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Diana Zlomislic helps readers hold companies and policymakers to account in new Star feature BI

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TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH -1 C | MIX OF SUN AND CLOUDS | MAP A16 MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025

97TH ACADEMY AWARDS

Golden night for ‘Anora’

Gritty screwball farce steals show with five Oscars, including Best Picture A4



Cast and crew members from “Anora” celebrate Sunday night in Los Angeles after the film won Best Picture at the Oscars.

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

Israel sparks outrage by cutting Gaza aid to pressure Hamas on ceasefire proposal

TIA GOLDENBERG AND SAMY MAGDY

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL Israel faced sharp criticism as it stopped the entry of all food and other supplies into Gaza on Sunday and warned of “additional consequences” for Hamas if a fragile ceasefire isn’t extended.

Mediators Egypt and Qatar accused Israel of violating humanitarian law by using starvation as a weapon. The ceasefire’s first

phase saw a surge in humanitarian aid after months of growing hunger.

Hamas accused Israel of trying to derail the next phase Sunday hours after the first phase had ended and called Israel’s decision to cut off aid “a war crime and a blatant attack” on a truce that took a year of negotiations before taking hold in January.

In the second phase, Hamas could release dozens of remaining hos-

tages in return for an Israeli pullout from Gaza and a lasting ceasefire. Negotiations on the second phase were meant to start a month ago but haven’t begun.

Israel said Sunday that a new U.S. proposal calls for extending the ceasefire’s first phase through Ramadan — the Muslim holy month that began over the weekend — and the Jewish Passover holiday, which ends on April 20.

SEE GAZA, A10

“Hostages don’t have time to wait for an ideal deal.”

LISHAY MIRAN-LAVI WIFE OF HOSTAGE

STAR/IJB INVESTIGATION

Nurses raise alarm over high workloads

Frontline workers in Niagara say staffing levels putting patients at risk

DÉMAR GRANT AND BLAIR BIGHAM INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM BUREAU ROBERT CRIBB STAFF REPORTER

Nurses in the Niagara Health System are facing overwhelming patient loads that are undermining care and risk triggering staff burnout, according to internal hospital documents obtained by the Star and

Investigative Journalism Bureau. Workload reports filed by frontline nurses repeatedly call for staffing levels like those that have been mandated in other jurisdictions to improve the quality of care.

Despite years of pleading from health care professionals and more recently politicians, Ontario has failed to pass legislation that would enforce nurse-to-patient ratios.

The reports filed in Niagara in the

summer of 2024 detail nurses working on acute medical and surgical wards responsible for as many as 10 patients at a time. British Columbia, as well as several U.S. and Australian states, have imposed ratios of no more than 1:4 or 1:5.

Hospital managers responding to the Niagara workload complaints dismissed calls for higher nurse staffing levels, the records show.

SEE NURSES, A7

FULL INDEX A2 ONO 7 71412 00001 7

WAR IN UKRAINE

Europe works on plan to support Ukraine

Trudeau calls Putin ‘a liar and criminal’ at leaders’ summit

BRIAN MELLEY AND EMMA BURROWS

LONDON British Prime Minister Keir Starmer rallied his European counterparts Sunday to shore up their borders and throw their full weight behind Ukraine as he announced outlines of a plan to end Russia’s war.

“Every nation must contribute to that in the best way that it can, bringing different capabilities and support to the table, but all taking responsibility to act, all stepping up their own share of the burden,” he said.

Starmer’s exhortation to 18 fellow leaders that they need to do the heavy lifting for their own security came two days after U.S. backing of Ukraine appeared in jeopardy when President Donald Trump lashed out at Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and said he wasn’t grateful enough for America’s support.

Speaking to reporters at the Canadian High Commission after the summit, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Moscow can’t be trusted in any agreement to end its invasion of Ukraine.

Trudeau said it could lead to Canada joining a new military coalition aimed at upholding an eventual peace in Ukraine, but the outgoing prime minister added that others will have to make such a decision.

“Vladimir Putin is a liar and a criminal, and cannot be trusted to keep his word in any way, shape or form,” Trudeau said of the Russian president on Sunday.

SEE UKRAINE, A3

WE’RE WATCHING THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF AMERICA DIMANNO A2

SPORTS

Leafs make it four for the road



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Trump’s America in a downward spiral



ROSIE
DIMANNO
OPINION

The worm is turning on President Donald Trump. The world is turning on President Donald Trump.

While there might not yet be riots in the streets of America — the MAGA manifestation of insurrection — protesters disrupting Vice-President JD Vance’s ski vacation in Sugarbush, Vt., is a nice start. A nation may have finally and irreversibly had its eyes popped wide open to the existential threat of the fascists who would be king and princeling.

Even as statesmen knelt at the White House prayer railing last week, bearing gifts and flattery for an ego that can never be satiated, the ground has cracked beneath Trump’s feet. And to think: He orchestrated this profound diminishment, this implosion, with Vance as a greasy sock puppet. What was staged as a tableau of hard-fisted prepotency got turned on its ear, inside-outed, exposing the monster beneath the skin. Only Trump can take down Trump.

America might never be great again. America might never be forgiven.

A week that began with the U.S. voting against a United Nations resolution condemning Russia as the aggressor in the ongoing war against Ukraine — aligning with the likes of North Korea, Haiti, Belarus and, to its eternal shame, Israel — ended with Trump booting Volodymyr Zelenskyy out of the White House, rendering the Ukrainian president a hero of even more historic magnificence, on the heels of an astonishingly venomous tête-à-tête-à-tête in full view of the media.

Trump thereafter boarded Air Force One and flew to his Mar-a-Lago citadel to play golf. Zelenskyy flew to the U.K. to work on a plan for peace.

Cue the lickspittles. All the Trump-cowed pols falling into subservient compliance, including those who, like Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Sen. Lindsey Graham, had been among the staunchest supporters of Ukraine. Here’s the hoop, jump through it.

And, of course, for Trump it’s acutely personal — he’s still fuming over his impeachment, first time around, for that phone call pressuring Zelenskyy to dig up dirt on Joe Biden before the 2020 election.

Fifty minutes with cameras rolling is all it took to completely upend the U.S.-Ukraine alliance, capsize the postwar U.S.-led world order and imperil NATO. But with stunning swiftness, in the wake of that performative pantomime, much of the world, all of America’s allies, came immediately to the defence of Zelenskyy and his war-battered country.

Postings of support came from Germany, France, the U.K., Austria, Spain, Poland, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Slovenia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Ireland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Czech Republic, Finland, Portugal, Belgium, Croatia, Romania, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier: “The scene in the White House yesterday took my breath away. I would never have believed that we would one day have to protect Ukraine from the U.S.A.”

French President Emmanuel Macron: “There is an aggressor, which is Russia and a people who have suffered aggression, which is Ukraine. We all were right to have helped Ukraine



MYSTYSLAV CHERNOV THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

During his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last week, U.S. President Donald Trump covered himself and America in ignominy, Rosie DiManno writes.

and sanctioned Russia three years ago, and to continue to do so.”

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: “It’s not just about Ukraine. It’s about the rules and the values and the principles of sovereignty, of independence, of territorial integrity that protects every country in the world.”

A deafening silence, sadly, from Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Joe Biden.

Disgrace is an overused word. But Trump covered himself in disgrace and covered America in ignominy. At the Kremlin, Vladimir Putin must have been crowing. But it’s a hurdle-obstructed victory lap for the indicted war criminal. The best thing that came out of that jaw-dropping ambush of Zelenskyy is that he departed the Oval Office without signing a shake-down agreement that would have given the U.S. what Trump says is \$500 billion (U.S.) worth of Ukraine’s minerals — just as Trump covets Canada’s minerals and natural resources, the real impetus behind his hog-

wash threat of annexation.

A contemptible deal that would have handed Putin the victory he hasn’t been able to attain in three years of mutually destructive combat, the attrition so severe for Russia that it had to deploy 10,000 North Korean troops to the front lines last year. A minerals-for-security pact that included no security guarantees to protect Ukraine from another Russian invasion. To no avail, Zelenskyy reminded Trump and Vance of Putin’s history of unreliability respecting international agreements, pointing to Russia’s violation of a 2019 ceasefire in eastern Ukraine wherein Kyiv gave up its nuclear weapons for dismantling in exchange for Russia respecting its sovereignty.

“Yes, of course I want to stop the war,” stressed Zelenskyy, over the tag-team bullying and berating from Trump and his corner cutman Vance. “But, as I’ve said to you, with guarantees. Ask our people about the ceasefire, what do they think?”

The world has rarely seen a duo as craven as Trump and Vance,

extortionist gangster hoodlums.

In just over five weeks of his 2.0 presidency, Trump has unleashed an almost daily gush of hellfire, a revelation — if any was needed — of the contempt in which he holds democratic institutions and the Constitution, characterized by ghastly appointments, incessant chaos, sycophants rewarded, elevation of incompetents, avowals of disastrous tariffs pending and naked aggression.

What we’re witnessing is the downward spiral of America in real time. Whereas Trump had scripted himself as de facto bringer of peace — doubtless envisioning a Nobel Prize — he has instead etched in acid his obsequiousness to Putin, his depth of immorality and self-restraint thin as onion paper. He may not actually be a Manchurian president for Russia, but he certainly played one on TV on Friday.

Oh, the MAGA constituency reveres him still. But this is not what Americans voted for when they threw in their electoral lot with Trump and Vance and not a single ballot for Elon Musk, king’s fool. And this dance of the dialectic around the Trump maypole has another 192 weeks to run. What will be left of American honour by then?

Zelenskyy, in his usual military threads — not a dress-down gesture of disrespect — emerged with his integrity and valour intact while Trump was a shrill shrunken head.

“You got to be more thankful, because, let me tell you, you don’t have the cards,” Trump badgered his guest. “With us, you have the cards, but without us, you don’t have any cards.”

Zelenskyy: “I’m not playing cards. I’m very serious, Mr. President. I’m very serious.”

He left a rage-flushed and busted flat president behind.

TRADE WAR

Top U.S. official says tariffs a ‘fluid situation’

Commerce secretary says Canada, Mexico ‘have done a lot’ but Trump will have final say

JOSH WINGROVE

U.S. President Donald Trump is on the verge of slapping new tariffs on Canada and Mexico while doubling a levy on China, moves that would dramatically expand his push to reshape the U.S. economy, tap new revenues and upend ties with the biggest U.S. trading partners.

The tariffs may yet be delayed — the Canada and Mexico measures were already stalled once — but any reprieve could prove temporary, with a host of other Trump levies due in April. Trump says the tariffs are a tool to bring the neighbouring nations to heel on securing the borders from migrants and drugs, particularly fentanyl.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said Sunday that both Canada and Mexico have

been working hard on controlling the border, but fentanyl was still an issue and the tariffs were contingent on both being resolved.

“They have done a lot, so he’s sort of thinking about right now how exactly he wants to play with Mexico and Canada and that is a fluid situation,” Lutnick said on Fox News’ “Sunday Morning Futures,” speaking of Trump. “There are going to be tariffs on Tuesday on Mexico and Canada, exactly what they are, we’re going to leave that for the president and his team to negotiate.”

A slate of new tariffs may help raise revenue for some of the tax cuts Trump wants and lay to rest, at least for now, the theory that Trump’s threats were bluffs to use as leverage.

The tariffs on Canada are

nearly across the board, save for Canadian crude oil, natural gas and other energy products, which are 10 per cent. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s government has mused about applying its own export tax to crude to make sure U.S. drivers feel the pain of Trump’s trade war.

“We will continue to work to ensure to do everything we can to make sure that there are no tariffs on Tuesday, but if ever there were tariffs on Tuesday, as we have all seen — as we were ready to do last time — we will have a strong unequivocal and proportional response as Canadians expect,” Trudeau said Sunday.

The proposed Trump tariffs on Mexico apply to all imports. President Claudia Sheinbaum has weighed her own steps to

stave them off, including potential new tariffs on China. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called it “very interesting” and encouraged both neighbours to do so. Canada has announced similar measures previously.

U.S.-Mexico talks on security and counter-narcotics are further advanced than on trade and tariffs, two people familiar with the discussions have said. In a bid to show its willingness to co-operate with the U.S. on security, Mexico on Thursday handed over 29 people accused of drug trafficking and other crimes to face charges in the U.S. Mexican officials thought that could be enough to buy them more time before tariffs were imposed and allow for talks on trade relations to continue, according to a person familiar with the matter.

“We are going to evaluate that and give them an opportunity to remedy that, so we could either see a ratcheting up in tariffs, or if our trading partners want to remedy what has been unfair trade, then we can see the tariffs come off,” Bessent said on CBS’s Face the Nation.

Trump is also planning sectoral tariffs on autos, semiconductor chips and pharmaceutical drugs, all of which could be imposed as soon as April 2. He launched an investigation that could lead to new copper tariffs later this year. And on Saturday, he ordered the Commerce Department to investigate the national security harm posed by lumber imports, laying the legal groundwork for new tariffs — ones that again appear aimed at Canada.

BLOOMBERG

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40, 41, 42, 46, 48, 49, 50, 54, 56, 58

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Full results at lottery.olg.ca

Canada imposes more sanctions

UKRAINE FROM A1

“He has demonstrated time and time again that he will break any agreements,” Trudeau said.

Ralph Goodale, Canada’s high commissioner to the U.K., said Saturday the goal of the summit was to secure “long-term security guarantees that can make sure that the people of Ukraine can count on peace as their normal way of life, and not under constant threat or constant oppression from an unreliable neighbour.”

Canada announced new sanctions Sunday against 10 individuals and 21 entities, including paramilitary organizations and their leaders, to help counter Russia’s reliance on third-party organizations and countries to advance its goals in Ukraine.

Ottawa said it had imposed sanctions on more than 3,000 individuals and entities complicit in Russia’s aggression to date.

The meeting had been overshadowed by the extraordinary scolding that took place on live television at the White House. Starmer used the opportunity as part of his broader effort to bridge the gap between Europe and the U.S. and also salvage what had seemed like the start of a peace process before Friday’s spat.

Starmer said he had worked with France and Ukraine on a plan to end the war and that the group of leaders — mostly from Europe — had agreed on four things.

The steps toward peace would: keep aid flowing to Kyiv and maintain economic pressure on Russia to strengthen Ukraine’s hand; make sure Ukraine is at the bargaining table and any peace deal must ensure its sovereignty and security; and continue to arm Ukraine to deter future invasion.

Finally, Starmer said they would develop a “coalition of the willing” to defend Ukraine and guarantee the peace.

“Not every nation will feel able to contribute but that can’t mean that we sit back,” he said. “Instead, those willing will intensify planning now with real urgency. The U.K. is prepared to back this with boots on the ground and planes in the air, together with others.”

It is far from certain whether Putin will accept any such plan, which Starmer said would require strong U.S. backing. He did not specify what that meant, though he told the BBC before the summit that there were “intense discussions” to get a



JAVAD PARSA NTB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, front centre, said at Sunday’s summit that he and 18 fellow world leaders, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, would develop a “coalition of the willing” to defend Ukraine against Russian aggression.

security guarantee from the U.S.

“If there is to be a deal, if there is to be a stopping of the fighting, then that agreement has to be defended, because the worst of all outcomes is that there is a temporary pause and then Putin comes again,” Starmer said.

Starmer said he will later bring a more formal plan to the U.S. and work with Trump.

Before arriving in London, French president Emmanuel Macron suggested in an interview with a French newspaper that he and Starmer are proposing a “truce in the air, on the seas and energy infrastructures” that would last a month.

There would be no European troops in the coming weeks and troops would only be deployed on the ground at a later stage, he said.

The question, Macron said, is “how we use this time to try and get an accessible truce, with negotiations that will take several weeks and then, once peace is signed, a deployment.”

During his Sunday press conference, Starmer rejected the suggestion that the U.S. was no longer a reliable ally.

“There are no two countries as closely aligned as our two countries

and our defence, our security and intelligence is intertwined in a way no two other countries are, so it’s an important and reliable ally for us,” he said.

Starmer told the BBC before the summit that he does not trust Putin but does trust Trump.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni said she was sorry for what happened with Zelenskyy in Washington. Meloni is both a strong Ukraine supporter and — as head of a far-right party — she is a natural ally of Trump. She was the only European leader to attend his inauguration.

She said told reporters following the meeting that Europe must remain focused on its common goals and that “dividing the West would be disastrous for everyone.”

“We need to work to reinforce our unity, and I think that Italy can play a role, not just in its own interest, but in everyone’s,” she said. “I don’t want to take any other scenario into consideration.”

Starmer hosted the meeting at Lancaster House, a 200-year-old mansion near Buckingham Palace, following his charm offensive with Macron to persuade Trump to put Ukraine at the centre of negotiations and tilt his allegiances toward Europe.

ZELENSKY WOULD MEET WITH TRUMP AGAIN

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he would meet with Donald Trump if the U.S. president invites him again “to solve real problems,” adding his country is ready to accept a minerals deal that was put on hold last week. If Trump invites him “for a constructive dialogue, to solve real problems, for serious issues and real, decisive actions and answers — I will arrive,” he said Sunday in London.

BLOOMBERG

Leaders from Germany, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Canada, Finland, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Romania were at the summit. The Turkish foreign minister, the NATO secretary-general and the presidents of the European Commission and European Council were also in attendance.

Starmer used sweeping terms to describe the challenge ahead, saying Europe was at a crossroads in its history and needed to step up to meet “once in a generation moment.”

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen emerged from the meeting and said she would present a plan to “rearm Europe” to bolster the bloc’s security after a long period of underinvestment.

As for the future of war-torn Ukraine, von der Leyen said it needs security guarantees.

“We have to put Ukraine in a position of strength so that it has the means to fortify itself and to protect itself,” von der Leyen said. “It’s basically turning Ukraine into a steel porcupine that is indigestible for potential invaders.”

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$30M land claim payment ‘a starting point’

Ottawa, Mississaugas of Credit First Nation agree on first step toward settling 205-year-old issue

ALIYAH MARKO
AND ILYAS HUSSEIN
STAFF REPORTERS

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation has agreed to receive an advance payment of \$30 million from the Government of Canada for a claim regarding the surrender of land in Treaties 22 and 23, after years of negotiation.

The payment is to be put toward a future resolution of the claim, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced Sunday. The claim involves lands in Bronte, Oakville and Port Credit, which represents “one of the highest dollar amounts of any area” in Canada, according to Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Gary Anandasangaree.

“This claim is considered to be what’s called a ‘high value claim,’ said Anandasangaree. “But it is one where we want to take the first and probably very important step toward ensuring that we’re on the right path.”

Canada and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation have been in talks to resolve the specific claim since 2022, the ministry said. The original claim dates back to 1820 after Canada failed to protect First Nations in the surrender and sale of nearly 11,000 acres of First Nation’s land on reserves within Treaties 22 and 23.

Canada’s advance payment is seen as a good-faith gesture which demonstrates its seriousness to settle



STEVE RUSSELL TORONTO STAR

Chief of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Claire Sault, seated left, and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Minister Gary Anandasangaree, right, hold up the agreement regarding the surrender of land in Treaties 22 and 23. Also present on Sunday were Justice Harry S. LaForme and Transport Minister Anita Anand.

the 205-year-old land claim, said Ogimaa-Kwe (Chief) Claire Sault of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

“Negotiations are making good progress, and it is our hope that a final agreement can be reached, that can be voted on by our membership, late this year or in early 2026,” Sault said.

Sault added that this payment is a key step toward the establishment of an urban reserve in Toronto.

Despite the positive negotiations for the resolution of these claims, Anandasangaree said the two sides

are still “far apart” on what the assessment number will be. However, he added this advanced payment was important to set the tone for a resolution to take place.

“It’s for us to say to the nation, ‘We want to move forward with you,’ he said. “This is a starting point for us. But our negotiators will conclude as soon as we can get to a number where we both agree on.”

Transport Minister Anita Anand was also in attendance for Sunday’s announcement. She said there is a “long overdue necessity” to resolve the claims of Treaties 22 and 23,

and the payment was a “milestone” toward that goal.

“There’s so much hurt and so much pain that we know the Indigenous communities across this country have felt,” she said. “We need to continue to walk that path of reconciliation. Today is just one example of the good faith that we intend to proceed with.”

Anandasangaree told the Star there is another land claim involving different Treaties with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation advancing towards a resolution that he hopes to come by the end of this week.

He declined to clarify which Treaties were a part of this future claim.

“We’ve been going in a very negative trajectory as a government, as a country for many years,” Anandasangaree said. “Since 2015, we’ve changed that direction. It’s no longer about distrust and broken promises. It’s about building that trust.”

The \$30 million for Treaties 22 and 23 will be paid in full to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, which Anandasangaree said they’ll receive “fairly soon.”

Over the past five years, 213 claims have been resolved for close to \$13.17 billion in compensation. But Anandasangaree said the path toward reconciliation won’t end there.

“The gaps are still there,” he said. “And we still need to do more, at a very advanced pace ... We need to continue to accelerate the work and ensure the next generation have all that they need to succeed.”

97TH ACADEMY AWARDS



Mikey Madison hugs Sean Baker after he won the award for Best Original Screenplay for “Anora.” Madison won Best Actress for her breakthrough performance in the film and Baker also won Best Director.

‘Anora’ shines at Oscars

Adrien Brody wins Best Actor for role in ‘The Brutalist’

JAKE COYLE

LOS ANGELES “Anora,” a strip club Cinderella story without the fairy tale ending, was crowned best picture at the 97th Academy Awards on Sunday, handing Sean Baker’s gritty, Brooklyn-set screwball farce Hollywood’s top prize.

In a stubbornly fluctuating Oscar season, “Anora,” the Palme d’Or-winner at the Cannes Film Festival, emerged as the unlikely front-runner. Baker’s tale of an erotic dancer who elopes with the son of a Russian oligarch — unusually explicit for a best-picture winner — was made for just \$6 million (U.S.).

But Oscar voters, eschewing blockbuster contenders like “Wicked” and “Dune: Part Two,” instead added “Anora” to a string of recent indie best picture winners, including “Everything Everywhere All at Once,” “CODA” and “Nomadland.”

For a film industry that’s been transformed by streaming and humbled by economic turmoil, Baker and “Anora” epitomized a kind of cinematic purity. On the campaign trail, Baker called for the return to the 90-day exclusive theatrical release.

In personally winning four Oscars on Sunday, Baker tied the mark held by Walt Disney, who won for four different films in 1954. That Baker and Disney share the record is ironic; his “The Florida Project” took place in a Florida low-budget motel in the shadow of Disneyland.

Twenty-two years after winning best actor for “The Pianist,” Adrien Brody won the same Oscar again for his performance as another Holocaust survivor in Brady Corbet’s “The Brutalist.”

Brody’s win came over Timothée Chalamet (“A Complete Unknown”), who had the chance of becoming the youngest best actor ever, a record owned by Brody — just short of 30 when he won for “The Pianist.”

“I’m here once again to represent the lingering traumas and the repercussions of war and systematic oppression and of antisemitism and racism and othering,” said Brody. “I pray for a healthier and happier and more inclusive world. If the past can teach us anything it’s to not let hate go unchecked.”

Mikey Madison won best actress for her breakthrough performance in “Anora,” a victory that came over the category favourite, Demi Moore (“The Substance”).

Baker won best director, best original screenplay and best editing. He used his acceptance speech for best director to preach passionately for the theatrical experience.

“Where did we fall in love with the movies? At the movie theatre,” said Baker. “Filmmakers, keep making films for the big screen.”

“I want to thank the sex worker community,” said Baker, echoing comments he made when “Anora”



Twenty-two years after winning Best Actor for “The Pianist,” Adrien Brody won again for his performance in “The Brutalist.”

won the Palme d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival. “They have shared their stories. They have shared life experiences with me over the years. My deepest respect. Thank you. I share this with you.”

The Oscars otherwise spread the love around, dishing out awards to “Anora,” “Conclave,” “Wicked” and “The Substance.” Eight of the 10 movies nominated for best picture came away with at least one award at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday. That included the beleaguered Netflix contender “Emilia Pérez,” which, despite a backlash to old offensive tweets by star Karla Sofia Gascón, won best supporting actress for Zoe Saldaña.

“I am a proud child of immigrant parents with dreams and dignity and hard-working hands,” said Saldaña. “I am the first American of Dominican origin to accept an Academy Award, and I know I will not be the last.”

The night’s first award, presented by Robert Downey Jr., went to Kieran Culkin for best supporting actor. Culkin has cruised through the season, picking up award after award, for his performance alongside Jesse Eisenberg in “A Real Pain.”

The biggest upset early on came in the best animated feature category. “Flow,” the wordless Latvian film, upset DreamWorks Animations’ “The Wild Robot.” The win for “Flow,” an ecological parable about a cat in a flooded world, was the first Oscar ever for a Latvian film.

“Wicked” stars Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo kicked off the ceremony with a tribute to Los Angeles following the wildfires that devastated the Southern California metropolis earlier this year. Grande sang “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” and Erivo performed Diana Ross’ “Home” before the “Wicked” stars joined together for “Defying Gravity.”

Later, “Wicked,” the biggest box-office hit among the best-picture nominees, won awards for production design and costume design.

“I’m the first Black man to receive the costume design award,” said costume designer Paul Tazewell, who couldn’t finish that sentence before the crowd began to rise in a standing ovation. “I’m so proud of this.”

Best makeup and hairstyling went to “The Substance” for its gory creations of beauty and body horror. “Dune: Part Two” won for both visual effects and sound, and its sandworm — arguably the star of the night — figured into multiple gags throughout the evening.

Brady Corbet’s sprawling postwar epic “The Brutalist,” shot in VistaVision, won for its cinematography, by Lol Crawley, and its score, by Daniel Blumberg.

Though the Oscars featured the first time an actor was nominated for portraying a sitting U.S. president (Sebastian Stan as a young Donald Trump in “The Apprentice”), politics went largely unmentioned in the first half of the ceremony.

Host Conan O’Brien avoided the topic completely in his opening monologue. The first exception was nearly two hours in, when presenter Daryl Hannah announced simply: “Slava Ukraini” (“Glory to Ukraine!”)

“No Other Land,” a documentary about Israeli occupation of the West Bank made by a collation of Palestinian and Israeli filmmakers, won best documentary. After failing to find a U.S. distributor, the filmmakers opted to self-distribute “No Other Land.” It grossed more than any other documentary nominee.

Walter Salles’ “I’m Still Here,” a portrait of resistance under the Brazilian military dictatorship, won best international film. At one point, that award seemed a lock for “Emilia Pérez,” the lead nominee with 13 nods and backed by a robust campaign by Netflix.

O’Brien, introduced as “four-time Oscar viewer,” opened the ceremony with genial ribbing of the nominees and the former talk-show host’s trademark self-deprecation.

“‘A Complete Unknown.’ ‘A Real Pain.’ ‘Nosferatu.’ These are just some of the names I was called on the red carpet,” said O’Brien.

O’Brien, hosting for the first time, avoided any political commentary in his opening remarks, but the monologue was a smash hit.

O’Brien’s most sincere comments were reserved for Los Angeles, itself, in speaking about the enduring “magic and grandeur” of film in wake of the wildfires.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dressed to thrill

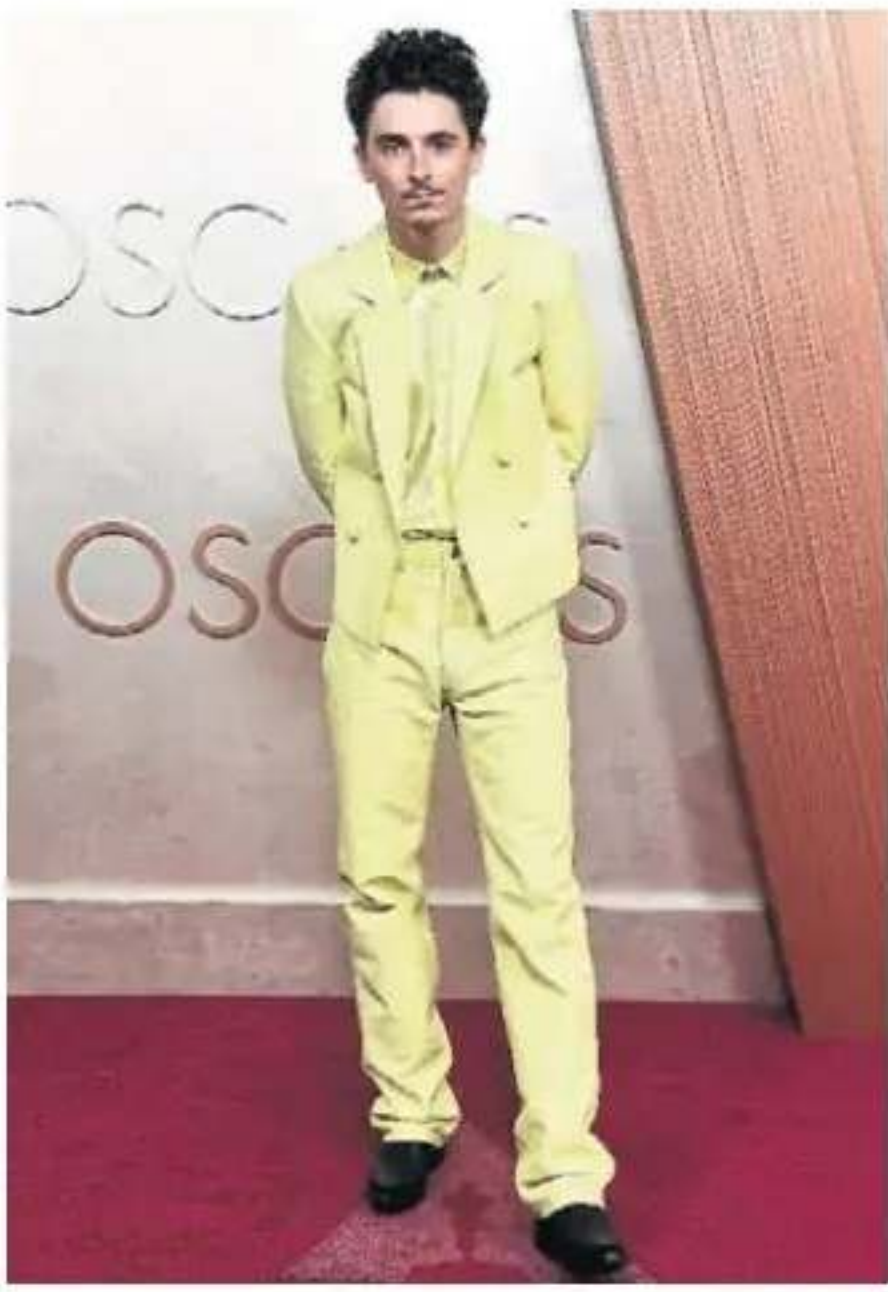
JILLIAN VIEIRA
SPECIAL TO THE STAR



Cynthia Erivo
Erivo became an early best dressed favourite in custom Louis Vuitton that was a nod to “Oz, green and Old Hollywood,” as the “Wicked” actress explained.



Ariana Grande
Taking a page from her equal parts sweet and sharp “Wicked” character, Grande wore a barely blush gown punctuated by a clam basque and waves of crystal-flecked tulle.



Timothée Chalamet
It’s no surprise that the “A Complete Unknown” star selected a daffodil-yellow suit for the Oscars red carpet. The playful energy of this custom Givenchy look could well be yet another nod to Bob Dylan.



Zoe Saldaña
Following a slew of high-style looks on this year’s awards circuit, the “Emilia Pérez” star served yet another sartorial ace in maroon Saint Laurent by Anthony Vaccarello.



Demi Moore
Silver-y and statue-like Armani Privé feels fitting for “The Substance” star, as her couture dress is defined by a plunging neckline, nipped-in waist and gathered hip detail.



Elle Fanning
Fanning continued in her role as a fashion north star in a 1950s-style toile gown by Sarah Burton. It was an elegant choice, polished off by an archival Cartier necklace, for the “A Complete Unknown” star.



I feel like I'm dreaming.
Ender, Winner Jul 2024



*I felt faint, shocked,
and in pure disbelief.*
Kelly, Winner Jul 2024

*I was screaming with
pure joy. I could not believe
all the zeros I was seeing.*
Samantha, Winner Aug 2023

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IMMIGRATION

‘A safe haven’ for refugee youth

Facility offers support for newly arrived unaccompanied minors fleeing violence

NICHOLAS KEUNG
SENIOR IMMIGRATION REPORTER

Tracy Muriithi had never been away from her family, let alone travelling outside Kenya on her own. When she landed in Toronto in January 2019 after a 20-hour flight via Germany, the then-17-year-old followed the signs to Customs and had no idea what she was supposed to do. She didn’t even have a winter coat. Although she came here on a student visa, there was a darker reason for her travel, and the border guards questioned her. “They were like, ‘Why are you coming from home? Are you really coming here to study?’ ” recalled Muriithi, now 23. “I was very scared. I’m going to this new country where I don’t know anything or anyone. The only thing I was banking on was that I could speak a bit of English. And I know my parents are not there to help me because we’re time zones and time zones away.” The truth was, said Muriithi, her parents sent her to Canada to save her from gender-based violence. And the unaccompanied minor had to navigate a new life and a complex refugee system by herself. According to the Centre for Refugee Children in Toronto, each year 400 to 500 unaccompanied and separated children come to Canada for asylum, about half of them destined for Ontario. They flee conflict zones and persecution based on race and ethnicity, as well as family violence. Their parents often don’t have the resources to get the whole

family out, and make a bid to keep their children safe. While helping these minors with school enrolment, income support and refugee claim process are all important, finding them a safe place to stay is an immediate challenge, said Steve Meagher, director of the centre, which was founded in 2021 to provide specialized support to unaccompanied and separated refugee children. That’s what prompted the organization this month to open Anchor House — a five-room, 12-bed facility at an undisclosed location in the city to house newly arrived minor refugees who are here on their own. It’s believed to be the first emergency housing in Canada dedicated to unaccompanied refugee children and youth. While unaccompanied claimants under 16 are referred by immigration and border authorities to the Children’s Aid Society and placed in foster care, the 16- and 17-year-olds often find their way in regular homeless shelters or stay with in the community. Those settings are not designed to meet their unique needs, said Meagher. He estimates that about 15 per cent of unaccompanied minors stay in homeless shelters with another 15 per cent in foster care placements. The remaining 70 per cent are housed by relatives and acquaintances. “What we often find with children is that the kind of trajectory of their refugee claim is often determined from those first decisions and the most first steps,” said Meagher.



Refugee youth, already coping with past trauma and family separation, can be overwhelmed by the new environment and culture, during what can be a stressful asylum process. Some face language barriers when accessing support. “We want to create a safe haven when they arrive,” said Feven Iket, Anchor House’s site co-ordinator. “We want to create a space where they feel at home, a space where they feel settled. Loneliness is the hardest part for them all.” Adam fled war in Sudan, and his older brother was killed after they were separated from their parents and siblings. He finally arrived alone in Vancouver in December 2023 after a long journey through Chad, Turkey, Colombia, El Salvador and Nicaragua. “It was very scary when I was travelling across those countries,” said the now 18-year-old, who asked that his last name be withheld while he’s trying to secure his permanent residence in Canada. Knowing a bit of French, but no English, the then 17-year-old initially stayed in a homeless shelter and decided to take a train to Montreal. But he ran out of money and only made it to Toronto. He went to a mosque for help, and a compatriot directed him to the Centre for Refugee Children. “It’s been difficult but I’ve survived,” said Adam, who finally

Tracy Muriithi arrived here in 2019 as a 17-year-old fleeing gender-based violence in Kenya. Her parents were not able to join her, leaving her to navigate a complex refugee system by herself. Muriithi said Anchor House offers “a sense of belonging” for youth arriving in a new place on their own.

MICHELLE MENGSHU CHANG
TORONTO STAR

tracked down his parents and 13 siblings at a refugee camp in Chad last year. “I just need to be somewhere safe.” Adam said he hopes to study engineering in university when he finishes high school this summer. Nestled in a residential neighbourhood, the three-storey Anchor House has an intake office; a cosy family room with a sectional couch, big TV and fireplace; a bright study/activity room with four desktop computers, desks and bookshelves; and a huge communal kitchen on the ground floor. The second floor has four bedrooms for boys, each with two single beds and night tables. There’s a much bigger ensuite for four girls, with similar set-ups. A staff member is on site at all hours to supervise residents, who get help in their asylum claim, enrolling in school, applying for government assistance and accessing health care through a case management team. The residents are provided with food at the house, though they are responsible for cleaning. Muriithi, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in commerce from Toronto Metropolitan University last year, said she wished she didn’t have to figure things out the hard way. After her initial stay with a friend of a family friend, she met a woman at a church who took her in. She turned to the internet for information to navigate her life and knocked on the door of a youth shelter for guidance. Although she had a lawyer through legal aid, she was on her own through the asylum process without help in decision making. Muriithi now works as a real estate agent and a co-ordinator of a youth-led project to improve the system for unaccompanied claimants. Anchor House is more than a shelter, she said. “If you’re living with other people who are unaccompanied minors to the country, you get a sense of belonging. You are not alone in this.”

ONTARIO VOTES ANALYSIS

NDP’s ground game pays off in legislature

JOSH RUBIN
STAFF REPORTER

If Liberal support in the Ontario election were a vehicle, it would be a gas-guzzling SUV. The NDP? More like a sleek, fuel-efficient sedan. While those vehicles might run on gasoline, electoral machines run on votes, and Liberal support last Thursday wasn’t particularly efficient, generating just 14 seats despite the party getting 29.95 per cent of the popular vote. The NDP, meanwhile, wound up with 27 seats, despite slumping to 18.55 per cent of the vote. It is, political scientists and pollsters say, a credit to the NDP’s decision to focus on areas where it has a significant base of support, while putting a token effort into the rest. It’s also, they say, because of the way the party works at the local level. “Once they pick up a riding, they work hard to keep the seat in the fold through strong relationships and focused local campaigns,” said David Coletto, CEO of polling firm Abacus Data. “They channel resources right to those ridings they know they can hold, and that strategy really pays off on election day.” The Liberals, by contrast, saw their vote spread out in ridings across the province. “That can look good on the popular vote but doesn’t always earn a lot of wins on election night,” noted Coletto, who did polling for the Star during the Ontario campaign. Doug’s Ford’s Progressive Conservatives won their third straight majority, taking 80 seats with 42.97 per cent of the popular vote, and 2,158,452 voters marking their ballot for a PC candidate. Put another way, the PCs “spent” 26,981 votes per seat. The NDP, who won Official Opposition status for the second straight election, had the support of 931,796 voters, meaning they “spent” 34,511 votes per seat. And the Liberals, who earned the sup-

port of 1,504,688 Ontarians? They “spent” a whopping 107,478 votes per seat. (The Greens won two seats with 242,822 votes, and “spent” 121,411 votes per seat.) In addition to having an efficient vote, the NDP also benefits from having a strong base of loyal party activists at the riding level, who are adept at getting supporters to actually get out and vote on election day, says pollster Darrell Bricker. “It’s a bit of an old joke, but it’s that if you’re going to get canvassed in a snowstorm, it’ll be by the NDP. They’re kind of known for their ground game,” said Bricker, CEO of Ipsos Public Affairs and a fellow at U of T’s Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. “They tend to have a lot of community organizations, people who are very activist, that they know that they’re not necessarily going to win the election overall, but they know that it’s important for them to win their riding,” Bricker said. Just as important as how they worked in ridings they won, said Bricker, is how the NDP operated in areas where they lost. “When you look at the ones they lost, they tended to lose by a lot, which means that they didn’t waste their time trying to get votes where they couldn’t get them,” said Bricker. The relatively small number of seats won by the Liberals is also thanks to the first-past-the-post voting system, argued York University political scientist Dennis Pilon, a member of Fair Vote Canada, a group which advocates for electoral reform. Despite winning almost 30 per cent of the popular vote, the Liberals captured just 11 per cent of the seats. The NDP captured 22 per cent of the seats with 18.6 per cent of the vote. “It was pretty standard operating system for first past the post,” said Pilon, noting that the winning Tories got 65 per cent of the seats with 43 per cent of the popular vote.

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‘This is just going to get worse’

NURSES FROM A1

A Niagara Health executive said the network “follows internal staffing guideline levels across medical and surgical wards.” The spokesperson declined to say what those guidelines are.

The workload reports, which Star/IJB reporters obtained under freedom of information legislation, are designed to alert hospital management of patient safety issues. The Star/IJB is seeking similar records from other hospitals across the province.

During a chaotic shift, pressures mount

Nurses from hospitals throughout Ontario and interviewed for this story said nurse-to-patient ratios are a common problem.

After a shift on Aug. 26, during which two patients died, a nurse recorded some details from the hectic night:

Patients were left in hallways, there were delays to administering medications, and restrained patients tried to force their way out of bed and fell to the floor, the workload report said.

The nurse reported ratios of one nurse for every nine patients.

“Multiple (medications) delayed due to high patient ratios,” the workload report reads. “Unable to provide the care ... in a timely manner due to patient:nurse ratios.”

With such ratios, “you’re lost in a tornado of things going on,” said a Niagara Health System nurse who spoke the Star/IJB on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. “It’s not safe at all.”

How nurse-patient ratios can impact care

Studies show that hospitals with lower nurse-to-patient ratios provide better care, with higher patient satisfaction, lower mortality, and shorter stays.

“Eight, nine, 10 (patients to one nurse) is an extreme number,” said Karen Lasater, a chair in nursing and health policy at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, who reviewed the documents.

“When a nurse cares for one additional patient, that patient has a seven per cent higher odds of dying. That nurse has a 23 per cent higher odds of experiencing burnout.”

The Niagara Health statement said unexpected sick calls and other factors beyond the hospital system’s control can impact staffing levels. Though the reports offer only a snapshot of nurse workloads, they also reflect other pressures on the health-care system, including overcapacity in hospitals, the statement added.

“We remain committed to providing the best possible care under all circumstances.”



In one Niagara report, a nurse said nurse-to-patient ratio should be 1:6. A manager’s note at the end of the form expresses that the 1:7 and 1:8 ratios are the expectation, not the exception.

“While specific ratios vary depending on the complexity of care, the skills and experience of nursing staff, and the type of unit, our ratios align with or exceed the median for peer hospitals in Ontario,” said Simon Akinsulie, Niagara Health’s executive vice-president of practice, clinical support and chief nursing executive.

The hospital network did not respond to requests for details on median nurse-to-patient ratios at Niagara Health or elsewhere in Ontario.

B.C., Australian states have ratios

A lack of mandated ratios is why nurses are leaving the profession, said nurses from hospitals across Ontario.

“This is why Ontario is in a huge deficit of nurses and this is just going to get worse,” said Jenn Miller, a registered nurse who works in the GTA.

Niagara Health told the Star/IJB that it has a strong retention rate.

New guidelines in B.C. set a ratio of 1:4 for patient care in emergency rooms, acute medical wards and surgical wards. In California and Oregon, legislation requires ratios of 1:5 and in Australian states Victoria and Queensland, the legislated ratio is 1:4.

Research by nursing professor Linda Aiken shows that in California, where ratios were legislated two decades ago, patients received three times more hours of nursing care per day compared to states without such legislation.

“Minimum nurse staffing mandates would save lives and money,” said Aiken, who teaches at University of Pennsylvania. “(It is) the single most important factor in reducing adverse outcomes, unnecessary

expenditures and reducing turnover.”

Ontario Health, which manages hospital funding on behalf of the Ministry of Health, did not respond to questions from the Star/IJB.

In May 2024, NDP health critic France Gélinas proposed Bill 192 to legislate ratios of 1:4 for acute medical care. The bill failed to move past the second reading in June, stymied by a 39-68 vote led by Conservative MPPs.

The Ontario Hospital Association has pushed back against mandatory nurse-to-patient ratios, saying in a statement to the Star/IJB that they limit a hospital’s flexibility to “tailor staffing levels” and represents “antiquated 20th century thinking at a time when Ontario’s hospitals are innovating to respond to the demands and complexities of the 21st century.”

Nurses file reports, but do they make a difference?

Nurses use the workload reports to comply with the College of Nurses of Ontario’s requirement to report medical errors, safety risks or systemic problems to employers.

The forms are reviewed by union and hospital officials. But nurses who have filed reports said they often receive a written response from management without any meaningful changes made.

They also said the reports are not welcomed by hospital managers.

“You are definitely not encouraged to fill them out,” said the Niagara nurse interviewed by the Star/IJB.

The Star/IJB has filed formal freedom of information requests for nurse workload reports in hospitals across Ontario. Niagara Health initially denied an August 2023 request for the reports. Following a protracted appeal process, reporters obtained reports covering the period between July 22 and Sept. 21, 2024.

They detail chaotic moments dur-

Some jurisdictions set a ratio of one nurse for every four or five patients in emergency rooms, acute medical wards and surgical wards, but that isn’t the case in Ontario, despite growing calls for change.

STEVE RUSSELL
TORONTO STAR
FILE PHOTO

“**When a nurse cares for one additional patient, that patient has a seven per cent higher odds of dying. That nurse has a 23 per cent higher odds of experiencing burnout.**”

KAREN LASATER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
SCHOOL OF NURSING

ing a string of shifts in September 2024.

On Sept. 15, nurses had as many as 10 patients each. Patients in hallways had no access to life-saving equipment including oxygen tanks and suction machines, and there was “no call bell system,” reads the report from that day.

On Sept. 17, 2024, three patients fell “within less than three hours of the start of shift,” a nurse said in the report.

Four nurses were ratioed at 1:8 and two were ratioed at 1:7. There was a lot to do. Twelve of the 46 patients were under infection precautions and required “heightened surveillance” and PPE equipment, which takes extra time to put on and take off.

The report from that day identified “high ratios” as the reason they were “rushing with vitals so we can try to give meds on time. ... Multiple confused patients (trying to crawl out of bed), some of them needing 1:1 (attention).”

No relief after a ‘silent code white’

After some of the September shifts, nurses reported the dangers caused by a lack of staff.

During the night shift on Sept. 11, nurses treated patients in hallways as the ward was overcapacity by four patients. They placed an 80-year-old patient with an amputated leg in a hallway with other patients “known to have a history of violence.”

During the same shift, a nurse reported a “silent code white” — which triggers a rapid response by security officers — as a patient tried to strangle people nearby.

“It was unsafe and has potential for serious errors,” reads the report.

Linda Steele, a retired registered nurse in Ottawa who reviewed the documents, said they highlight the risks nurses face when workloads are high.

“It’s not like the cops who are wearing steel-toed shoes and vests and have a baton and have the right to subdue the patient,” said “We have none of that, so you’re vulnerable the whole time you’re working.”

The workload report forms ask for recommendations for management to consider. During the chaotic week in September, a nurse checked the box beside the words “review nurse/patient ratio.”

At the end of the report, the nurse requested that the unit restore the seventh nurse for night shifts.

“Seven is not the budgeted amount of registered staff on nights,” wrote a manager in response. “Patient ratios appropriate.”

WITH FILES FROM
MAX BINKS-COLLIER/INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM BUREAU

FEDERAL POLITICS

Tories target Carney’s business background

Liberal leadership candidate’s career includes stints in private finance, central bank governor

RYAN TUMILTY
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA Liberal leadership front-runner Mark Carney has touted his business record as an asset, but the Conservatives are using it against him in a new attack ad.

Carney’s career includes stints in private finance and the federal bureaucracy, as well as serving as the central bank governor in Canada and England.

When he ended his term at the Bank of England, he joined corporate boards of directors, including that of Brookfield Asset Management, which last fall announced plans to move its headquarters from Toronto to New York.

Conservative MP Michael Barrett accused Carney of having lied about his involvement in the headquarters move at a news conference last week.

“He will put profits for himself and for well-connected insiders on Bay Street and now on Wall Street, ahead of Canadians,” Barrett charged.

Following Tuesday’s Liberal lead-

ership debate, Carney said he had left Brookfield before the decision to change headquarters was finalized.

“The formal decision of the board happened after I ceased to be on the board,” he said. But Brookfield announced the plan last October, well before Carney left the company.

His campaign has said switching the location of the head office didn’t cost any Canadian jobs. “Brookfield has clearly stated that Canadian operations were not impacted,” it stated.

The Conservative party launched an ad last week criticizing the Brookfield decision, and has also drawn attention to Carney’s work for Stripe, a credit card processing company.

Carney was on the board of directors of Stripe until he launched his leadership bid. The company came under criticism for not fully passing along a reduction in credit card fees that the Liberal government negotiated for its customers.

Calgary Conservative MP Michelle Rempel Garner called out Carney for not pushing Stripe to pass along the reduction.

“Your silence on this issue speaks volumes. You should be calling for Stripe to pass these savings along to Canadian small businesses, today,” she said.

Conservatives have also called for Carney to disclose all of his financial assets now. If he is successful in the leadership race, Carney will become prime minister immediately.

And although he would not be a member of Parliament, as a public office holder he would still be required to make the same sort financial disclosures to the ethics commissioner as MPs do.

However, he would have up to 60 days to make that disclosure. Rempel argued in a recent letter to Carney that he should do it sooner.

“The law did not anticipate such an unprecedented situation, wherein an individual goes directly from his lucrative private sector roles directly into the Prime Minister’s Office without ever holding any prior elected office,” she wrote.

Carney has promised to follow all the rules once he is elected.

“I will be subject to all the conflict of interest rules and the ethics rules,” he said. “I will happily com-



The federal Conservatives have launched an ad drawing attention to Mark Carney’s involvement with Brookfield Asset Management as well as credit card processing company Stripe.

ply with all of them. It’s a straightforward process that will begin as soon as this process ends.”

A source in the Carney campaign, who spoke on background to discuss internal strategy, said they are expecting attacks from the Conservatives on anything and everything right now, but so far have been unimpressed.

With the leadership race still underway, they said it’s too early to worry about Conservative attacks.

Greg MacEachern, a veteran Liberal strategist and principal at KAN Strategies, said the Conservatives are attacking Carney’s resumé.

“Mark Carney has had a long career and a distinguished career, and it is probably in the Conservative best interest to try to chip away at that as much as possible,” he said. “There’s been multiple messages and they’ve tried a bunch of things, including attacking his shoes.”

MacEachern said in a world where U.S. President Donald Trump is threatening tariffs, among other things, he is not sure how much a complicated story like Brookfield will cut through into Canadians’ imaginations.

OPINION

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

JORDAN BITOVE PUBLISHER
NICOLE MACINTYRE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
JORDAN HIMELFARB OPINION EDITOR
GRANT ELLIS EXECUTIVE EDITOR
DONOVAN VINCENT PUBLIC EDITOR

The case for national unity

JOHN LORINC
CONTRIBUTOR

In a period of crushing uncertainty, Canadians will face a somewhat predictable political narrative in the next several months.

Next Sunday, the winner of the Liberal leadership race becomes prime minister.

Given the fluidity of the polls and the surge in support for a Mark Carney-led Liberal party, a new government may call a snap election, and we'll find ourselves in the thick of a spring campaign, with Tory Leader Pierre Poilievre finally getting his shot at leading the country.

Alternatively, the Liberals may recall Parliament, arguing that MPs need to focus on the tariff crisis. Yet that scenario could end quickly, too, if Poilievre and the opposition parties defeat the government on a non-confidence vote.

Either way, Canadians will have to watch the performative spectacle of the leaders trying to prove they're uniquely positioned to counter U.S. President Donald Trump. They may even find themselves engaged in this strange pageant just as Trump opts to take advantage of the power vacuum in Ottawa and move more aggressively against Canadian exporters.

None of it sounds encouraging.

Here's an alternative: the incoming prime minister, acknowledging an extreme national crisis, could invite the opposition parties to form a national unity government featuring a cabinet with politicians from all parties to actually confront the threat, as opposed to merely talk about confronting the threat.

As has become clear, there's little substantive policy difference between the Liberals and the Conservatives when it comes to confronting U.S. aggression. Both stress the importance of standing up for Canada, imposing significant counter tariffs, not taking bargaining chips off the table, confronting interprovincial trade barriers and so on.

This alignment reflects the reality that most Canadians agree we face an existential threat, one that demands a different sort of political response and purposefully includes Canadians from across the political spectrum. After all, everyone is going to get smacked by whatever Trump has in store for us, regardless of whom we voted for.

Though not common, national unity governments are a recognized feature of parliamentary democracies, and have coalesced in various nations in times of crisis, including Israel during several wars, Italy after COVID hit, and here.

In the spring of 1917, Canada faced a severe wartime crisis. Hundreds of thousands of Canadian soldiers had been sent to fight in France, with staggering losses. Then prime minister Robert Borden, a Tory, argued that Canada had a duty to bring in conscription to replenish its forces so those thousands of young men didn't die for nothing.

With French-Canadians, farmers and non-British immigrants fiercely opposed, Borden proposed a national unity government, with a joint cabinet, to Liberal leader Wilfrid Laurier. But Laurier balked, knowing that most of his Quebec MPs opposed conscription. Borden persisted, convincing several Liberal MPs from English Canada to join what became the Unionist Party. It won a huge majority in the December 1917 general election, then brought in conscription, as well as other reforms, including universal suffrage for women. The blended party, however, didn't last. The Liberals under William Lyon Mackenzie King regained power in 1921.

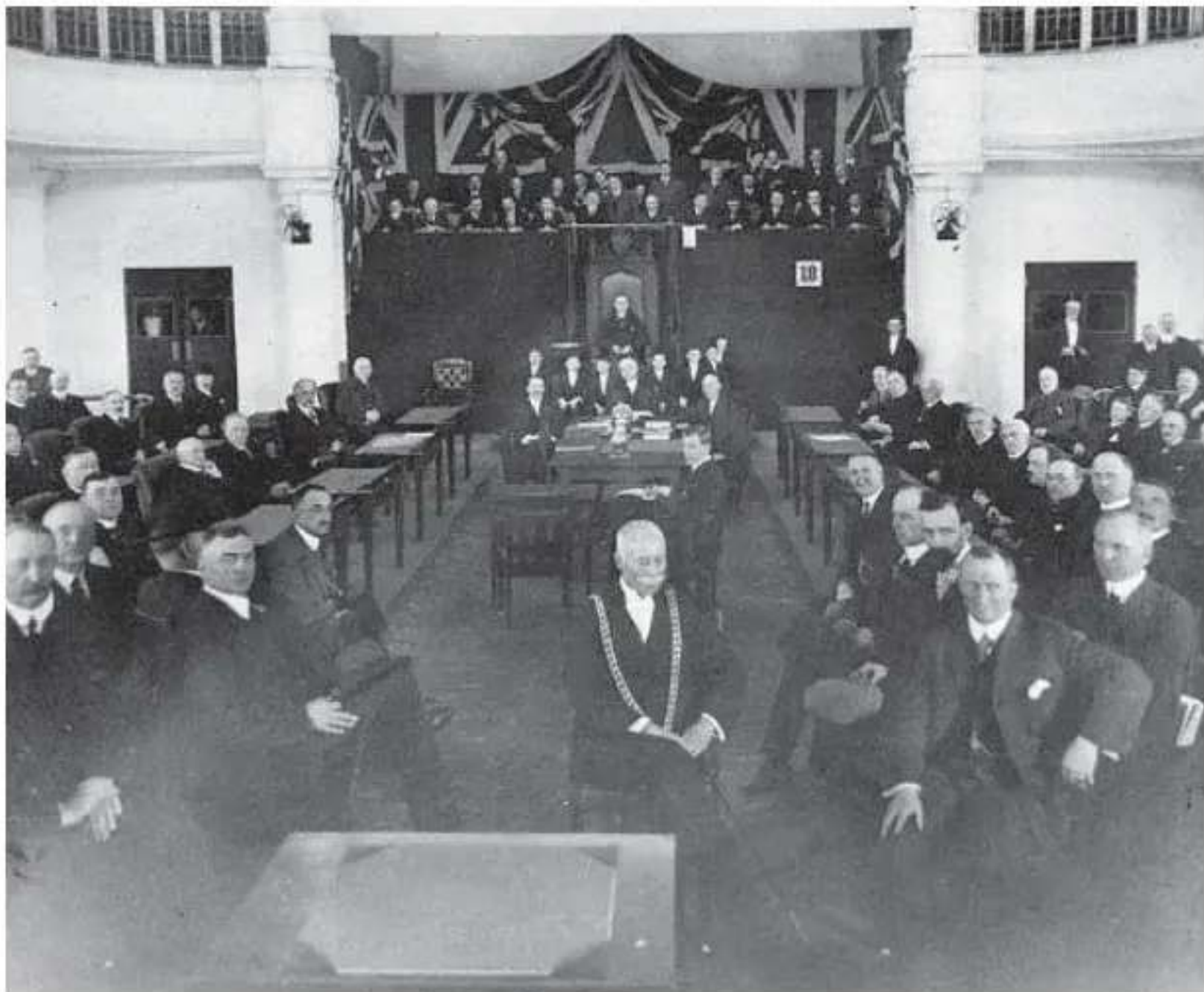
While today's circumstances are obviously very different, there's little doubt that we need to land on a unifying response to Trump's pledge to use economic force against us.

I'm not naive about the political pivots required. Both major parties are spoiling for a fight, and there are sharp differences of opinion in many other policy domains, from the environment to deficits to the CBC. Nor can the next government only focus on Trump. The nation's business won't grind to a halt because Washington has turned into a chaos agent.

All that said, Canadians have good reason to push the five federal parties to align behind a concerted answer to Trump instead of fight with one another. As with suffrage under Borden's Unionists, Ottawa can seize this moment to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers — another objective the major parties now have in common.

After several years of bitter partisanship between the Liberals and the Tories, it is difficult to envision that the two sides could set aside their political differences, even temporarily. What's not difficult to envision, however, is the damage we'll sustain if they don't.

JOHN LORINC IS A TORONTO JOURNALIST
AND AUTHOR OF "NO JEWS LIVE HERE" (2024).



LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

Facing a wartime crisis in 1917, then-prime minister Robert Borden formed a National Unity government of Liberal and Conservative MPs that approved conscription and other reforms, including universal suffrage for women.

YOUNG DOUG FORD

MACKAY
THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR



GRAEME MACKAY THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

LETTERS

Ford's win should (but likely won't) spur change

Doug Ford wins third majority after gambling on winter election, Feb. 27

The results of the election in Ontario demonstrate the need to take further steps along the road toward democratic representation, where every vote cast is reflected in the number of representatives in the legislature for each political party. As a result of the current electoral system, the Progressive Conservatives will command a majority of the seats at Queen's Park, yet less than 50 per cent of voters supported the party. The NDP will be the official Opposition, but more people voted for the Liberals than did the NDP.

The number of seats a political party has in the legislature as a result of our first-past-the-post system does not fairly represent the number of votes cast for that party. In order to truly make every vote count, we need a new electoral system, such as proportional representation. We can do it, but those who benefit most from our current, faulty electoral system stand in the way of a more democratic way forward.

Allan Baker, Toronto

There is something off with an electoral system in which a party that received around 19 per cent of the popular vote will become the official opposition, while a party that received almost 30 per cent of the popular vote will barely gain status as an official party. It just may be time for some electoral reform.

Robert Prior, Toronto

Most Ontario voters cast their ballots for candidates of other parties, yet it's the Tories that will form another majority government that can do practically whatever it wants. Democracy is often defined as rule by majority. Obviously, by that definition, we do not have democracy in Ontario. Doug Ford's litany of failures and fiascos, and his habit of wasting our tax dollars, will continue, enabled by our indefensible electoral system.

Tom Cullen, Toronto

Our hard-earned money will now go toward building a tunnel under Highway 401. That same money should be used to improve our hospitals and schools, as well as our social safety net for those who need it. Voters have essentially given Ford the right to do as he pleases with the Ontario Science Centre, Ontario Place and the Greenbelt.

And as the RCMP continues

to investigate the legality of what happened during the Greenbelt scandal, Ford continues to bring in — and is doubtless influenced by — the rich and powerful, all while the common good takes a back seat.

Bill Fox, Oshawa

Are you there, Britain? It's me, Canada

Donald Trump doubles down on threat to slap tariffs on Canada as British PM declines to stand up for Canada, Feb. 27

U.S. President Donald Trump has made no secret of wanting to turn Canada into the 51st state. He covets Canada for its natural resources: oil and gas, uranium, lumber, metals such as aluminum and rare-earth minerals. He has threatened to subjugate and annex Canada via economic warfare through tariffs.

King Charles is Canada's head of state. Canada is also a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, of which Charles is the head. Yet in spite of Trump's almost daily attacks on Canada's sovereignty and independence, there has been deathly silence from Buckingham Palace. Not a peep out of Charles or any other members of the Royal Family in defence of Canada.

At a White House press conference last week, a reporter asked British Prime Minister Keir Starmer about Canada's membership in the Commonwealth and the silence from Charles. Starmer dodged the question, failing to provide even a polite statement in defence of Canada's status as an independent nation.

It's time for Canadians to ask some serious questions about why we should continue to have a distant monarch as our head of state, even if it's only a ceremonial position.

Khush Bagli, Toronto

I understand the pressure King Charles must have been under in order to have agreed to allow Trump to visit Buckingham Palace: the U.S. is such a large trading partner for so many countries. However, Charles is the head of the Commonwealth of Nations, whose charter lists its members' shared values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Trump wants to make Canada a part of the U.S. — so how can Charles, as our head of state, invite anyone threatening Canada to his palace? Does trade between the U.S. and Britain come before supporting and safeguarding democracy in a Commonwealth country?

Historians have reminded us lately that Adolf Hitler came to power because those who could speak up didn't. If Charles hosts Trump while the latter still threatens our country, will it mean the end of Charles as our head of state?

Darren Brackley, Dartmouth, N.S.

Keir Starmer practically fawned over Donald Trump as he delivered an official invitation for a state visit to the United Kingdom, offered by an effusive King Charles. So let me understand: Canada is under economic attack from an American president who is also threatening our sovereignty. Yet the King to whom we pledge our allegiance rolls out the red carpet for an autocrat rather than defend a member of the Commonwealth from this unprovoked and indefensible aggression? Would Winston Churchill have demeaned himself in this way, by kissing Trump's ring?

Jeff Bondett, Ridgeway, Ont.

Freeland is yesterday's Liberal leader

We've worked with Liberal PMs going back to Pierre Trudeau. Here's why Chrystia Freeland should be next, Opinion, Feb. 27

This is to dispute the claim by Lloyd Axworthy and Allan Rock that Chrystia Freeland is best suited to assume leadership of the Liberal party. They argue on behalf of her presumed ability to work with and unite the caucus, to form and lead cabinet and to manage perhaps the most difficult job in the land.

So why is the vast majority of the caucus and cabinet supporting Mark Carney instead? There are very clear reasons.

First is Freeland's public resignation from cabinet, which blindsided Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. PMs have the perfect right to shuffle their cabinets, and the plan was to bring in "rock star" Carney as finance minister while Freeland would retain the job of deputy prime minister and take on the critical role of handling U.S. relations under Trump's chaotic tenure. She resigned instead, knowing it would end what had been one of Trudeau's greatest strengths going back more than a decade: a loyal caucus. She knew she was forcing him to resign.

Trudeau has acted with dignity and grace in doing the nation's business since he announced he would resign, and he has also maintained his impartiality in the leadership race.

Richard Sharp, Carrying Place, Ont.

Gretzky's out of our hockey hearts



HEATHER MALICK
OPINION

As U.S. President Donald Trump pushes forward, his sanity dubious and his urge to punish almost Stalinesque, Canadians reject him in ever greater numbers. Canada is our nation. It will remain so. Which brings us to a new phase in Canadian life: traitor time!

We don't like Trump. And we don't like Trump-adjacency. When we see it, we speak up.

Wayne Gretzky was always Trump-adjacent. His silence about his many bumps with Trump, from repeatedly visiting Mar-a-Lago to attending his inauguration, spoke volumes. But his thumbs-up to the American team as he attended Canada's final game in the 4 Nations Face-Off tournament was the closing grotesquerie.

He's all-Trump. Gretzky was born in Canada. Canada made him. Then Canada made him rich, famous and beloved. But America made him ultra-rich and money keeps Gretzky in Florida now.

He's done with us. Trump didn't make it worse by defending Gretzky. It couldn't get worse. Like a little inappropriate boy, Trump posted, "Wayne is my friend, and he wants to make me happy, and is therefore somewhat 'low key' about Canada remaining a separate country, rather than becoming a cherished and beautiful 51st state."

Then came this. "He's the Greatest Canadian of them all, and I am therefore making him a 'free agent,' because I don't want anyone in Canada to say anything bad about him."

I understand that ferreting around in the swill that is Trump's brain yields little of value. But the idea that Canadians were waiting for Trump's permission to deplore Gretzky, or the fact that Trump sees Gretzky as the pathetic toady that he is, well, that takes the actual biscuit.

Gretzky, you're out of our hockey hearts. We will not shovel your driveway anymore.

Now, Canadians are reasonable. We're not going to get perfectly puritan about who might or might not stand for Canada under threat, who has a foot in both countries, who's running for cover, because purity is an American thing.

Americans lived through the 17th-century Salem witch trials, senator Joe McCarthy's early-1950s blacklists, and the current MAGA threats that have Republican politicians fearing



SAUL LOEB AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Canadian hockey legend Wayne Gretzky has been criticized over his support for and friendship with U.S. President Donald Trump.

for their lives and the lives of their families.

So, we will distinguish between degrees of Trump-adjacency. Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, who has long styled himself as something of a mini-Trump, is skating away from Trumpiness to Trump-adjacency.

But maybe not. Poilievre's recent red-tinted attack ads implying that Liberal party leadership candidate Mark Carney has "lied" about his loyalty to Canadian business interests seem Trumpish. They misunderstand the crisis. Canadians are rating candidates in large part on their ability to deal face-to-face with Trump.

At any rate, the four Liberal candidates at Tuesday's debate appeared to agree on one thing: stop going to Florida. That's not a big ask.

I no longer knowingly buy U.S. products, which means there are many imported cauliflowers, MERV 17s (the crème de la crème of furnace filters), and double-sided rug tape that will not grace my home for years to come.

The American export market to Canada of antique French yellow-glazed confit pots was always small — just me apparently — and its loss will not be much mourned.

I shall take my custom directly to France to make up for Trump publicly groping President Emmanuel Macron who curtly peeled Trump's fingers off his knee this week.

Perhaps this over-personalizes trade issues. When 25 per cent U.S. tariffs hit Canada, allegedly next week, Canada's economic survival is what matters. In the same way Americans will slowly grasp that handing total power to a president who repels former allies was a huge mistake.

Trump is hanging with a bad crowd. Canada has friends and Canada is friends within itself. Political parties disagree, but I hope they do not hate each other and will hold steady through the coming federal election.

We may be U.S.-adjacent, but we are Canada.

HEATHER MALICK IS A TORONTO-BASED COLUMNIST COVERING CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR THE STAR. FOLLOW HER ON BLUESKY: @HMALICK.BSKY.SOCIAL

Let's leave this great Canadian alone

KIRSTIE MCLELLAN DAY
CONTRIBUTOR

I get it. You need something to be mad about. The world's a mess, Twitter (sorry, X) is an all-you-can-eat buffet of outrage. It's understandable, as the leader of the world's most powerful country continues to threaten Canada with massive tariffs and 51st statehood, that Canadians are worried and angry. But why target a guy who's spent his entire life making Canadians proud? Yes, Wayne Gretzky lives in the United States. Yes, he's friends with President Donald Trump. And yes, he's still just as Canadian as Saskatoon berry pie.

Listen, I had the privilege of working closely with Wayne while co-writing "99: Stories of the Game," and if there's one thing I can tell you, it's this: Wayne Gretzky doesn't perform his Canadian pride. He lives it. It's in his bones, in his blood, in the way he instinctively apologizes when someone bumps into him.

Take the time I visited his home in California: Out of pure reflex, I started taking off my shoes at the door, because that's just what we do. Wayne's housekeeper looked at me as if I had grown a second head. Wayne? He just grinned and said, "Oh, yeah — Canadians do that. We're polite." He wasn't just making small talk. He meant it. Wayne's the kind of guy who still gets excited when he sees Canada geese flying overhead, who carries a little piece of home with him wherever he goes.

And let's talk about what this man has done for Canada. Not just in the "he put

us on the map" way (though, spoiler alert, he did). No, I'm talking about the countless times Wayne threw his body in front of a moving train for this country:

1978 World Juniors 16 years old, playing against guys two and three years older, and he still leads the tournament in scoring, bringing Canada its first-ever gold medal. Teenage legend in the making;

1984 Canada Cup Team Canada versus the Soviet Union in a must-win semifinal. Wayne sets up Paul Coffey for the game-winning goal, then leads the charge against Sweden in the final. No quit. No fear. Just Gretzky being Gretzky;

1987 Canada Cup Game 3 against the Soviets. That perfect pass to Mario Lemieux for the game-winner? If you don't get chills watching that, check your passport;

1991 Canada Cup Wins another one;

1996 World Cup of Hockey Wayne's 35 and he still shows up and plays his heart out for Canada. No half-measures with this guy;

1998 Nagano Olympics OK, don't bring it up. It still stings. Not his fault he didn't get a shootout attempt;

2002 Salt Lake City Olympics He's not playing, but as Team Canada's executive director, he rips into the doubters, fires up the squad and guess what? Canada wins its first men's Olympic gold in 50 years. Coincidence? I think not;

2010 Vancouver Olympics Wayne's the guy carrying the Olympic torch through the rain, lighting the cauldron, symbolizing everything good about Canadian hockey. We wouldn't have wanted anyone else to do it.

And let's not forget the price he paid in broken ribs, countless concussions, damaged knees and a worn-down spine from having carried the weight of a nation's hopes.

The man gave his body, his time, his heart and his soul for Canadian hockey. He made sure every kid growing up in a small-town rink believed they could make it, too.

Now, about that book. Wayne could have hired any hockey writer in the world. Someone from the Athletic, some New York Times darling, some stats-obsessed guy with a PhD in advanced analytics. But no. He chose me, a woman, a mother of five, born in Saskatchewan and living in Alberta. Because Wayne believes in Canadian voices. He believes in diversity, in giving opportunities where they're earned.

And yes, he's friends with Trump. So what? You've never had that one buddy everyone else thinks is a jackass, but you've got history, so you let it ride? You think Wayne isn't talking to Trump, advocating for Canada in his own quiet way? Then you really don't know him.

Don Cherry once said that Canadians don't like it when one wheat straw grows taller than the rest — we cut it down. Well, let's not do that. Not to this guy. Wayne Gretzky is a once-in-a-lifetime Canadian, a man who's given this country everything and asked nothing in return.

I'm not saying you have to fall to your knees, but I am saying: Show a little gratitude, will ya? And for the love of God, leave Wayne alone.

KIRSTIE MCLELLAN DAY CO-WROTE "99: STORIES OF THE GAME" WITH WAYNE GRETZKY.

Cracks are developing in Smith's government

GRAHAM THOMSON
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

When Finance Minister Nate Horner tabled Alberta's provincial budget in the assembly last Thursday, he and every other government MLA should have been wearing a neck brace. And maybe two for Premier Danielle Smith.

This is a government suffering from brutal whiplash.

After spending the past two years promising Albertans she would not run a deficit budget, Smith has delivered one with a \$5.2-billion cavity (on total spending of \$79 billion).

To add insult to injury, the deficit could end up being a whopping \$8.7 billion depending how things turn out with tariffs. Rubbing salt into the fiscal wound, the government is projecting continuing deficits for the next two years right up until the 2027 election.

By comparison, just one year ago the provincial budget had a \$5.8-billion surplus.

But the fiscal jolt is only one part of the government's neck-snapping reversal of fortune.

Just eight weeks ago Smith was on a roll.

Fellow fossil-fuel advocate U.S.

President Donald Trump was on his way back to the White House and while Smith worried about threatened tariffs, she called him "hilarious" for suggesting Canada become the 51st state.

Her anti-Trudeau ally, federal Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, seemed destined to be Canada's next prime minister.

And, to top it off, Smith was in full control of a loyal government and caucus after winning 91.5 per cent in a United Conservative Party leadership review.

But that was a political lifetime ago.

Today, Trump's hilarity has worn thin as he repeatedly trolls Canada about annexation and prepares to impose disastrous tariffs.

Polls indicate Poilievre is headed for a neck-and-neck race with resurgent Liberals.

And most damaging for Smith, serious cracks have developed in her government's unity over allegations of corruption.

On Tuesday, Infrastructure Minister Peter Guthrie took a sledgehammer to government solidarity by quitting his cabinet portfolio, telling the Calgary Herald, "Something doesn't sit right with me. It doesn't pass the smell test, plain

GRAHAM THOMSON IS AN EDMONTON-BASED POLITICAL COMMENTATOR AND A FREELANCE CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST FOR THE STAR.

and simple. We should have core values and being against corruption should be one of those, right?"

Guthrie says he doesn't know if the allegations are true, just that they are serious and the government seems to be trying to shrug them off.

The allegations come from the former CEO of Alberta Health Services, Athana Mentzelopoulos, who is suing the government for \$1.7 million claiming she was fired in January just two days before she was to ask the province's auditor general to investigate what she believed was political interference in awarding millions of dollars worth of government contracts to people closely associated with the government.

The allegations have not been tested in court. Smith says neither she nor her health minister have done anything wrong and, while the auditor general has begun his own investigation, Smith says the government will be bringing in an independent investigator. But we have yet to see just how independent it will be.

In the meantime, Smith has been responding to constant attacks from the NDP during question period by avoiding the meat of the

allegations and suggesting she is simply in a battle with AHS bureaucrats resistant to change in the health-care system. In fact, Mentzelopoulos is a well-respected civil servant who was recruited by the Smith government in December 2023 to a four-year contract to help restructure the health-care system. She was fired after just a year and a month on the job.

The nascent scandal came to light in early February in a Globe and Mail story. Since then, an almost daily stream of news stories has given it legs. Guthrie's resignation has given it wings.

Smith is hoping to change the channel with a piece of budgetary good news: a long-awaited income tax cut worth about \$750 to each taxpayer.

But it's a poisoned chalice for taxpayers. Their tax cut will be funded by deepening an already gaping deficit largely created by the expected tariffs and a chronic over-reliance on slumping oil prices.

Even without tariffs, the government will still run a projected \$2.9-billion deficit.

The government is betting Albertans will like the tax cut more than they dislike deficits — and allegations of corruption.



Humanitarian group calls Israel’s move ‘unacceptable’

GAZA FROM A1

Under that proposal, Hamas would release half the hostages on the first day and the rest when an agreement is reached on a permanent ceasefire, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

The militants currently hold 59 hostages, 35 of them believed to be dead.

The U.S. had no immediate comment. Netanyahu said Israel is fully co-ordinated with the Trump administration and the ceasefire will only continue as long as Hamas keeps releasing hostages.

Saying the ceasefire has saved countless lives, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that “any unravelling of the forward momentum created over the last six weeks risks plunging people back into despair.”

UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher called Israel’s decision “alarming,” noting that international humanitarian law makes clear that aid access must be allowed. Medical charity MSF accused Israel of using aid as a bargaining chip, calling that “unacceptable” and “outrageous.”

Five non-governmental groups asked Israel’s Supreme Court for an interim order barring the state from preventing aid from entering Gaza, claiming the move violates Israel’s obligations under international law: “These obligations can-

not be condition on political considerations.”

The war has left most of Gaza’s population of more than two million dependent on international aid. About 600 aid trucks had entered daily since the ceasefire began on Jan. 19, easing fears of famine raised by international experts.

But residents said prices shot up as word of the closure spread.

From the heavily destroyed Jabaliya urban refugee camp, Fayza Nassar said the closure would worsen dire conditions.

“There will be famine and chaos,” she said.

Hamas warned that any attempt to delay or cancel the ceasefire agreement would have “humanitarian consequences” for the hostages. The only way to free them is through the existing deal, the group said.

Families of hostages again pressed Israel’s government.

“Postponing the negotiation on the deal for everyone’s (release) can’t happen,” Lishay Miran-Lavi, wife of hostage Omri Miran, said in Tel Aviv. “Hostages don’t have time to wait for an ideal deal.”

Israel imposed a siege on Gaza in the war’s opening days and only eased it under U.S. pressure. UN agencies and aid groups accused Israel of not facilitating enough aid during 15 months of war.

The International Criminal Court said there was reason to believe Is-

rael had used “starvation as a method of warfare” when it issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu last year. The allegation is also central to South Africa’s case at the International Court of Justice accusing Israel of genocide.

Israel has denied the accusations. It says it has allowed in enough aid and blamed shortages on what it called the UN’s inability to distribute it. It also accused Hamas of siphoning off aid — an allegation that Netanyahu repeated Sunday.

Kenneth Roth, former head of Human Rights Watch, said Israel as an occupying power has an “absolute duty” to facilitate humanitarian aid under the Geneva Conventions, and called Israel’s decision “a resumption of the war-crime starvation strategy” that led to the ICC warrant.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 hostage.

Israel’s offensive has killed more than 48,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry. It says more than half of those killed were women and children. It does not specify how many of the dead were combatants.

Israeli bombardment pounded large areas of Gaza to rubble and displaced some 90 per cent of the population.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A boy hangs a decoration ahead of a mass gathering for a communal fast-breaking meal on the second day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in Gaza City on Sunday.

OMAR AL-QATTAA
AFP VIA
GETTY IMAGES

VATICAN

Pope no longer on mechanical ventilation

Doctors say pontiff in stable condition

NICOLE WINFIELD
AND PAOLO SANTALUCIA

ROME Pope Francis remained in stable condition and didn’t need any mechanical ventilation Sunday, the Vatican said. It was a sign that he had overcome the possible complications from a respiratory crisis on Friday and that his breathing function overall was improving as he recovers from double pneumonia.

The 88-year-old pope did continue to receive high flow supplemental oxygen after Friday’s coughing episode, which sparked fears of a new lung infection. Doctors in their late Sunday update said Francis remained stable but again referred to the complexity of his overall condition and kept his prognosis at guarded, meaning he wasn’t out of danger.

Francis, who has been in the hospital since Feb. 14, rested, prayed in his private chapel and participated in Mass for the rest of the day after having a visit in the morning from the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and his chief of staff, Archbishop Edgar Pena Parra. The content of their talks wasn’t known, but even when at the Vatican, Francis meets at least weekly with them.

He again skipped his weekly noon blessing to avoid even a brief public appearance from the hospital. Instead, the Vatican distributed a message written by the pope from Gemelli hospital in which he thanked his doctors for their care and well-wishers for their prayers, and prayed again for peace in Ukraine and elsewhere.

“From here, war appears even more absurd,” Francis said in the message, which he drafted in recent days. Francis said he was living his hospitalization as an experience of profound solidarity with people who are sick and suffering everywhere.

“I feel in my heart the ‘blessing’ that is hidden within frailty, because it is precisely in these moments that we learn even more to trust in the Lord,” Francis said in the text.

“At the same time, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to share in body and spirit the condition of so many sick and suffering people.”

Many signs indicated he was improving, especially after a respiratory crisis on Friday afternoon that resulted in him inhaling vomit during a coughing fit and raising the possibility of new infection. Doctors aspirated the vomit and put him on non-invasive mechanical ventilation, a mask that pumps oxygen into the lungs.

He used the ventilation on Saturday, alternating it with just supplemental oxygen, and by Sunday no longer needed it.

Doctors also reported he had no fever or raised white blood cell levels, which would have indicated his body was fighting a new infection.

The doctors had said they needed 24 to 48 hours after Friday’s coughing episode to determine if there were any negative impacts on Francis’ overall condition. The passage of time and positive reports Sunday suggested he had overcome the episode successfully.

The pope, who had part of one lung removed as a young man, has lung disease and was admitted to Gemelli on Feb. 14 after a bout of bronchitis worsened and turned into a complex pneumonia in both lungs.

Francis’ hospitalization has come as the Vatican is marking its Holy Year, drawing pilgrims to Rome from all over.

Many have added a pilgrimage destination to their itineraries so they can pray for Francis at the Gemelli hospital, which is around a 20-minute drive from the Vatican.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WORLD BRIEFS

UNITED STATES

Crews battle fires in North, South Carolina

Crews battled wildfires in North and South Carolina on Sunday amid dry conditions and gusty winds and evacuations were ordered in some areas. The National Weather Service warned of increased fire danger in the region due to a combination of critically dry fuels and very low relative humidity. Officials have not said what caused any of the fires.

TUNISIA

64 migrants rescued off coast

Authorities in Tunisia say 64 migrants were rescued from a boat that capsized off the country’s eastern Mediterranean coast after running out of fuel. No deaths were reported. The migrants were taken to the port of Chebba for further investigation. The UN’s International Organization for Migration estimates that more than 100 migrants have died or gone missing in the central Mediterranean off the coast of Tunisia and Libya since the beginning of 2025.

WIRE SERVICES

TECHNOLOGY

Moon landing marks big leap for Quebec firm

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MONTREAL The head of a Quebec aerospace company says he’s thrilled by the confirmation that a private lunar lander has touched down on the moon with his company’s technology aboard.

Firefly Aerospace’s Blue Ghost successfully descended from lunar orbit on autopilot early Sunday morning, carrying experiments for NASA and several Canadian-based technologies.

Jean de Lafontaine says the moment has been a decade in the making for Sherbrooke, Que.-based NGC Aerospace, which produces a GPS-like lunar navigation system that uses the moon’s craters as references.

He said the company has experience deploying its technology on satellites orbiting, and has tested the lunar system repeatedly on simulators. “But there’s nothing like making it happen in the real environment of the moon,” he said Sunday in a phone interview.

He says the technology should allow scientists to calculate lunar landings far more accurately than previously — to within as little as 100 metres — allowing them to

more quickly reach interesting areas of study, and avoid dangerous spots. “If you aim at an area which is flat and safe, then precision landing allows you to land exactly where you want it to be,” he said, adding that he expects to receive data back in the coming days that will show him how well the technology performed. The lunar lander carried a drill, vacuum and other experiments for NASA, as well as NGC’s software and a Canadian-made moon dust repellent.

Jacob Kleiman, the president and chief executive officer of Integrity Testing Laboratory Inc., told The Canadian Press the lander was carrying samples treated with a coating developed by the Markham, Ont.-based company. These will be tested for their ability to repel the tiny, abrasive particles of lunar dust that cling to everything from mechanical equipment to astronauts’ suits.

Sunday’s upright and stable landing makes Firefly the first private outfit to put a spacecraft on the moon without crashing or falling over. Two other companies’ landers are following close behind Blue Ghost, with the next one expected to join it this week.

Sherbrooke, Que.-based NGC Aerospace produces a GPS-like lunar navigation system that should allow scientists to calculate lunar landings far more accurately than before

SPORTS

CURLING, A12
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MAPLE LEAFS

STACKING THE CHIPS

Leafs have a lot to offer in push for deadline deals

KEVIN MCGRAN
SPORTS REPORTER

The Maple Leafs seem to be in a better place than a year ago, when general manager Brad Treliving faced his first trade deadline as the team's general manager.

He didn't blow the socks off anybody by adding defenceman Joel Edmundson, defenceman Ilya Lyubushkin and forward Connor Dewar. But he didn't give up much, either — mostly depth draft picks, nothing higher than the third round.

This year, Treliving is believed to be all-in, meaning he's going to aim for higher quality help.

"I like our team," Treliving said over the weekend. "I'd like to see if we can make it better by Friday than it is today."

With the Florida Panthers making a big move to bring in defenceman Seth Jones from the Chicago Blackhawks, the stakes are higher atop the tight Atlantic Division.

The Leafs are said to be interested in St. Louis centre Brayden Schenn and his two-time ex-Leaf brother Luke in Nashville, as well as Islanders forward Brock Nelson, Flyers centre Scott Laughton and maybe Leaf Chris Tanev's brother Brandon, a left winger in Seattle.

But fewer teams appear to be in sell mode this time, and bigger targets will mean Treliving might have to surrender assets with real value. He tried to temper expectations.

"To me, it's not about taking big swings," he said. "It's where do you think you can help your team the most."

Here's a look at possible Leafs trade chips ahead of Friday's 3 p.m. deadline:

Easton Cowan, forward
London Knights (OHL)

We've all seen the scoring prowess at the junior level, and most figure that will translate to the NHL eventually. It might take a blockbuster for Treliving to move Cowan. The Leafs would certainly need to get back a player with years left on his contract, someone who can make a difference in the playoffs. But there'd be a reason to move him. Cowan is a top-six winger, and there isn't a lot of room in the Leafs' top six unless Mitch Marner moves on as a free agent. Cowan might be the ideal replacement in that case, but if Marner signs an extension there'd be little room. The Leafs could park him with the AHL Marlies while he matures, but the team is in win-now mode.

Fraser Minten, centre
Toronto Marlies (AHL)

He's tracking to become a middle-six NHL centre with elite hockey IQ and potential on offence. He's a player any team would value, but his future in Toronto is probably tied to John Tavares. If the Leafs re-sign the former captain, Minten's path is blocked. An acquiring team would see a lot of value in a young player on an entry-level contract with a solid NHL future.

Draft picks

The Leafs don't have a lot. This year, they have picks in the second, third, fifth, sixth and seventh rounds. It wouldn't be out of the question to trade their first-rounders in 2026 or 2027 if Treliving wants to keep Fraser or Minten.

Topi Niemelä, defence
Toronto Marlies (AHL)

The 22-year-old Finn is a sleek, puck-moving defenceman who has



GENE J. PUSKAR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs forward Mitch Marner beats Penguins goaltender Tristan Jarry for a goal in the first period in Pittsburgh on Sunday.



GETTY IMAGES

Easton Cowan, top, and Nick Robertson are two of the Leafs' top trade chips and could be moved before Friday's deadline for more immediate help.

been learning the North American game for two years in the AHL. The Leafs drafted him (under Kyle Dubas) in the third round in 2020. He's not really a Treliving-type blueliner: undersized at six-feet and has never been described as rugged. Some teams don't mind smaller defencemen who can score and may pursue him.

Nick Robertson, forward
Maple Leafs

If the Leafs are adding, they may also have to subtract because of ros-

ter and salary-cap limitations. They traded defenceman Rasmus Sandin in 2023 for that very reason, to make room for Luke Schenn. The change of scenery worked out wonderfully for Sandin, with a lucrative contract and a bigger role with the Washington Capitals. Robertson can score and he's only 23. His overall game is improving with plenty more goals to come.

One goalie

The Leafs find themselves in an enviable position. They have three young goaltenders, the kind scouts seem to salivate for: Dennis Hildeby, a 22-year-old who has already had a taste of the NHL, and a pair of highly touted Russians — 2020 draft pick Artur Akhtyamov, a 23-year-old with the Marlies, and 22-year-old Vyacheslav Peksa, a 2021 pick with the ECHL Cincinnati Cyclones. And don't sleep on Matt Murray, the veteran who is making an impressive comeback from double-hip surgery. The Leafs have Joseph Woll and Anthony Stolarz under contract beyond this year, and there's only so much playing time to go around. Moving one minor-league goalie in a deadline package could open up valuable playing time for the others.

Pontus Holmberg, centre
Maple Leafs

You've got to give to get. Holmberg is a solid defensive centre who does all the little things right. He hasn't quite added scoring touch, but he's a coach's dream at 25, so there's time to figure it out. He'll be a restricted free agent with arbitration rights at the end of this season.

Alex Steeves, forward
Marlies/Maple Leafs

He's ready for prime time but can't seem to stick when called up to join a deep Leafs roster. He's an AHL all-star and the Marlies' all-time leading scorer at 25. Remember, Bobby McMann didn't make the NHL full time until he was 27. And Steeves will likely become an unrestricted free agent on July 1, in search of a team with playing time to offer. The Leafs could hold on to him for a deep Marlies playoff run, but would risk losing him for nothing. The return value wouldn't be that high, but he might be just what some team is looking for.

Perfect road trip puts Leafs back on top in Atlantic

KEVIN MCGRAN
SPORTS REPORTER

It might not have been pretty, but the Maple Leafs used an imperfect performance to complete a perfect road trip in Pittsburgh on Sunday.

William Nylander bailed out his goalie with an overtime goal to beat the Penguins 6-5 in a game of multiple lead changes, questionable netminding and porous defence.

It had a last-shot-wins feel and Nylander made good on the last shot: a harmless-looking wrister from 36 feet that had eyes.

"I just took the space that was given to me ... It was back and forth, and sometimes you need to win those games," said Nylander.

Leafs	Penguins
6	5
Overtime	

The Leafs leapfrogged the idle Florida Panthers to retake first place in the Atlantic Division and finished a four-game trip with eight points. Overall, they've won five in a row and eight of nine with the San Jose Sharks in town Monday night.

"It's finding ways to win," said captain Auston Matthews. "Sometimes it's ugly, sometimes it's pretty. Sometimes you play your perfect game. Sometimes you deserve to lose and still win. You're going to have games like this every once in a while ... but we found a way to finish the road trip off on the right foot."

Matthews scored without the net empty for the first time in 11 games. "We've been winning games, that's the most important part," said Matthews, who nonetheless has 13 points in his last nine games. "The chances have been there ... (but) to bear down and put one in is a good feeling."

SEE LEAFS, A15



Max Domi

ONE FOR GRETZKY

The night before ending a 27-game goal drought on Sunday, Leaf Max Domi got a call — from Canadian hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, wishing him a happy 30th birthday. "He said: 'Make sure you shoot at the puck. I'll be watching.'" Domi dedicated the goal to The Great One, who has been under fire for supporting U.S. President Donald Trump: "That one was for him ... he makes me so proud to be Canadian."

KEVIN MCGRAN

RAPTORS

Quickley rises to occasion

With Magic making a second-half run, guard steps up to reclaim lead

GILBERT NGABO
SPORTS REPORTER

An ugly loss can demoralize a team. Or they can use it as fuel.

The latter appears to have been the case for the Raptors as they rolled into the Kia Center to face the Orlando Magic on Sunday night.

The Raptors, 125-115 losers in overtime against the Bulls in Chicago on Friday, kept it close in Orlando, then tightened up on defence and built a 16-point lead with a handful of minutes to go. And after a 16-2 run by the Magic with Scottie Barnes in foul trouble, the Raptors managed to escape with a 104-102 victory.

“Just proud of the guys, the way we fought, the way we executed down the stretch,” point guard Immanuel Quickley told Sportsnet after the buzzer.

“Just mental toughness. When you’re not making shots, what else can you do to help your team win? Defensively, just try to pick up the energy, rebound, find other ways to affect the game.”

Quickley was the difference maker. When Orlando took a lead late in the third quarter, he went on an

11-point run in the final two minutes for a nine-point lead. He finished with 24 points (one short of his season high) and four assists. RJ Barrett added 22 and Jakob Poeltl, in his third game back from injury, contributed 16 points and 11 rebounds in the win.

Barnes — who had a big hand in holding Orlando star Paolo Banchero to 17 points — had just 10 points, but more importantly foiled Orlando’s last attempt to tie the game.

Toronto is 2-1 against Orlando this season, and the teams will meet again in Orlando on Tuesday.

Raptors head coach Darko Rajakovic once again pointed to the close finish as a learning experience.

“It puts us in a situation where we need to make those decisions on the spot. It’s not going to always be perfect, and it’s not always going to be what we agreed on... We’ve got to be smarter handling those situations at the end of the game.”

The Magic (29-33) have lost three straight home games and their bench was outscored 30-21. Orlando has played below expectations this season, in large part because of injuries to key players such as Banchero, Franz Wagner



Immanuel Quickley finished with 24 points and four assists for the Raptors.

Raptors104

Magic102

Next: Tomorrow at Magic

and Jalen Suggs. “I’m really impressed with their defence, how they’ve maintained their defence really high through the year with all the injuries they were dealing with,” he said before the game, crediting Jamahl Mosley and his coaching staff for keeping the Magic team in the Eastern Conference playoff hunt.

Injury updates

The Raptors were without one of their best defenders in Ochai Agbaji. The 24-year-old guard tweaked his left ankle in the opening minutes of Friday’s game in Chicago. He had been the most durable Raptor, appearing in 53 games.

■ Grady Dick exited late in the second quarter after colliding with Barrett, who was driving to the basket, and did not return to the game. The coach said he passed concussion testing and will undergo further evaluations.

■ Suggs could be out for the rest of the regular season after left knee surgery. The Magic point guard had missed 25 of the previous 26 games. Orlando went 7-18 in those games. The Magic were also without Moe Wagner (knee).

CURLING

Unfamiliar territory as N.W.T. gets new look

GREGORY STRONG

KELOWNA, B.C. Northwest Territories vice D’arcy Delorey would often use a territorial championship banner at the three-sheet Hay River Curling Club as inspiration in the early days of his curling journey.

Shirley King, a local curler from the town of about 3,000 on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, skipped her team to victory in 1989 to earn a berth in the national women’s championship.

“I remember looking at it and thinking: Man, that’s cool,” Delorey said Sunday. “Somebody from our club could actually get to the national level. And now hopefully we’ll have one hanging there.”

“It would be something for our junior program kids to look at and think, yeah, that’s possible.”

Delorey, who throws third for import skip Aaron Bartling, made his Montana’s Brier debut Sunday in a 12-2 loss to Ontario’s Sam Mooibroek. Despite the lopsided score, the curlers were all smiles afterward as they signed autographs and hugged friends and family who made the trip to Prospera Place.

“It’s nice to finally be here at 47 years old,” Delorey said.

Both Saskatchewan teams posted victories in the early draw: Rylan Kleiter defeated Prince Edward Island’s Tyler Smith 7-4 and Mike McEwen held off Nova Scotia’s Owen Purcell 8-6.

Kleiter won the provincial play-downs, while McEwen pre-qualified for the 18-team event via ranking points. A finalist last year, McEwen has been battling a sore throat and chest congestion.

“Better the opening weekend than later on, as you near playoffs and things like that,” said McEwen, who was feeling a bit better Sunday. “So, if there’s a silver lining, that’s it, I guess.”

Quebec’s Jean-Michel Menard beat Yukon’s Thomas Scoffin 7-5 in the other early game. In Draw 5, Canada’s Brad Gushue edged Northern Ontario’s John Epping 6-5 and New Brunswick’s James Grattan defeated Nunavut’s Shane Latimer 8-3.

Manitoba’s Matt Dunstone beat B.C.’s Cameron de Jong 7-4 and Manitoba’s Reid Carruthers topped Alberta’s Kevin Koe 5-4 in an extra end. Carruthers used hammer to make a hit for the win.

“We’re not playing amazing, but I’d say we’re playing pretty darn solid,” Carruthers said.

Gushue, Dunstone and Carruthers topped Pool A at 3-0 with Epping next at 2-1. McEwen and Mooibroek led Pool B entering Sunday’s late draw with Alberta’s Brad Jacobs next at 1-0.

Round-robin play continues through Thursday, with Page play-offs set for next weekend.

Yellowknife’s Jamie Koe has played at nearly every Brier since his nationals debut in 2006. Bartling’s foursome, which includes second Norman Bassett and lead Eric Preston, upset the veteran skip last month by making late back-to-back steals for the win on home ice.

Delorey curled at the college level and later played on a number of teams.

He has made five career appearances at the national club championships.

This 5,500-seat venue felt much different for his round-robin opener. The ice was quick with lots of swing, the rocks were sharp and the Brier energy was noticeable, Delorey said.

“A little bit of nerves for the first little bit,” he said. “But after that, it’s just curling when you get into the game.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BASKETBALL BRIEFS

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Gamecocks No. 1 after coin flip

South Carolina will be the No. 1 seed in the Southeastern Conference women’s basketball tournament after winning Sunday’s coin flip. The sixth-ranked Gamecocks and top-ranked Texas both finished 15-1 in conference play. They split their season series, leading to a flip to determine the top seed for the tournament, which begins Wednesday in Greenville. Third-seeded LSU will be without star Flau’jae Johnson for the tournament with a shin injury.

NBA

Spurs return in rough shape

Jalen Williams had a career-high 41 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 31 and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat San Antonio 146-132 in the Spurs’ first home game in a month. Oklahoma City (49-11) moved to within a game Cleveland (50-10) for the NBA’s top record. Rookie guard Stephon Castle had 32 points to lead San Antonio, which has lost five of six. Since their last game at Frost Bank Center before their annual rodeo trip, the Spurs acquired De’Aaron Fox, lost all-star centre Victor Wembanyama for the season to a blood clot in his shoulder and Gregg Popovich announced he will not return as head coach while recovering from a stroke.

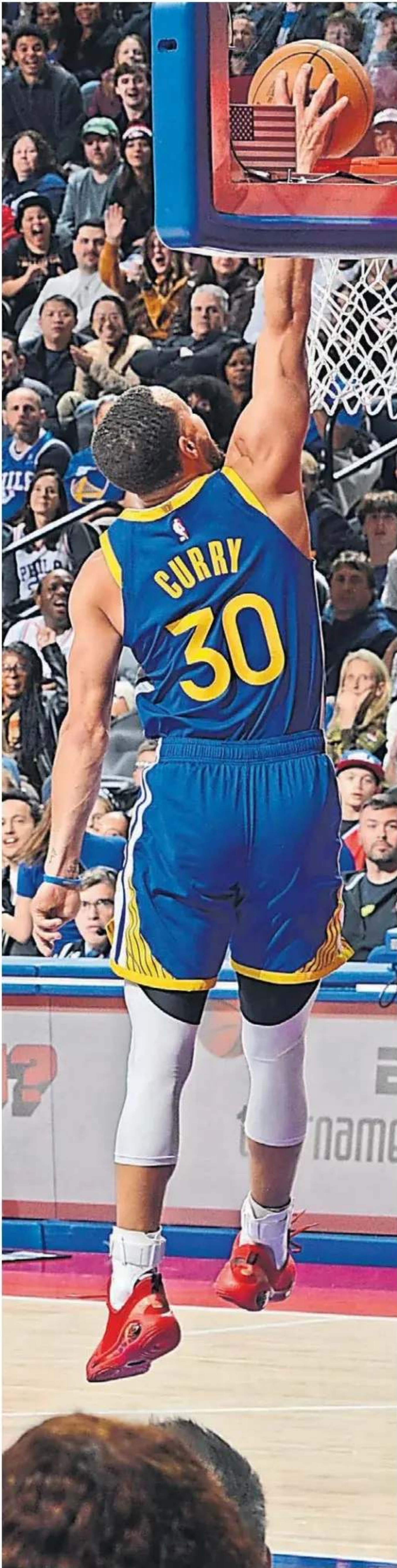
Morant pays for ball toss

Memphis Grizzlies star Ja Morant, upset after being assessed a technical foul, was fined \$25,000 (U.S.) for throwing the game ball into the stands at the end of the third quarter of Friday night’s home loss to the New York Knicks.

Butler target of Miami suit

According to a lawsuit filed in Miami-Dade County, former Heat forward Jimmy Butler is accused of leaving a \$130,000-a-month rental in Miami Beach in “complete disrepair.” The suit, filed by Five Star Marketing and Promotions, claims Butler also didn’t pay two months in rent after his lease expired on the 5,398-square-foot home. Butler was traded to the Golden State Warriors in February. Five Star is seeking \$257,282: two months of rent, minus a security deposit.

WIRE SERVICES



JESSE D. GARRABRANT NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES
Warriors guard Stephen Curry dunks the ball against the 76ers on Saturday. “It took everything out of me to get up there,” the 36-year-old said.

NBA

Curry slams door on dunking

DANNY EMERMAN

PHILADELPHIA Saturday morning at shootaround in the Wells Fargo Center, Warriors assistant coach Jerry Stackhouse told Steph Curry that he wanted to see a dunk.

Curry, the 36-year-old superstar, hadn’t heard that in years. His last in-game dunk was in 2019, before the team moved to the Chase Center.

The Curry world has a way of manifesting.

In the fourth quarter against the Philadelphia 76ers, Curry found himself wide open, cherry-picking after a broken play. Instead of kissing a layup off the glass, he rose up and stuffed in a one-handed dunk. Right after the ball fell through the nylon, the two-time MVP pointed at Stackhouse on the visitors bench.

“It was a very random comment this morning, and the fact that it happened was hilarious,” Curry said.

According to Curry, it was also the last dunk of his NBA career.

“For sure,” Curry insisted. “I will only lay the ball up. It took everything out of me to get up there.”

Curry finished with 29 points and a season-high 13 assists in a 126-119 Warriors loss. Golden State, playing without Jimmy Butler (back spasms), won Curry’s minutes by 12 and lost by 19 when he sat.

Saturday night’s jam was the 27th of Curry’s career. His career high in a season was seven in 2015-16.

Curry remembers the last time he jammed. It was Feb. 21, 2019. He cut along the baseline, caught a bounce pass from Kevin Durant and dunked with two hands.

Coincidentally, Curry also threw down a sick dunk to end the 2019 All-Star Game, bouncing himself an alley-oop lob and finishing with a reverse.

“I was in high school,” teammate Moses Moody deadpanned.

Curry went 334 regular-season games between dunks. He does finish individual workouts by dunking, though, and Moody said he’s seen him windmill before.

“I’ve been feeling pretty good,” Curry said. “Dealing with knee stuff all year, but got to take advantage of a cherry-pick opportunity. That will probably be my last dunk, though. I’m calling it right now. That was the last one you’re going to see.”

THE MERCURY NEWS

MLB OPINION

A RED SOX RENAISSANCE

Off-season additions and young talent have Boston confident they can challenge Yankees

BILL MADDEN

TAMPA, FLA. This spring there is a palpable buzz coming out of the Boston Red Sox camp in Fort Myers that can be heard all the way up the gulf coast to Steinbrenner U. Where the New York Yankees are now anticipating their biggest challenge to American League East supremacy coming from an old familiar foe about to rise out of dormancy.

You have to say no team had a better, more productive off-season than the Red Sox, who bolstered their starting rotation with the trade for the much-coveted lefty Garrett Crochet from the White Sox, landed the second biggest bat on the free-agent market in Alex Bregman and are boasting three of the most highly touted rookies in all of baseball in second baseman Kristian Campbell, shortstop Marcelo Mayer and outfielder Roman Anthony. Dare we say the rivalry is back?

Even Aaron Boone, when asked about the Red Sox in a media scrum last week, conceded the signing of Bregman makes them “a really formidable team” while adding he’d “prefer them in that .500 area.” That surely has been where the Red Sox have been these last three years — actually worse, .500 last season and a last-place team in 2022-2023 — at the same time their owner John Henry slashed payroll and seemingly cut off the free-agent financial hose. But something happened this winter. Perhaps Henry got tired of the Red Sox being irrelevant. In any case, he gave the go-ahead to engage in the Juan Soto sweepstakes and reportedly was right there at the end with the Yankees and Blue Jays over the \$700-million (U.S.) plateau.

At the same time, the Red Sox moved boldly to address their major Achilles heel these past few years — their starting pitching — by being the most aggressive suitor for Crochet and winning the sweepstakes with a package of four prime prospects from their greatly improved farm system, headed by slugging catcher Kyle Teel, and then signed one-time top-of-the-rotation Dodgers righty Walker Buehler for \$21.05 million, based mostly on his standout pitching in the post-season last year after he’d



GERALD HERBERT THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free-agent signing Alex Bregman gives the Red Sox a potent right-handed bat for Fenway Park.

spent much of ’24 rehabbing from Tommy John surgery.

While the signing of Bregman for a opt-out laden three-year, \$120-million deal adds a potent right-handed bat for Fenway Park, it has created the one spring training controversy for the Red Sox in that Rafael Devers, who led the AL in (mostly throwing) errors each of the past three seasons, is resisting moving off third base to become the designated hitter. For the time being Bregman has been playing second in spring games, but ideally the Red Sox would like to turn second over to the rookie Campbell, a fourth-round draft pick out of Georgia Tech in 2023 who slashed .330/.439/.558 through three levels of their minor league system in ’24.

A scout with close ties to Red Sox manager Alex Cora told me that, in the end, defence will be the deciding factor. “I know that the most important thing to Alex is defence, and his best defensive alignment is Bregman at third and the kid at second,” the scout said.

And speaking of Cora, a lot of the Red Sox’s aggressiveness this off-season is a direct result of his contract extension negotiation last July. Cora was in the final year of his contract and had made it clear he was not happy with the direction the Red Sox had been going, and conceivably he was going to be a hot commodity on the managerial free-agent market.

But as Red Sox president Sam Kennedy said: “Most importantly he really just wanted to ensure we were going to be committed to winning. We’ve obviously scuffled in years, but we’ve always had that commitment and burning desire and we shared that with A.C.”

What’s most interesting in this looming Red Sox renaissance is the emergence of homegrown talent. Besides Devers, first baseman Triston Casas, outfielders Cedanne Rafaela and Jarren Duran are all home grown while Campbell, Mayer and Anthony were all high draft picks by former GM Chaim Bloom — as was Teal, the key piece in the

Crochet deal. It’s still unclear why Bloom was fired. When he was hired in 2020 to replace Dave Dombrowski, it was viewed as a major shift by Red Sox ownership to analytics. Bloom was tasked with rebuilding the Red Sox farm system — but not before he was ordered to trade Mookie Betts to the Dodgers because ownership did not have the appetite for the kind of 12-year, \$365-million commitment it was going to take to keep him out of free agency. The only return left for the Red Sox in that trade is starting catcher Connor Wong.

In addition, Wilyer Abreu, who won a gold glove in right field as a rookie for the Red Sox last year, was acquired by Bloom in a 2022 deadline trade with Houston for fading catcher Christian Vázquez. Indeed, if, as it seems, the Red Sox are on the verge of re-emerging as perennial contenders and the Yankees’ biggest nemesis, Red Sox ownership will grudgingly have to agree most of the credit for that goes to Bloom.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

BICHETTE IGNITES JAYS WIN

Bo Bichette had two hits including a home run, Philadelphia pitcher Konnor Ash walked in the winning run, and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Phillies 5-4 Sunday in spring training action in Dunedin, Fla. Daulton Varsho opened the scoring for the Jays with a solo home run in the first inning. In the third, Bichette hit a two-out homer for his second hit of the afternoon. Jays starter Max Scherzer struck out four over 3 2/3 innings. Chad Green earned the save with a perfect ninth. The 5-3 Jays will face the Detroit Tigers on Monday in Lakeland, Fla.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TODAY

Pre-season Blue Jays at Tigers 1 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

CYCLING

Canada’s Gee wins in Spain

Ottawa cyclist Derek Gee won the five-stage O Gran Camino road race in Spain on Sunday, by 35 seconds over Italy’s Davide Piganzoli. The 27-year-old Canadian, riding for the Israel-Premier Tech team, took the overall lead in Friday’s time trial and extended the margin over the weekend for his first overall victory in a stage race. Gee, who missed two months last season with a broken collarbone, will lead the team at the Giro d’Italia starting May 9.

FIGURE SKATING

Beaudry finds new partner

Canadian ice dancer Laurence Fournier Beaudry announced a partnership with Olympic champion Guillaume Cizeron, months after former partner Nikolaj Sørensen was handed a six-year suspension by Skate Canada in October for “sexual maltreatment.” Sørensen competed for Denmark, the country of his birth, before switching allegiance to Canada when Beaudry, who is from Montreal, was unable to obtain Danish citizenship before the 2018 Olympics. They won the Canadian title in 2023 and represented Canada at the 2022 Games. Cizeron was half of a decorated team with Gabriella Papadakis that won five world titles and Olympic gold in 2022. Papadakis and Cizeron ended their partnership in December.



JASON BUTLER GETTY IMAGES

Lydia Ko finished at 13-under-par 275 to win the LPGA’s HSBC Women’s World Championship for the first time on Sunday.

AUTO RACING

Radio silence for Dixon

Scott Dixon ran the entire IndyCar season-opening race without radio communication, a miscue that probably cost him his first career victory on the downtown streets of St. Petersburg, Fla. The six-time series champion finished second to Alex Palou in a one-two finish for Chip Ganassi, who said if the radio had not malfunctioned “he would have won — it was simple.” Instead, Dixon was runner-up for the fifth time in 21 starts on the street course. He has eight career podium results. Said Dixon: “It doesn’t feel good, that’s for sure.”

FOOTBALL

Pitt freshman dies in car crash

Pittsburgh freshman cornerback Mason Alexander died Saturday in a car crash in Indiana, authorities said. Alexander, 18, was a passenger in a vehicle that swerved off the road and struck a tree in Fishers, a northeastern suburb of Indianapolis, according to the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office. The car burst into flames upon impact. Alexander was pronounced dead at the scene. Alexander was a star at Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers. He signed with the Panthers in December and enrolled at Pitt in January.

GOLF

Dream comes true for Ko

Lydia Ko won the LPGA’s HSBC Women’s World Championship for the first time in her 11th attempt, by four strokes over Ayaka Furue and Jeeno Thitikul in Singapore. The 2024 Olympic gold medalist and Women’s British Open champion overcame a middling start before finding her rhythm with birdies on the sixth, seventh and eighth holes to seize control. Ko finished at 13-under-par 275 at Sentosa Golf Club. Said Ko: “I dreamt last night that I won but then I woke up, and I was like, dang, it’s not real yet ... It’s exciting to finally add Asia’s major to my major collection.” Canadian Brooke Henderson finished tied for 21st at 2 under. Singapore is the second of three stops on the LPGA’s first Asian swing of the year. The final event is next week at Hainan Island, China.

SOCCER

Whitecaps fans boo U.S. anthem

After similar protests in other sports, fans in Vancouver booed the “The Star-Spangled Banner” before Sunday’s MLS game between the Whitecaps and L.A. Galaxy. The in-house announcer at B.C. Place had asked the crowd not to boo, but the jeering began with the first notes of the U.S. anthem. They died down midway, and turned to cheers when “O Canada” was sung.

WIRE SERVICES

UNITED OUT OF FA CUP HUNT

Manchester United crashed out of the FA Cup on Sunday after a penalty shootout loss to Fulham. Victor Lindelof and Joshua Zirkzee had spot kicks saved after the fifth-round game ended 1-1 following extra time. Fulham goalkeeper Bernd Leno was the hero in a 4-3 shootout victory to advance to the quarterfinals. Brighton also advanced with a 2-1 win over Newcastle in extra time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WRESTLING

Full circle inside the squared circle

Cena makes one final memorable appearance in city where his career turned

ILYAS HUSSEIN
STAFF REPORTER



“It’s just an amazing way to close that chapter and for the people of Toronto to say goodbye to a legend.”

NOELANI BALFOUR
WRESTLER AND
CENA FAN

It was at a WWE event in the mid-2000s that Kris Chambers, a Toronto native and active independent wrestler, first crossed paths with a legend.

As Chambers — working as an extra that night — grabbed some food at the catering table, he found himself face-to-face with a towering figure: six-foot-one and 251 pounds of pure muscle.

Chambers couldn’t help but notice the man’s forearms were almost as big as his own legs. He was in awe of the professional wrestler who was, in every sense, “larger than life.”

But this wasn’t just any wrestler. It was the World Wrestling Entertainment champion. It was John Cena.

“You could really understand why he was destined to be a star,” Chambers says.

Cena returned to Toronto for Saturday night’s “Elimination Chamber” at the Rogers Centre, his final WWE event in the city, and his impact on the local wrestling community is undeniable.

Merchandise flooded the Rogers Centre gates. Bellows of “Let’s go Cena!” rang throughout the night. The city had fully embraced the WWE icon, welcoming him with open arms.

And in the lead-up to the event, Cena made sure to say thanks.

“One of the most important things I’ve learned in my career is whether the WWE is hot or cold, Canadians show up, always,” the 47-year-old Cena said when he announced his retirement tour here this past summer.

“This is the perfect place to (announce my farewell) ... which also involves me returning to Toronto to kick some ass.”

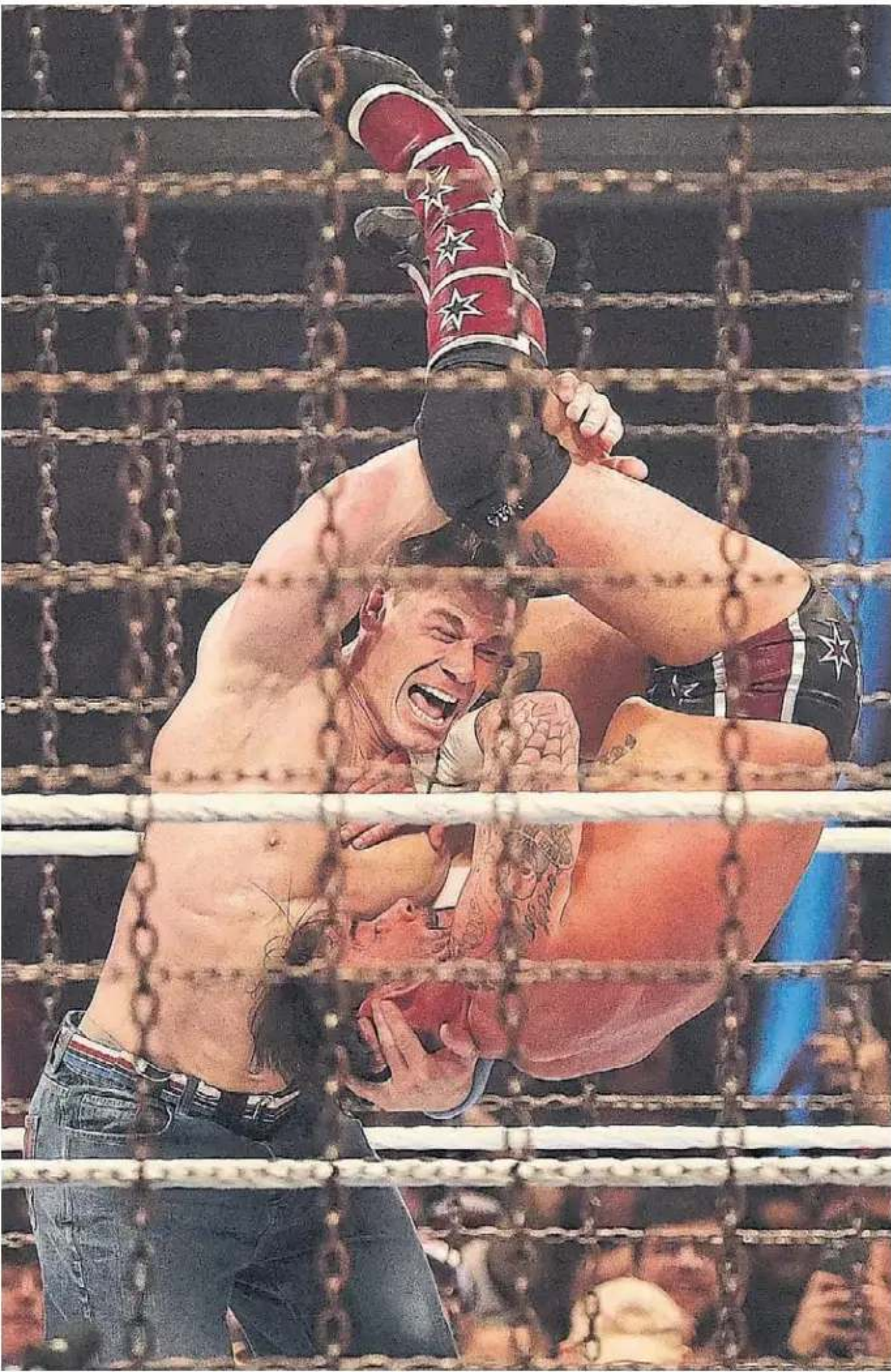
A defining moment came at WWE’s “Unforgiven” in 2006 at what is now Scotiabank Arena.

In the main event, Cena faced Orangetheory’s Adam (Edge) Copeland, who was billed as the villain. Cena, traditionally the hero, threw Copeland from atop a ladder through two tables to claim the victory. But the crowd, loyal to the Canadian underdog, turned on Cena. Boos rained down. Chants of “Cena sucks!” echoed.

It marked a turning point in Cena’s career, as he transitioned from lovable fan favourite to bad guy in the eyes of an older generation of fans — despite cheers from the youngsters.

“That entire arena booed him out of the building,” says wrestling aficionado Santiago Zapata of London, Ont. “And then those boos just carried with him for the rest of his career wherever he would go. It was no longer a universal love.”

Zapata was at that event with his



John Cena bodyslams CM Punk during a WWE event at the Rogers Centre on Saturday night. Cena has a long history with Toronto.



Supplied by Noelani Balfour
Noelani Balfour of Whitby was at a WWE event 12 years ago when he and John Cena locked eyes.

sister. At the time, he was just 13 and still adored Cena. That fandom waned until 2021, when the wrestler/actor returned to WWE after a long hiatus.

Now, watching events is Zapata’s full-time job. He uploads daily wrestling content to several platforms and has accumulated over a million followers in just a few years. The background in his videos is typically adorned with Cena memorabilia.

“It’s just interesting to connect my current career trajectory to that kid in 2006 at ‘Unforgiven,’ chanting: ‘Let’s go Cena!’” Zapata said.

While Cena’s success as a pro wrestler (16-time champion, tied for most all-time) and profile as an actor (in movies such as “Trainwreck” and “The Suicide Squad”) put him in the spotlight, his footprint goes beyond the squared circle. His most significant impact may have been inspiring youth.

Whitby’s Noelani Balfour, 22, and his mom once had up-close seats for a WWE live event at Coca-Cola Coliseum. Balfour, 10 at the time, went decked out in Cena merchandise. He recalls cheering and waving a Cena shirt when the wrestler emerged and briefly locking eyes

with the icon, who gave him a signature salute.

“My life was made at that point,” says Balfour. “I had to go to school and tell all my friends that John Cena saluted at me ... To this day, I still remember it vividly.”

Like Zapata, Balfour started to lose interest in wrestling over the years until Cena’s WWE return in 2021. Now, Balfour is a professional wrestler himself, known as Dior Nolins, and dreams of making it to the WWE. He has wrestled across North America, most often with Toronto-based Superkick’d, owned by Chambers.

“Cena motivated and inspired them like a bigger brother or a father figure,” Chambers says. “He’s showing people that there’s a way to accomplish your dreams.”

Cena also holds the Guinness World Record for wishes granted through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, with 650 — double the next-highest number by a celebrity.

Toronto cards have shaped the careers of many other top wrestlers, including William (Christian Cage) Reso, Patricia (Trish Stratus) Strateigas and Rocky Johnson, father of Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson — who says his greatest bout was the memorable Icon vs. Icon match against Hulk Hogan at “WrestleMania X8” in 2002, the last time the WWE had an event at the Rogers Centre.

At “Elimination Chamber,” Cena bested five competitors to earn a spot in the main event of his last “WrestleMania.”

The Rogers Centre crowd of 38,493 showered him with cheers, even as Cena turned heel — became a villain — for the first time in 20 years. He battered WWE champion Cody Rhodes (considered this generation’s Cena) to close the show, just like he did with Copeland at “Unforgiven” in 2006. But it didn’t matter to the crowd.

The city that once rejected him years ago still gave the wrestling icon a heartfelt send-off.

“It’s a full-circle moment,” Balfour says. “It’s just an amazing way to close that chapter and for the people of Toronto to say goodbye to a legend.”

OHL

Unlikely hero saves the day for IceDogs

Junior B goalie fills in and upsets OHL’s Knights

JOHN WAWROW

ST. CATHARINES Long after his Niagara Ice Dogs teammates and coaches had left, Hayden Jeffery lingered with his family and friends high up in the Meridian Centre stands relishing one of the most triumphant moments of his young career.

His hair had dried after being drenched by water bottle-spraying teammates in the mob scene of a postgame dressing-room celebration. Dressed only in his red Ice Dogs Hockey T-shirt and shorts, Jeffery seemed immune to the chill inside the rink.

“To be honest, I just remember the win. Like I don’t even remember what happened,” the 18-year-old said about the closing minutes of his 40-save outing in a 6-4 win over the London Knights on Saturday night.

It was the unlikelyst of wins by one of the unlikelyst of players: a spindly six-foot-one, 168-pound Junior B goalie making his second career Ontario Hockey League start for a team on a 12-game skid and missing its starter and backup to injuries.

And the opponent presented an even higher degree of difficulty. The Knights entered with a Canadian Hockey League-leading 48-8-2 record and a lineup featuring 13 NHL draft picks, including four first-rounders.

“I’ll tell you this, I don’t know if that was written on the bingo card tonight,” Ice Dogs coach Ben Boudreau said, laughing.

“That’s an unbelievable fairy-tale moment for him to get his first win against all these world junior guys, top-ranked team in Canada,” added Boudreau, whose father Bruce coached 1,087 NHL games, played in 141 more and is now an Ice Dogs senior adviser. “You couldn’t have asked for a better story.”

Jeffery didn’t look out of place 4:13 in when he kicked out his right pad to stop a slapshot from Maple Leafs prospect Easton Cowan (drafted 28th in 2023).

Some 30 seconds later, Jeffery lunged to his right to stop a one-timer from Blake Montgomery (a fourth-round selection by the Ottawa Senators in 2024).

Though the Knights scored first and led 2-1 through 20 minutes on goals from Denver Barkey (third round by Flyers in 2023) and Sam Dickinson (No. 11 by Sharks in 2024, Sharks), Niagara never relinquished the lead after a two-goal second period.

Jeffery stopped 21 of 23 shots in the third, including Montgomery’s tip-in chance.

Niagara’s Kevin He capped a hat trick with an empty-netter with 67 seconds left to seal the win.

“I’m still kind of speechless,” He said.

The Ice Dogs had gone 0-9-3 (out-scored 72-29) since a 6-3 win over Erie on Jan. 26. The skid dropped Niagara to sixth in the Eastern Conference with the top eight teams qualifying for the playoffs and three weeks left in the season.

From nearby Grimsby, Jeffery was overlooked by OHL teams as a 16-year-old, before finally being selected by Niagara in the second round of the under-18 draft — considered an afterthought for most teams.

He’s not sure what’s in store, but this was an outing he’ll never forget. “It means the world,” Jeffery said. “I think the biggest thing was just believing that I can play at this level. And now I believe I can get wins in this league.”

The interview over, still in his T-shirt and shorts, Jeffery returned to chat with a group of friends in a near-empty arena, not wanting the night to end.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOCKEY BRIEFS

BRUINS

No timeline for Marchand

The Boston Bruins played without captain and second-leading scorer Brad Marchand in Sunday’s 1-0 road loss to the Minnesota Wild. Marchand left with an unspecified upper-body injury after a hit in Saturday’s victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins. There was no timeline for his return. Said coach Joe Sacco: “He’ll get evaluated when we get back to Boston.”

LIGHTNING

Cooper teams are on a roll

After coaching Canada to the 4 Nations Face-Off title, Jon Cooper’s Tampa Bay Lightning are the NHL’s hottest team. The Lightning, who take on the Florida Panthers on Monday, have won eight in a row and outscored 34-13 over the past month. Said Cooper: “A lot of people think of the Tampa Bay Lightning as scoring a bunch of goals, but we’re doing it with defence.”

PANTHERS

Tkachuk hits long-term IR

According to several online reports, the Florida Panthers put star forward Matthew Tkachuk on long-term injured reserve with a groin injury suffered during the 4 Nations Face-Off. He hadn’t played in four games since the tournament final. Tkachuk is the defending champions’ second-leading scorer with 22 goals and 35 assists.

WIRE SERVICES



Brad Marchand didn’t play for Boston on Sunday.

Matthews passes Sittler

LEAFS FROM A11

'Not how we drew it up'

It was a game of crazy swings and memorable moments that began with a slump-busting start. Max Domi scored his first in 27 games (on his 30th birthday) and Conor Timmins buried his first in 35. The Leafs had a 2-0 lead early with a 13-2 edge in shots in the first 10 minutes. But by the end of the first period, the Penguins led 3-2 with a 17-13 shots advantage.

“That’s not how we drew it up, but that happens sometimes,” said Leafs coach Craig Berube. “Guys stuck with it, found a way to get the win.”

The Leafs were up 5-4 after two periods thanks to Matthews, a John Tavares breakaway goal in the final minute and a buzzer-beating steal by Matthew Knies. With the faceoff in the Leafs end and 5.7 seconds left, Knies broke up a blue-line pass intended for Evgenii Malkin, steam-rolled down the ice and fired a wrist shot that beat Joel Blomqvist with just a tenth of a second on the clock.

“Everyone was yelling at me to shoot it at the red line,” said Knies. “I was kind of nervous. I didn’t know when to shoot it. Fortunately enough, I got it in right before.”

Woll under the weather

It was a tough day for Leafs goalie Joseph Woll. He missed his scheduled start Friday because of illness, and it looked like he hadn’t completely recovered. Woll muffed an easy pass to Morgan Rielly that became a turnover, leading to Pittsburgh’s opening goal by Cody Glass. The netminder also overplayed a shot to his right that was going well wide. It caromed to Woll’s left, where Rickard Rakell had plenty of space to tie the game. Then he left the five-hole open too long, with Sidney Crosby capitalizing.



Milestone day

Goal No. 390 gave Matthews sole possession of second place on the Leafs career list, breaking a tie with Darryl Sittler and trailing only Mats Sundin at 420.

“It’s an honour to be in the same sentence,” Matthews said of passing Sittler.

He also assisted on Nylander’s winner for his 700th point. He’s the fastest to 700 in a Leafs uniform, in 607 games. Mitch Marner had been the fastest, hitting the mark on Jan. 16 in his 622nd game.

Marner picked up an assist for point No. 714, breaking a tie with George Armstrong for fifth on the Leafs list.

Crosby’s goal was No. 611, pulling ahead of Bobby Hull for 18th in NHL history.

“He’s still one of the best players in the league,” Matthews said of Crosby. “There’s a reason he is who he is. And no matter what season he’s playing, he’s still at the top of his game. It’s always a challenge.”

Leafs forward William Nylander celebrates after scoring the game-winning goal in overtime on Sunday.

JUSTIN BERL
GETTY IMAGES

NHL

Panthers did their homework on Jones trade

Florida confident defenceman will be good fit with team



Defenceman Seth Jones has an average salary of \$9.5 million (U.S.) over the next five years

TIM REYNOLDS

SUNRISE, FLA. The opportunity to acquire a defenceman such as Seth Jones might seem like a simple decision.

It was not that way for the Florida Panthers.

A day after pulling off the deal to add Jones from the Chicago Blackhawks — with five years left on a big-money contract — for goaltender Spencer Knight, Panthers general manager and hockey operations president Bill Zito said the Stanley Cup champions took their time before finally executing the move.

“This isn’t a decision made over 10 minutes,” Zito said Sunday. “Lots of time and energy and effort and research in all areas of the game — whether it’s live scouting, knowing somebody, the analytic side, the coachability. And as we went through it, he just continued to check every box. Those are the kinds of guys we can commit to, and we think that he’ll thrive in our environment.”

Jones, the No. 4 pick in the 2013 draft, will be introduced by the Panthers on Monday following their morning skate before hosting the Tampa Bay Lightning. He is expected to quickly fill a marquee spot on the Florida blue line. Some Panthers already know Jones well — goalie Sergei Bobrovsky was a

teammate in Columbus.

The trade came at a high price. The Panthers will be on the hook for 74 per cent of Jones’s average salary of \$9.5 million (U.S.) over the next five years; Chicago retained the other 26 per cent. And Knight was widely considered Florida’s goaltender of the future, a 2019 first-round pick who has impressed at every level.

Knight spoke openly in the past 18 months about battling obsessive compulsive disorder — he sought help in 2023 and stepped away from the game for a few months. He didn’t play for the Panthers last season and spent 2023-24 in the minors before going 12-8-1 with two shutouts as Bobrovsky’s backup this season.

The Panthers — players, coaches and front office included — have raved about Knight all season. Zito said the idea of parting with Knight, a fan favourite, only added to the difficulty of the decision.

“It was really very difficult on so many different levels,” Zito said of trading Knight.

“You can’t imagine. The level of respect we have for Spencer is tremendous. He’s a wonderful person, he’s a wonderful guy. The guy’s a champion. It’s really hard. It’s not fun on a personal level and it’s not fun on a business level, but you have to make hard decisions.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt		
Toronto	60	38	20	2	194	172	78		
Florida	61	37	21	3	204	171	77		
Tampa Bay	59	35	20	4	211	156	74		
Detroit	60	30	24	6	176	191	66		
Ottawa	59	30	25	4	166	168	64		
Boston	62	28	26	8	167	195	64		
Montreal	60	29	26	5	180	201	63		
Buffalo	58	24	29	5	186	198	53		

METROPOLITAN DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt		
Washington	60	38	14	8	215	157	84		
Carolina	61	35	22	4	195	170	74		
New Jersey	62	33	23	6	186	154	72		
Columbus	60	30	22	8	205	196	68		
N.Y. Rangers	60	30	26	4	183	183	64		
Philadelphia	61	27	26	8	180	202	62		
N.Y. Islanders	59	27	25	7	165	176	61		
Pittsburgh	63	24	29	10	183	233	58		

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt		
Winnipeg	61	42	15	4	214	143	88		
Dallas	60	39	19	2	206	155	80		
Minnesota	61	35	22	4	173	176	74		
Colorado	61	35	24	2	198	182	72		
St. Louis	62	29	27	6	179	187	64		
Utah	61	27	25	9	172	181	63		
Nashville	60	21	32	7	153	201	49		
Chicago	60	18	35	7	164	213	43		

PACIFIC DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt		
Vegas	60	36	18	6	199	166	78		
Edmonton	60	35	21	4	195	174	74		
Los Angeles	58	31	19	8	166	154	70		
Calgary	60	28	23	9	155	176	65		
Vancouver	60	27	22	11	165	184	65		
Anaheim	59	26	26	7	154	183	59		
Seattle	61	26	31	4	180	198	56		
San Jose	61	15	37	9	157	230	39		

Sunday’s results
Toronto 6 Pittsburgh 5 (OT)
Minnesota 1 Boston 0
Carolina 2 Calgary 1 (OT)
Dallas 6 St. Louis 3
N.Y. Rangers 4 Nashville 0
Vegas 2 New Jersey 0
Saturday’s results
Tampa Bay 3 Washington 1
N.Y. Islanders 7 Nashville 4
Florida 3 Calgary 0
Boston 3 Pittsburgh 2
Columbus 5 Detroit 1
Edmonton 3 Carolina 1
Philadelphia 2 Winnipeg 1 (SO)
Ottawa 5 San Jose 3
Montreal 4 Buffalo 2
St. Louis 4 Los Angeles 1
New Jersey 3 Utah 1
Seattle 6 Vancouver 3
Chicago 6 Anaheim 3
Monday’s games
Ottawa at Washington, 6:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Montreal, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Florida, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

MAPLE LEAFS 6, PENGUINS 5 (OT)

First Period
1, Toronto, Domi 4 (Robertson, McMann), 2:15.
2, Toronto, Timmins 2 (Holmberg, Nylander), 4:39.
3, Pittsburgh, Glass 4 (Lizotte, Shea), 10:27.
4, Pittsburgh, Rakell 27 (Grzelcyk, Crosby), 11:29.
5, Pittsburgh, Crosby 19 (Rust, Karlsson), 13:51 (pp).
Penalties—Domi, Tor (slashing), 13:08; Domi, Tor (tripping), 15:45.
Second Period

6, Toronto, Matthews 22 (Marner, Knies), 4:08.
7, Pittsburgh, Rust 21 (Karlsson, Crosby), 15:38.
8, Toronto, Tavares 23 (McCabe), 19:04.
9, Toronto, Knies 23, 19:59.
Penalties—Letang, Pgh (tripping), 8:01.
Third Period
10, Pittsburgh, Rakell 28 (Shea, Letang), 0:10.
Penalties—None.
Overtime
11, Toronto, Nylander 35 (Rielly), 1:00.
Penalties—None.
Shots on goal
Toronto 13 11 8 1—33
Pittsburgh 17 11 6 0—34
Goal—Toronto: Woll W, 21-11-0; Pittsburgh: Blomqvist L, 4-9-1.
Power plays (goals-chances)—Toronto 0-1; Pittsburgh 1-2.
Attendance—16,284 (18,387) at Pittsburgh.

CURLING

THE BRIER

At Kelowna, B.C.
PRELIMINARY ROUND
Sunday’s results
FOURTH DRAW
Ontario 12 Northwest Territories 2
Quebec 7 Yukon 5
Saskatchewan (Kleiter) 7 P.E.I. 4
Saskatchewan (McEwen) 8 Nova Scotia 6
FIFTH DRAW
Canada 6 Northern Ontario 5
Manitoba (Carruthers) 5 Alberta (Koe) 4 (extra end)
Manitoba (Dunstone) 7 B.C. 4
New Brunswick 8 Nunavut 3
SIXTH DRAW
Nova Scotia vs. Yukon
Saskatchewan (McEwen) vs. Ontario
Quebec vs. P.E.I.
Alberta (Jacobs) vs. N.W.T.
Sunday’s results
SECOND DRAW
Alberta (Jacobs) 10 Yukon 3
Nova Scotia 7 Saskatchewan (Kleiter) 2
Ontario 11 Quebec 4
Saskatchewan (McEwen) 6 P.E.I. 4
THIRD DRAW
Canada 5 British Columbia 3
Manitoba (Carruthers) 14 Newfoundland & Labrador 2
Manitoba (Dunstone) 13 Nunavut 2
Northern Ontario 9 Alberta (Koe) 5
Monday’s games
SEVENTH DRAW, 11:30 A.M.
British Columbia vs. Alberta (Koe), Manitoba (Carruthers) vs. New Brunswick, Nunavut vs. Newfoundland & Labrador, Manitoba (Dunstone) vs. Northern Ontario
EIGHTH DRAW, 4:30 P.M.
Saskatchewan (McEwen) vs. Quebec, P.E.I. vs. Alberta (Jacobs), Northwest Territories vs. Saskatchewan (Kleiter), Ontario vs. Yukon
NINTH DRAW, 9:30 P.M.
Newfoundland & Labrador vs. New Brunswick, Alberta (Koe) vs. Nunavut, British Columbia vs. Northern Ontario, Manitoba (Carruthers) vs. Canada

LACROSSE

NLL

Saturday’s results
Buffalo 9 Saskatchewan 7
Colorado 11 Calgary 8
Halifax 9 Las Vegas 5

HOCKEY

AHL

Sunday’s results
Utica 5 Syracuse 4 (OT)
Providence 5 Hartford 2
Hershey 4 Lehigh Valley 0
San Jose 6 Henderson 5
Texas 4 Chicago 0
Saturday’s results
Toronto 2 Manitoba 1 (SO)
Utica 3 Hartford 2 (SO)
Hershey 5 Wilkes-Barre/Scranton 4 (OT)
Iowa 3 Grand Rapids 2 (SO)
Charlotte 4 Cleveland 1
Syracuse 4 Rochester 3 (SO)
Laval 4 Belleville 1
Springfield 4 Providence 3 (SO)
Lehigh Valley 5 Bridgeport 3
Abbotsford 8 Calgary 4
Texas 4 Chicago 3 (OT)
Rockford 3 Tucson 2 (OT)
San Jose 4 Henderson 1
Bakersfield 5 San Diego 4 (SO)
Colorado 4 Ontario 0

OHL

Sunday’s results
Ottawa 5 Windsor 4
Saginaw 8 North Bay 3
Sarnia 3 Guelph 1
Sudbury 3 Brampton 2 (OT)
Erie 7 Peterborough 2
London 4 Oshawa 3 (OT)
Saturday’s results
Owen Sound 3 Kitchener 2 (SO)
Niagara 6 London 4
Flint 6 Erie 3
Brantford 4 Peterborough 3 (OT)
Barrie 6 Kingston 3

PWHL

Sunday’s results
No Games Scheduled.
Saturday’s result
Montreal 3 Boston 2 (OT)

GOLF

PGA-COGNIZANT CLASSIC

At Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Sunday’s Final Round — Par 71
Joe Highsmith, \$1,656M 65-72-64-64—265
Jacob Bridgeman, \$818,800 68-68-67-64—267
J.J. Spaun, \$818,800 64-70-67-66—267
Ben Griffin, \$414,000 68-65-66-69—268
Max McGreevy, \$414,000 69-68-64-67—268
Russell Henley, \$310,500 63-70-66-70—269
Michael Kim, \$310,500 65-66-67-71—269
Jake Knapp, \$310,500 59-70-68-72—269
Jordan Spieth, \$259,900 65-70-67-68—270
Erik Van Rooyen, \$259,900 68-67-70-65—270
Brice Garnett, \$184,986 66-67-69-69—271
Doug Ghim, \$184,986 68-63-68-72—271
Max Greyserman, \$184,986 67-70-68-66—271
Min Woo Lee, \$184,986 71-65-68-67—271
Shane Lowry, \$184,986 66-68-70-67—271
Andrew Putnam, \$184,986 67-67-66-68—271
Sepp Straka, \$184,986 64-67-67-70—271
Rickie Fowler, \$117,607 68-68-67-69—272
Nicola Hojgaard, \$117,607 68-68-67-69—272
Victor Perez, \$117,607 67-69-66-70—272
Patrick Rodgers, \$117,607 67-69-66-70—272
Matti Schmid, \$117,607 68-69-68-67—272
Alex Smalley, \$117,607 70-64-69-69—272

LPGA-HSBC CHAMPIONSHIP

At Sentosa Island, Singapore
Sunday’s First Round — Par 72
Lydia Ko, \$360,000 71-67-68-69—275
Ayaka Furue, \$195,302 71-69-71-68—279
Jeeno Thitikul, \$195,302 71-72-66-70—279
Charley Hull, \$104,318 69-70-68-74—281
Jin Hee Im, \$104,318 72-74-68-67—281
Gabby Lopez, \$104,318 70-73-68-70—281
Hannah Green, \$59,183 75-69-67-71—282
A Lim Kim, \$59,183 68-69-73-72—282
Hyo Joo Kim, \$59,183 73-66-75-68—282
Yealimi Noh, \$59,183 72-68-71-71—282
Also
Brooke Henderson, \$24,200 74-71-70-71—286

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

Sunday’s results
Toronto 5 Philadelphia (ss) 4
Boston 6 N.Y. Mets 4
Atlanta 11 N.Y. Yankees 1
Philadelphia (ss) 5 Baltimore 4
Detroit 10 Pittsburgh 4
Washington 4 Houston 3
Tampa Bay 5 Minnesota 5
Miami 5 St. Louis 3
Texas 6 Arizona 3
L.A. Dodgers (ss) 8 Athletics 4
San Francisco 9 L.A. Angels 5
L.A. Dodgers (ss) 6 Chicago White Sox 3
Milwaukee 12 Cleveland 12
Cincinnati 7 Chicago Cubs 3
Kansas City 10 San Diego 4
Colorado 6 Seattle 1

SATURDAY’S BLUE JAYS RESULT

Toronto 1 Atlanta 1

MONDAY’S BLUE JAYS GAME

Detroit vs. Toronto (at Lakeland, Fla.), 1:05 p.m.

SUNDAY

BLUE JAYS 5, PHILLIES 4
Philadelphia 010 021 000 —4 6 0
Toronto 101 010 20x —5 9 0
Pha: T.Walker, Banks (3), McMillon (4), Kerker (5), Lazar (6), McGarry (7), Ash (7), Fausnaught (8); **Tor:** Scherzer, Nance (4), Francis (5), Amalfi (7), Y.Garcia (8), C.Green (9) and Kirk, Heineman. **W**—Amalfi 1-0. **L**—McGarry 0-1. **SV**—C.Green (1). **HRs**—Pha: Clemens (1). **Tor:** Varsho (2), Bichette (1), Rincones (3), S.Berroa (1).

SATURDAY

BLUE JAYS 1, BRAVES 1
Toronto 000 010 000 —1 5 0
Atlanta 000 000 100 —1 5 0
Tor: J.Barnes, B.Little (2), Pop (3), Jos.Walker (4), Gowdy (5), Lovelady (7), Fluhrty (8), Gregory (9); **Atl:** D.Lee, E.De Los Santos (3), Kuhl (4), Covey (5), B.Farmer (7), Diekmann (8), Schanaman (9). **HRs**—Atl: L.Williams (1).

SOCCER

MLS

Sunday’s results
Vancouver 2 L.A. Galaxy 1
Miami 4 Houston 1
Saturday’s results
Orlando 4 Toronto 2
Charlotte 2 Atlanta 0
Columbus 1 New England 0
D.C. 2 Chicago 2
Dallas 3 Colorado 3
Los Angeles F.C. 1 New York City F.C. 0
Minnesota 1 Montreal 0
N.Y. Red Bulls 2 Nashville 0
Philadelphia 4 Cincinnati 1
Portland 1 Austin 0
Salt Lake City 2 Seattle 0
San Jose 2 Kansas City 1
St. Louis 0 San Diego 0

ENGLAND

F A CUP

FIFTH ROUND
Sunday’s results
Manchester United 1 Fulham 1 (Fulham advances 4-3 on penalties)
Newcastle 1 Brighton 2
Saturday’s results
Crystal Palace 3 Millwall 1
Preston North End 3 Burnley 0
Bournemouth 1 Wolverhampton 1
Manchester City 3 Plymouth Argyle 1
Monday’s game
Nottingham Forest vs. Ipswich Town, 2:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	43	18	.705	—
New York	40	20	.667	2½
Philadelphia	21	38	.356	21
Brooklyn	21	39	.350	21½
Toronto	19	42	.311	24

SOUTHEAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	28	31	.475	—
Orlando	29	33	.468	½
Atlanta	27	33	.450	1½
Charlotte	14	45	.237	14
Washington	11	48	.186	17

CENTRAL DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	50	10	.833	—
Milwaukee	34	25	.576	15½
Indiana	34	25	.576	15½
Detroit	34	27	.557	16½
Chicago	24	37	.393	26½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	38	22	.633	—
Houston	37	23	.617	1
Dallas	32	29	.525	6½
San Antonio	25	34	.424	12½
New Orleans	16	44	.267	22

||
||
||

A16

WEATHER

TODAY'S FORECAST:

High: -1

Low: -2

P.O.P: 30%

Mix, sun and clouds.

Wind: SW, 14kmh

Sunlight Hours: 5

Feels Like: -5

Air Quality

Toronto downtown today

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

4

GoodMod.PoorV. PoorHazard

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

UV Index

Toronto downtown peak today

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

2

LowMod.HighV. HighExtreme

Barrie	2	Hamilton	2	Mississauga	2
Brampton	2	Kitchener	2	Newmarket	2
Burlington	2	Niagara Falls	2	Oakville	2
Guelph	1	St. Catharines	2	Oshawa	2

Barometer

Toronto downtown today

CHANGING...

101

102

CLEARING...

BAROMETER

STEADY: NO CHANGE

Pressure [kpa]:	102.5
Humidity [%]:	56

Barometer is RIISING compared to yesterday.

Local Almanac

Temperature Trend

Today is COLDER than Average.

Today's Average [°C]: 2

Expected [at 3pm ET]: -1

Difference: -3

Precipitation

March

Normal, Month [mm]: 48.3

Current: 0.0

Difference: -48.3

Percent of Normal: 0%

Moon and Sun

Today: Waxing Crescent

New Feb 25

1st Qtr Mar 5

Full Mar 14

Last Qtr Mar 22

Sunrise: 6:48am

Sunset: 6:10pm

Moonrise: 8:28am

Moonset: 11:10pm

LOCAL FIVE-DAY FORECAST:

Tomorrow

32

P.O.P: 80%

Light rain.

Wind: SW, 14kmh

Feels Like: 1

Sunlight Hours: 0

Wednesday

41

P.O.P: 80%

Light rain.

Wind: E, 18kmh

Feels Like: 1

Sunlight Hours: 1

Thursday

1-5

P.O.P: 60%

Mixed precipitation.

Wind: W, 30kmh

Feels Like: -5

Sunlight Hours: 1

Friday

0-7

P.O.P: 30%

Mix, sun and clouds.

Wind: NW, 26kmh

Feels Like: -6

Sunlight Hours: 6

Saturday

0-4

P.O.P: 20%

Mix, sun and clouds.

Wind: W, 9kmh

Feels Like: 0

Sunlight Hours: 6

ONTARIO TODAY

SUBURBY

-1/-5/C

OTTAWA

-4/-6/PC

PARRY SOUND

-2/-4/SN

HUNTSVILLE

-3/-7/C

OWEN SOUND

0/-2/PC

COLLINGWOOD

0/-2/PC

BARRE

-1/-4/PC

PETERBOROUGH

-2/-5/PC

KINGSTON

-3/-3/PC

OSHAWA

-1/-2/PC

ST CATHARINES

1/-1/PC

NIAGARA FALLS

0/-3/PC

LONDON

1/-2/S

SARINIA

2/0/S

WINDSOR

3/1/PC

BAD AXE

4/0/PC

KITCHENER

-1/-3/PC

HAMILTON

0/-3/PC

TORONTO

-1/-2/PC

ROCHESTER

0/-4/PC

BUFFALO

0/-3/S

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	-3/-7	PC	2/0	SN	1/-6	SN	2/-9	S	
Barrie	-1/-4	PC	5/1	R	1/-8	SN	2/-5	S	
Bracebridge	-2/-6	C	3/1	RS	-10/-14	PC	-3/-3	S	
Brantford	0/-3	PC	6/3	SH	-17/-21	PC	-17/-22	PC	
Cornwall	-4/-6	S	3/1	RS	1/-9	SN	1/-8	S	
Dryden	5/-4	S	-2/-9	SN	-9/-18	S	1/-4	PC	
Goderich	1/-1	S	4/4	R	-16/-23	S	-12/-20	S	
Hamilton	0/-3	PC	6/1	SH	-5/-12	S	0/-2	S	
Huntsville	-3/-7	C	2/1	RS	-24/-30	PC	-25/-30	S	
Kenora	4/-3	S	-2/-9	SN	10/-3	S	9/2	PC	
Kingston	-3/-3	PC	3/2	RS	8/-3	S	8/1	PC	
Kitchener	-1/-3	PC	4/2	R	-9/-17	S	-1/-3	S	
London	1/-2	S	6/4	SH	-8/-10	S	2/0	RS	
Niagara Falls	0/-3	PC	8/3	C	5/-6	PC	6/-2	PC	
North Bay	-3/-5	SN	1/0	SN	-9/-16	S	0/-2	SN	
Ottawa	-4/-6	PC	3/0	RS	-1/-6	SN	-4/-11	PC	
Owen Sound	0/-2	PC	4/3	R	-8/-14	S	1/0	PC	
Parry Sound	-2/-4	SN	3/2	RS	-3/-7	PC	-6/-7	PC	
Pembroke	-2/-5	SN	3/0	RS	Saskatoon	0/-8	PC	-2/-11	PC
Peterborough	-2/-5	PC	4/1	RS	Vancouver	10/6	PC	10/5	SH
Sudbury	-1/-5	C	2/0	SN	Victoria	11/6	PC	8/6	SH
Sault Ste Marie	2/-4	PC	3/1	RS	Whistler	8/1	S	7/1	SH
Thunder Bay	6/-5	S	2/-6	SN	Whitehorse	1/-8	PC	-1/-6	PC
Timmins	-1/-4	SN	3/-7	RS	Winnipeg	5/-4	PC	-3/-8	C
Trenton	-2/-3	PC	3/1	RS	Yarmouth	-7/-8	PC	2/2	PC
Windsor	3/1	PC	9/5	R	Yellowknife	-11/-16	PC	-11/-18	PC

NORTH AMERICA TODAY

WHITEHORSE

1/-8/PC

YELLOWKNIFE

-11/-16/PC

ICALUIT

-24/-30/PC

EDMONTON

1/-9/SN

SASKATOON

0/-8/PC

WINNIPEG

5/-4/PC

REGINA

1/-6/SN

MINNEAPOLIS

10/6/SH

DETROIT

1/1/PC

OTTAWA

-4/-6/PC

HALIFAX

-5/-12/S

NEW YORK

2/-2/S

WASHINGTON

15/4/S

ATLANTA

8/5/PC

CHICAGO

20/16/PC

MIAMI

25/20/SH

LOS ANGELES

16/12/S

SAN FRANCISCO

12/9/PC

SEATTLE

11/4/SH

VANCOUVER

10/6/PC

40

35

30

25

20

15

10

5

0

-5

-10

-15

-20

-25

-30

Rain

Thunderstorms

Rain/Snow

Snow

Cold Front

Warm Front

Trough

Occlusion

Jet Stream

U. S. A

TODAY

TOMORROW

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

Europe

TODAY

TOMORROW

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

Caribbean & Latin America

TODAY

TOMORROW

Acapulco	29/24	S	28/23	S
Bermuda	16/14	SH	15/14	C
Belize City	27/26	S	28/26	S
Bogota	19/11	SH	19/11	SH
Bridgetown	29/24	S	28/25	S
Buenos Aires	27/23	SH	30/25	SH
Cancun	27/23	SH	28/25	S
Caracas	26/16	SH	26/15	SH
Havana	26/20	S	28/21	S
Kingston	29/24	SH	30/25	T
Mexico City	28/13	S	28/12	S
Nassau	23/21	S	23/23	SH
Puerto Plata	28/21	T	27/21	T
Rio de Janeiro	29/23	SH	29/23	S
Santiago	29/16	S	30/17	S

Asia-Pacific

TODAY

TOMORROW

Auckland	22/16	C	21/12	SH
Bangkok	34/28	SH	34/28	S
Beijing	8/0	PC	8/0	PC
Hong Kong	24/20	PC	21/18	R
Jakarta	32/24	SH	30/24	SH
Karachi	27/17	S	27/17	S
Manila	33/26	PC	33/26	SH
Mumbai	32/26	PC	32/25	PC
New Delhi	28/16	S	25/13	S
Seoul	4/-1	SN	2/-2	SN
Singapore	30/24	R	30/25	R
Sydney	25/21	PC	26/21	S
Tokyo	9/1	R	6/1	C

Africa - Middle East

TODAY

TOMORROW

Amman	19/10	PC	19/8	PC
Ankara	8/-2	C	8/-1	S
Baghdad	29/23	PC	29/14	PC
Beirut	19/14	PC	20/14	PC
Cairo	24/12	PC	24/11	S
Dakar	37/22	S	37/22	S
Harare	24/16	SH	24/16	T
Jerusalem	17/10	PC	17/8	PC
Johannesburg	21/15	R	23/15	SH
Nairobi	29/17	S	29/17	S
Riyadh	20/11	S	21/14	PC

Dinner party antics

raise social anxiety

LISI

TESHER

ADVICE

While out for dinner with my usual group, I noticed two of my so-called friends rolling their eyes at something I said. About an hour later, back at our friend's house, I noticed the same two women rolling their eyes again. I was so unnerved by their rude behaviour I grabbed my things, claimed exhaustion and left.

I mulled the situation over all night long, trying to figure out what I had said that was eye-roll worthy. But I honestly have no idea. Two days later, I was having coffee with my friend whose house we had been at and asked her what she thought. She said she had no idea what I was talking about, but I think she's lying.

We have another dinner in two weeks, but I'm not sure I want to go. There are eight of us, so the other four will be there. But I'm still not sure I'm comfortable going.

What do you suggest?

Frenemies

You never know what's going on with other people. I suggest you attend the dinner. Call one of the other friends and go together so you feel supported. Watch the two women and see if they react similarly as to the last time you were together. If so, and you're feeling strong, call them out. Ask them what it is that's bothering them. Then move forward accordingly. Maybe it has nothing to do with you.

I'm the youngest of four boys and in a situation that I don't know what to do. My oldest brother dropped out of university in his first semester and moved to Thailand to surf. My parents weren't happy. My second brother dropped out of university after his first year because he was failing and having too much fun living on his own. He was then forced to move back home and get a job to pay them back for a wasted year. My third brother just graduated, but has a baby on the way with a woman he knew for one evening. You can imagine how my parents feel about that.

My parents are both successful high achievers; one is a doctor and the other a dentist. They have provided for us, even spoiled us, but also

taught us the value of a dollar. They are beside themselves with how their three oldest boys have turned out, even though they don't talk about it openly.

I'm in Grade 12 and heading off to university in September. I'm not sure exactly what I want to study or where I want to go. But I'm feeling pressured and stressed to prove to my parents I'm not like my brothers, that I'm going to graduate eventually and that I'm going to be successful. I don't know how to move forward with all this pressure.

Scrutinized

Your situation is circumstantial and not personal. It's your birth order that's putting you in the spotlight based on the behaviour of your older siblings.

You need to sit down with your parents and have a good chat. Show your maturity by expressing your concerns. Explain you understand that experience has led them to where they are, but you are not like your older brothers. You are your own person and embarking on your own path.

Remind them you will make mistakes along the way, that your path may be curvy but it's your own. Ask them for their support and encouragement and to temper their judgment. Also, ask them for help in trying to decide what path you'd like to follow. There are plenty of guidance counsellors and advisers out there.

Face your fears by talking to your parents and working together as a team.

Feedback Regarding the age discrepancy (Dec. 9):

Reader "I agree that there's no way to control other people's thoughts and judgments. But I wouldn't ignore the 'strange looks' nor the loud 'whisper.'

"To the first, I would stare back, shake my head and walk away. To the second, I would say something like, 'I can't believe you would say something like that!' and walk away. I might even add something about my husband's sexual prowess.

"These people need to be told it's rude and inappropriate to glare and/or make comments about the writer and her husband. Being mag-nanimous is highly overrated."

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

STARS

MECCA

WOODS

HOROSCOPES

The day favours fresh thinking and bold ideas. It also favours having the patience and follow-through to turn your thoughts into something concrete. Finding a happy balance between our heads and hearts will be useful for planning out what's next, developing new projects, and any decision-making we need to do. With an intense morning expected, it might be better to work alone to avoid unnecessary drama. However, if we must team up with others, we should be open to different approaches instead of sticking with what works.

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)

The clarity or focus that you've been missing finally returns.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

Beware of trying to force things to go your way, as you may end up making matters worse. Practice a little patience.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

Talking to a wise friend could help you conquer any uncertainty that you're feeling.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

There's no need to defer to others for their input when you already know what to do. Trust your judgment.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)

Being honest and direct is the key to diffusing a potential power struggle or conflict.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Avoid spreading yourself thin or pushing yourself too hard. Less is more.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Don't be afraid of asking for

help. Trust that there are people you can rely on.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

You might be easily overwhelmed today. Take good care of your well-being and focus on reducing stress.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

No matter how much you might plan and prepare for important things, life has a way of disrupting these plans. Being creative or resourceful will help get you back on track.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Pay attention to what you're feeling rather than ignoring it. You may discover valuable information.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

Don't make assumptions about anything. Just ask instead.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)

Not everything is worth your time and energy. Be selective about who and what gets your attention.

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

You often help others because it's something that you find rewarding. Thanks to the innate wisdom you possess, you can empower people with your advice. You can also harness your intuition to innovate, make sound decisions and accomplish your goals. You're fearless whenever you're faced with a challenge. Your inner strength enables you to overcome any hurdles you encounter, and your self-protective nature keeps you out of harm's way. You may have been spending a lot of time with your nose to the grindstone, but this year encourages you to get back out into the world and have a little fun.

BIRTHDATE OF:

Julie Bowen, actor;

George Miller, filmmaker;

Jessica Biel, actor.

TORONTO THE BETTER

Seeking love

I put off finding my person, but now I think I'm ready **B5**

FOOD

Tim travel

In Singapore, Canadian chain has gone upmarket **B4**



BUSINESS

SMART MONEY

Family matters

A rising cost of living has many turning to relatives for financial help. Here's how to navigate that tricky, and sometimes embarrassing, situation



NATHAN BAWAAN
STAFF REPORTER

It's no secret that Canadians are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living — more than half are describing themselves as “financially paralyzed.”

Survey after survey is finding Canadians' financial well-being is suffering — half are reporting they're spending all of their income on essential bills and expenses.

For many, the financial spiral has them turning to family for help.

A recent RBC report found that nearly a

quarter of Canadians have asked relatives for money amid eroding cash flow or even moved back home to save on rent. Meanwhile, nearly three in five parents said they expect to financially support their children into adulthood, with the majority feeling unconfident in their ability to do so.

Whether it's a bank or your most-trusted family member, asking for money or a loan can be scary if not downright embarrassing.

“This falls under the topic of difficult conversations,” says Janet Gray, an Ottawa-based advice-only financial planner. “It's not

SEE LOAN, B3

Holding Turkish Airlines to account



DIANA ZLOMISLAC
THE ADVOCATE

Ali Shajari arrived five hours early for his Toronto-bound flight out of Istanbul Airport, one of the busiest in the world.

The computer security student had booked a round-trip ticket for nearly \$1,700 with Turkish Airlines six months earlier to visit family during his summer holiday. But now, he was eager to get back to Canada to prepare for the start of his second year at York University.

When Shajari, 24, got to the gate and handed the attendant his boarding pass, she asked him to step aside and wait. Everyone behind him boarded. And then Shajari was told there were no seats left on the plane. He spent the next two hours being directed to different desks looking for answers about why he had been bumped and what had become of his checked luggage.

“At one point,” he says, “I actually had to get out of the airport, go through security again and go to the airline's sales office on a different floor. They told me they have a right to oversell seats on the plane.”

At the time, Shajari didn't know that Canada's Air Passenger Protection Regulations entitles travellers to a minimum of \$900 for delays within an airline's control.

He was more concerned with catching the next flight and spent another 45 minutes pleading his case. “They were very reluctant to give me a ticket for the same day and told me that they had to bump another passenger off to get me on the flight back,” he says.

When Shajari asked about compensation, he says the agent told him none was owed. After Shajari said that “he was pretty sure there was a rule about this,” the agent told him he would be able to collect 400 euros at the Turkish Airlines office in Pearson airport.

Shajari boarded the plane that evening, roughly 15 hours after he first arrived at Istanbul Airport.

The problem:
Reimbursement runaround
When Shajari landed in Toronto, he
SEE THE ADVOCATE, B3

RAMON FERREIRA TORONTO STAR ILLUSTRATION USING DREAMTIME IMAGES

PERSONAL FINANCES

Women live longer, but are less prepared for retirement

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

More women end up underprepared for retirement compared with men.

And in the case of lower-income women, women of colour, single mothers and divorcees, the risk of poverty in retirement is higher.

This unfortunate situation is driven by two factors; women live longer than men, and they're still paid less for their work.

Yes, this is 2025, and yes, this is still an issue.

Complicating things, many women are reluctant to seek financial advice from an expert and are shamed for not “doing better” or “knowing more” with and about their finances; which is disempowering.

To be fully prepared for retirement, however, women need to save more money *and* start feeling empowered about their financial choices.

OK, so how much more money are we talking about?

In many cases, it's going to take a

doubling of savings efforts.

In my ongoing work supporting women's financial well-being, and in my research to write my book “Well-Heeled: The Smart Girl's Guide to Getting Rich,” I learned that many women have been advised to earmark five to 10 per cent of their income for retirement savings. This is just not enough.

It's more likely going to take closer to 10 to 15 per cent of gross income, saved in a combination of tax-advantaged tools like RRSPs, work pensions and TFSA's, to ensure her nest egg is adequate for retirement.

'But, how on Earth can I double my savings with the high-cost of living!?'

The way to pull off your increased savings plan is to ruthlessly prioritize this goal.

Cut back on unnecessary spending. Reduce spending in those flexible categories such as monthly services, subscriptions and memberships. Nix those nice-to-have expenses like lunches out, and negotiate every cost.

There's a word for this: budgeting.

Financially secure women *always*

SEE RETIREMENT, B2

HOME RENOVATIONS

Consider your financing options before the revamp

While Canadians are increasingly turning to loans, experts say it must make sense for you

SAMMY HUDES

When Harpreet Singh decided to convert his basement into a rental suite, funding the renovation essentially came down to two options: using his own savings or borrowing money.

As a real estate agent and former financial adviser, Singh has helped plenty of clients navigate their own home improvement projects, along with tough financial decisions. He said his advice on how to pay for a home revamp usually depends on whether the homeowner will ever see that money come back to them. “When your property is giving you a rental income, that is something where you can justify using financing to renovate the basement because you have income coming in,” he said. “When you have no income coming in and you decide to spend that money on (a) specific renovation — on this specific flooring or this specific pool — then you need to understand if this is a need or a want.”

Experts say Canadians are increasingly turning to financing options to fund their home renovation projects — but taking out a loan needs to make sense for their situation.

Singh, who lives in the Toronto area, is using a home equity line of credit to finance his basement conversion. As a flexible type of loan, HELOCs allow a homeowner to borrow against the equity in their property.

Their available credit increases as they pay down the mortgage principal.

Singh said using his HELOC to finance the project gives him more flexibility than relying on savings. He said financing is also an attractive option for this renovation because it will increase the valuation of his property.

Paying for the renovation up front would have meant liquidating his stock portfolio in order to have enough funds available, he said.

“I want to make sure I’m not putting too much money toward housing. I try to minimize the cash flow,” said Singh. “That’s why it just makes sense for me to use a line of



credit and keep my savings aside for ... a rainy day situation.”

Homeowners starting a reno project should be prepared for both expected and “not-so-fun surprise” costs along the way, said Francois Cote, CEO of Fig Financial, a fully digital personal lender in Canada.

“Planning ahead and thinking about what you need from a budget perspective is probably one of the most important things because you’re always off-budget,” said Cote.

“This is where (homeowners) might start using additional credit, or they might use their credit card for the extra anticipated spend, which can then create ... additional debt.”

He said loan providers like Fig can help provide budget flexibility for a renovation project such as a kitchen or bathroom upgrade, which increase property value.

“One can view this as an investment in the home, and then if you’re able to afford the increase in the payments you’ll have to do on a monthly basis, it might make sense,” said Cote.

But he cautioned that every situation is unique. The risks of taking out a loan for such projects include taking on debt, which homeowners need to be sure they can afford to repay based on their income level and career stage.

“If there’s instability and you would find yourself unable to make your payment obligation, that would put you in a bad spot,” he said. “If you’re currently stretched and you don’t have a lot of room available in your budget, it probably isn’t the right time to invest within the home.”

Humm Canada, a lender that provides financing plans through a full-

ly digital application process, said its average loan size for home improvement projects in 2024 was \$8,129 per consumer.

The company provides up to \$30,000 to help cover substantial home improvement expenses like renovations, appliances and big paint jobs, and customers have five years to repay the amount they take out.

Humm also partners with home improvement retailers, which can share in the interest on loans to help ease the financial burden for customers.

While a home improvement project may seem like more of a want than a need for many, “it’s not like fast fashion or buying a Jet Ski,” said Tim Moulton, country head of Humm Canada.

“House renovations are part of something that, over a long period of time, pays off,” he said. “And of course, the quality of life changes quite a bit as it relates to that.”

Moulton said the company is often involved in financing backyard projects such as patio and deck additions, and is increasingly seeing customers use its services to fund solar panel installations. He called the latter a useful investment due to the cost savings it returns over the long term.

For Singh, that potential payoff is the key factor he discusses with clients when considering financing options for a project.

“Is the renovation they are doing going to add value to their property?” he said.

“Because if it’s not adding value to the property, and they’re not going to get that money back when they’re looking to sell their house, it might not be worth it.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Francois Cote, CEO of Fig Financial, a fully digital personal lender in Canada, cautioned that every renovation is unique. The risks of taking out a loan can include taking on debt, which homeowners need to be sure they can afford to repay based on their income level and career stage.

ROGELIO V. SOLIS
THE CANADIAN PRESS
FILE PHOTO

Saving is great, but investing is crucial

RETIREMENT FROM B1

budget and *always* pay themselves first in their budgets — then pay for everything else. Retirement savings, therefore, happen guilt-free every payday, with the leftover going to essentials and fun.

Some women go granular with detailed budget spreadsheets, while others succeed with a more flexible approach such as reconciling your spending once a month. You’ll know your system is working if you’re able to save more.

Another way to roundup more money for retirement is to get paid what you’re worth. This means holding your boss to account for equal pay or even switching jobs.

The \$10 latte factor is great inspiration to save a bit more

Imagine investing \$10 a day instead of buying that double chai latte?

With compound interest and re-invested returns, that money could grow significantly over time.

Let’s say you’re 30, read this, and decide “No more \$10-a-day lattes (or lunches or whatever).” That simple \$10 a day, invested at an average rate of return of 7.5 per cent, would give you a \$610,000 nest egg at 65.

Even if you invested half, so \$5 a day, it’s still hundreds of thousands of dollars toward long-term savings. Any online compound interest calculator can be used to run these what-if scenarios, which are highly motivating for the women I work with. Personally, I like the calculator found on getsmarteraboutmoney.com.

Now, imagine layering this extra “latte factor” savings onto an employer matched retirement savings plan? The more you add, the more they could match; which is effectively *more* free money, and a great reason to participate in these kinds of plans.

Even without an employer retirement savings program, the “latte factor” principle works wonders in RRSPs and TFSA that are invested for the long term.

Saving money isn’t enough. It needs to be well invested

I’ve found in my work that when women are empowered with financial knowledge, they are excellent savers, leaning into the power of habits to make it a part of their overall well-being.

But, to be prepared for retirement, it’s not enough to just be a good saver. The key is to get your money growing through investing in a well-diversified investment portfolio, which includes a mix of risk-appropriate stocks, bonds and funds.

Because there are thousands of investment vehicles to choose from, it can be helpful to engage an investment professional, through a robo-advisor or via a meeting with a money adviser to learn more about the differences between the typical kinds of portfolios: conservative (women retiring in five years or less); moderate (five to 10 years from retirement); balanced (15 to 20 years from retirement); growth (20 to 30 years from retirement); and aggressive growth (30 to 40 years from retirement).

So much is evolving in the investment field.

The key is to stay curious and learn as much as you can about investing in general. Try reaching out to other women who seem to have it all figured out and ask for advice or a referral.

Whatever investment solution you choose, it’s key to closely monitor the performance of your investments.

If the portfolio isn’t keeping up with a stock index like the S&P 500, perhaps the investment strategy needs a rethink.

A great next step is to get a financial plan prepared — even consider hiring a woman adviser.

A great plan, and adviser, will outline exactly what needs to be done to play savings catch-up and get you ready for retirement.

How to handle violent supervisor at work



SOMA RAY-ELLIS
ADVICE

I work at an office where one of the supervisors sometimes punches the wall or throws things while speaking to employees. What can we do about it?

No one should feel threatened at work. In fact, we have laws to protect employees against such violent acts.

As defined by Ontario’s Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), workplace violence is the use of physical force against a worker in a workplace that causes or could cause injury to the worker.

This also includes a statement or behaviour that can be interpreted as a threat to commit an injury.

Nearly every worker, manager, employer and workplace in the province is covered by the OHSA.

This also include owners, constructors, and suppliers of equipment or materials to workplaces.

Generally, employers with six to 19 employees must have one health and safety representative who was selected by the workers they repre-

sent. Workplaces with 20 to 49 employees are required to have a joint health and safety committee. The committee must have at least two members.

Employers with 50 or more employees are required to have a committee with at least four members.

At least half of these members must be workers who do not have any managerial functions.

If this applies to your working situation, reach out to your health and safety representative(s) to report your experience. Filing a group complaint is typically more effective.

The representative/committee has the power to highlight scenarios that could be considered dangerous or hazardous to workers.

They are also required to make recommendations and report findings to the employer, employees and applicable unions.

Ultimately it is important to note that you have the right to stand up for yourself.

The next time this happens tell your supervisor you will speak to them once they are no longer punching the wall or throwing things.

Additionally, the OHSA outlines that all workers have the right to refuse work in certain circum-

stances if they have reason to believe that workplace violence is likely to occur.

If you have suffered from any physical injuries as a result of these actions, you can potentially file a lawsuit or a Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) claim, depending on the nature of your circumstances.

While this is not commonly known, the WSIB policy also states that an employee is entitled to benefits for mental stress due to a sudden event arising out of and in the course of employment.

To meet claim guidelines, the event must be clearly identifiable as traumatic and unexpected in the normal workday/environment.

The OHSA also requires all workers to report current or potential workplace violence hazards to their employer or supervisors.

Be sure to reach out to your superiors, especially if the behaviour continues.

Every employer in Ontario is obligated to create and foster a safe work environment that prioritizes protecting their workers from injury and illness.

In return, workers are also required to refrain from causing harm, whether knowingly or unknowingly.

SOMA RAY-ELLIS IS A PARTNER AND CHAIR OF THE EMPLOYMENT LAW GROUP AT TORONTO LAW FIRM GARDINER ROBERTS LLP. SEND YOUR EMPLOYMENT LAW QUESTIONS TO SOMA@THESTAR.CA.

Go in with a plan and be prepared for a no

LOAN FROM B1

just about the money and it's not just about the repayments, but it has a lot of consequences and a lot of emotion.”

Here's how to navigate this tricky situation if you're thinking of asking family for financial help.

When should you go to family for money?

Asking family for cash should be a last resort, according to Jason Heath, a Toronto-based advice-only financial planner.

While there are benefits to going to family over a bank for a loan — you might get the money faster and the borrowing terms might be more favourable — there are drawbacks. You could offend a relative if you start missing payments, Heath says. Or an argument could ensue if they see Instagram photos of your beach getaway show up in their feed, damaging personal relationships.

“You run the risk of them questioning, ‘Well, why did I lend them that money? Why am I paying for that vacation?’” Heath says. “I think you’ve got to be really careful and think about it.”

Gray says that, in her experience, families are generally willing to help their relatives financially, particularly when it’s a child going to a parent for assistance.

“In most cases, parents are going to do whatever they can to help

their kids,” she says, adding she has worked in recent years with parents who have offered to pay some of their child’s student loans or down payment on a home.

Asking family for money? Come prepared

Coming into the conversation with talking points, and even a presentation, can go a long way in showing you’re serious about your request and that you’ve put thought into it.

“Make your case with something very structured so they feel safe and comfortable that there’s hardly any room for error because everything they may be worried about you’ve already thought about in advance,” says Jessica Moorhouse, a personal finance expert and author of “Everything But Money.”

Melissa Leong, author of “Happy Go Money,” recommends mentioning what you’ve tried to do before reaching out to family.

“Have a transparent conversation with your family member or friend by explaining your situation and why you’re asking for help,” she says.

Preparation can also include creating a budget or financial plan to show you’ve considered how you’ll pay the money back, and that the loan you’re asking for isn’t an arbitrary amount.

“If you’re asking family for help with your down payment, do the homework, research the housing market and the costs,” Leong adds.

Money might be coming from a family member, but you should still treat the loan like a business transaction. This means setting clear borrowing terms that you can realistically follow, and writing them down

Pick the right time and place

When it comes to having the money conversation, it might seem easiest to bring it up on a call or during a family dinner. But Gray suggests giving people a heads up that you want to have a talk.

“When it’s just like, ‘Surprise, I need some money,’ that’s not always helpful,” she says.

It is also better to talk in person and somewhere that is “neutral ground.”

“You don’t want to do it in the living room with all the family photos on the wall,” Gray says.

“That’s just too much. There’s already a lot of emotion built into that location, so have a separate location.”

Speaking in a separate, public place could also help keep the conversation civil, Gray explains, since people are less likely to yell or get upset with strangers around.

If you need to ask your family for money over the phone, Gray recommends setting up a video call.

Treat it like a business transaction

The money might be coming from a family member, but you should still treat the loan like a business transaction. This means setting clear borrowing terms that you can realistically follow, and writing them down.

“I would 100 per cent want to have the terms written down regardless of which party I was in that transaction, because then there’s no con-

fusion later on,” Heath says.

Heath suggests that the terms include the interest rate on the loan, the monthly payment amounts and what happens if someone were to die. Have a lawyer look over the agreement if needed, he adds.

The terms should also include how the two parties should communicate with one another, Leong says. “Nothing annoys me more than when people borrow money and then they never speak of it again. If you borrow money, stay transparent and in communication about how things are going.”

Be prepared for ‘no’

Another rule to coming prepared for the conversation is being ready for your family to turn down your request.

Moorhouse acknowledges that it can be a hard thing to hear, particularly when it feels like you are in crisis. But she says that you need to accept the answer rather than challenge it.

“You just have to move on and find another way and don’t bring it up again,” says Moorhouse.

Gray suggests reassuring your family in your ask that you would understand if they said no and that it won’t impact your relationship.

Whatever you do, don’t be passive aggressive.

“Reassurance is huge,” Gray says. “You don’t want any parting words to be, ‘Don’t worry about me,’ or ‘You can visit me in jail.’ ”



Experts say it’s important to know your net worth

MICHELLE ZADIKIAN AND RITIKA DUBEY

To someone who doesn’t have a lot of assets, knowing their net worth might seem pointless, but experts say it’s an important indicator of financial health, no matter how big or small the number.

“At the end of the day, it’s not about how many zeros you have, it’s really about whether the net worth you have reflects that you’re on track toward your financial goals,” said Brenda Hiscock, a certified financial planner at Objective Financial Partners.

Your net worth is measured by adding up the value of all the assets you own and subtracting your outstanding liabilities. The result gives you a snapshot of your overall financial picture.

Assets can include money in your bank account, investments, the value of your home and other properties, the cash value of a life insurance plan, the resale value of your vehicle and any pension plans.

Liabilities are essentially what you owe and can include the mortgage on your home, lines of credit, credit card debt, student debt and auto loans. Hiscock says when it comes to your liabilities, it’s important to distinguish between good debt and bad debt.

“There’s good debt, sort of, a mortgage, student loans because a student loan can increase your future earnings potential. But what we really want to look at on a net worth statement is whether there’s credit card debt ... that tends to be bad debt,” she said. “The net worth statement helps us to really look at each piece and determine what the best way forward with them is.”

She says a typical timeline to review a net worth statement is once a year. For a young person starting out who may have few assets, or

even a negative net worth, Hiscock said there are still benefits to tracking your financial health.

“I work with quite a few young people and I do find they love seeing their net worth year-over-year. It’s motivating to them,” she said.

Tony Salgado, president of AMS Wealth, said a net worth statement can also be a wake-up call that your financial well-being is not moving in the right direction.

He gives the example of someone who gets a raise or a promotion at work, but ends up spending the extra income on dining out and other discretionary expenses instead of building up their assets.

“So even though in this situation you have someone that has more cash flow coming in, they’re spending more,” he said. “In that case, their net worth is not going to be growing. They’re going to be decreasing their net worth.”

For someone that wants to build their net worth, it comes down to putting more money into the assets side rather than the liabilities.

“Step by step, if we manage our discretionary spending, we improve our cash flow, we take the cash flow and invest it in either a TFSA, RRSP or an alternative investment — you’re slowly now moving your net worth in the positive direction,” Salgado said.

In addition to being a key indicator for your own use, knowing your net worth can also be crucial information for other professionals, Hiscock said.

“For example, young people out there buying homes, and if they have a young child, life insurance is so, so important. The net worth statement can say, ‘OK well we have this much debt and if we pass away, we want to have that protected and we also want to protect our future income,’” she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Knowing your net worth can be crucial information for other professionals, such as a lawyer working on your will or gauging how much life insurance you may need.

DREAMSTIME

“At the end of the day, it’s not about how many zeros you have, it’s really about whether the net worth you have reflects that you’re on track toward your financial goals.”

BRENDA HISCOCK
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER

Compensation offer had a confusing twist

THE ADVOCATE FROM B1

set out to find the Turkish Airlines office, only to learn there wasn’t one.

He called the airline and was directed to go online and “make a ticket” to file his complaint through the airline’s website.

For more than two months, he created multiple tickets. And then he got an email in which the airline admitted to overbooking and offered him an apology and refund cheque for 400 euros, but with a confusing twist.

“In order to compensate for your grievance,” the Turkish Airlines’ letter stated, “your refund check (sic) must be sent to the T.R. Republic of Türkiye on the date you purchased the ticket.”

“Each time I ask for clarification, I must create a new ticket on their website, which takes about three weeks to receive a response,” Shajari explained.

He filed a formal complaint with the Canadian Transportation Agency, a quasi-judicial federal tribunal based in Quebec that handles airline, railway and marine-related disputes involving fares, rates and charges.

He says the agency advised it might take 18 months to reach a resolution.

Shajari says he contacted the Star because he hopes his “story could serve as a call for greater accountability.”

“It’s painfully clear that Turkish Airlines is using this delay to deter passengers like me from pursuing the compensation we deserve, hoping that we’ll simply give up,” he wrote in an email.

Star helps: The claim option

I contacted the airline on Shajari’s behalf.

I also reached out to Air Passenger Rights, a Canadian non-profit organization that works to educate travellers on the law and advocates to government and industry on their behalf.

Gabor Lukacs, the group’s founder, explained that in 2019, the federal Liberal government introduced new travel regulations that he believes make it more difficult for airline passengers to get compensation. Under the new rules, “denial of boarding” is defined so narrowly, he says, that most cases do not meet the criteria for payment.

In November, Air Passenger Rights released a report that analyses nine months of airline compen-

sation data collected by the Canadian Transportation Agency.

The report breaks down the number of complaints the CTA fielded from Sept. 30, 2023 to June 30, 2024 involving 18 airlines and how many were upheld and dismissed.

Air Canada topped the list with the highest number of complaints for the period with 3,316, of which 57 per cent were dismissed while 43 per cent were upheld.

Turkish Airlines ranked 11th with 65 complaints.

In the vast majority of these cases, 71 per cent, the CTA considered the complaint valid and worthy of compensation.

The agency told me it could not confirm Shajari’s information about how long it would take to resolve his case but noted the number of complaints is increasing.

Lukacs says in the face of so much red tape a traveller’s quickest route to compensation is filing a claim against the company in small claims court.

“They tend to get a little bit more serious when they realize they have to get a lawyer involved.”

The resolution: Compensation, finally

Shajari didn’t have to go that route.

Two weeks after the Star contacted Turkish Airlines on his behalf, the company reached out to him saying it had “re-investigated” his complaint and concluded that it owed him \$900.

“I’m sure that it was because of you that they finally did the right thing,” Shajari wrote in an email to me.

“I can’t thank you enough. I’m a student and as you can imagine this makes a huge difference for me.”

His credit card statement showed the refund was \$31 short of what the airline had promised.

I emailed Turkish Airlines, again, to see if the company could explain why Shajari hadn’t received the full amount.

The next day, the airline emailed Shajari and pledged to make him whole: “With hopes that we can offer you flawless service on your subsequent travels, we are respectfully yours.”

The airline promised the outstanding \$31 will land in his bank account within the next few days.

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LIVING COMICS, B7
PUZZLES, B8

FOOD AND DRINK

Mississauga's halal haven

This plaza has some of the best halal takeout in the GTA. Here are 4 things to try

Open late year-round, Ridgeway Plaza in Mississauga is a bustling hub of halal takeout joints that quickly became a local favourite after opening in 2022. Though its popularity has led to complaints about noise and traffic, Ridgeway remains a top food destination with a mix of classic and trendy options. As Ramadan begins, here are four late-night spots to check out.



The Halwa Puri Platter at Nawab's Legendary BBQ

Many restaurants at the plaza will adjust their hours for Ramadan, but it's business as usual at this 24-hour, Mughlai-style halal spot that serves burgers, chicken wings and hot chicken sandwiches. While the plaza offers plenty of fast food options, this spot stands out for its all-day breakfast menu. You can enjoy dishes like avocado toasts, omelettes, spinach and egg wraps, or my pick, the halwa puri platter, \$12.99.

The staple South Asian breakfast consists of two puri, an unleavened whole-wheat flatbread that's deep fried, along with chole masala (a saucy chickpea curry), aloo (tender, slow cooked, curried

potatoes), suji halwa (a sweet semolina pudding), achar (pickled vegetables), and thinly sliced raw red onions and a green chili. The onions add that fresh astringent crunch against the mellow curries, while the achar adds a salty sweet burst of tangy umami to the puri. I like to finish with the halwa, which, with its nutty, mildly sweet flavour, serves as a perfect mini dessert to cleanse the palate.

Where to get it Nawab's Legendary BBQ is at 3525 Platinum Dr., Unit 117 at Ridgeway Drive. It is open 24 hours. Takeout can be ordered directly through its site, or through Skip the Dishes, Door Dash or Uber Eats.



The Musakhan Rolls at Saraya Restaurant

For a lighter option, just a short walk from Nawab's is this sit-down Middle Eastern restaurant offering a selection of Jordanian and Palestinian specialties. A standout is the musakhan rolls, a bite-sized twist on the Palestinian classic of roasted chicken with onions and sumac on flatbread. The roll version, \$15, consists of shredded chicken and finely chopped, softened onions rolled in a thin and crispy saj flat bread and topped with a generous sprinkling of sumac to give every bite a tangy, lemony kick. The chicken is lightly seasoned, with the on-

ions adding a subtle sweetness, while the flatbread adds a slight smoky flavour as the sumac gives that sour punch. Though it's listed as an appetizer, the dish is hearty enough to serve as a light meal, with four two-bite rolls in each order.

Where to get it Saraya Restaurant is at 3465 Platinum Dr. Unit 100 at Ridgeway Drive. Its regular hours are Monday to Thursday 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday 3 p.m. to midnight; Saturday 1 p.m. to midnight; and Sunday 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. It is on Uber Eats.



The GC Burger Combo at GC Burger

Among the many halal burger spots at Ridgeway, Great Canadian Burger is the busiest. The patties are juicy, with a slight hint of that smoky kiss that makes them a crowd-pleaser. It also gets bonus points for the glossy, slightly sweet buttered buns. You can customize the toppings, but for first-timers, go with the GC Burger, \$9.99, that has a bit of everything: cheddar, lettuce, tomato, grilled onions and a house mayo sauce. The cheese is perfectly melted, and the tomatoes and lettuce adds a pleasant, cooling crunch. Upgrade to a combo, \$5, to include fries and a fountain drink and spend the extra dollar to get Cajun fries:

terrifically spicy seasoned salt that's hotter than your typical food-court variety.

Where to get it GC Burger is at 3920 Eglinton Ave. W., Unit 28 at Intrepid Drive. There are additional locations at 308 King St. N., Unit 101 at Hickory Street East in Waterloo; 1965 Tecumseth Rd. W. at Partington Avenue in Windsor; 1734 Lawrence Ave. E. at Victoria Park Avenue in Scarborough. Their regular hours are Sunday to Thursday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.; and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Takeout can be ordered at each location directly through its site, or through Uber Eats, Door Dash and Skip The Dishes.



Arabic Coffee at The Bloom Coffee

Ridgeway has its fair share of coffee spots that are open late, ideal for evening hangouts in a plaza that's light on seating options. The Bloom Coffee serves the requisite pistachio lattes and lotus cookie shakes, but it also has some more old-school offerings like a pot of karak chai (a milky spiced tea) and my pick, Arabic coffee, \$7.99 for a small pot. Served in a gorgeous pot called a dallah, the coffee is brewed on the lighter side, more akin to tea — ideal for someone

like me who likes the flavour of coffee but cannot handle a lot of caffeine. The coffee is flavoured with cardamom pods, adding a sweet finish. You don't need sugar with it, but they give you a few packets if you're so inclined.

Where to get it The Bloom Coffee is at 3525 Platinum Dr. at Ridgeway Drive. Its regular hours are Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to midnight; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.; and Sunday 9 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. It is on Uber Eats.

RESTAURANTS

A Timbit costs how much?!

I visited a revamped Tim Hortons halfway across the globe and I was surprised, disgusted and left scratching my head

JOSHUA CHONG
ARTS CRITIC & REPORTER

You go to Tim Hortons for your daily caffeine fix. You don't expect bougie opulence. You don't question whether that yellow stain on the wall, uncomfortably close to your thigh, is merely some spilled

coffee or another foreign substance.

The Canadian coffee house chain is, in short, reliable — if completely unremarkable. It's the poster child of fast food mediocrity.

But that hasn't stopped the Tims brand from exploding around the world. The company, which traces

its roots to Hamilton, now boasts outposts in Europe, the Middle East and East Asia, including more than 300 locations in Saudi Arabia and roughly a thousand more in China.

As a Tim Hortons skeptic who's followed this global expansion

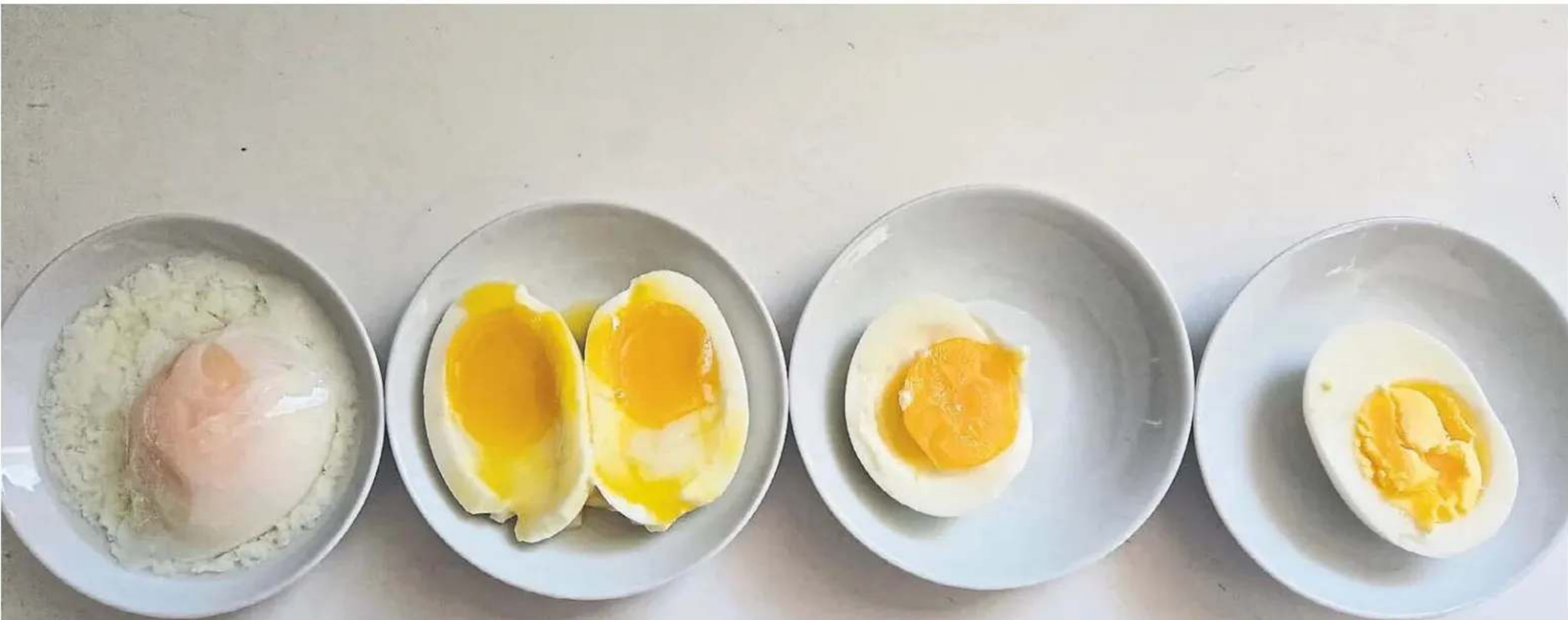
SEE TIMS, B6



A box of 10 Timbits costs \$10 in Singapore.

JOSHUA CHONG
TORONTO STAR

COOKING



Boiling the ‘perfect’ egg in 32 minutes?

I tried it — here’s what happened

KARON LIU
FOOD REPORTER

You know that saying about how it’s the journey, not the destination? Well, when it comes to boiling eggs, everyone has their own path.

I often come across “definitive” guides or hear someone rave about their personal technique. Some swear by boiling eggs for 12 minutes, while others insist on starting with cold water, bringing it to a boil, then turning off the heat and letting them sit.

With so many opinions, it’s no wonder people are particular about their boiled eggs — especially with rising prices. While Canadian prices remain relatively steady (though RIP to the days of a carton going for \$2 when I first started testing recipes for the Star), our frenemies to the south have seen prices skyrocket in wake of the bird flu outbreak. No joke, I was visiting my partner in New Jersey last week and a dozen eggs cost \$10 (U.S.). In the event that happens here, I want every egg to

From left, a sous vide egg, soft-boiled egg, periodic egg, and hard-boiled egg. The periodic method, which involves alternating boiling and warm water for 32 minutes, was tested alongside more traditional cooking techniques to compare texture and taste.

KARON LIU
TORONTO STAR

taste like a ray of sunshine.

Last month, an Italian study claims to have cracked the code on perfecting the boiled egg. Published in Communications Engineering, it suggests a “periodic” method of dunking eggs in alternating boiling and warm water every two minutes — for an entire 32 minutes — to achieve the ideal yolk, whites and nutritional balance.

This isn’t about overcomplicating an egg salad sandwich. The study argues that the ideal cooking temperatures for the yolk are 65 C, and 85 C for the whites, so cooking at different temperatures gives the best results for both. It suggests that this concept could also apply to manufacturing: by changing the temperature of materials, manufacturers might use fewer raw materials and still get the same results, making the process more efficient and sustainable. But for the home cook like me, I was mainly curious about whether this technique would give me a tastier egg.

I followed the method exactly, alternating between 100 C boiling water and 30 C tepid water every two minutes for 32 minutes (using a thermometer to maintain the cooler water temperature). To

compare, the study also boiled eggs the conventional way: 12 minutes for hard boiled, 6 minutes for soft-boiled. They also added a fourth method: sous vide, in which food is cooked slowly in a temperature-controlled water bath. In this case, the egg was cooked in pot of water at a steady 65 C for an hour. (I still have my sous vide machine from when they were a trendy kitchen gadget in the 2010s.)

After an hour of egg-cooking, I placed them in icy tap water for a few minutes before peeling, and here are my results:

- The sous vide egg was almost like a poached egg, with wispy whites and a thick, gel-like yolk.
- The hard-boiled egg had firm whites and a crumbly, dry yolk. (A green band or sulphur smell means it’s overcooked.)
- The soft-boiled egg had a luscious, runny yolk that oozed like lava.

Then came the long-awaited periodic egg. It was somewhere between hard- and soft-boiled. The egg whites had a glossy sheen and was still a bit jiggly like the soft-boiled egg. Meanwhile, the yolk wasn’t runny but retained that bright orange-yellow colour and had that “jammy” texture coveted

by millennial recipe writers. Taste-wise, it was closer to the soft-boiled egg. Nutritionally speaking, the study’s co-author told AFP that the periodic egg contained more micronutrients out of the four cooking methods, hypothesizing that because the periodic egg was cooked at an overall lower temperature, fewer micronutrients were lost when the egg was heated.

But more importantly, which one was tastiest? It was a tie between the periodic and soft-boiled egg, but I’ll give the edge to the soft-boiled because my mom will disown me if she knew I kept the stove on for that long to cook a single egg.

Will I make this again? Absolutely not. I had to stand in front of the stove for half an hour. Out of curiosity, I later cooked an egg for eight minutes, the time recipe sites says will yield the ideal “jammy” texture, and while the yolk was a bit runnier, the medium-boiled egg was pretty close to the periodic egg and it took a third of the time.

Still, if testing out ways to cook eggs results in more sustainable manufacturing practices in the long run, I’m all for it. Maybe next time they can also figure out a more fail-proof way to sear a steak.

A dozen Tims opened in Singapore last year

TIMS FROM B4

closely, I’ve been nagged by two questions: how did Tim’s manage to pull off this global expansion so successfully? And why are non-Canadians so willingly embracing this thoroughly unspectacular brand?

I tried to seek answers to these questions on a recent trip to Singapore last month. What I found both surprised and disgusted me — and also left me scratching my head.

The last time I was there, some two years ago, there were rumours that Tim’s was going to plant its flag in Southeast Asia. It finally did so in November 2023, opening its first location in Singapore.

Over the past year, the company has flourished in this island nation, population six million, with a dozen locations and counting.

Marubeni, the Japanese trading company behind Tim Hortons’ foray into Southeast Asia, has ambitious plans. Its long-term goal is to have “hundreds” of Tim’s shops across the island within 10 years. It’s also introducing the brand to the neighbouring markets of Indonesia and Malaysia.

The Tim’s I stepped into was located on Orchard Road, Singapore’s upscale shopping district. It was tastefully decorated with wooden accents and images that are distinctively Canadiana: a maple leaf, a handful of fir trees, a deer gazing handfully into the distance.

You order on a touch-screen kiosk, then receive a pager. If you’re dining in, your food is served on ceramic dishes. The menu is extensive. You have your obligatory coffee and classic treats, but also local delights and a wide selection of desserts, including slices of cake. Beside the cashier, there’s a display of



Marubeni, the Japanese trading company behind Tim Hortons’ foray into Southeast Asia, is also introducing the chain to Indonesia and Malaysia.

TIM HORTONS
MARUBENI

Tim’s branded merchandise: water bottles, mugs, maple-scented candles.

On first impressions alone, Tim Hortons has received a Southeast Asian glow-up. Dare I say it’s even luxurious.

Marubeni is clearly pitching Tim’s as a premium offering. This was no Tim Hortons; this was branded as “Tim’s Signature.”

They’re also charging upmarket prices. Timbits in Singapore, for instance, go for one dollar apiece. (Yes, my eyes are watering as much of yours.)

But those outrageous prices don’t seem to be turning away customers. If anything, this premium market-

ing is working. Tim’s exudes an aura of exoticism, mixing local flavours with Canadian ones. (The first item on the menu is a Double Double, while “maple-flavoured” treats fill out much of the rest of the offerings.)

My expectations were high. Singaporeans have discerning taste buds. If Tim’s can survive here, it ought to be doing something right. Right?

My first taste of Tim Hortons in Singapore was of a kaya-filled doughnut, a menu item specifically created for the local market and offered alongside more traditional fare. It’s a classic doughnut, filled with a custardy jam made of coconuts, eggs, sugar and pandan leaves,

which gives it a dark green colour.

The doughnut was passable, even somewhat good: light, fluffy, slightly chewy and slathered with copious amounts of filling. The rich kaya itself, with its distinctively nutty and grassy flavour from the pandan, was of high quality, though slightly gummy.

The same can’t be said about those one-dollar-apiece Timbits, nothing but disappointment at first bite. Marubeni said it has adjusted sugar levels down for some products, “tailored to local tastes.”

I think they forgot to mention that they’ve thrown out the recipes entirely. That’s the only thing that can explain what’s happened with these Timbits. They’re dry, overcooked and stale — think cardboard sprinkled with sugar.

As I sunk my teeth into these nuggets of dough, I was left with a lingering question: why? Of all the Canadian brands out there, why is the most unspectacular of them all carrying the flag abroad?

I get why Tim’s exists in Canada. It serves a distinct purpose: in our vast expanse of nothingness, when your options are Tim’s-branded sustenance or going hungry on an eight-hour road trip, you’ll take whatever Tim’s offers.

But Singapore — the street-food capital of the world — offers so much more. Chili crab. Hainanese chicken rice. Laksa.

So why has Tim’s succeeded here? I’d chalk it up to a helluva good marketing campaign.

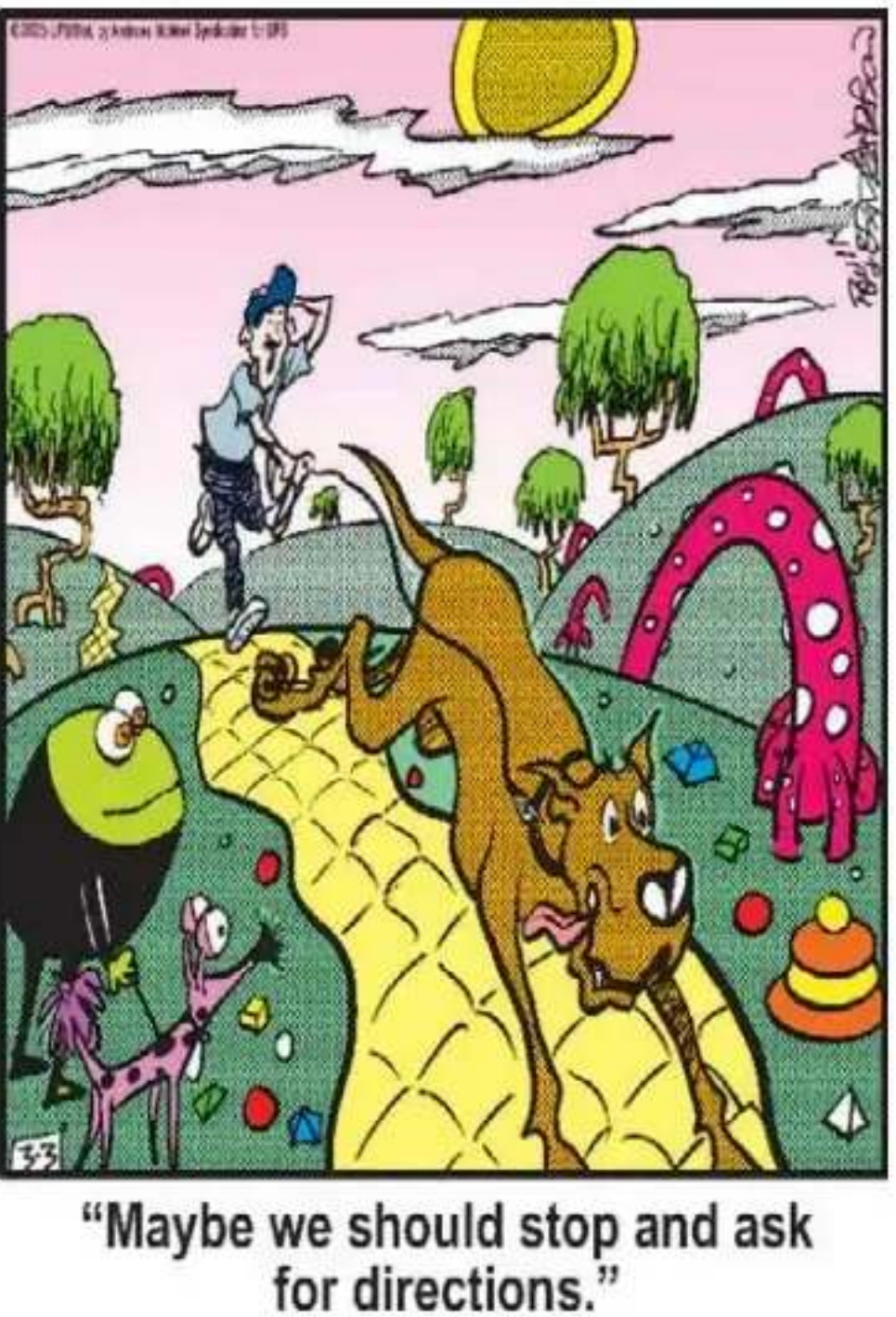
Will it last? Who knows. But, selfishly, I hope not.

The world needs more Canada, as the saying goes. But it certainly doesn’t need any more of our stale balls of dough and over-sweetened coffee.

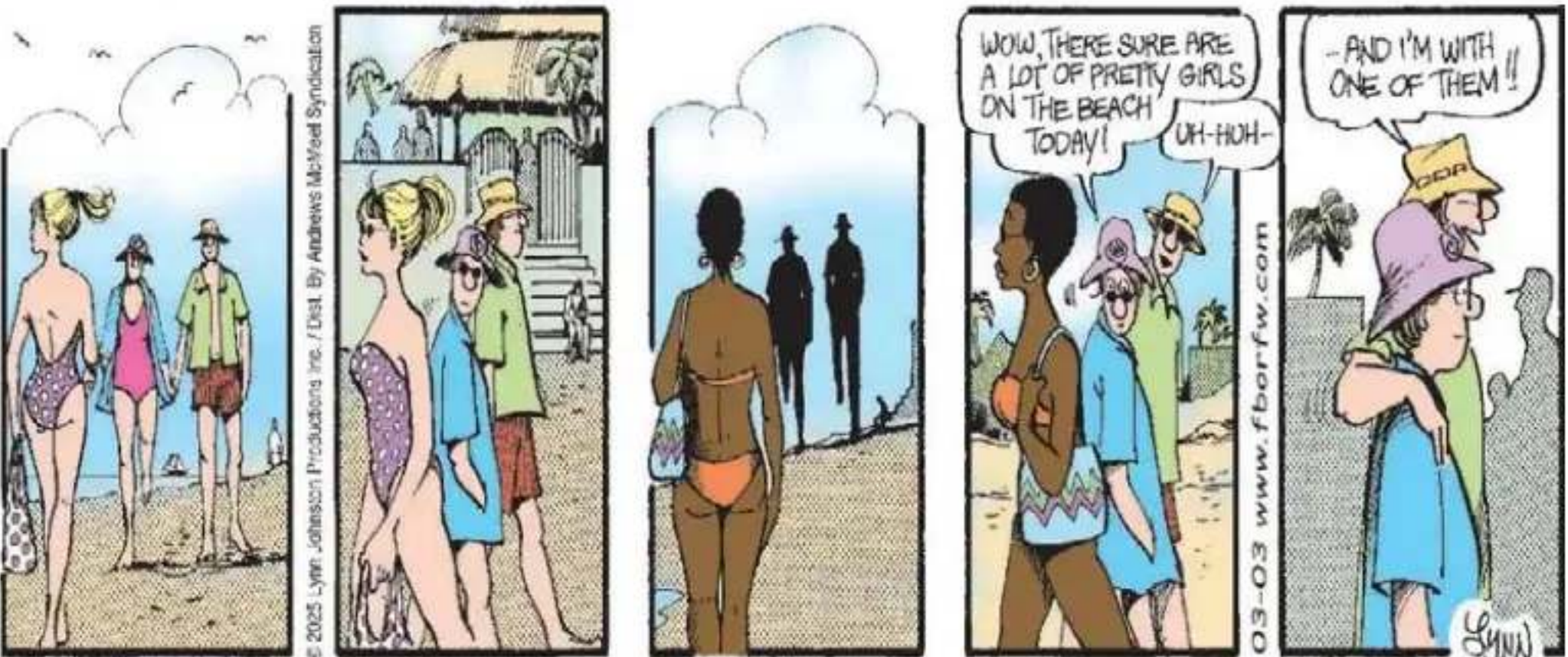
Family Circus



Marmaduke



For Better Or For Worse



Dustin



Zits



Curtis



Hagar the Horrible



Mutts



Mother Goose and Grimm



Pardon My Planet



Six Chix



Rhymes With Orange



Adam @ Home



Sherman's Lagoon



Between Friends



Daddy Daze



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B8

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD FOR MONDAY

- ACROSS
- 1 "Little — of Horrors"

5 Shirley MacLaine movie role

9 Bus. abbr.

12 Monkey

13 Loop in a rope

15 Plant of the arum family

16 Cartman of "South Park"

17 Legitimate

18 Exude

19 Most troublesome

21 Time of widespread glaciers (2 wds.)

23 Forfeited

24 "Think nothing — —!"

25 Part of AWOL

28 Crawls

32 Cudgel

33 Peppery

34 Partner of long.

35 Bring into play

36 Smooth

37 Environment (Prefix)

38 Stalemate

39 "Harold & Kumar Go to — Castle"

40 Guys

41 Divide

43 Go by boat

46 Nerve network

47 Gun pellets

48 Be sorry for sin

51 Passenger in hiding

55 Actor — Baldwin

56 Walter — Disney

58 Flexible tube

59 Party

60 Projecting line

61 Seed appendage

62 Med. specialty

63 Hammer part

64 — tide
- 4 Cucumber in brine

5 Buy stocks and bonds

6 Dinner fare

7 Shed feathers

8 "Do — — say ..."

9 Dalai —

10 Tidy

11 Be too fond

14 Massive building

15 Gear cogs

20 Charged particle

22 Burg

24 Martini fruit

25 Touches on

26 Music's Count —

27 Precipitous

28 Outpouring

29 Tropical resin

30 Hurries

31 Peach pit

33 Retinue

36 Break into pieces

39 Small bird

FRIDAY'S ANSWER

T	O	L	L		D	I	S	C		R	A	P	S	
A	R	I	A		P	A	P	A	L	E	G	I	S	
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S	O	S	O		T	E	A	S	E		N	O	N	E
E	M	I	R		I	N	C	U	R		E	D	N	A
E	B	A	Y		S	T	E	M		D	O	O	M	

- 42 Betel palm
- 43 Selected
- 44 Seating designation
- 45 Provo denizen
- 47 Performers' place
- 48 Anger
- 49 — vital
- 50 Hit again and again
- 51 Faction
- 52 Sported
- 53 Large continent
- 54 Bark
- 57 Cup edge

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11		
12					13				14		15			
16					17					18				
19					20				21	22				
			23					24						
25	26	27					28				29	30	31	
32							33				34			
35							36				37			
38					39						40			
41				42					43	44	45			
			46					47						
48	49	50						51				52	53	54
55							56	57			58			
59							60				61			
62							63				64			

- DOWN
- 1 Walk

2 Charter

3 Elevator name

WUZZLES BY TOM UNDERWOOD

1.
2.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

- LTETI
- RSYOR
- OHCOES
- NEENLK

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

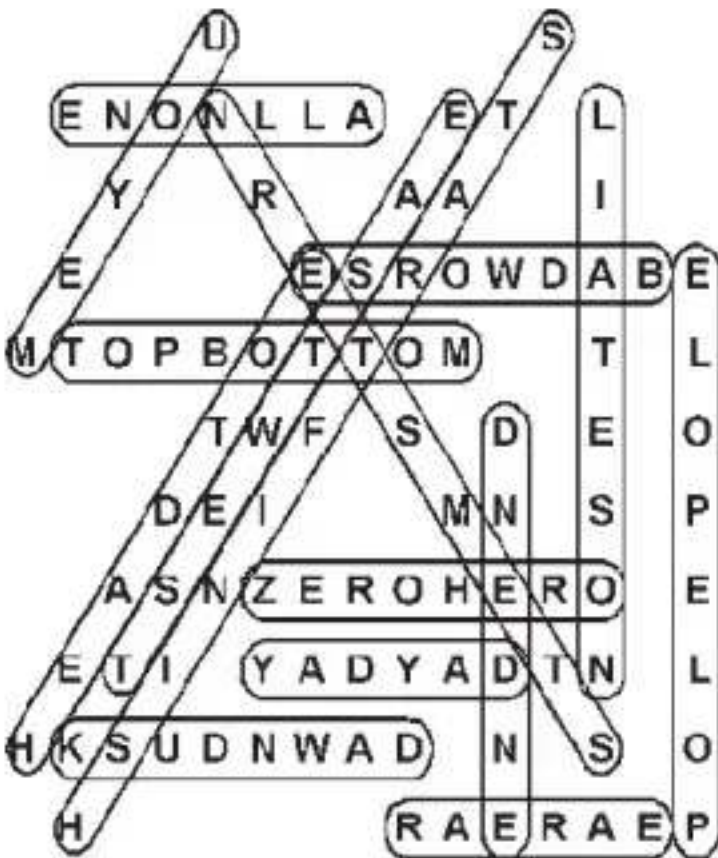
Saturday's Jumbles: CHAOS LUCKY FASTEN EASILY
Answer: The police officer was being methodical, but the thief wanted to — CUT TO THE CHASE

TODAY'S WUZZLES ANSWER

1. Semiprecious stones
2. Female intuition

FRIDAY'S WORD SLEUTH ANSWER

FROM — TO —



WORD SLEUTH BY KING FEATURES INC.

GO LAST CITIES

Today's unlisted clue: 2ND LARGEST CALIFORNIA CITY

P K H E B Y W S T R O L J G E
B O Y W U R P D A N K I G D B
H U G O Z O U X V N S Q O M K
O O I N G R G E O C D A Y W U
S G G A A R O G L A D I H Q P
W I N N E B A G O N L J E O H
F O G O I I U L A G E C A G Y
Y O X V T M U L Y C E S Q E O
P N M N K E A J H E I W F S E
O G A B E S L L C B K H S T Z
Y S X V O G R A F U T R C O Q

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forwards, backward, up, down and diagonally. **Friday's unlisted answer:**

RAGS RICHES

- Chicago
- Hidalgo
- Lubango
- Sebago
- Durango
- Hugo
- Oswego
- Winnebago
- Fargo
- Key Largo
- Otsego
- Yonago
- Flamingo
- Letongo
- Santiago

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Rearrange the words below to complete the quotes.

APPEARS IF PULL SHADE WINDOW

"___ a ___ of opportunity ___, don't ___ down the ___."

- Tom Peters (1942-) U.S. management consultant

THEME I Need a Lucky Break

DOORMAN KNOCKED OUT THREW

"Opportunity ___. My ___ him ___."

- Adrienne Gusoff (1953-) U.S. humorist and writer

ANSWERS "If a window of opportunity appears, don't pull down the shade." • "Opportunity knocked. My doorman threw him out."

SUDOKU

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

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

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DEATH NOTICES

◆ Repeat Notices

HEAKES, Helen
LOCKE, Stanley

◆ REHDER, Mignon (Nonnie)
◆ STURROCK, Robert "Bob"

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.

HELEN MARY HEAKES
(nee O'SULLIVAN)

Helen Heakes passed away quietly on February 27, 2025 at the age of 102. Helen was predeceased in 1998 by her beloved husband, Alfred Heakes. She is survived by her sons, Ed (Judith) and Bill; by her grandchildren, Chris (Samantha), Paul (Jess) and Jeff (Rosalind) and their mother, Jane; by her grandchildren, Jennifer and Matthew and their mother, Kathy; and by her six cherished great-grandchildren, Lauren, Charles, Eliza, Alfie, Max and Maisie. Helen grew up in Weston Ontario. Helen was valedictorian of her high school class. She was the first woman to be appointed chair of the Etobicoke library board. Helen had a lengthy career, both as a paralegal and preparing tax returns for many clients, continuing well into her nineties. Above all, Helen loved her entire family as a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, family historian and story-teller. Helen will be deeply missed by all of us. For further service information see: www.wardfuneralhome.com.



STANLEY THOMAS LOCKE
(nee Richard Brownhill)
June 21, 1947 - February 24, 2025

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Stan succumbed to flu after years of battling Parkinson's and Lewy Body Dementia. He lost everything but his cheerful chattyness, ready with a smile and a hug until his last days. He was a loved and chosen son to Charlie and Frances Locke of Weston; brother to Glenn (Yvonne, with Sarah and Vonnice). He was husband of 54 years to Linda (Covey) (1947-2024); and father to Tim (Melissa with Thomas, Jonathan, and Matthew) and David (Joy, with Samuel, Daniel, and Anna). Missed by family, Susan and Dave Williams (Tracy and Jim, Cory and Greg) and April and Clayton Cox (Devin and Graham).

In work, Stan was world-acknowledged as an expert enterprise architect, designing massive computer systems and speaking all over the globe. He inaugurated the computer science department at Queen's in Kingston under John Deutsch while completing his MBA, then moved his family to London, Ontario, and Edmonton, Alberta, before resettling in Mississauga and Etobicoke. Stan lived a life of service to family and church born of his faith in Jesus that was much more than words. He expressed his love for his family and all those he encountered with outrageous generosity, complete selflessness, and constant attention to the details of others' lives. Stan's loving kindness was his defining characteristic, embodying what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus. He has surely stood before the Lord and heard "Well done, good and faithful servant." See wardfuneralhomes.com for visitation and funeral details.



MIGNON (NONNIE) ELKINS REHDER

We are sad to announce the passing of Mignon (Nonnie) Elkins Rehder on February 5, 2025, in Toronto.

She leaves behind her five dearly loved step-children, Eric Rehder (Maxine), Christine Horne (Lee), Jonathon Rehder, Mark Rehder and Michael Rehder (Jane); and many nephews and nieces.

Nonnie was born in England in 1929. She became an actress and worked in many repertory companies in England and the Channel Islands before immigrating to Canada in 1952. She first took up residence in Montreal, and successfully continued her acting career. In 1955, she married Helmut Blume, Dean of Music at McGill University. When that marriage dissolved in 1971, she moved to Toronto to continue working in film and television. In 1978, she married John Edward (Ned) Rehder. Their marriage was a true love story, and she missed him very much after he passed. In 2004, Nonnie moved into the Performing Arts Lodge (PAL), where she reconnected with old colleagues, made many new friends, and happily lived her remaining years.


Nonnie was a true artiste. Her creativity followed many paths. In addition to being an actress, she was also an author, having ten novels published between 1983-1994 under the pen name of Celia Scott, and all the while she dabbled with watercolours, eventually becoming quite an accomplished watercolour painter.

In addition to her artistic endeavours, Nonnie embraced life to the fullest. She loved spending time with friends and family. She loved swimming and she loved champagne. Cheers, Nonnie. You were loved by many. You will be missed.

At her request there will be no funeral, however a Celebration of Life will be held on March 22nd, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at PAL, 110 The Esplanade, in the Green Room. All who knew her are invited.

ROBERT "BOB" ALEXANDER STURROCK
April 8, 1931 - February 25, 2025

Bob passed away peacefully, with his son, Gerry, by his side, after a tragic fall and short hospital stay. Proud son of Mary (Mae) and Harry Sturrock, two brave, highly principled, young Scottish immigrants, who met and married in Toronto in 1929. Proud father to Steven (Helen), Gerald (Tess), Sharon Rose, and his adopted daughter, Debbie Bjarnason. Loving grandfather to Kerrie, Kyle, Gema, Shane (Grace), Tanya and Shelby. Dear great-grandfather to Calie, Angelica, Liam and Cade. Loving sister Sandy; his nephew, Jeff; and nieces, Kim, Kelly and Katie loved him very much. Bob retired from a successful career in sales management, and with endless energy, carried on working in various jobs into his eighties. An excellent golfer, it was his lifelong passion, and he played some of the most iconic courses around the world. He was a lover of fine dining and good wine. Bob was both a gentlemen and a gentle man, who treated all who crossed his path with kindness and respect. Bob's caring and energetic spirit will be surely be missed by all who knew and loved him. Many thanks to staff at St. Mike's. Bob requested no service or ceremony. Private celebration of life to follow.



JOY MEEK
March 3, 1940 - October 11, 2015

On Joy's 85th birthday, we celebrate Joy as a wonderful and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Joy, you will always be around us and in our thoughts and hearts every day, as will our memories of you and your warm and charming personality. Joy was an instant and respected friend to the many that knew her. Joy loved the Oscars.

Together in the same old way would be our dearest wish today.

—With much love and respect, George, Julie, Jeffrey, Hayley (Matt, Odin, Esme), Aaron, Chaya, and Alyna.

MICHAEL POUTSOUNGAS
August 18, 1936 - March 3, 2010

In honour of a loving husband, father and grandfather. We miss and love you as far as our eyes can see. —Michelle and Patricia xo

MARIA RICCI (nee VASILAROS)

Missing you every day. — With love, your family.

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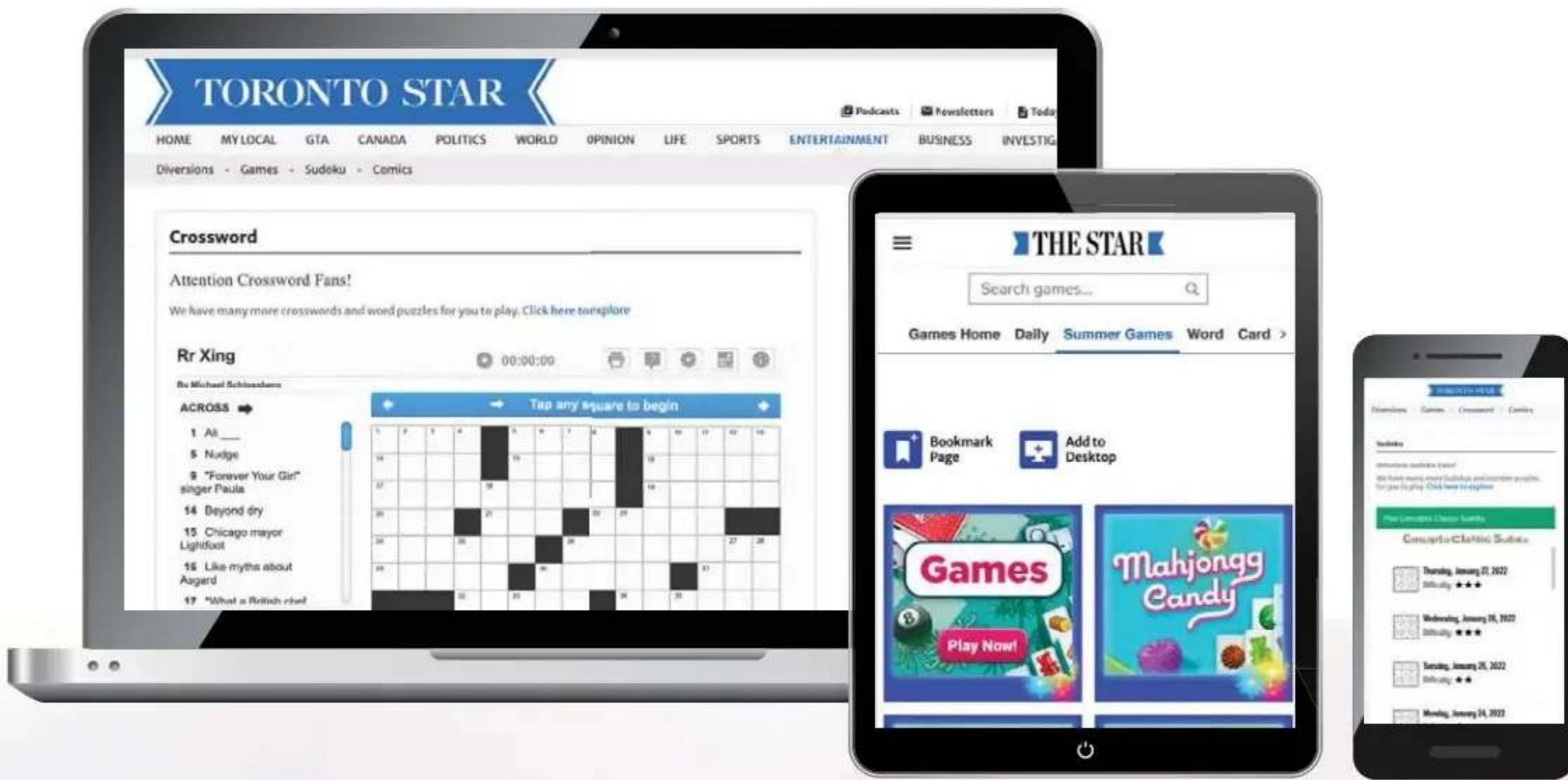
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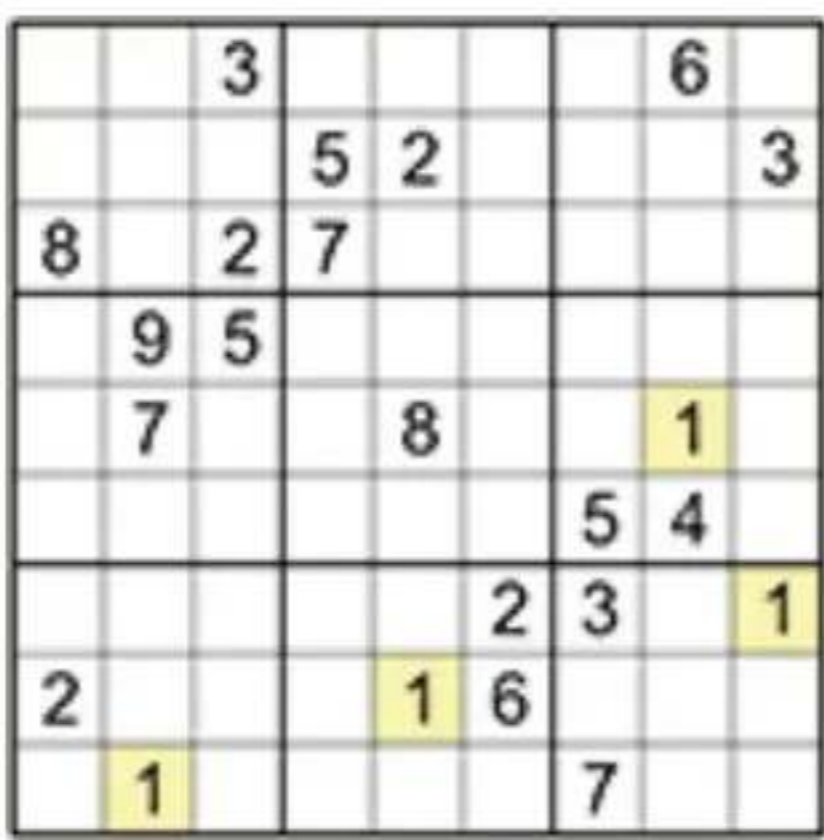
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