington	17/10	S	18/4	S

Caribbean & Latin America

TODAY

TOMORROW

Acapulco	28/24	S	28/25	S
Bermuda	22/20	S	21/21	SH
Belize City	27/23	SH	29/21	S
Bogota	21/9	SH	21/10	SH
Bridgetown	30/26	SH	30/27	T
Buenos Aires	26/22	SH	25/20	PC
Cancun	27/23	S	26/23	SH
Caracas	26/18	R	27/19	T
Havana	27/23	SH	27/24	SH
Kingston	31/26	T	30/26	T
Mexico City	23/4	S	23/5	S
Nassau	25/24	SH	26/25	S
Puerto Plata	28/24	R	29/23	PC
Rio de Janeiro	26/19	S	29/22	S
Santiago	27/13	S	27/12	S

Europe

TODAY

TOMORROW

Amsterdam	14/8	R	9/5	SH
Athens	15/7	S	14/7	S
Belfast	9/3	S	8/2	S
Belgrade	10/1	PC	12/3	S
Berlin	13/9	PC	11/4	PC
Brussels	16/6	R	9/6	SH
Budapest	7/3	PC	6/1	PC
Copenhagen	12/8	C	9/6	PC
Dublin	9/3	S	7/0	S
Frankfurt	13/7	PC	9/2	SH
Geneva	13/5	PC	10/4	PC
Glasgow	8/5	R	8/-1	SH
Helsinki	9/8	SH	8/5	R
Kyiv	0/-5	S	0/-4	S
Lisbon	18/11	S	16/9	PC
London	12/6	S	9/6	S
Madrid	14/7	SH	12/5	C
Moscow	-3/-4	PC	0/-6	PC
Oslo	7/4	SH	5/2	PC
Paris	17/5	R	10/8	SH
Prague	8/2	S	9/2	SH
Rome	15/12	SH	19/13	PC
Stockholm	11/6	SH	8/2	PC
Vienna	9/2	S	8/2	PC
Warsaw	9/3	S	8/3	SH

Asia-Pacific

TODAY

TOMORROW

Auckland	20/16	C	22/16	PC
Bangkok	33/26	SH	34/26	SH
Beijing	7/-2	SH	3/-4	S
Hong Kong	22/17	SH	22/15	SH
Jakarta	33/26	T	33/26	T
Karachi	30/22	S	30/24	S
Manila	33/27	SH	33/27	SH
Mumbai	30/22	PC	30/22	PC
New Delhi	27/16	S	26/15	S
Seoul	14/9	PC	10/10	SH
Singapore	30/25	R	30/24	T
Sydney	26/22	PC	31/21	PC
Tokyo	13/7	S	15/13	PC

Africa - Middle East

TODAY

TOMORROW

Amman	11/4	PC	12/4	S
Ankara	0/-2	SN	0/-5	SN
Baghdad	33/12	S	24/17	SH
Beirut	15/11	SH	16/12	SH
Cairo	20/12	PC	20/11	S
Dakar	30/17	S	28/15	S
Harare	28/18	PC	28/18	R
Jerusalem	10/6	SH	10/5	S
Johannesburg	28/17	PC	29/18	S
Nairobi	23/16	R	23/16	R
Riyadh	29/20	S	28/20	S

# My boyfriend is sexy, except when he drinks

LISI  
TESHER  
ADVICE

My boyfriend is the sexiest guy I know. He wakes up with a twinkle in his eye that makes you want to be close with him. He's fun and funny, and when he shines his light on you, the rest of the world just disappears.

He makes me feel so special all the time and I know he loves me. His one downfall is that when he drinks more than one or two drinks, depending on the drink, he snores like a bulldozer and farts in his sleep.

Well, you can imagine those nights are far from sexy. But, of course, with some alcohol in him, he wants to get intimate. I refuse on those nights, and he gets angry. Luckily, he falls asleep so it's a short-lived argument.

But in the morning, there's lots of apologizing, rehashing and explaining (on both sides). I'm over the aftermath. Can we just skip that middle section?

**No Shore-play**  
The best way to deal with this is to discuss it before it happens again. He knows what he does because he apologizes. He also knows why you get upset. Make a plan that on the nights he wants to drink, he'll sleep on the couch, alone. It's not a punishment or a reflection on your love; it's about compromise and respect.

I've been with a great guy for two years. I know he loves me and wants to spend the rest of his life with me. I get on well with his family, who also love me. Everyone asks when we'll get married. We're both older (I'm 40 and he's 53) and we've both been unhappily married once before. For the first time, he's with someone who makes him want to have a family.

I've had some bad relationships in the past and dealt with infidelity and gaslighting. I've worked hard to trust people, and I try my best to be open-minded and kind.

About 15 years ago, in my partner's last relationship, he cheated. Once caught, he and his "friend" discontinued communication until a few years ago when his marriage

was ending. He reached out to apologize for not responding to her request for a professional reference.

I honestly feel the affair was justified, as he was in a sexless relationship. He recounted to me how unattractive and unloved he felt during the end of that relationship. I get it.

This "friend" occasionally has sent bizarre and childlike, but overall friendly and innocuous mail to his work office.

I don't have issue with the content of the mail (crayon drawings and hastily scrawled messages) or that she sends this mail once a year. No new mail has arrived in two years, but am I justified in asking that my partner request she send it to our house rather than the office?

**Not The Ex-wife**  
I understand why you wouldn't want the mail to go to his office (totally inappropriate and unprofessional), but why would you want their correspondence to continue at all? They met when he was unhappy, she appeased him, he got caught, and his marriage dissolved. Why bring her back into the picture?

I strongly suggest you ask your partner if he would consider ending their relationship completely.

If he refuses, calmly continue the conversation and determine what he hopes to get out of that relationship. Hopefully, he can see from your POV why it would be better for him to end it and focus on your healthy relationship.

**Feedback** Regarding the miserable man (Sept. 25):

**Reader 1** "Continue to investigate the tinnitus. My cousin developed persistent tinnitus that turned out to be a brain tumour behind his ear; it was not cancerous, but it was removed and solved the issue."

**Reader 2** "Try low-level music. That gives the brain something more 'organized' to listen to, rather than the tinnitus. Works for me! And you're right, stressing about it is the very worst thing to do. We often don't like the changes we have to adapt to, but if there's nothing to be done about them, then acceptance is the best response."

LISI TESHER IS AN ADVICE COLUMNIST FOR THE STAR BASED IN TORONTO. SEND YOUR RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONS VIA EMAIL: LISI@THESTAR.CA.

## STARS

MECCA  
WOODS  
HOROSCOPES

The Mercury retrograde starts today. Over the course of the next three weeks, we can expect issues to arise concerning communication, commerce and tech. For those of us with plans to travel for the holiday season, we should take as many precautions as possible to deal with last-minute changes. Because the current cosmic weather emphasizes a need for camaraderie and connection, this is an ideal time to reconnect with people from the past or family and friends we've been missing.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)**  
Expect challenges with travel. Have a backup plan in place. Meanwhile, if you have an important decision to make, consider getting expert advice.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)**  
You may need to revise your financial goals. Take time to draft up a new strategy that enables you to reach them.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)**  
It's a great time to reconnect with your partner. The timing is also ideal for reaching out to a former client or someone you've collaborated with.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)**  
If you have household chores or a home-related project you haven't had time to do, you should be able to find the time now.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)**  
You might find a renewed interest in an old hobby or creative idea. If you're already working on a creative project, focus on edits and revisions.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)**  
If you haven't been feeling your best, take time out for your

self-care. Reinvest in your mental well-being.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)**  
Expect tech issues or issues with communication. Patience will be needed. Your natural charm can help diffuse a misunderstanding.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)**  
There could be problems with money or payments that could leave you feeling anxious. Do your best to sort it out.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)**  
Watch what you say now because your words can be easily misconstrued. Also, avoid rushing into decisions.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)**  
Sometimes it's best to let things happen in their own time rather than trying to force the outcome you want.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)**  
You might receive word from an old friend or feel inspired to reconnect with one. Community is good for the soul.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)**  
You may need to reassess your career plans or goals. If you hold a leadership role of any kind, consider how you can improve where needed.

**FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY**  
You're intelligent, insightful and idealistic. Learning will always be something you enjoy. You are unafraid to ask the big questions about life. You crave to understand as much as possible about yourself and the world at large. You're always on the search for meaningful experiences. A dull existence is not for you. You're always thinking about the next goal you want to reach or the next adventure you want to have. This year, your access to friendship and community will pave the path to your happiness and success.

**BIRTHDATE OF**  
Christina Applegate, actor;  
John Larroquette, actor;  
Stephanie Hsu, actor.



THEATRE

A song’s study

New docu-concert to explore Don McLean’s ‘American Pie’ B4

FILM

Beaver fever

How a slapstick movie about beavers became an indie hit B4



BUSINESS

SMART MONEY

FOILING THE FRAUDSTERS

Canadians are losing a staggering amount to fraud. Here’s how to protect yourself from becoming a victim this holiday season



HAYDEN GODFREY  
STAFF REPORTER

Jack Fitzpatrick knew something was up when he got a call from his 75-year-old mother asking him if he was in jail. His mother, who had recently purchased a flip phone after years of aversion to technology, told him that she’d received a call from someone claiming to be him; they sounded just like him and even referred to her using the nickname that Fitzpatrick has been calling her since he was a kid. She was told by the caller that she needed to send him \$6,000 via FedEx immediately to pay for a lawyer to bail him out. She needed to send the money to Quebec, which was especially curious seeing as she lives in a small town in northern New Brunswick and her son lives just outside Halifax.

Fitzpatrick knew right away that it was a scam, but the detail with which it was executed took him aback. “I’d like to think I’m pretty security-aware, but again, they had my voice and they had my mom’s name,” Fitzpatrick, 39, says, now a few months removed from the experience. Though he was able to stop her from sending anything to anyone, the fact that she could be targeted so specifically and convincingly was alarming. Falling for scams has never been easier. In 2022, Canadians lost more than \$58 million to spear phishing scams, which are a form of scam that target individuals with specific names, events or pieces of information, according to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre — in other words, highly personalized cyberattacks that can come via text message, email SEE FRAUD, B3

Mortgage up for renewal? Read on



DAVID ASTON  
OPINION

You’re probably aware that the Bank of Canada has been making a series of cuts in its “policy” interest rate to stimulate the sluggish Canadian economy. Expect those cuts to drive variable and short-term interest rates substantially lower in the next year for products like existing variable-rate mortgages. Just don’t count on big reductions in long-term rates from current levels, which affect products like new five-year fixed-rate mortgages. “Even though the Bank of Canada is cutting, that doesn’t mean long-term interest rates are going to come down,” says Douglas Porter, chief economist at BMO Financial Group. “I wouldn’t count on big declines in long-term yields from here.” To be sure, long-term rates have fallen a lot since October 2023. But while no one can predict future rates with certainty, there are reasons to think long-term rates may have bottomed and could end up a year from now not too far from current levels. That should temper expectations about the degree to which falling rates will provide further boosts to the economy and housing market.

**Variable versus long-term rates** Behind the divergence in variable versus long-term rate outlooks is the difference in how those rates are determined. The Bank of Canada policy rate strongly impacts the path of variable and short-term rates, but it has less influence over longer-term rates. Those are largely determined in the bond market and reflect additional factors. The policy rate is also known as the target overnight rate. It is the target rate set by the Bank of Canada for financial institutions borrowing and lending between themselves for one day. It strongly influences variable lending rates such as the “prime” rate, which in turn is generally used as a base rate for variable-mortgage rates. It also strongly influences rates for deposit products like high-interest savings accounts and term deposits with short maturities (especially SEE ASTON, B3

SHOPPING

Forget more ‘stuff.’ These holiday gifts are game-changers

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE  
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Plastic toys. Another gaming device. Candles. Socks. Chocolates. Instead of your usual approach to giving “stuff,” imagine you used your money to give game-changer gifts this holiday season. Here are a few ideas that have a big impact.

**Money for education** It could be for a Registered Educa-

tion Savings Plan (RESP). A newborn today is expected to pay more than \$100,000 for post-secondary education costs after high school. An RESP provides funds for those future costs. The added benefit of giving an RESP gift is that there is a 20 per cent government match of contributions through the Canada Education Savings Grant (up to a maximum match of \$500 annually). This makes your gift go even further!

You could also consider financial support for tuition and books. Though there’s not a government grant for this, it could make a huge difference for a student in your life. **Money toward a down payment** If your loved one is working hard to save up for their first home, money toward their First Home Savings Account could be a game changer. For most first-time buyers, it takes years to build up a down payment,

so you could repeat this strategy and make small contributions every year until they buy. This also lightens the financial burden for parents and grandparents who are often being asked for larger sums for down payment contributions. **Help fund a big goal** Is your family member or friend launching a business, starting a family, changing their career SEE GIFTS, B3

RAMON FERREIRA TORONTO STAR ILLUSTRATION USING DREAMTIME IMAGES



GTA HOME HUNT



REALTOR.CA PHOTOS

The airy living room has hardwood floors, a fireplace and a sizable front-facing window.

# Renovated East York bungalow has second-storey potential

At \$950,000, property is listed less than homes in similar neighbourhoods

ANASTASIA BLOSSER  
AND VANESSA TIBERIO  
STAFF REPORTERS

**Price** \$949,900  
**Neighbourhood** East-York  
**X-factor** This recently renovated detached bungalow at 9 O'Connor Drive, near Broadview Avenue, has two plus one bedrooms, two bathrooms and an open-concept finished basement.

Located in a prime neighbourhood, it could be turned into a two-story home if needed, according to Desmond Brown, a local real estate agent.

Having recently hit the market, the property is in a "prime East York neighbourhood with a lot of bungalows," said Brown.

The north-facing facade is marked by a red door, red brick, and beige upper panelling.

The main floor features hardwood flooring throughout the dining and living area and two bedrooms tucked down a short hallway. The primary bedroom has a walkout door connected to the backyard, while the second room can fit two single beds.

A white fireplace sits in the middle of the living room coupled with a sizable front-facing window. The house offers a galley kitchen layout with stainless steel appliances and a glass-tiled backsplash.

To descend to the basement, the house boasts a custom-built wooden vertebrae staircase. The versatile finished basement offers the potential for a third bedroom and has a fireplace in the main space. The basement also has a bathroom with a jetted tub and white-tiled shower.



The fully fenced backyard has a wooden deck and a hammock.

The fully fenced backyard features a wooden deck, a hammock and a natural gas line for barbecues. Brown says the East York area is in "a family-oriented, safe neighbourhood."

As for ideal buyers, listing agent Anushki Bodhinayake says this home "appeals to a wide range of people" from first-time homebuyers or those looking to downsize.

"I've had quite a few older people downsizing checking out this home. It's (also) a great home to upgrade to from a condo."

According to Bodhinayake, the home also has the potential to add a second storey above the main floor.

**Is it listed at its value?**

As for its price, Brown says the home is listed for less than bungalows typically go for in similar neighbourhoods.

"Bungalows in this market are



selling anywhere between \$1.1 to \$1.2 million," he said.

Bodhinayake says the house is listed using an "underpricing strategy."

"We're allowing the market to decide what it's worth. We've priced it within range, but we are anticipating it's going to go over," she said.

According to the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's monthly market watch report, the average price of a detached house in East York was \$1,314,923.

**The front facade has red brick, beige upper panelling, and a statement red door.**

ADVICE

## Looking for clarity on child support laws

LISA GELMAN  
FAMILY LAW COLUMNIST

**Q** I have a 14-year-old daughter and I haven't been in her life since she was a baby. She lives full time with her mom in Toronto and is in Grade 9. Her mom recently asked me to pay child support. I don't think I should have to since she is already 14 and I am not a part of her life. Can you please advise if I have to pay, and if so, for how long?

**A** The short answer is yes, you are legally obliged to pay child support to your daughter's mother.

Child support is the money that one parent pays to the other, to support children financially. Child support is the right of the child and doesn't depend on if you are in your child's life or not.

There are two categories of child support. The first is called table child support, which means paying for everyday expenses, such as food, clothing and making sure they have a roof over their heads.

Think of this first category as the financial fuel that keeps your child's life running smoothly. How do you

calculate the amount? In most cases, it's quite simple. It is strictly based on the payor's annual income. Once your income is established, it is a simple matter of looking up the amount payable in the child support guidelines table.

If your daughter spends more than 40 per cent of her time with you (which she does not), the child support you pay may be adjusted. To really simplify it, table child support covers all the basics to ensure your child's daily needs are met without any stress.

The second category of child support is what is referred to as special or extraordinary expenses. While table child support covers all of our child's daily needs, this category handles those extra, out-of-the-ordinary costs.

Some of these expenses are obvious, such as child care and post-secondary expenses. However, other expenses, such as special or extraordinary extracurriculars (such as elite hockey and gymnastics) are left for the parents to negotiate.

Also included in this category are unexpected medical bills, and those guitar lessons your child has been dying to take. Once it is determined

that the expense comes within the category of special or extraordinary expenses, each parent is typically required to contribute to these expenses in proportion to their income.

So for instance, if your daughter's elite hockey cost \$5,000 a year and your annual income is \$100,000 and the mother's annual income is \$125,000, you would pay 44.4 per cent of the cost (\$ 2,220) and mom would pay 55.6 per cent (\$2,780). Note, this is a general overview and with each case there may be factors that alter the amounts.

Payment of table child support and/or special or extraordinary expenses are generally payable as a minimum until a child reaches 18 and thereafter, if the child pursues a post-secondary education, until the certificate or degree is obtained. In some cases, child support might also be payable if the child pursues a second degree.

And there you have it — from the everyday essentials covered by table child support to the surprises of extraordinary expenses, it's all about making sure your child's needs are met with care and fairness.

LISA GELMAN IS A FAMILY LAWYER AND FOUNDER OF GELMAN & ASSOCIATES. SEND YOUR DIVORCE, SEPARATION, ADOPTION OR OTHER FAMILY LAW QUESTIONS TO: GELMAN@THESTAR.CA

IN YOUR CORNER  
OPINION

## Little-used RDSP is a financial life changer

SRIVINDHYA KOLLURU  
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

The number of Canadians with at least one disability has doubled in the past 10 years, according to Statistics Canada, and with it, the number of investment and tax tools to help disabled Canadians plan for the future has grown.

One such generous tool is the registered disability savings plan (RDSP), an account that remains largely untapped.

Established in 2008, the RDSP helps Canadians approved to receive the disability tax credit (DTC) plan for their long-term financial security through bonds, grants and government-matched contributions.

Despite being around for years, experts say the account remains underused. Statistics Canada found that just under 32 per cent of eligible Canadians (up to age 59) had an RDSP in 2020.

One problem, says Caval Olson-Lepage, a certified financial planner at Innovation Wealth in Saskatoon, Sask., is that there's just not enough awareness.

Canada's major financial institutions, including BMO, TD, CIBC, RBC and Scotiabank, all offer RDSPs.

The federal government offers two types of incentives for RDSPs: The Canada Disability Savings Grant (CDSG) encourages RDSP contributions through grants as a percentage of contributions; the Canada Disability Savings Bond (CDSB) is based on family net income.

The CDSG is a matching grant, so for every dollar contributed or every gift deposited into an RDSP, up to a maximum of \$3,500 a year, the amount is matched equally up to three times in government grants, says Selena Gusikoski, director of registered plans at Concentra Trust, an Equitable Bank company. The matching amount for a CDSG varies based on your family's net income. The maximum lifetime contribution limit is \$70,000.

"With tax-deferred growth, along with government grants and bonds up to \$90,000," says Gusikoski, "an RDSP is extremely advantageous and has the potential to change your life or that of someone you love."

There's a misconception that it's an arduous process to open an RDSP, pointed out Gisukoski, whose brother, Cody, has an account. "While we were aware of RDSPs, it was put off as a 'later' thing because it seemed complicated," says Gisukoski, whose family only realized the significant compounding benefit and how straightforward the process was after helping Cody open an account.

And like other registered savings accounts, there are rules.

According to the Government of Canada website, beneficiaries whose RDSP has been terminated or their plan ceases to be an RDSP must repay any bonds or grants made in the preceding 10 years in full. Regular withdrawals must begin by Dec. 31 of the year you turn 60. If you withdraw money before you are 60, you may need to pay back some of the grant and bond amounts.

Any grants, bonds, and interest earned on investments will be taxed when withdrawn, but your original investment will not be taxed.

Other times, individuals might be under the impression that their situation or impairment is not severe enough to be eligible for the DTC, and therefore the RDSP, says Olson-Lepage.

"There's a significant number of people who don't realize that type 1 diabetes qualifies you for the DTC," says Olson-Lepage. "It's worth investigating if you already qualify for the DTC ... and if you're unsure you should speak to a medical professional because the benefits of an RDSP outweigh any of the work you need to do to open the plan."





# BoC expected to keep cutting rates

OPINION: ASTON FROM B1

less than a year). The policy rate has much less influence on rates for financial products that don't mature for a number of years, such as those for new or renewing five-year fixed rate mortgages, new or renewing five-year GICs, and bonds which mature in five or 10 years.

## Bank of Canada policy rate

Since June, the Bank of Canada has been on a determined campaign to cut the policy rate so as to bolster the weak economy, while also keeping an eye on inflation to ensure it remains subdued.

The Bank of Canada signalled its aggressive intentions when it cut the policy rate in October by an unusually large 50 basis points (half a percentage point). That brought the policy rate down to 3.75 per cent, which came on the heels of three, 25-basis-point cuts since June.

The Bank of Canada is widely expected to keep those cuts coming in December and well into 2025. Overnight index swaps are pricing in further drops in the policy rate totalling close to 100 basis points in the next year, says Robert McLister, mortgage strategist and editor of MortgageLogic.news. Most economists at major banks are forecasting rate reductions of similar magnitude.

Cuts totalling 100 basis points would bring the policy rate down to 2.75 per cent.

## Long-term rates follow their own path

Meanwhile, there are several reasons to expect that longer-term rates will follow a different path than the policy rate and likely end next year not far from where they are now.

Longer-term rates do incorporate expectations of future policy rates as a weighted average, but they also include an additional term premium, explains McLister. The term premium compensates bond investors for committing funds long-term and bearing the risk that interest rates may change over the term of the bond.

The Bank of Canada's recent and future policy rate cuts have been widely expected for many months, so they are already built in to current long-term rates. "The bond market is anticipatory," says McLister. "It has already priced in Bank of Canada cuts a long time ago."

That anticipation helped bring down five-year Government of Canada bond yields to a low of around 2.7 per cent in September from a peak of 4.4 per cent in October 2023. Five-year government bond yields are a key benchmark for determining other long-term rates, especially five-year fixed mortgage rates.

But then in September bond markets started to get an inkling that future inflation might be more of a threat than previously thought.

As the Trump election bid gained popularity in the polls, bond markets started to worry about the eventual inflationary impact of his policies and related budget deficits on top of an already strong U.S. economy. Canadian bond markets foresaw a possible spillover effect on Canada because of our close economic ties.

"It's definitely thrown the cat among the pigeons," says Porter. "It is increasing uncertainty on the outlook."

Longer-term interest rates started to edge up, especially in the U.S. but also to a lesser degree in Canada. Since mid-September, the five-year Government of Canada bond yield has risen more than 50 basis points to 3.21 per cent as of Wednesday. (The release of higher-than-expected Canadian inflation figures for October also contributed a little to rises in long-term bond yields last week.)

While no one can call a bottom with certainty (except in retrospect well after the fact), September could end up being the low point for long-term bond yields in the current easing cycle.

The current five-year Government of Canada bond yield of 3.21 per cent is still far below the current policy rate of 3.75 per cent, an inversion of the more common relationship. If the policy rate falls to 2.75 per cent in the next year while the five-year bond yield remains about the same, that would restore the usual pattern for a reasonably healthy economy, with long-term rates higher than the policy rate.

"In some ways this will just return the yield curve to a little bit more of a normal position," says Porter.

In Porter's view of rate movements in the next year, the current approximate level of long-term yields "is probably about where we're going to settle in — maybe a little bit lower."

Markets themselves incorporate similar expectations. Based on swap market forward rates early last week, markets are currently projecting that five-year Government of Canada bond yields fall by only a minuscule seven basis points in the next year, says McLister. "The market has a pretty good idea about what should happen based on knowable information," he says.

While Canadian recession risks have been diminishing, they can't be completely ruled out. If the recession threat looms large again, big, long-term rate declines will likely be back on the table, and so will even more aggressive policy rate cuts from the Bank of Canada.

Of course, there is also the possibility inflation will emerge as a bigger-than-expected menace and that both long-term rates and the policy rate will head much higher. There is enormous uncertainty about Trump's policy specifics and what their eventual inflationary impact might be, so the possible "worst case" scenario for inflation could be severe.

Since June, the Bank of Canada has been on a determined campaign to cut the policy rate so as to bolster the weak economy, while also keeping an eye on inflation to ensure it remains subdued.

SEAN KILPATRICK  
THE CANADIAN PRESS  
FILE PHOTO

# Canadians lost \$567M to fraud in 2023 alone

FRAUD FROM B1

or by phone. In 2023 alone, Canadians lost a staggering \$567 million to fraud — an increase of \$37 million from 2022 and \$187 million since 2021.

Ali Dehghantanha, a professor of cybersecurity and threat intelligence at the University of Guelph and the founding director of the Cyber Science Lab, says even seasoned tech professionals fall for generative AI-driven email scams and fake links. With AI-assisted scams increasingly prevalent online, the days of being able to easily recognize scam emails by finding obvious typos and poor formatting are all but over.

Still, there are ways to keep things locked down as the busy holiday shopping season ramps up.

Experts say that using two-factor authentication, taking a moment to verify the legitimacy of transactions, and using "safe" words to distinguish between family members and fraudsters can keep your data safe from malicious online actors this holiday season.

## Two-factor authentication: Twice as nice

Ivo Wiens, field chief technology officer of cybersecurity at CDW Canada, advises using two-factor authentication whenever possible as an extra layer of security when banking and shopping online.

Two-factor authentication — sometimes stylized as "2FA" — can be set up within banking and finance apps or through external apps like Google Authenticator or Duo; it prompts you for a one-time verification code to make sure it's really you trying to log in to your account.

"It's like having a lock and an alarm system on your house," Wiens says. "Think of that (as) the equivalent for your digital accounts."

It may be annoying — and slow down the snappy pace you're used to when shopping — but an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, especially when it comes to making financial transactions online.

If you can't get two-factor authentication enabled on banks and other accounts, Dehghantanha recommends any form of SMS or text message alerts to make sure that you catch any fraudulent charges or entries the moment they come across your account's dashboard. At the very least, it'll help develop a habit of checking (and rechecking) all transactions.

"If your bank is not offering that, at least enable notifications — whether it's SMS or app notifications — from your bank for every single purchase," Dehghantanha adds, which can be done through the notifications settings in various banking and finance apps.

## Stay safe with a safe word

Perhaps less obviously, Wiens recommends having a "safe" word to use with family to quickly determine whether you're actually speaking with a member of your family. AI-driven impostor scams like the one that targeted Fitzpatrick's mother are becoming increasingly common, he says, and having quick and clear checks that can help identify fake voices, doctored video and look-alike profiles can be a game-changer.

"This helps spot the scammers pretending to be family members," Wiens says. "Having that word that you share as a family, the family secret word that you can call out for when this is happening"

Making sure you're speaking to a real family member is even more important amid a rise in identity theft. As a result, it may be worth it to invest in identity monitoring — services that scan the web to check if your personal information appears in a data breach — or fraud insurance, Equifax Canada chief information security officer Octavia Howell says, just in case.

"Fraud and identity insurance is out there to help people get back on their feet," Howell advises. "Because we know that when you identify is stolen or when you're defrauded for anything, it's very difficult for you to do it on your own."

## 'Slow down and verify'

Experts say some digital scams can be avoided simply by recognizing them. Though there may be a temptation to blaze through online transactions, shipping confirmations and coupon codes, taking even a few seconds to double-check transactions, verify the legitimacy of offers and closely examine URLs for things like typos in names can save you a headache down the line.

Professionally made, convincing-looking, fake online stores are more common (and effective) than you might think; an anti-scam tool from the cybersecurity software company NordVPN blocked 9.9 million attempts by users to access fake shops in September and 13.4 million such attempts in October, with more fake pop-ups expected ahead of Black Friday and Christmas.

So if a deal in an email or pop-up ad looks too good to be true, it usually is, says Wiens. "It's like getting a counterfeit bill nowadays, that even bank tellers have trouble spotting," Wiens says. "That's why it's crucial to slow down and verify."

Back in Nova Scotia, Fitzpatrick advises getting a second opinion to give yourself time to critically examine the situation, in line with the "slow down and verify" approach.

"If you have something like that that doesn't make much sense and you can't get a hold of the person, tell the story to somebody else," Fitzpatrick says. "Someone who's emotionally removed."

# Acts of service provide a gift, and shared moments

GIFTS FROM B1

altogether or beginning to invest? Consider a contribution toward their big goal. Every little bit counts in helping your loved one move forward with their dreams.

## Gifts to support wellness

This could be a gym membership, personal training sessions, swimming goggles, running shoes, classes at a yoga studio, counselling sessions and even a financial planning session for an individual or couple. What could help your loved one feel stronger going into the new year? This kind of gift could transform your loved one's health and mental well-being.

## Acts of service

Your time, energy and skills can be a huge gift. Imagine using your handy skills to help your loved one build a bookshelf or install safety railings. What if you offered regular babysitting or a deep clean to busy, exhausted parents in your life who could use a hand?

Perhaps your friend could use an

expert purging service, or help organizing their home, and you have that skill set.

Of course, the service itself is a gift, but the real gift is you spending memorable time with your loved one, and that could change your relationship.

## Local purchases and charities

Supporting local farmers, brewers, small businesses and charities is a game changer for them. Think about where you could spend your money, and how that might help. Perhaps there's a local pop-up market in your neighbourhood where you could focus your dollars and shopping list.

Some people are simply hiving off a portion of their total shopping budget and dedicating it toward a donation. Others are dedicating volunteer hours to make a difference in their community.

These game-changing gifts aren't just for those who "have everything." They're for anyone you're thinking of buying for that could benefit from something extra thoughtful this season.



CULTURE

COMICS, B7  
PUZZLES, B8

THEATRE



BUFFY BOILY MIRVISH

# The meaning behind the music

Docu-concert explores how singer Don McLean came to write the classic rock hit ‘American Pie’

JOSHUA CHONG  
CULTURE REPORTER

A new show that explores the stories behind Don McLean’s folk rock hit “American Pie” will take up a three-week residence at Mirvish’s CAA Theatre next March.

“Inside American Pie,” — billed as a “docu-concert” — explores how the American singer and

songwriter came to write that classic song. Packed with dense symbolism, “American Pie” is meant to commemorate the early rock ‘n roll icons Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper, who were all killed in a 1959 plane crash.

Written by Mike Ross and Sarah Wilson, the production arrives in Toronto following a series of four

sold-out annual runs in Prince Edward Island, where the show premiered in 2021. Ross will lead the concert along with four other PEI musicians.

He and Wilson are no stranger to the Toronto theatre scene. Both have co-written and starred in multiple musicals, concerts and plays at Soulpepper in the Distillery District.

“Inside American Pie” is a new docu-concert coming to Mirvish in March.

Their docu-concert dives into the song’s connections with the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin and Charles Manson and answers the question of who exactly was Miss American Pie, referenced repeatedly in the song’s chorus.

“Inside American Pie” will run from March 12 to 30. Tickets will go on sale Thursday.

MOVIES

# ‘Hundreds of Beavers’ takes on indie scene

JAKE COYLE

NEW YORK The microbudget movie “Hundreds of Beavers” has turned into lo-fi legend. Mike Cheslik’s film, made for just \$150,000 and self-distributed in theatres, has managed to gnaw its way into a movie culture largely dominated by big-budget sequels.

“Hundreds of Beavers” is a wordless black-and-white bonanza of slapstick antics about a stranded 19th-century applejack salesman, played by his friend Ryland Tews, at war with a bevy of beavers, all of whom are played by actors in mascot costumes. It’s played in at least one theatre a week since opening in January. On Dec. 5, it will play in more theatres than any point before.

It’s no overnight sensation. It’s been two years since Cheslik first premiered “Hundreds of Beavers.”

Here’s how it happened: Like all great ideas, “Hundreds of Beavers” started at a bar. In October 2018, Cheslik and Tews — friends since they were 15 growing up in Wisconsin — were talking over how they could expand from their last film, “Lake Michigan Monster,” an antic, even lower budgeted B-movie about the hunt for a Great Lakes sea monster. It culminated in an elaborate animation sequence by Cheslik, a trial run for “Hundreds of Beavers.”

For their next movie, Cheslik imagined something reminiscent of childhood, with snowball fights and sled chases. Oh, and mascot costumes. “Because mascots falling down is a universal language,” Tews says. “Everyone thinks that’s funny.”

“I love slapstick and I don’t know why it was a dormant genre for so long,” adds Cheslik. “My guess is that when a country shifts from having more physical jobs to more of a service economy then the sense of humour becomes more verbal.



The alligator in a pit is an HR referral instead of getting hurt at your job.”

They made “Hundreds of Beavers” over two winters during the pandemic, with pick-up shoots in between. It wasn’t particularly fun work — they were outside in negative degree weather schlepping gear through the snow. But they were making exactly the movie they wanted, without compromise. And it didn’t resemble anything at the multiplex.

“Ryland and I complained about movies a lot during the making of ‘Hundreds of Beavers,’” Cheslik says. “I think we just complained for six years straight.”

Cheslik and Tews are not proponents of high-priced gear. Making a movie, they say, doesn’t have to be an 8K camera and a rented location.

“We’re not camera nerds,” says

Cheslik. “We just like images with strong shapes. We like to say: shapes are free.”

In editing, Cheslik brought those shapes into greater relief. “Hundreds of Beavers” plays out as a surreal ballet of chiaroscuro pratfalls, with cartoonish figures set against a white winter expanse. The beavers, themselves, never totalled more than six, with Tews, Cheslik or friends variously acting inside the costumes. Almost every shot in the movie required at least some effects work.

“What you can do is go on your computer and take those six and duplicate them. I’m talkin’ 12 beavers. I’m talkin’, imagine a number, 18,” deadpans Cheslik. “It’s technical stuff.”

Once it was finally done, they excitedly hit the festival circuit. After debuting “Hundreds of Beavers” at

Ryland Tews is seen in a scene from the film “Hundreds of Beavers.” The film, made for just \$150,000 and self-distributed in theatres, has managed to gnaw its way into a movie culture largely dominated by big-budget sequels.

SRH VIA  
THE ASSOCIATED  
PRESS

the Fantastic Fest, they played more festivals. And then some more. The crowd reaction was great and they won an audience award at the Fantasia Film Festival in 2023. But a decent offer never came. The old way of shopping a movie at a festival, they found, didn’t really exist anymore.

“It’s not enough just to make a movie,” says Tews. “That’s just the very beginning.”

Producer Kurt Ravenwood decided to explore a self release. They sold streaming rights to Cineverse, the company that recently distributed the indie horror hit “Terrifier 3.” But they kept theatrical, merchandising and Blu-ray rights.

“It was a calculated risk to keep theatrical rights to ourselves,” Ravenwood says. “We had never, ever in our lives put on a theatrical run. But we knew that if we were able to

SEE NEXT PAGE



MUSIC

Kendrick Lamar

surprises with ‘GNX’

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Kendrick Lamar gave music listeners an early holiday present Friday with the surprise drop of a new album.

The Grammy winner's 12-track "GNX" is his first release since 2022's "Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers" and his sixth studio album overall. It also comes just months after his rap battle with Drake.

Lamar first teased the album with a cover art and video snippet of "GNX," which features multi-instrumentalist Jack Antonoff as a co-producer on every track except for "Peekaboo."

Other notable producers include Sounwave and DJ Mustard, who both contributed production on the hit "Not Like Us," the ubiquitous diss track emanating from the Drake feud.

Lamar's former Top Dawg Entertainment labelmate SZA appears on a couple songs including "Gloria" and "Luther."

The surprise release caps a big year for Lamar, who was featured on the song "Like That" with Future and Metro Boomin — a track that spent three weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 this year.

Lamar is up for seven Grammys, fueled by "Not Like Us," which earned nods for record and song of the year, rap song, music video as well as best rap performance.



Ryland Tews in a scene from the film "Hundreds of Beavers."

Beaver fever’ took hold

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

get it booked, it would do well."

They hired a distribution veteran to help book theatres and a publicist to spread the word. And they crossed their fingers.

"We believe that indie movies that go into the digital nothingness of streaming don't get into the culture," says Ravenwood. "So we kicked it off with this roadshow. At first, we needed to prove to theatres that people would show up. Besides just the movie, we'd bring the circus to town."

Calling it the "Great Lakes Roadshow," they rented out theatres and played "Hundreds of Beavers" to mostly sold-out screenings in the Midwest. They didn't just play the movie, but created a vaudeville act to go along with it. The beaver mascot costumes came out of the closet.

"If anything, this is what Instagram creators and TikTok creators are used to every day," says Ravenwood. "They both make the content and distribute the content via platform. If filmmakers want to reach an audience, they have to treat it like online creators treat it."

Their quixotic gambit worked. People and media started taking notice. "Beaver fever," as they say, took hold. None of it happened quickly, or easily. Ravenwood shipped a lot of posters and digital versions of the film. Cheslik and Tews spent two years just releasing their movie. Six years had passed since they had started. Making "The Revenant" looked, comparatively, like a piece of cake. But they did it.

"It was a life goal that was achieved," Cheslik says. "Which is just a horrible thing to have happen."

They are already pondering their next movie; note cards hang on the wall behind Cheslik. For now, he's only saying that it will, like "Hundreds of Beavers," feature precise physical comedy.

The beaver suits? Cheslik imagines they must now be filled with black mould after being torn and repaired countless times, going through two Wisconsin winters, dozens of festivals and some 20 roadshows.

Next time, he and Tews hope is a little easier — a little easier to make a living from, and a little easier to find their way into theatres.

"I don't love when people say, 'Our goal with this film is just to get it out there. I don't care if I make money,'" Cheslik says. "Are these films vanity projects for trust fund hobbyists, or is this an industry?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIDGE BY DAVE WILLIS

Issues

Dealer: East

Both vulnerable

NORTH

♦1072

♥A9

♦AKJ54

♣A63

WEST

♦K53

♥Q63

♦Q2

♣J10984

EAST

♦A9864

♥52

♦98

♣KQ72

SOUTH

♦QJ

♥KJ10874

♦10763

♣5

W

N

E

S

Pass

4♥

All Pass

Opening Lead: ♣J

Declarer won the club ace, cashed the heart ace and continued with the nine overtaking with the jack which lost to the queen.

West returned a club but South ruffed and drew the last trump.

Diamonds were played from the top, dropping the queen, and declarer could dispose of a spade from hand on the fifth diamond to corral an overtrick. N-S +650.

West should switch to a spade where the defense will win their quota of three tricks as long as East does not attempt to cash a club but rather continues with a second spade.

Declarer could emerge with twelve tricks by finessing West for the queen of hearts. He ruffs a club at trick two, plays a trump to the nine and unblocks the ace. He ruffs a second club, extracts the last trump with the king of hearts and again plays diamonds from the top culminating in two overtricks.

The issue with this line of play is that the defense will swiftly cash two spades when East produces the queen of hearts.

North's decision to rocket into the major suit game game was a good one. Partner had opened with a vulnerable weak two-bid and North did not give any information to the opponents regarding an opening lead.

Author: Dave Willis - visit his website at [www.insidebridge.ca](http://www.insidebridge.ca)

Questions can be sent with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The New Canadian Bridge c/o Torstar Syndication Services, One Yonge St., Toronto, M5E 1E6

PRIME TIME TONIGHT

(N) New Show Content

R1: Etob./Miss./Toronto/York R2: Ajax/Whitby/Oshawa R3: Markham/Pickering/Rich. Hill/Scarborough C: Burlington/Oakville BE: Bell TV SD: Shaw Direct							7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	
17	17	10	11	-	-	(2) 33	Sports	Ent. Tonight	The Voice (N)				Brilliant Minds (N)		
20	20	20	25	219	134	(3) 9	Big Bang	etalk (N)	The Voice (N)				The Conners	The Conners	
16	15	16	5	-	-	(4) 36	Wheel	Jeopardy!	Neighbor	Poppa's	NCIS (N)		NCIS: Origins (N)		
6	6	6	6	210	132	(5) 20	Coronation	Creek	Murdoch Mysteries (N)		Ultimate Truth (N)		The National (N)		
18	18	18	9	-	-	(7) 34	Leading the Charge		NFL Football Baltimore Ravens at Los Angeles Chargers (L) (N)						
8	8	8	13	212	133	(9) 13	Tracker (N)		9-1-1: Lone Star		Rescue: HI-Surf		The Traitors Canada (N)		
11	11	11	10	218	141	(11) 15	Trending	Inside Ed.	Club 54	★★ The Equalizer ('14) Marton Csokas, Denzel Washington.					
9	9	9	26	651	153	(14)	Wheel	Jeopardy!	Bull		Huntley	Hear, Love	Robison	Health Exp	
61	61	61	31	-	236	(17) 31	6:30 PBSNews	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow		Native Horse		Austin City Limits		
166	166	166	-	-	-	(23) 36	News 4 at 7PM (N)		Superman & Lois (N)		Animals	Funny Kids	News 4 at 10	News	
12	12	13	12	99	728	(25)	Stat (N)	Discussion	Dumas (N)		Pour Marnie (N)		Le téléjournal (D) (N)		
28	28	21	24	-	-	(29) 32	Judge Judy	Family Feud	9-1-1: Lone Star		Rescue: HI-Surf		National	National	
3	3	3	3	211	131	(41) 17	Goldbergs		Neighbor	Poppa's	NCIS (N)		NCIS: Origins (N)		
167	167	167	116	-	-	(49) 16	Big Bang	Sheldon	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		
7	7	7	7	214	135	(57) 18	Family Feud	Family Feud	Movie		Brilliant Minds (N)				
31	31	31	20	615	422	(A&E)	(6:00) Hoarders-Clean (N)		Hoarders (N)		Hoarders				
32	32	39	189	293	494	(AMC)	(4:30) ★★★ The Green Mile Tom Hanks.		★★★ Cast Away Helen Hunt, Tom Hanks.						
70	70	70	74	269	253	(APTN)	Moosemeat	Corner Gas	Wild Rose	Horse Warr	The Wild Ones		Tribal		
49	49	57	117	576	474	(BET)	(6:35) Favorite Son ('21) Rotimi Akinosho.		(:25) Bid for Love Dawnisha Halfkenny.		Call Her King				
37	37	45	75	411	431	(BRAVO)	Below Deck		Below Deck Sailing Yacht		Below Deck (N)		Watch What	Below Deck	
38	38	38	19	575	473	(CMT)	Cheers	Cheers	The Office		The Office	The Office	Workaholics	Workaholics	
33	33	33	16	500	258	(CNN)	E. B. OutFront (L) (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (L)		The Source With (L) (N)		CNN NewsNight (L) (N)		
301	301	301	201	300	511	(CRV1)	(6:35) ★★★ The Color Purple ('23) Fantasia Barrino.		I Don't Know Who You Are Mark Clennon.		:45 The Blind				
44	44	50	44	625	426	(CTVCOM)	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Acting Good	
40	40	40	38	30	425	(CYDR)	Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		
36	36	64	21	619	405	(CTVLIFE)	Escape to Country (SP) (N)		JamieJim's		The Rookie		MasterChef Australia (N)		
50	50	55	40	627	423	(CTVSCI)	Star Trek		Superman & Lois (N)		Star Trek		Star Trek		
42	42	42	35	520	445	(DISC)	Mayday		The Last Woodsmen (N)		Destinations of (N)		Expedition Files (N)		
54	54	58	46	618	432	(DTOUR)	Border	Border	Border	Border	When Ghosts Attack		Ghost Hunters		
63	71	71	110	31	417	(EI)	NUMB3RS		Million.	Million.	Sullivan's Crossing		Happy's	Night Court	
51	51	48	45	556	367	(FAM)	Ladybug	Sailor	We Are Family		Ruby and the Well		★★★ Horses of McBride		
56	56	52	39	603	401	(FOOD)	(6:00) Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking (N)		Top Chef Canada (N)		
73	73	73	118	274	483	(GAMETV)	The Price Is Right		Name That Tune		★ Get a Job ('16) Anna Kendrick, Miles Teller.				
78	78	78	103	416	316	(GOLF)	PGA TOUR	Golf	Golf	Golf	PGA Tour Golf The RSM Classic, Final Round				
46	46	35	32	600	403	(HGTV)	Don't Hate Your		Unsellable Houses		Don't Hate Your (F) (N)		Good Bones (N)		
43	43	54	43	522	441	(HIST)	5:00 M*A*S*H	Prison	The Curse of Oak Island		Prison	Prison	Forged in Fire (N)		
29	29	30	17	570	427	(MM)	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Simpsons	Futurama	American	American	
52	52	56	114	581	471	(MTV)	How/Made	How/Made	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	
85	85	85	137	524	447	(NGC)	To Catch a Smuggler		To Catch a Smuggler		Witches: Truth (N)		Lawless Island		
26	26	23	28	502	255	(NN)	Canada Tonight With Travis Dhanraj (N)		Dhanraj (N)		The National (N)		The National (N)		
4	4	4	4	215	156	(OMNI1)	Posto Sole		Il paradi		Cucinare		Pasqyra Shqiptare		
14	14	14	29	216	157	(OMNI2)	News	Punjabi	News	News: Arabic	OMNI News	Cantonese	News	Mandarin	
47	47	49	-	294	-	(PEACH)	The Conners	The Conners	Superman & Lois (N)		Animals	Funny Kids	Atlanta News (N)		
39	39	29	37	616	424	(SHOW)	FBI		FBI		FBI		FBI		
41	41	37	57	601	416	(SLICE)	Neighbor	Neighbor	True Crime		True Crime	True Crime	True Crime	Real Murders (N)	
21	21	17	426	409	305	(SN1)	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Detroit Pistons (L) (N)				Sportsnet	NBA Basketball			
22	22	32	48	405	302	(SNO)	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Detroit Pistons (L) (N)				Sportsnet	NBA Basketball			
48	48	46	-	292	491	(TCM)	(:45) Some Like It Hot		★★ Taps ('81) George C. Scott, Timothy Hutton.				(:15) ★★★ Mystic Pizza		
13	16	13	71	137	729	(TFO)	Hors	180	Drôles de villes		Les aventures d'Arsène Lupin		Cinéma		
34	34	34	15	521	421	(TLC)	90 Day Fiancé: Other Way		90 Day Fiancé: The Other Way (N)				I Love a Mama's Boy (N)		
35	35	28	18	700	801	(TLN)	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Crazy Rich Agents	Incredible Homes		M*A*S*H		
45	45	47	41	554	372	(TOON)	Teen/15 Teen	Teen/45 Teen	Teen/15 Teen	Teen/45 Teen	Batman	Batman	Batman	Batman	
494	494	494	416	400	311	(TSN1)	(6:00) NFL Cntdwn (L) (N)		(:15) NFL Football Baltimore Ravens at Los Angeles Chargers (L) (N)						
30	30	26	59	403	314	(TSN4)	(6:00) Sports	Breaking	NFL Cntdwn / (:15) NFL Football Baltimore Ravens at Los Angeles Chargers (L) (N)						
103	103	103	78	145	737	(TV5)	Vroum: une brève (N)		La guerre des trônes		39-45 en sol canadien (N)		La secte	:40 Mystères	
2	2	2	2	265	155	(TVO)	(:55) Digging for Britain		Agenda-Steve Paikin		Apocalypse :55 Nerds On		The Da	Ontario	
60	60	60	58	261	281	(VISION)	Murder, She Wrote		Sister Boniface Mysteries		Hack Your Age		theZoomer		
27	27	27	33	602	411	(W)	6:00 To Have & To Holiday		Mistletoe Murders (N)		Outlander		:20 A Tiny Home Christmas		
343	343	343	212	296	243	(WSBK)	Big Bang	Big Bang	WBZ News 8p (N)		News	Living	48 Hours		
25	25	25	27	551	362	(YTV)	(6:00) Snow Day		Loud House	Loud House	Snow Day ('22) Michaela Russell, Ky Baldwin.				

BEST BETS



Joe Dempsie in "Get Millie Black"

• "Get Millie Black" premieres. The series follows Millie-Jean Black (Tamara Lawrance), an ex-Scotland Yard detective who returns to her home of Kingston, Jamaica, to take on missing persons cases. However, things get complicated when another Scotland Yard detective comes to town. (HBO1 at 9)



Matt and Kelly star in "I Love a Mama's Boy"

• A new episode of "I Love Mama's Boy" airs. After a zany season full of twists and turns, the cast of this unique reality series sits down to watch back and react to all the crazy and controversial moments, from Shekeb's disastrous promise ring to Jayne attending her son's honeymoon. (TLC at 10)

LATE NIGHT

J. Fallon at 11:35 : Kaley Cuoco; Rickie Fowler; Xander Schauffele; Matt Fitzpatrick; Cameron Young; GloRilla performs. (N)

Colbert at 11:35 : The comic interviews guests and introduces musical performances. (N)

J. Kimmel at 11:35 : Celebrity guests and comedy skits. (N)

Meyers at 12:35 : Comic Jim Gaffigan; actress Allison Tolman. (N)

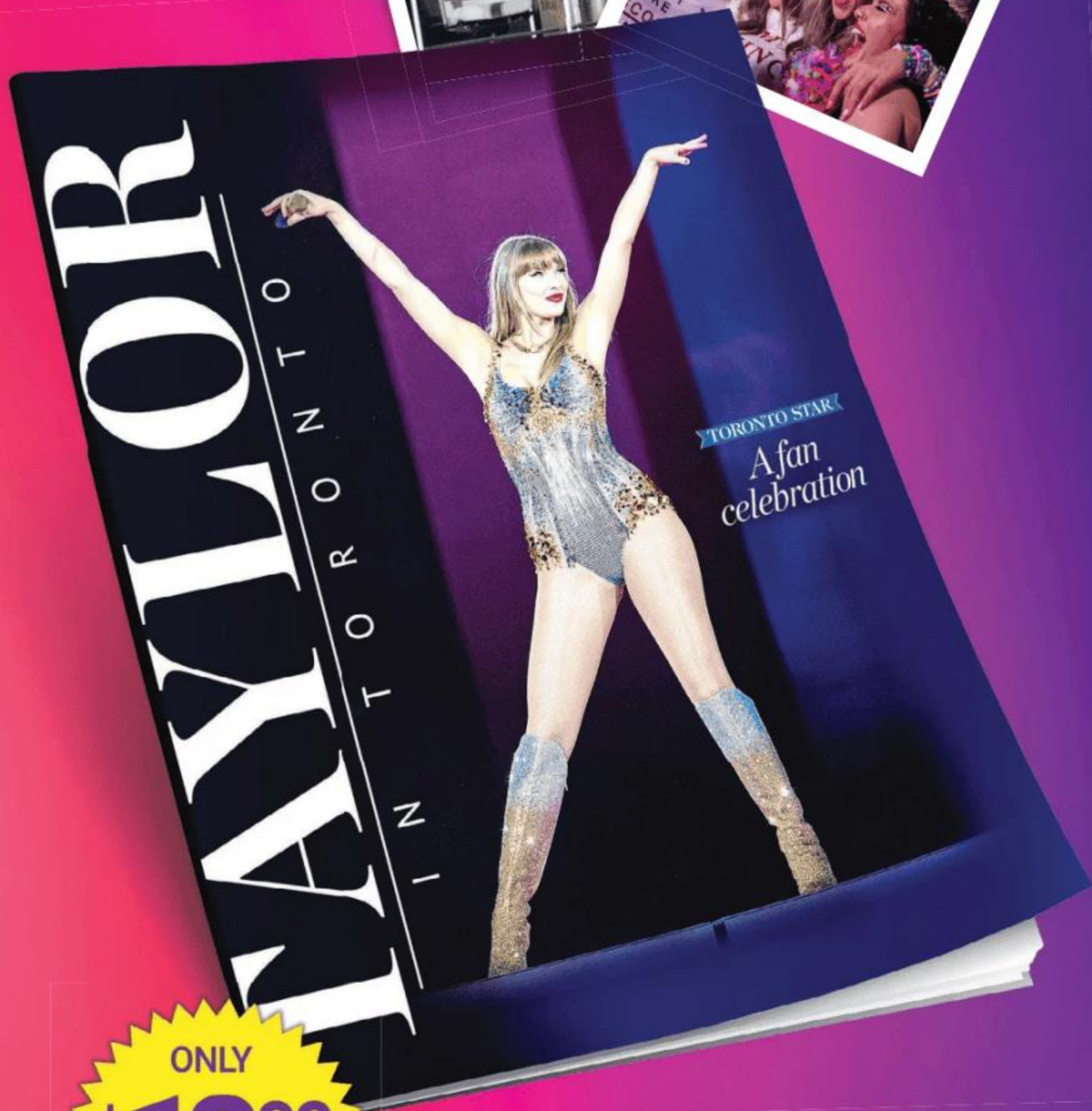
Midnight at 12:35 : Taylor Tomlinson and a panel of guests take a look at what has recently set the internet abuzz. (N)



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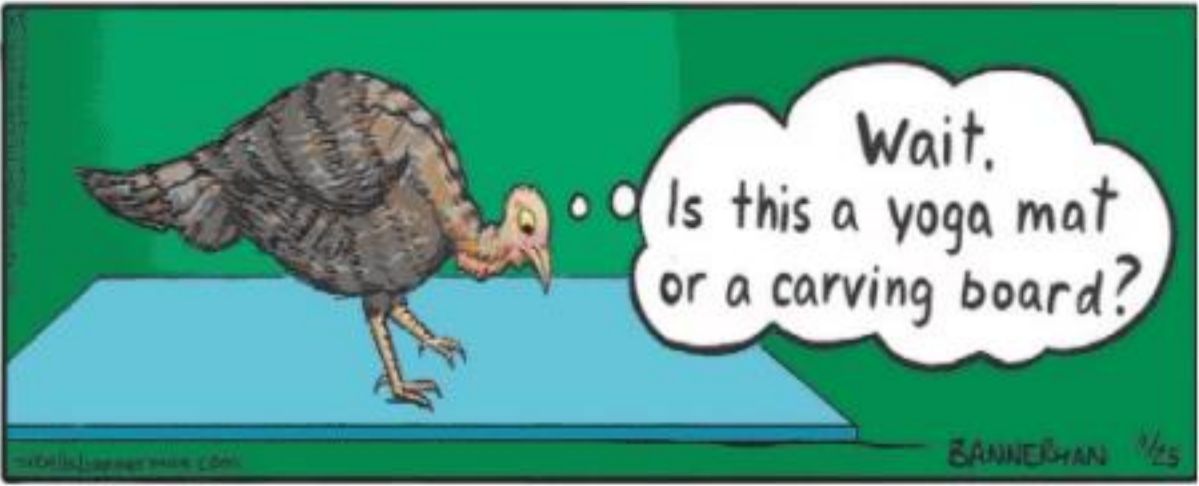
Dustin



Zits



Six Chix



Curtis



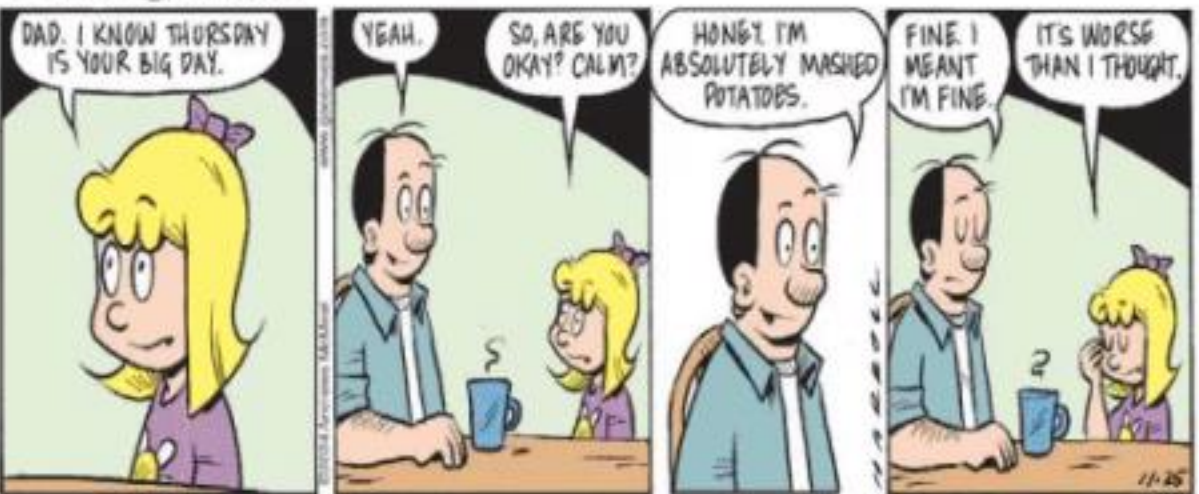
Rhymes With Orange



Hagar the Horrible



Adam @ Home



Mutts



Sherman's Lagoon



Mother Goose and Grimm



Between Friends



Pardon My Planet



Daddy Daze



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SCAN TO VOLUNTEER

TORONTO STAR  
Children's Charities  
Kids are About All



B8

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD FOR MONDAY

ACROSS

1 Tub event

5 Hard wood

10 Cook in water

14 Pennsylvania port

15 Actress — Burstyn

16 Daddy

17 Field

18 — and beyond

19 Singles

20 Wondrous thing

22 Drive crazy

24 River in France

25 Brunch fare

26 Specifies

30 "Hey, over here!" (Hyph.)

34 Male child

37 Keeps for later

39 Magnificent

40 OT prophet

42 Gunpowder ingredient

44 Macho man

45 Orange type

47 Liquid measure

49 Letter 19

50 Driveway material

52 Zenith's opposite

54 Baseball's — Slaughter

56 Dozes

59 Expense allowance (2 wds.)

62 Goes around

64 Angry

65 Follow

67 Bar soap brand

68 Egyptian goddess

69 Webber-Rice musical

70 Actress — Stone

71 Denomination

72 Refresh

73 Engrossed

5 Ground grain

6 Vestment

7 Trudge

8 Water barrier

9 Pep

10 Financial backers

11 Chinese dynasty

12 Sword

13 Used to be

21 Notable times

23 Eager

27 Chess piece

28 Malevolent

29 Take root (2 wds.)

31 Detest

32 Burden

33 Concern of gamblers

34 Warbled

35 Actor — Sharif

36 Star that flares

38 Bristle

41 Most harsh

43 Wine type

46 Furnish

FRIDAY'S ANSWER

R	O	D	S		M	I	D	A	S		M	O	A	T
A	R	E	A		A	D	O	R	E		I	A	G	O
S	C	A	N		G	A	T	O	R		S	T	U	N
P	A	R	D	O	N						M	U	N	C
				A	P	E	X			A	M	A	H	
	S	A	L	U	T	E				R	I	S	E	S
B	A	G		S	I	N	U	S		D	E	A	L	T
O	V	A	L		C	O	S	T	A		F	L	E	E
L	E	V	E	E		N	E	A	R	S		A	G	T
D	R	E	S	S			S	T	E	A	D	Y		
		S	P	A	T			H	I	L	T			
A	B	S	E	N	C	E				C	L	O	S	E
G	A	I	N			T	R	I	L	L		N	O	R
A	N	N	E		O	R	A	T	E		E	L	A	N
R	E	E	D		R	E	N	D	S		D	E	S	K

48 Icy expanse

51 Hang about

53 Las Vegas player

55 Function

57 — donna

58 Philately item

59 Sit for a painter

60 Actor — Idle

61 Chief

62 Cole —

63 Louver

64 Family member, for short

66 Mineral suffix

WUZZLES BY TOM UNDERWOOD

1.

2.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIYNA

SEBSL

CTAYPH

TIXCEE

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Answer here:

KNELT

MONTH

FINISH

DEFECT

Saturday's

Answer: Santa finished his rounds each year in — THE NICK OF TIME

TODAY'S WUZZLES ANSWER

1. The bottom of the sea

2. Fine with me

Is that a pre-made shell?

Yes, my subscribers wanted a simple recipe for the holidays.

WHEN ASKED IF IT'S DIFFICULT TO MAKE A LEMON TART, THE PASTRY CHEF SAID IT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

FRIDAY'S WORD SLEUTH ANSWER

WHICH OF THESE SITES HAVE YOU VISITED?

SDIMARYPE

NEBGTB

RJ

AA

RG

TAN

STONEHENG

MOASIP

ALOUVREIL

HO

NOYNACDNARG

REWOTLEFFIE

WORD SLEUTH BY KING FEATURES INC.

LAST NAMES ENDING IN "S"

Today's unlisted clue: MICROSOFT FOUNDER BILL —

X

R

O

L

H

E

B

X

U

R

O

L

I

E

B

Y

V

S

Q

N

K

H

E

B

Y

W

T

J

R

O

L

J

G

E

B

Y

W

U

R

S

P

N

E

S

K

I

G

D

B

Z

X

V

S

I

M

M

O

N

S

S

Q

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G

E

C

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G

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R

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U

Y

U

S

Q

P

A

U

N

C

I

S

M

A

D

A

A

M

K

J

H

B

G

F

R

E

C

B

Z

Y

S

H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forwards, backward, up, down and diagonally. Friday's unlisted answer:

LIBERTY

Adams

Banks

Burns

Connors

Harris

Hastings

Hays

Jennings

Lewis

Morris

Owens

Riggs

Rodgers

Saunders

Simmons

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Rearrange the words below to complete the quotes.

HEALTH LIKE LOST SELDOM TRUE VALUE

"\_\_\_ friendship is \_\_\_ sound \_\_\_; the \_\_\_ of it is \_\_\_ known until it is \_\_\_."

- Charles Caleb Colton (1780-1832) English author

THEME Friends Till the End

BEST FRIENDSHIPS MEASURES ONE WORTH

"A man's \_\_\_ are \_\_\_ of the \_\_\_ of his \_\_\_."

- Charles Darwin (1809-1882) English scientist

ANSWERS "True friendship is like sound health: the value of it is seldom known until it is lost." • "A man's friendships are one of the best measures of his worth."

SUDOKU

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

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

SATURDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

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

LERNER & LOEWES

MY FAIR LADY

ON STAGE NOW!

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continue to provide a path to that hope.

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Help send thousands of kids to summer camp for an  
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Brian Cordingley at 416-869-4320 or [bcordingley@thestar.ca](mailto:bcordingley@thestar.ca)



# DEATHS, MEMORIALS, BIRTHS

Death Notices 416-869-4229, Births, In Memoriams 416-777-7777

## DEATH NOTICES

Repeat Notices

JONES, Charlyn  
KIDD, Michael

SCHWITZER, Katie

Due to space restrictions, the notices may not appear in strict alphabetical order.  
Please refer to this index for a complete alphabetical list of the notices appearing in today's paper.



CHARLYN ANN JONES

Charlyn Ann Jones was a beloved teacher, a beautiful soul, adored by students and friends. A wonderful wife to Morland Jones for 66 years. The interment will take place on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at All Saints Anglican Cemetery, 467 Ravenscliffe Road, Huntsville. Family and friends are asked to gather at Billingsley Funeral Home, 430 Ravenscliffe Road, Huntsville. A reception will follow the burial at Billingsley Funeral Home. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations can be made to the Aspen Wildlife Sanctuary ([www.aspenvalley.ca](http://www.aspenvalley.ca)).



KATIE LORRAINE  
SCHWITZER  
1984 - 2024

Katie died peacefully, in her 39th year in late November 2024, succumbing to injuries from being struck by a car. Katie leaves behind spouse, Andrew Pazulla; children, Maggie, Claire and Damian; parents, Eric and Diane; stepmom, Maria; parents-in-law, Donna and Wolfgang; brothers, Thomas (Alicia) and Will; sister, Kelly (Andrew); stepchildren, Luke and Grace; nephews, Jack, Henry and Lincoln; and nieces, Lily and Ivy. Katie grew up in Vancouver, and went to McGill University to study business. She started her career at Blast Radius. She moved to Toronto in her mid-20s and finished her MBA at Rotman at U of T in 2011. She rose through the investment banking world, starting at CIBC and later switching to Raymond James, where she attained the title of Managing Director of Capital Markets. Katie was liked and respected by everyone in the industry. Katie loved all children and always put her family first. In addition to being a loving spouse, mother, sister, daughter, and "Aunt Kiki" to "tiny humans," Katie was an advocate of the advancement of women's issues. Katie spoke during seminars for Women in Capital Markets. She was nominated for a Top 40 Under 40 award in 2019, being only 34 years of age. She was kind and loved to help others, and was a regular blood donor and participating organ donor. She loved to sew, bake and craft with the little ones, and enjoyed summers outdoors with family, especially at the Sand Bay Cottage. This amazing woman will be dearly missed by everyone who was lucky enough to know her, including her dozens of friends. We find solace in knowing that she is in a better place in Heaven now. Donations can be made to SickKidsFoundation.com. Friends will be received on Wednesday, November 27th, at Humber Valley United Church (76 Anglesey Blvd.) at 1 p.m., with reception to follow.



MICHAEL JEFFREY KIDD

Passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at his Hill Island Home on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at the age of 70. Mike will be lovingly remembered by Tammy Williams, his wife of 24 years. Loving stepfather of Winter Wilcox. Cherished grandfather of James and Summer. Dear brother of Bob Kidd (Joanne) and Karen Tetsos (Lou). Much loved uncle of Sam and Eric. A Celebration of Life will be planned in the spring of 2025. As expressions of sympathy, donations made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences at: [www.tompkinsfuneralhome.ca](http://www.tompkinsfuneralhome.ca)

In the care of  
Tompkins Funeral Home  
And Cremation Services  
63 Garden Street  
Gananoque, K7G 1H8  
(613) 382-3088

## IN MEMORIAM



ANNE KATHRYN  
McKEOWN  
February 20, 1945 -  
November 26, 2013

It has been 11 long years since you left us, our love for you is undying as we remember your remarkable beauty and kindness. We shall never forget you.

— Roddy, Natalie, Adrienne, Stuart, Zoë, and Kyle



Timing to place a death or birth notice:

To publish in the Saturday edition:  
Notices must be placed before 9:00 a.m. on Friday

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TORONTO STAR



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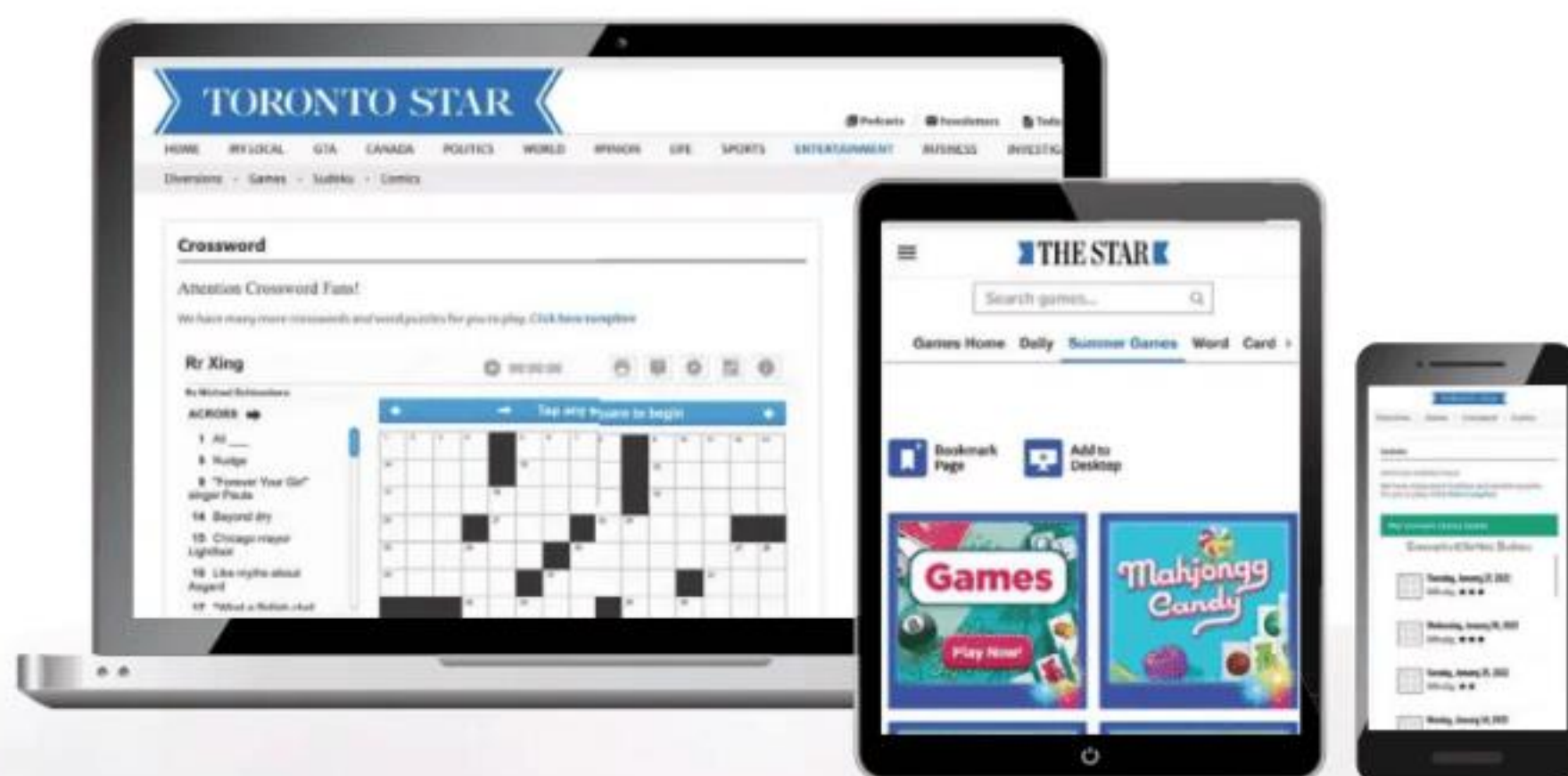
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