THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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GasLink payout to bands to top $115-million

Five elected Wet'suwet'en councils along pipeline route to receive 'legacy payments' over 25 years

BRENT JANG
WENDY STUECK VANCOUVER

Coastal GasLink estimates that its B.C. pipeline project would pump $115-million during a 25-year period to five elected Wet'suwet'en band councils and generate more than $60-million in construction contracts for local Indigenous businesses in the region.

According to documents obtained by The Globe and Mail, five elected Wet'suwet'en councils along the controversial pipeline route would receive the cash distributions totalling $4.6-million a year, also known as "annual legacy payments" that would last a quarter-century. The five councils have supported the pipeline.

Those estimates are set out in a letter sent in 2014 by Coastal GasLink to the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, a non-profit society governed by hereditary chiefs.

Coastal GasLink posted a redacted version of the eight-page letter on its website last month, blacking out one entire page and portions of two other pages. The Globe has obtained an unredacted copy, marked confidential, revealing details under a section titled "Economic opportunities available to the Wet'suwet'en people from Coastal GasLink."

Hereditary leaders and environmental groups have characterized the elected Wet'suwet'en councils' agreements – the financial size of which have been kept secret for years – as a strategy by Coastal GasLink to buy the support of Indigenous people.

A group of Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs oppose the $6.6-billion pipeline project, saying they have jurisdiction over their unceded territory, not elected band councils on federal reserves under the Indian Act.

Since Feb. 6, protests and blockades have spread across Canada in support of Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs who are fighting Coastal GasLink's plan to build a natural gas pipeline.

■ GASLINK, A9

ITALY

Postcard from the front lines of the virus crisis

Rome has become a ghost town as fearful tourists stay away while coronavirus hits hard at country, **Eric Reguly** reports ■ A4

A woman wearing a protective mask poses at the bottom of the Spanish Steps in Rome on Thursday. The threat of coronavirus has kept tourists away from the Italian city's normally crowded attractions. ANDREW MEDICHINI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada records its first locally transmitted case of coronavirus

ANDREA WOO
KELLY GRANT

British Columbia has identified Canada's first-known case of community transmission of the novel coronavirus, marking a pivotal moment in the country's battle against the outbreak.

Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry announced the case on Thursday along with seven other new B.C. cases. She said the patient, a woman in her 50s, has not recently travelled and has no known contacts with any other known cases of COVID-19. She was diagnosed while being screened for influenza at a public-health laboratory.

Public health experts have in recent weeks been expecting and preparing for the local spread of the disease in Canada.

"This is a community case," Dr. Henry said. "We are doing a detailed investigation right now to try and determine where her source of infection was."

Community spread is significant because it means the virus could be spreading untraced since there is no clear link to the source of the disease.

British Columbia, and some hospitals in Ontario, recently added COVID-19 testing to existing influenza surveillance networks, meaning that a broad range of people with flu-like symptoms are being tested for the virus regardless of travel history.

Stephen Hoption Cann, a clinical professor and epidemiologist in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia, said finding a case of community spread is significant, although not surprising.

■ CORONAVIRUS, A4

New ways to handle virus outbreak: pop-up clinics, drive-thru tests ■ A4

Toronto Police say 14-year-old abducted as pawn in failed multimillion-dollar cocaine deal involving his step-brother

PATRICK WHITE

A 14-year-old Toronto boy who was abducted on his way to school on Wednesday is an innocent pawn in a failed multimillion-dollar cocaine deal, police say.

The search for Shammah Jolayemi stretched into its second full day on Thursday as scrutiny fell upon the boy's school for failing to report his absence for hours.

Superintendent Steve Watts told reporters the teen's step-brother, Olalekan Osikoya, owes money in relation to a 100-kilogram cocaine theft last summer. The cocaine has a street value of $4-million. Mr. Osikoya has fled the Greater Toronto Area, but is co-operating with police.

"We believe that Shammah was abducted as retribution for an unpaid drug debt," said Supt. Watts, commander of the Organized Crime Enforcement Unit, adding that the teen has no involvement in the drug business.

Supt. Watts indicated that investigators have communicated with the abductors, but gave no details about whether a ransom was demanded.

"We would encourage those who took Shammah to drop him off in a safe place, contact a lawyer and turn yourselves in," Supt. Watts said.

"This is a 14-year-old innocent child," he added. "He is not part of that business. He is not a part of that lifestyle."

■ ABDUCTION, A19

Alberta to increase carbon tax in step with Ottawa to prevent federal levy

JAMES KELLER CALGARY
GARY MASON EDMONTON

The Alberta government plans to increase its industrial carbon tax to $50 a tonne to keep in line with federal requirements and prevent Ottawa from imposing its own levy on the province's oil and gas sector.

Ottawa approved Alberta's industrial carbon-pricing system last fall but made it clear that the province would only see a long-term reprieve from the national tax if the price increased in step with the federal benchmark, which is set to hit $50 by 2022. The province had yet to commit to that.

Alberta has repeatedly clashed with the federal government on the climate-change file and is currently challenging the separate consumer carbon tax in court. The tax on industrial emissions is not part of that legal case and Premier Jason Kenney has pointed to the industry tax as proof that his government is serious about working with Ottawa to curb greenhouse-gas emissions.

Mr. Kenney has now confirmed that his United Conservative Party government will increase the rate of its Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction levy, or TIER, from its current price of $30 a tonne to stay within the federal requirements.

"We are tracking the federal price for our major emitters' portion," he told The Globe and Mail in a recent interview. "We're going to $30 to $40 to $50. It's in our budget."

Last week's provincial budget did not explicitly mention the increased TIER price, but it did forecast higher revenue from the levy, reaching $485-million by 2022-23 from $421-million in 2020-21. The proceeds from the tax will be used in part to fund emissions-reducing technology, with a sizable portion also flowing into general revenue to fund the government's operating budget.

■ TAX, A19

MICHELLE SIU/ THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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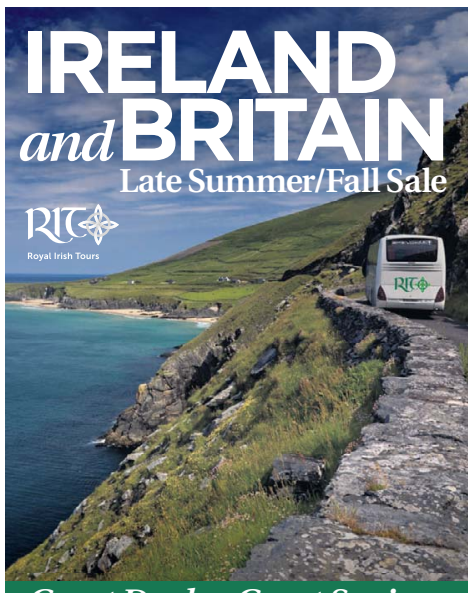

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MOMENT IN TIME

MARCH 6, 1951

UPI

TRIAL OF JULIUS AND ETHEL ROSENBERG BEGINS

One of the most controversial trials of the 20th century began on this day in 1951 and resulted in the execution of two American civilians for espionage-related activity during the Cold War. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were tried for passing American military secrets to the Soviet Union. The severity of the sentence took the world by surprise, even though the United States was at the height of McCarthyism. Public sympathy focused on Ethel, who many believed was not an active participant in her husband's activities. The trial hinged on the testimony of her brother, David Greenglass, who later said he was encouraged by the prosecution to give false testimony as part of a plea deal for him and his wife. "My wife is more important to me than my sister. Or my mother or my father, okay?" The prosecution said it had urged the death sentence for Ethel in an effort to extract a full confession from Julius. In 1953, Julius died after the first shock in the electric chair. It took five shocks to complete Ethel's execution. In January, 2017, Senator Elizabeth Warren and others petitioned president Barack Obama to pardon Ethel. The Rosenbergs' two sons continue to seek exoneration for their mother. GRAEME HARRIS

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Maple syrup claim creates sticky dispute between New Brunswick and Ontario

KEVIN BISSETT FREDERICTON

When it comes to maple syrup production in Canada, Quebec dominates, but a claim by Ontario of being second has left a sour taste in the mouths of some producers in New Brunswick.

A new television commercial meant for the Ontario market says that province is second in production, but the claim is disputed by New Brunswick.

Louise Poitras, executive director of the New Brunswick Maple Syrup Association, says Ontario was second only in 2018 – when New Brunswick had a bad year – and otherwise her province has outproduced Ontario every year since 2012.

"It was the only year in the last seven years that New Brunswick wasn't ranked second," Ms. Poitras said.

According to Statistics Canada, Quebec produces more than 90 per cent of maple syrup in Canada. New Brunswick has been in second place since 2008, with the exception of 2009, 2011 and 2018, when that position was held by Ontario.

Ray Bonenberg of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association said the commercial was produced late last year when the 2018 figures were still the most recent, and there was no intent to deceive.

"We said to the New Brunswick folks, 'Sorry that you feel annoyed, but it's not inaccurate.' We didn't do this on purpose," he said.

"We're not in a competition with any other province or the United States, because we work together. It doesn't matter to us where we rank. The big thing for us is quality and making sure we can market our syrup," Mr. Bonenberg said.

He said the main emphasis by producers is on marketing "Canadian" maple syrup.

"I told Louise, 'Tell your producers to sharpen up their drills and we'll see what happens in 2020,' and we laughed," he said.

Maple syrup is bottled at a restaurant in Pakenham, Ont., last March. Only about 50 per cent of the maple syrup consumed in Ontario is produced in the province. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Of the maple syrup consumed in Ontario, only about 50 per cent is produced domestically in the province.

> "We're not in a competition with any other province or the United States, because we work together. It doesn't matter to us where we rank. The big thing for us is quality and making sure we can market our syrup.
>
> **RAY BONENBERG**
> ONTARIO MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

Ms. Poitras said unlike Ontario, New Brunswick exports much of its maple syrup, so every tool – including its production ranking – is important.

"We sell a lot of our maple syrup to Quebec, Germany, France and Australia. We are taking advantage of that second rank," she said.

Ms. Poitras said New Brunswick is looking to grow its export markets, and additional Crown land made available in 2015 is expected to allow the industry to grow in each of the next 10 years.

New Brunswick produced a record 2.7 million litres of syrup and maple products last year. Ms. Poitras said that brings in about $40-million annually.

Mr. Bonenberg said the television ad will air for another two weeks and then be updated. In the meantime, they'll use the internet to set the record straight.

"We're going to post on social media about the back-and-forth between Ontario and New Brunswick and encourage everyone to get out and buy maple syrup. We are both looking forward to a banner year," he said.

Mr. Bonenberg joked that Ontario producers have a right to be upset with their colleagues from New Brunswick.

"You have all the lobster!" he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Warren drops out of presidential race

The former Democratic front-runner is now in a position to become kingmaker, but has so far declined to endorse Sanders or Biden

TAMSIN McMAHON
U.S. CORRESPONDENT
SAN JOSE, CALIF.

Elizabeth Warren speaks during a rally on Tuesday at Eastern Market in Detroit. The Massachusetts senator was the last female candidate in the race with a credible path to the White House. PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Elizabeth Warren has suspended her presidential bid, ending a run that once vaulted her to the top of the Democratic race thanks to her unrelenting energy, debate prowess and a bold economic vision that drew supporters wanting to make history by electing the first female president.

On Thursday, the Massachusetts senator, 70, was the last woman with a credible path to the White House to drop out of the Democratic primary, leaving two septuagenarian men leading a race that once fielded a historically diverse slate of candidates. Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden, who are locked in a tight battle for the nomination, will now intensely pursue her endorsement and her supporters.

A Harvard University law professor and bankruptcy expert, Ms. Warren launched her presidential bid little more than a year ago with a promise to tackle corruption, curb the power of Wall Street and big tech and deliver "big structural change" for working class families.

She overcame early criticism for claiming Native American ancestry and rose to the top of the polls last fall on the strength of a detailed platform of promises to hike taxes on the wealthy, break up technology giants and introduce universal childcare. "I have a plan for that," became her catchphrase.

She formed a loyal base of grassroots supporters, appealing particularly to college-educated women. Her rallies featured long lines for selfies, and pinkie promises with young girls in which she told them to believe a woman could become president "because that's what girls do."

But Ms. Warren, who called herself a capitalist even as she railed against billionaires, also struggled to bridge the Democratic Party's ideological divide. Her decision to back away from supporting the idea of a government-run health-care system appeared to hurt her among left-leaning voters.

She drove a wedge between her supporters and those of her progressive ally Mr. Sanders when she accused him of suggesting a woman could not be elected president. With Democratic voters intensely focused on defeating President Donald Trump, Ms. Warren faced persistent concerns about her electability, finishing third in her home state on Tuesday.

Speaking on Thursday morning to supporters outside her home in Cambridge, Mass., Ms. Warren pledged to "stay in this fight," while lamenting the barriers women continue to face when running for higher office.

> "She did very well on everything. What she wasn't was a man.
>
> **JANE JUNN**
> PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GENDER STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

"One of the hardest parts of this is all those pinkie promises, and all those little girls who are going to have to wait four more years," she said, before expressing "a deep sense of gratitude for … every single person who just moved a little in their notion of what a president of the United States should look like."

Her campaign's most lasting achievement may be her attacks on former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, effectively hampering his candidacy by skewering the billionaire during televised debates over his past treatment of female employees. Mr. Bloomberg withdrew from the race on Wednesday. "I can think of one billionaire who has been denied the chance to buy this election," she told campaign staff in a phone call on Thursday afternoon.

With her presidential run over, Ms. Warren is in a position to become kingmaker in the race between Mr. Biden and Mr. Sanders. While she won no state primaries or caucuses, she is set to receive the third-largest share of delegates so far. Her endorsement could prove pivotal if the race heads into a contested national nominating convention in the summer.

Ms. Warren spoke with both the Sanders and Biden campaigns on Tuesday night, but declined to endorse either on Thursday.

"Let's take a deep breath and spend a little time on that," she said. "We don't have to decide that this minute."

While her progressive agenda aligned most closely with that of Mr. Sanders, a Morning Consult poll in January showed her supporters evenly split between the Vermont senator and the former vice-president for second choice.

But Ms. Warren's exit from the race also creates a vexing question for a Democratic Party now relying on two older white men to generate enthusiasm among the party's base of diverse and female voters.

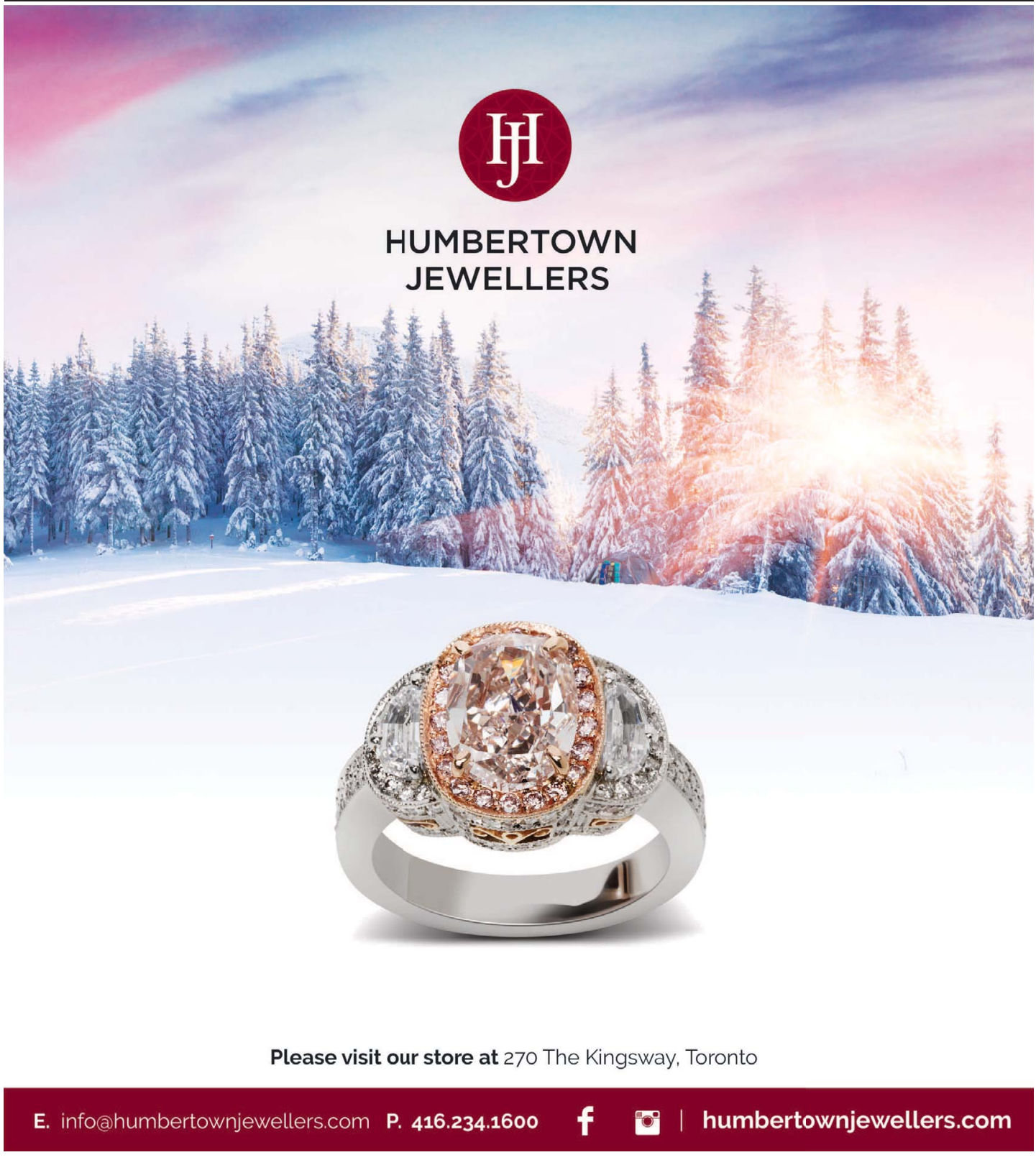
Senior Democrats expressed dismay that a race that had six female candidates now has none. "I so wish that we had a woman president of the United States, and we came so close to doing that," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the Democrats' most senior elected official, told reporters on Thursday.

"I do think there's a certain element of misogyny."

Even supporters at her rallies sometimes said they worried her professorial lectures on wealth inequality and corporate corruption might be off-putting to other voters, and questioned whether the country was ready to elect a female president.

The results from Super Tuesday showed that many voters were falling back on traditional ideas about who is considered electable enough.

"If you did a postmortem on how to organize, and how to put together proper and well-thought-out policies and proposals, and how to plan out your grassroots organization – she did very well on everything," said Jane Junn, professor of political science and gender studies at the University of Southern California. "What she wasn't was a man."



A postcard from outbreak-stricken Italy

The Globe's European bureau chief takes a walk through Rome sans tourists, and talks to some people affected by the dip in travel

ERIC REGULY
EUROPEAN BUREAU CHIEF
ROME

Rome's Piazza Navona, seen on Thursday, is usually packed with thousands of tourists this time of year. ERIC REGULY

I had a delightful walk through Rome's historic centre on Thursday morning, delightful because I had some of the world's most exquisite sites – Piazza Navona, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain – pretty much to myself. No, the weather wasn't miserable; it was warm and sunny. The coronavirus was keeping the tourists away.

For the first time in my dozen years in Rome, I could hear the water from Piazza Navona's baroque fountains the moment I entered the square. Normally, the long oval expanse, which traces the shape of the ancient Stadium of Domitian and is now dominated by a Gian Lorenzo Bernini masterpiece, the Fountain of the Four Rivers, is a mass of babbling humanity, stuffed with jugglers, musicians, cheesy artists, several thousand tourists with selfie-sticks and café patrons paying extortionate prices for cappuccino and gelato.

The surreal experience was bliss for me; I had not been to Piazza Navona for a year because I always found the eternal crowds wearisome, an assault on the spot's artistry and elegance. In the era of Airbnb and discount airlines, there is no such thing anymore as off-season in Caput Mundi.

Repeat at the Spanish Steps, which, too, were pleasingly empty. I treated myself to a caffe macchiato at Caffe Greco, the Roman landmark that opened in 1760 and whose patrons have included Casanova, Goethe and Keats, who died nearby, in an apartment overlooking the Spanish Steps, from another infectious disease – tuberculosis. There were two of us in the entire place and my coffee was served in 30 seconds flat. I asked the barman whether he was enjoying the respite from the jostling crowds. "Not really," he said. "I'm a bit bored."

Better bored than broke, for the novel coronavirus, and the resulting COVID-19 disease, is rattling the nerves of Italians and bringing on financial distress. The tourists began to disappear about two weeks ago, about the time 11 towns in the north of Italy, all of them hit hard by the virus, were quarantined. On Wednesday, the government closed all the schools in Italy, sending parents scrambling for babysitters, until March 15, although not a single parent I talked to believes they will reopen by that date. The virus is spreading by the minute and won't disappear magically on March 14.

At last count, more than 3,800 Italians were ill with the virus, some of them severely so, and 148 had died. A common question among Italians: What if hospital admissions surge and there are not enough ventilators to treat the critical patients?

The workers who depend on tourism for a living are becoming frightfully worried.

Typically, half a dozen horse-drawn carriages wait for tourists at the base of the Spanish Steps, near Pietro Bernini's lovely Fountain of the Boat (talented family; Pietro was the father of Gian Lorenzo). The coachmen, known as *vetturini*, are often the sons and grandsons of coachmen, passing their licences through the generations. The work can be lucrative. A 45-minute tour of Rome's wonders can set you back €150, the equivalent of about $225. Repeat even two or three times a day and the cash builds up.

Coachman Augusto Celli, 45, was slumped in the back seat of his black carriage when I talked to him, his horse Strike standing as still as a statue in the sun. "I am getting only one or two tours a week," he told me.

"The coronavirus is spreading too much alarm among the tourists and we're suffering. My wife doesn't work, I have two kids. Now we're eating a lot of pasta – pasta doesn't cost much."

In Piazza Navona, the waiters and waitresses were standing in front of their cafés like carnival barkers, waving menus and urging the few tourists who strolled by to take a seat. Tucci, a restaurant and café in the shadow of the Fountain of the Four Rivers, has 100 small tables outside. Precisely one of them was occupied, by a couple from Edinburgh. The chattier of the two, Alison Essom, who works for an insurance company, said she loved Rome's crowd-free status. "We're taking a calculated risk being here," she said.

"But we're used to travelling where things aren't perfect. In Asia, we have to get rabies jabs."

Even though Romans are nervous about the potentially devastating effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, they are adapting and keeping their sense of humour. Gone are handshakes and cheek kisses, on government orders. The "Wuhan handshake" has replaced them, an amusing little stunt that involves tapping elbows or shoes. My Canadian-Roman friend, Jeannie Marshall, said, "The Italians are not kissing! I can't think of a more ominous sign of the apocalypse."

Life in Rome and the rest of Italy will get worse before it gets better, but there will be no apocalypse. Romans are famous survivors and have millenniums of practice in the art of emerging from plague, pestilence, war and endless inept governments largely intact. About a decade ago, when the financial crisis pushed Italy into deep recession and near bankruptcy, I asked my language instructor, Simona Minervini, if she was worried.

"Why worry?" she said. "We've seen worse."

"Like when?" I asked in all sincerity. "This is really, really bad."

"You know, the fourth century was really bad, too. We're still here," she said.

Toronto hospital submits plans for special COVID-19 clinic

KELLY GRANT
HEALTH REPORTER

Canadian hospitals are drawing up plans to launch off-site testing clinics to help prevent any future surge in demand for COVID-19 screening from overwhelming emergency departments.

A Toronto hospital has proposed some creative ways to handle the situation, including a pop-up screening clinic and offering tests at drive-through or walk-up windows.

Michael Garron Hospital (MGH) east of downtown Toronto and some of its community partners submitted a plan to the Ontario Ministry of Health on Thursday morning to set up a rapid-assessment clinic for people suspected of having COVID-19 in the offices of a family health team across the street from the hospital.

Michael Gardam, the chief of staff at Humber River Hospital in northwestern Toronto, said Humber's emergency department had not yet seen an onslaught of patients asking to be tested for COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the new coronavirus.

Dr. Gardam, a former director of infection prevention and control at the University Health Network (UHN), said that could change quickly if an outbreak sweeps through the community, as it has in countries such as Italy, Iran, South Korea and parts of the United States since the new coronavirus emerged in China late last year.

"I think then we will see a lot of people coming in with flu-like symptoms wanting to be tested."

B.C. reported its first case of community transmission on Thursday. Infectious-disease experts say they expect the virus will eventually spread from person to person more widely within Canada.

The Ontario Ministry of Health has asked some other hospitals to submit applications to set up screening-clinics, said Travis Kann, a spokesman for Health Minister Christine Elliott.

In British Columbia, provincial health officer Bonnie Henry spoke this week with local health authority officials about the possibility of opening separate facilities to screen for the virus. Some hospitals set up similar screening clinics during the H1N1 flu pandemic in 2009.

> Michael Gardam, the chief of staff at Humber River Hospital in northwestern Toronto, said Humber's emergency department had not yet seen an onslaught of patients asking to be tested for COVID-19.

"If we can aggressively find everyone who has COVID-19 and teach them how to prevent passing it on and have them self-isolate, that's going to reduce the probability of them passing it on to someone else," said Jeff Powis, medical director of infection prevention and control at MGH. "That's how you control an epidemic."

Another purpose of MGH's assessment clinic, which could be up and running as early as mid-March, would be to keep the hospital's emergency department from being overwhelmed by mildly ill patients seeking testing.

Dr. Powis said most of the patients coming to emergency departments seeking testing for COVID-19 are well enough to go home to await the results, and don't need the full range of services offered at an emergency room.

MGH is proposing a screening clinic that would begin as a five-room operation open fours a day, but which could expand to 14 rooms and eight hours a days if a community outbreak in Toronto led to ballooning demand for tests.

If the situation warranted it, Dr. Powis said, doctors could assess patients virtually on their computers or phones, then invite them to a drive-through or walk-up window for a nasopharyngeal swab that will be sent to a laboratory for COVID-19 testing.

"Building these plans is like building a Lego house – one block at a time as you need it," Dr. Powis said.

Susy Hota, medical director of infection prevention and control at the UHN in Toronto, said her network's emergency departments are "definitely seeing more people coming in [for coronavirus testing] who aren't very sick."

Like Michael Garron Hospital, UHN is exploring the possibility of offering off-site screening clinics, Dr. Hota said.

"As part of all of our planning, we're looking at how we can do things differently," she said. "Trying to find ways to offload the emergency department is a priority item for everybody right now."

Coronavirus: Officials face new challenge in tracking and trying to contain outbreak

FROM A1

"It shows that despite our best efforts, somebody came in with it and passed it on and didn't get picked up," Dr. Hoption Cann said. "I think it was kind of bound to happen because we've seen it in so many regions."

The B.C. case means public-health officials are facing a new challenge in tracking and trying to contain the new virus.

"We're at an important stage now in how we want to deal with this," Dr. Hoption Cann said.

"Do we want to change how we've been advising people? ... When it's spread within the community, you can't really say, 'I'm concerned because [a patient] came from a particular region.' "

Dr. Henry said the investigation will involve looking at the woman's movements beginning several days before she became ill.

"We'll look at things like community events, where she went – is she at work? Are there people at work who are sick? Is this a person who has other family contacts who might have travelled?" she said. "It's quite detailed and takes a bit of time, which is why we don't yet have the answers, given that she just came up positive late last night."

Another B.C. case of note announced Thursday involves a woman in her 50s from Seattle who tested positive for COVID-19 while being assessed for respiratory illness during a trip to visit family in B.C.'s Fraser Health region.

"Clearly that is of concern to us," Dr. Henry said. "We are working with our neighbours to the south in Washington State to try and determine where her exposure might have been."

> "When it's spread within the community, you can't really say, 'I'm concerned because [a patient] came from a particular region.'
>
> **STEPHEN HOPTION CANN**
> CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND EPIDEMIOLOGIST AT UBC

Four of the eight new cases are close contacts of a man in his 60s who lives in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. His case was announced on Tuesday.

The remaining two are a woman in her 50s and a man in his 60s who recently travelled to Iran and live in the same household.

Also Thursday, Ontario announced four new cases, Alberta announced one and Quebec added one. Two of those cases – a man in his 60s from Mississauga and a woman in her 50s from the Calgary region, were passengers aboard the Grand Princess cruise ship that left San Francisco in early February.

The ship is currently being held off the coast of California for testing after two people who had been passengers on the ship tested positive for COVID-19, including an elderly man with underlying health conditions who died this week.

Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's chief medical officer of health, said the woman from that province returned home on Feb. 21 and began self-isolation at home on Feb. 28. She is expected to make a full recovery.

"Despite this case, the risk of catching the virus is still quite low in our province," she said. "We have been preparing for this since the virus first emerged."

There are now at least 48 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada and the situation is rapidly evolving. Globally, there are more than 95,300 confirmed cases and 3,200 deaths.

With a report from James Keller in Calgary

Kenney backs O'Toole in Conservative leadership race

Alberta Premier touts MP as strong leader who will defend party values

MARIEKE WALSH OTTAWA

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney has endorsed Erin O'Toole for the Conservative Party's next leader.

The endorsement from a prominent Western Conservative is significant in a race that features no well-known contenders west of Ontario.

"We need a leader who is competent and principled," Mr. Kenney wrote in an e-mail to all Conservative Party members Thursday announcing his support for Mr. O'Toole.

"A leader who won't run away from conservative principles under pressure from the media or the Left."

In the e-mail, Mr. Kenney stressed the need for the Conservatives' next leader to unite the party, speak French, win in suburban Ontario and "fight for a fair deal for Western Canada."

"I know that we can rely on Erin to be that strong leader," Mr. Kenney wrote.

Mr. O'Toole has represented the Greater Toronto Area riding of Durham since 2012. He is one of eight people running to replace Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer and is considered a front-runner, along with former cabinet minister Peter MacKay.

When both Mr. O'Toole and Mr. MacKay were already in the leadership race, Mr. Kenney was still lobbying for others to run. He first urged former interim leader Rona Ambrose to jump in and, when she declined, he publicly advocated for former cabinet minister John Baird to run.

Mr. Kenney worked alongside Mr. MacKay in cabinet from 2008 to 2015. Mr. O'Toole joined them in cabinet in 2015.

In his e-mail to party members, Mr. Kenney took direct aim at Mr. MacKay as he explained why he was supporting Mr. O'Toole.

"No one will have their deeply held beliefs dismissed as 'stinking albatrosses' under Erin O'Toole's leadership," Mr. Kenney wrote – a nod to comments made by Mr. MacKay about the negative impact social-conservative issues had on Mr. Scheer during the fall election campaign.

"The Conservative Party of Canada must choose a Leader who is true blue," Mr. Kenney said.

Mr. Kenney isn't just lending his name to the candidate, he's also encouraging a vast network of organizers and supporters across the country to join the team, according to a source with Mr. O'Toole's campaign, whom The Globe and Mail is not identifying so they could speak about internal matters.

Durham MP Erin O'Toole speaks at a federal Conservative leadership forum in Halifax last month. Mr. O'Toole, who has represented his Greater Toronto Area riding since 2012, is one of eight candidates for party leader. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mr. Kenney hails from the Prairies, but has spent years building up the Conservative base in urban centres and in multicultural communities across Canada.

In a statement, Mr. MacKay's spokeswoman, Julie Vaux, said "he respects the Premier's choice."

"As the next Prime Minister, he will work with Premier Kenney and every other Premier across this country, regardless of who they endorse. He made it very clear this week in Alberta that he would fight for the interests of Albertans," Ms. Vaux said.

On Wednesday, Mr. MacKay announced that he had raised $1-million in the first six weeks of his campaign. So far, of the eight candidates, only Mr. MacKay and Mr. O'Toole have met the requirements to secure a spot on the final ballot. The others have until March 25 to raise $300,000 and collect 3,000 signatures. Conservatives will elect their new leader on June 27.

Speaking to The Globe at an event in Calgary earlier this week, Mr. MacKay had said he was hoping to meet with the Alberta Premier while in the province this week.

"I worked with Jason for a long time," Mr. MacKay said. "He and I go back a long way."

On Wednesday, Mr. Kenney's office only said according to his calendar, the Premier was not meeting with Mr. MacKay.

With a report from Kelly Cryderman

CANADIAN MILITARY NEEDS TO BE MADE UP OF 30 PER CENT WOMEN FOR REAL CULTURE CHANGE TO TAKE PLACE, VICE-ADMIRAL SAYS

OTTAWA The officer in charge of human resources at the Canadian Armed Forces says women need to make up 30 per cent of the ranks to bring about a real culture change in the military.

Vice-Admiral Haydn Edmundson says the military already faces a tough challenge meeting its target of having 25 per cent women in uniform by 2026.

He says the military is looking at ways to recruit and retain more women as it strives to reach that goal, which was first set by chief of the defence staff General Jonathan Vance in 2016.

But Vice-Adm. Edmundson says 25 per cent is the bare minimum the military wants to have in terms of female representation and that more would be needed to bring about lasting change to its historically male-centred culture.

Military commanders have emphasized the need to change the culture in the Forces in recent years in response to concerns about systemic sexual misconduct, as well as the need to increase recruitment and better conduct missions that involve interacting with local populations. Women represented 15.9 per cent of all military staff in 2019, compared with 15 per cent when Gen. Vance issued his order.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top court won't hear pipeline appeals

Five groups had challenged Ottawa's reapproval of plan to expand existing Trans Mountain line

WENDY STUECK VANCOUVER

The Supreme Court of Canada has declined to hear five challenges related to the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, removing another legal hurdle for the project.

The country's highest court on Thursday announced it would not hear challenges from B.C. Nature, the Raincoast Conservation Foundation and the Living Oceans Society, the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation, the Squamish First Nation and a group of four individuals.

The five groups had challenged Ottawa's reapproval of the project, which would twin an existing pipeline from near Edmonton to Burnaby, B.C.

As usual, the court did not give reasons for its decisions.

The Federal Court of Appeal in 2018 overturned cabinet's first approval of the pipeline, citing insufficient consultation with Indigenous groups and a failure to take into account the impact on marine animals, including endangered killer whales.

After another round of consultations, cabinet again approved the project in 2019, resulting in another round of legal challenges.

In February, the Federal Court of Appeal dismissed appeals from Indigenous groups who argued the second round of consultations had been insufficient, but declined to hear arguments from the environmental groups.

Those groups then asked the Supreme Court of Canada for a review, which was declined Thursday. But the legal challenges are not over: also on Thursday, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation announced it would appeal a February Federal Court of Appeal decision that upheld government's approval.

"We will be appealing the consultation case to the Supreme Court of Canada," Tsleil-Waututh Chief Leah George-Wilson said in a statement. "This isn't over by a long shot," she added.

The environmental groups fighting the project have run out of legal options, said Margot Venton, nature program director at Ecojustice, the Vancouver law group that represented the environmental groups in the applications to the Supreme Court.

The groups had hoped the Supreme Court would look into whether mitigation measures proposed for the project would meet the standards of Canada's Species at Risk Act, Ms. Venton said.

"The government has asserted that there will be measures in place to protect southern resident [killer whales], and the court is unwilling to examine that statement – that is what we wanted them to do," Ms. Venton said.

Alberta Justice Minister Doug Schweitzer welcomed the Supreme Court decision.

"It's another positive step to development, to making sure we get this pipe built. It's critical to have that here in Canada, so we're encouraged by that," Mr. Schweitzer told reporters in Calgary. "The bigger concern that we have is ensuring that the rule of law is upheld. The last few weeks, we've seen a bunch of social disorder across our entire country. We want to make sure that the Trans Mountain pipeline is built," he added.

There have been a series of blockades and protests in several provinces since early February, when the RCMP arrested 28 people along a B.C. logging road while enforcing a court order sought by Coastal GasLink to obtain access to work sites for its proposed natural gas pipeline.

The protests tied up rail and port traffic in support of Wet'suwet'en Nation hereditary chiefs who are opposed to the $6.6-billion project. Trans Mountain also welcomed the Supreme Court decision.

"We are pleased that the scope of the Federal Court of Appeal's decision was upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada. After many years of consultation, reviews and approvals, we will continue to move forward and build the expansion project in respect of communities and for the benefit of Canadians," the company said Thursday in a statement, adding that construction is under way in B.C. and Alberta.

With reports from Carrie Tait and The Canadian Press

Ontario reveals sweeping strategy to combat human trafficking

LAURA STONE TORONTO
JANICE DICKSON OTTAWA

The Ontario government says it will invest a further $202-million over five years to combat human trafficking, a crime that includes forcing mostly women and girls across the country into the sex trade.

The anti-human-trafficking strategy, to be announced on Friday by Premier Doug Ford and others, is believed to be the largest total investment by any provincial or federal government in dedicated supports and services for victims.

The $202-million in new funding is in addition to $105-million from an existing fund, and covers everything from a public awareness campaign to new law-enforcement tools.

The government says it is planning to invest in specialized intervention teams, involving police and child protection services, to incorporate human trafficking awareness into the education curriculum and establish housing to support victims, including those younger than 16.

It is also proposing to support survivors by investing in new funding for community support groups and Indigenous-led initiatives. "Human traffickers prey on the most vulnerable members of our society – our children," Mr. Ford said in a statement.

"We must put an end to this disgusting industry and take immediate steps to keep our kids safe."

Mr. Ford, who aides say is deeply concerned about the issue, is set to make the announcement in St. Catharines, Ont., alongside Solicitor-General Sylvia Jones and Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues.

Ms. Dunlop said survivors of human trafficking require specific and continuing support to help them "heal from their trauma and rebuild their lives," adding that the government's strategy doubles investments for community-based services and provides new supports for children and youth.

According to the government's statistics, approximately two-thirds of Canada's police-reported human trafficking violations occur in Ontario. The average age of recruitment into sex trafficking is 13.

The funding also includes an additional $2-million for the province's 42 sexual-assault centres.

Advocates working in the sector said they had been informed by Attorney-General Doug Downey last week that the government would not renew an additional $1-million fund for the centres, sparking concerns that waiting lists for services will grow.

> It is also proposing to support survivors by investing in new funding for community support groups and Indigenous-led initiatives.

Megan Walker, the executive director of the London Abused Women's Centre, called the strategy the "most comprehensive plan to address human trafficking" that she has ever seen.

"It covers all of the pillars that we consider to be so crucial to helping end trafficking in the long-term, including public awareness, ensuring that the law is enforced or that new legislation is created and to make sure that survivors have immediate access to service as well as safe houses," she said.

The London, Ont., centre serves 125 trafficked women and girls, she said.

Ms. Walker also praised the Ontario government for having specific counselling and support programs for Indigenous women and girls.

"This is not tokenism, there is $307-million that they are investing into this and … that is an incredibly significant amount of money that will go a long way in helping us keep women and girls safe."

Mark Aston, the executive director of Covenant House, said the investment indicates a "serious commitment on the part of the government to address this very urgent and serious issue."

Julia Drydyk, manager of research and policy with The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking, also welcomed the announcement, saying the organization is pleased to see the government make a significant commitment to address the issue.

Last fall, the federal government announced a new investment of $57.22-million over five years beginning in 2019, and $10.28-million to follow annually to accompany its new national strategy.

That investment is in addition to a previous federal investment in 2018 of $14.51-million over five years, and a continuing $2.89-million a year, which was used to fund a national human trafficking hotline.

Quebec has also invested heavily in efforts to fight human trafficking; its strategy, announced in 2016, allocated $200-million to be spent over five years.

British Columbia's public safety ministry and solicitor-general provides $37-million in annual funding to victim services and violence against women programs across the province, and since 2011, the ministry has also provided more than $2.5-million in one-time grants to organizations working on the issue.

Other provinces invest fewer resources dedicated to fighting human trafficking. Outside of general law enforcement, prosecution and family-justice services, the Justice Department spent about $2-million in 2018-19 to address sexual exploitation of youth.

Emergency services vehicles close a stretch of Yonge Street in Toronto on April 23, 2018, after a van driven by Alek Minassian hit at least 26 pedestrians, killing 10. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suspect admits he planned, carried out 2018 van attack that killed 10 in Toronto

LIAM CASEY TORONTO

A man who killed 10 people when he drove a van into crowds of pedestrians on a busy Toronto sidewalk in 2018 has admitted to planning and carrying out the attack, court heard Thursday.

Alek Minassian faces 10 counts of first-degree murder and 16 counts of attempted murder in connection with the attack on April 23, 2018. His trial is scheduled to begin in front of a judge, without a jury, in April.

Crown attorney John Rinaldi read out an agreed statement of facts between the prosecution and defence.

"While driving the van in the said area, [Mr. Minassian] drove his van into, or otherwise struck, at least 26 people, 10 of those people were killed and 16 injured to various degrees," Mr. Rinaldi said.

The 27-year-old was in court for a pretrial-motion hearing where his lawyer, Boris Bytensky, is fighting over the admissibility of a statement Mr. Minassian gave to a booking officer shortly after his arrest.

As part of a standard set of questions, the booking officer asked Mr. Minassian if he had any illnesses.

"Yes. I am a murdering piece of shit," he said.

The defence concedes Mr. Minassian made that statement, but argues that Mr. Minassian's Charter rights – the right to remain silent – were violated.

Several victims and families of those who died in the attack were in the courtroom. Some wiped tears away and others stared at Mr. Minassian when the video showed him making that statement to police.

Mr. Minassian later told police in a lengthy interview after the attack that he carried it out in retribution for years of sexual rejection and ridicule by women. He told a detective he was part of the "incel movement," a fringe internet subculture that attracts males who are involuntarily celibate.

Mr. Minassian told Detective Rob Thomas that he saw himself on the bottom rung of society as an incel, and wanted to be part of an "uprising" in an effort to change his societal status.

"This is the day of retribution," Mr. Minassian told Det. Thomas. He also told the detective he had "accomplished" his mission.

Mr. Minassian confirmed that interview in court on Thursday, which will now form part of the agreed facts in the case.

The judge has said the case will turn on Mr. Minassian's state of mind at the time of the attack, not whether he did it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. Finance Minister reveals she has Parkinson's

IAN BAILEY VANCOUVER
JUSTINE HUNTER VICTORIA

B.C. Finance Minister Carole James has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, but plans to carry on with the political duties that have made her one of the most prominent figures in the provincial government.

"I am really focused on making sure I do my job," Ms. James, also deputy premier, said on Thursday when she disclosed that she was diagnosed in January with the progressive nervous system disorder after noticing a slight hand tremor and balance problems.

Ms. James delivered the provincial budget in February.

She told a news conference in Victoria that she will continue as Finance Minister "as long as I can do this job 100 per cent," and at Premier John Horgan's discretion.

She said that she plans to resume her tour of B.C. to talk about the budget next week.

"I wanted to get the news out, to share it with the public to make sure people knew what I was experiencing, but, really, it will be back to work next week."

But Ms. James said the diagnosis will end her political career.

She won't seek another term in the Victoria-Beacon Hill riding, which she has represented since 2005, in the provincial election expected in 2021.

Asked whether she will be able to handle the stress of managing the finances of Canada's third most populous province, Ms. James said her neurologist has told her there is no connection between stress and Parkinson's.

"But it's something I am certainly going to monitor," she said.

Mr. Horgan said Ms. James is up to the challenges ahead. "Parkinson's is a tough disease. Without diminishing the seriousness of the illness, Carole James is tougher," the Premier said in a statement.

Still, Ms. James said she was taken aback at the situation.

"It is a reminder that life can present us with the unexpected at any time," she told the media.

"Anyone can face a life-changing, altering experience tomorrow or the next day or the next day."

Ms. James served five terms as president of the British Columbia School Trustees Association, and was a member of the Greater Victoria School Board for 11 years.

She was elected leader of the BC New Democrats in 2003, and held that post until 2010, when she was succeeded by Adrian Dix.

When Mr. Horgan sought to succeed Mr. Dix in 2014, Ms. James offered her public support, citing his team-building skills.

Ms. James was treated for uterine cancer in 2006.

Adam Olsen, the Green Party MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, called Ms. James's news a shock to B.C. politics.

"It's an announcement today that shocked everybody in this building," Mr. Olsen, the party's interim leader, said in an interview, referring to the B.C. Legislature.

Speaking for the opposition BC Liberals, MLA Mary Polak said she was not surprised Ms. James would forge ahead with her political duties.

"That is quintessential Carole, that she would intend to fulfill the obligations she has taken on," Ms. Polak said in an interview.

"I am sure she will do that with every ounce of her being, and I am sure she will also pay attention to her health and if it seems like that's not working, she will notify the Premier and take appropriate action.

"I am glad to hear she is going to try and stick it out."

Turkey, Russia agree to ceasefire in Syria's Idlib region

VLADIMIR SOLDATKIN
MARIA KISELYOVA
MOSCOW

Turkey and Russia agreed on a ceasefire deal on Thursday in Syria's Idlib region, their two leaders said after talks in Moscow to contain a conflict that has displaced nearly a million people in three months.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, standing next to his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said he hoped their agreement would lead to a halt of military action in Syria's last major rebel stronghold in the northwest of the country. "I express hope that these agreements will serve as a good basis for a cessation of military activity in the Idlib de-escalation zone [and] stop the suffering of the peaceful population and the growing humanitarian crisis," Mr. Putin said.

Mr. Erdogan told reporters the truce would come into effect at midnight on Thursday. "We will work together to supply aid for the Syrians in need," he said, adding that Turkey retained the right "to respond to all [Syrian] regime attacks in the field."

Russia and Turkey back opposing sides in Syria's nine-year conflict, with Moscow supporting President Bashar al-Assad and Turkey backing some rebel groups. Several previous deals to end the fighting in Idlib have collapsed. The latest offensive in Idlib by Mr. al-Assad's forces, backed by Russian air strikes, sparked what the United Nations says may be the worst humanitarian crisis yet in a war that has driven millions from their homes and killed hundreds of thousands.

Members of the Syrian Civil Defence and civilians check the rubble of a building in Maaret Misrin on Thursday, after air strikes by the Syrian government in the Idlib region. IBRAHIM YASOUF/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The fighting, which raised the prospect of a direct clash between Russia and Turkey, has killed around 60 Turkish troops in the region since last month. Two hours after the joint announcement, Turkey's defence ministry said two soldiers were killed after Syrian government forces opened fire in Idlib.

Mr. Putin expressed his regret to Mr. Erdogan about the recent killing of 34 Turkish troops in an air strike, saying the Syrian military had not known of their location.

REUTERS

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Framing the effects of drug shortages
Perspectives from the front lines of the drug shortage illuminate how shortages can affect patient outcomes and costs.

Jennifer Gerdts
Executive Director,
Food Allergy Canada

Jeff Mehltretter
Director of Research,
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Panel Discussion:
Solutions and Calls to Action
Next steps in alleviating drug shortages
What policy levers, regulations and market remedies might be applied to Canada's drug shortage problem?

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Senior Vice-President,
Stakeholder Engagement, Canadian Association for Pharmacy Distribution Management

James Scongack
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Joelle Walker
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ICC approves Afghanistan war-crime probe

Human-rights groups laud investigation into alleged actions by U.S. and Taliban forces while Washington decries it

GEOFFREY YORK
AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF
JOHANNESBURG

U.S. soldiers disembark from a helicopter in Afghanistan in 2002. A report by the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor alleges that, from 2003 to 2014, U.S. soldiers have subjected at least 61 Afghan detainees to 'torture, cruel treatment [and] outrages upon personal dignity.' ROSLAN RAHMAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The International Criminal Court has authorized a formal investigation of alleged war crimes by U.S. and Taliban forces in Afghanistan, setting the stage for a confrontation with U.S. President Donald Trump's administration.

The decision Thursday by senior ICC judges in The Hague has sparked widespread praise from human-rights groups, but it triggered a vehement reaction from the Trump administration, which has already threatened to impose financial sanctions and visa bans on any ICC officials who assist in an investigation of U.S. citizens.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called it a "reckless" decision by a "renegade" court. He promised more measures to shield U.S. citizens from the court.

"This is a truly breathtaking action by an unaccountable, political institution masquerading as a legal body," he told reporters in Washington.

The investigation could mark the first time U.S. officials are held criminally liable for involvement in the torture of detainees in Afghanistan. The investigation will also examine alleged crimes by the Taliban and by Afghan security forces.

The ICC's chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, reported in 2016 that there is a "reasonable basis" to believe that U.S. soldiers and agents of the Central Intelligence Agency committed war crimes, such as torture and rape, in Afghanistan.

At least 61 Afghan detainees appear to have been subjected to "torture, cruel treatment [and] outrages upon personal dignity" by U.S. soldiers between 2003 and 2014, while CIA agents "appear to have subjected at least 27 detained persons to torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity and/or rape" from 2002 to 2008 in Afghanistan, and in secret detention centres in Poland, Romania and Lithuania, the prosecutor said in her report.

These alleged crimes "appear to have been committed as part of approved interrogation techniques," she said.

While the United States is not a member of the ICC, its military forces and CIA agents could be subject to the court's investigation because their alleged crimes were committed in ICC member countries, including Afghanistan and the Eastern European countries.

The Trump administration has fought tooth and nail against the proposed ICC investigation, revoking Ms. Bensouda's entry visa last year. She responded by saying she would not be deterred from her investigation and has continued to visit United Nations headquarters in New York to give briefings to the UN Security Council.

> This is a truly breathtaking action by an unaccountable, political institution masquerading as a legal body.
>
> MIKE POMPEO
> U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

Ms. Bensouda requested the ICC's authorization for her investigation in 2017, but her request was rejected last year by the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber, which ruled the investigation would not serve the "interests of justice" because it was unlikely to receive sufficient co-operation from Afghanistan, the United States and others.

She appealed the ruling and a hearing was held in December. On Thursday, the court's appeals chamber authorized the investigation, ruling that the lower court has misinterpreted some of the court's rules.

The lower court's reasoning about the "interests of justice" was "cursory, speculative and did not refer to information capable of supporting it," the appeals chamber said.

"There is no indication that the Pre-Trial Chamber considered the gravity of the crimes and the interests of victims as articulated by the victims themselves," it added.

The appeals chamber also rejected the lower court's argument that the prosecutor's investigation should be limited to incidents that were mentioned in her original report. No such limit should be imposed, the appeals chamber ruled.

The ICC's decision Thursday could help defuse criticism of the court by African politicians, who have long complained that the ICC is focusing on crimes in Africa, rather than crimes by more powerful countries in Europe and North America.

The ruling could also have implications for Canada. Human-rights activists have long called for an investigation of possible war crimes by Canadian troops, who transferred Afghan detainees into the custody of Afghan security forces when torture was common in detention facilities. An open-ended investigation by the ICC could look at Canadian actions in Afghanistan.

Human-rights groups welcomed the decision by the ICC judges. The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, in a tweet on Thursday, said the ruling was an "important step for justice in Afghanistan's long war."

Amnesty International's head of international justice, Solomon Sacco, said the ruling is "an historic moment, where the International Criminal Court has reversed a terrible mistake and decided to stand by the victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by all sides to the conflict in Afghanistan."

In a statement, Mr. Sacco said the ICC represents "the first true hope of justice" for the victims of the Afghanistan war. "This is a decision that will be extremely popular with those fighting for justice and deeply unpopular with the parties to the conflict, including powerful states that attempted to bully the court and who eluded it for so long."

Param-Preet Singh, associate international justice director at Human Rights Watch, said the ruling "reaffirms the court's essential role for victims when all other doors to justice are closed."

Berkshire Hathaway drops out of Énergie Saguenay project

LES PERREAUX MONTREAL
EMMA GRANEY CALGARY

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway has decided against investing $4-billion in a project to bring Alberta natural gas to port in Saguenay, Que., citing Canada's "current political context."

Énergie Saguenay revealed Thursday it lost its major potential investor in the $14-billion GNL Québec project, making it the latest Canadian energy project to encounter hurdles caused by low oil and gas prices, political opposition and resistance from Indigenous people and environmentalists.

"A major private investor who was near investing in the project decided at the last minute to not proceed," said Stéphanie Fortin, director of public affairs for Énergie Saguenay. "The reason evoked was Canada's current political context."

Ms. Fortin declined to name Berkshire Hathaway, the conglomerate giant led by billionaire Mr. Buffett, as the investor who pulled out. But a Quebec government source confirmed the information first reported by La Presse on Thursday. The source was granted anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the matter.

Ms. Fortin also declined to name specific parts of the political context that led to the decision. "All of the elements creating a certain instability, questions among investors, we've seen on different projects across the country," Ms. Fortin said.

> A major private investor who was near investing in the project decided at the last minute to not proceed. The reason evoked was Canada's current political context.
>
> STÉPHANIE FORTIN
> DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR ÉNERGIE SAGUENAY

Meanwhile on Thursday, Mohawks from the Kahnawake reserve south of Montreal lifted their blockade on a Canadian Pacific Railway line. A group of Mi'qmaqs in eastern Quebec followed suit a short time later, releasing from paralysis a small regional railway in the Gaspé. The two blockades, in support of Indigenous opponents of a British Columbia natural gas pipeline, were the last of a series of protests that disrupted rail transport across Canada for a month.

Énergie Saguenay's GNL Québec project, including a liquid natural gas facility and a 750-kilometre natural gas pipeline from an existing line in Northeastern Ontario across Northern Quebec, is heading into federal and provincial environmental review. The first Quebec hearings start March 16. The environmental reviews must be complete before final financial commitments are made in 2021, Ms. Fortin said.

The planned route of the pipeline crosses several traditional Indigenous lands. The terminal at Saguenay will load ships that will cross waters occupied by beluga and fin whale populations. On Thursday, 250 doctors signed a letter warning the Quebec government of health consequences of the gas industry.

Quebec Premier François Legault warned last week that the pipeline project must gain "social acceptability" if it is to proceed, after the Wemotaci Atikamekw Council said it hasn't consented to the project. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Thursday the atmosphere has changed for energy project proponents.

"We have to do more to demonstrate the jobs we are creating, the investment we are attracting, can succeed in a world where the reality of climate change is hitting harder all the time," Mr. Trudeau said.

Tim McMillan, president and chief executive officer of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, said he wasn't surprised by the news, but acknowledged his disappointment.

The move by investors follows a string of project cancellations over the past few years, he said, including the recent decision by Teck Resources Ltd. to withdraw its Frontier oil sands mine application, and various pipeline projects being nixed or delayed.

"This investor not willing to invest in Canada has been the backdrop for several major project cancellations," he said. "It doesn't seem to be getting better. In fact, recent events in Canada are continuing to shake confidence in the types of investments we absolutely need to be attracting."

Pointing to federal regulatory changes and multiple rail blockades, Mr. McMillan said the problem has spread from Western Canadian energy projects to national agriculture, mining and shipping sectors.

Mr. McMillan "absolutely" thinks the GNL project's location in Quebec will draw more attention from Ottawa. "I hope it's a wake-up call for multiple governments to re-establish Canada as a place where the rule of law is consistent and where our regulatory system is clear and transparent," he said.

Dale Nally, Alberta's Associate Minister of Natural Gas, took aim at weeks of rail and port blockades, saying in an e-mail it is "undeniable" they have deterred international investors from doing business in Canada.

GasLink: Clan meetings to discuss rights, title are being held this week

FROM A1

The pipeline would go from northeastern B.C. to the coast to supply LNG Canada's $18-billion export terminal under construction in Kitimat.

The 20 elected band councils along the route, including the five elected Wet'suwet'en councils, have reached impact-benefit agreements with Coastal GasLink, the terms of which are confidential.

On March 1, hereditary chiefs announced a tentative agreement with the federal and B.C. governments to expedite negotiations to implement rights and title for the Wet'suwet'en Nation over unceded traditional territory and recognize the hereditary governance system.

A resolution to the pipeline dispute, however, was not reached.

The Wet'suwet'en Nation comprises five clans, under which there are 13 house groups, each with a hereditary head chief position (four are currently vacant). One house chief has taken a neutral position on the pipeline project. Eight hereditary house chiefs spanning the five clans are opposed to Coastal GasLink.

Clan meetings to discuss rights and title are being held this week, including one gathering on Friday in Witset, B.C., and another on Saturday in Smithers, B.C.

The eventual payouts to elected Wet'suwet'en band councils could turn out to be much higher, said the letter signed by Rick Gateman, who served as Coastal GasLink's president from 2012 until early 2019.

"It is not unusual for LNG facilities to continue for 50 years or more," he wrote. "This could effectively double the Wet'suwet'en's revenue stream to $230-million. As these payments are contractual obligations in sums certain, they can be used to finance long-term community infrastructure needs."

Mr. Gateman said in the letter the five elected Wet'suwet'en band councils along the route that signed project agreements stand to reap a total of $10-million in other cash.

Coastal GasLink has said that, under the provincial environmental-assessment process, it was not required to negotiate with Hagwilget, a sixth Wet'suwet'en community that is located farther away from the pipeline corridor.

Indigenous contracting opportunities are forecast to surpass $60-million and "could be substantially higher, based on the capability of the companies available to complete the work in Wet'suwet'en territory," Mr. Gateman wrote.

In response to The Globe's queries about Mr. Gateman's letter, Coastal GasLink spokesman Terry Cunha replied: "To ensure we respect the commitment we have with the communities, along with our legal responsibility, we cannot discuss the contents of any of our benefit agreements."

Mr. Cunha said the pipeline is on track for completion by the end of 2023. "We currently have over 1,200 individuals working directly along the project route with over 350 local Indigenous workers, including Wet'suwet'en members," he said in an e-mail.

About 190 kilometres of the 670-kilometre pipeline route cross the Wet'suwet'en Nation's traditional territory.

A copy of the uncensored letter is an exhibit from a legal case related to Coastal GasLink, entered in court last year to supplement an affidavit signed by Mike Ridsdale, the Office of the Wet'suwet'en's environmental assessment co-ordinator.

Mr. Ridsdale's affidavit also included a copy of a letter that he sent to the BC Oil and Gas Commission in November, 2018, saying hereditary chiefs oppose all pipeline routes through their territory.

Mr. Gateman's letter began by acknowledging previous discussions with hereditary chiefs in 2014 about an alternative route, known as the McDonnell Lake option.

Coastal GasLink made that portion of the letter public on its website last month.

In a Dec. 31, 2019, judgment related to the pipeline, Justice Marguerite Church of the B.C. Supreme Court noted the Office of the Wet'suwet'en had proposed the McDonnell Lake option.

Coastal GasLink ultimately rejected the option for reasons that included up to $800-million in increased costs, greater adverse environmental effects, a one-year delay and the desire to avoid urban areas.

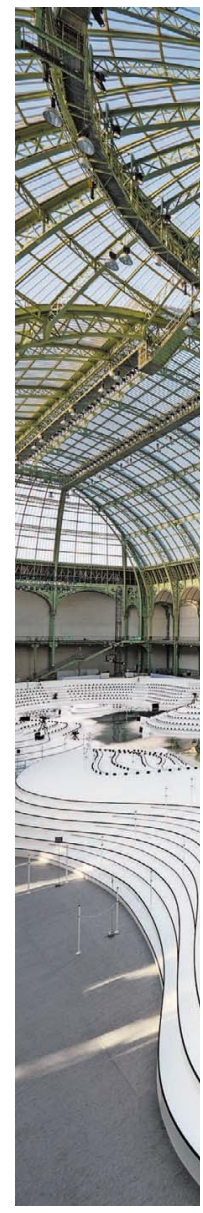
The McDonnell Lake option would have followed the route of an existing natural gas pipeline while still crossing portions of Wet'suwet'en territory.

But it would have avoided the Morice River Bridge area, where Wet'suwet'en members opposed to the pipeline have maintained a camp since 2010.

On Feb. 14, Coastal GasLink issued a statement outlining its reasons for rejecting the alternative route, including that it would involve eight additional major river crossings and that some sections would not be able to accommodate a 48-inch-diameter pipeline. The existing natural gas pipeline in the region is 10 inches in diameter.

The past four weeks have seen protests in support of Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs, but a group of business, Indigenous and civic leaders from across the country – called Confidence in Canada – issued a joint statement on Thursday to say the voices backing Coastal GasLink are growing louder.

GARY SCHERMANN/COURTESY OF CHANEL



THE SHOWS MUST GO ON

Amid concerns about the economy and our collective health, the fall 2020 fashion collections presented in New York, London, Milan and Paris over the past month still favoured spectacle over anything remotely subdued

BY NADIA PIZZIMENTI

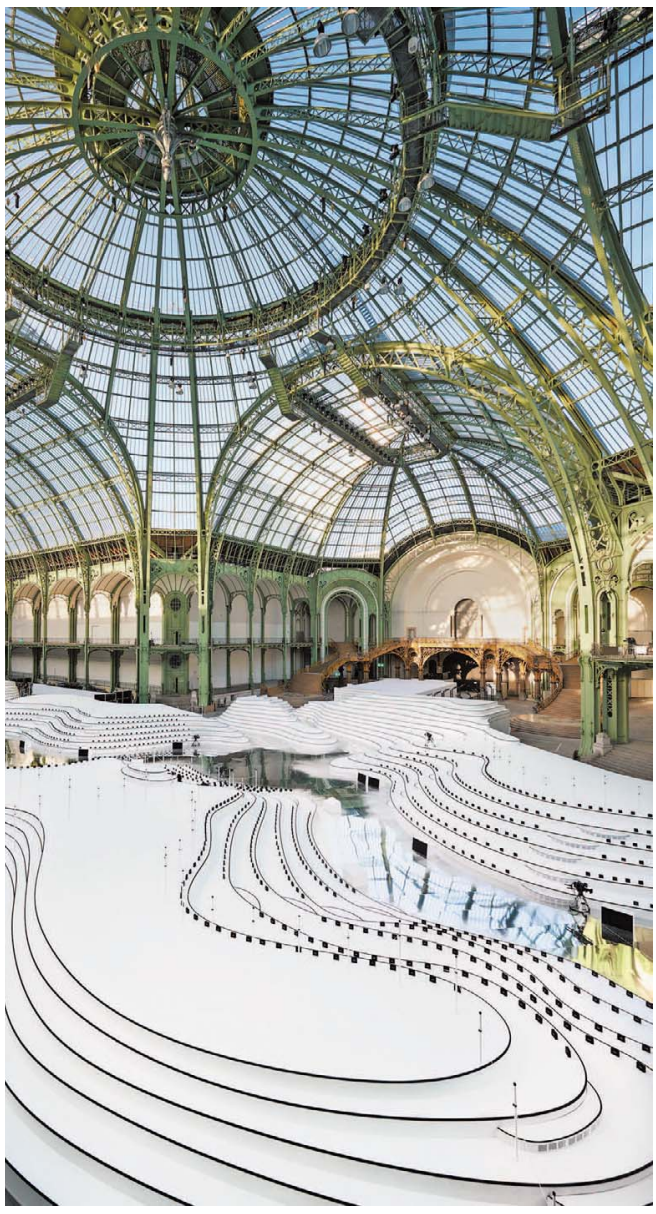
Marc Jacobs's New York show opened with a spotlight and a brief appearance by choreographer and "punk ballerina" Karole Armitage. What followed was a chaotic and theatrical performance with dancers stomping, twirling and crawling their way around the giant dance floor, intersecting with groups of models parading around in a mixture of fifties-era gowns and minimalist nineties looks reminiscent of Marc Jacobs's early collections.

DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

Guests of the **Gucci** show in Milan were all given backstage access. Through black curtains, they entered into a strangely calm and quiet behind-the-scenes space that became the centrepiece of the show. As the stage began to rotate, robed models entered, followed by makeup artists and dressers, revealing the fashion frenzy that's usually hidden away from view.

MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Even when it is stripped down to its most minimal staging, a **Chanel** show is a spectacle. Massive, white sculpture-like seating weaved through Paris's Grand Palais like icebergs floating atop a mirrored runway. Models casually walked arm in arm, sometimes conversing with one another. That's a rare sight on a runway and brought forth a feeling of female togetherness that helped end the month of shows on a brighter note.



OLIVIER SAILLANT

ESTROP/GETTY IMAGES

Balenciaga immersed its Paris audience in a dramatic and apocalyptic world, reflecting on the state of our own. Guests were surrounded by LED screens projecting stormy seas and skies on fire, and the entire runway was under water. An almost entirely black collection of leathers, capes and sharp-shouldered silhouettes added a sartorial connection to the doom-and-gloom mood.

BEN BROOMFIELD

BEN BROOMFIELD

While most designers this season looked toward the future, Londoner **Molly Goddard** took inspiration from the past with a collection full of childlike nostalgia. The feeling was optimistic and grand, as models clad in sweetly coloured Fair-Isle sweaters and layers of taffeta and tulle gowns walked through guests seated at dining-room tables. For a moment, the chaos of fashion month and the world swirling around it disappeared, as the crowd happily sipped on white wine and munched on bread and butter.

Special to The Globe and Mail

EDITORIAL

PHILLIP CRAWLEY
PUBLISHER AND CEO

DAVID WALMSLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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

The politics of voting in Quebec

Bringing about the end of Canada's first-past-the-post voting system has long been a source of frustration for electoral reformers. British Columbia, Ontario and Prince Edward Island have all held referendums on switching to some form of proportional representation (PR), yet voters stuck with the status quo every time.

Canadians have yet to show an appetite for changing an electoral system that, despite its flaws, can at least claim a long history of stable governance.

But now Quebec is taking its shot. Premier François Legault and the Coalition Avenir Québec government tabled legislation last year to bring in a PR system. The government intends to hold a referendum on the plan at the same time as the next provincial general election, in October, 2022.

There is one rule to remember when it comes to proposals to reform Canada's electoral system: Pay attention to the benefits accruing to the party doing the proposing.

A notable example was Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's promise to make the 2015 general election the last federal vote to be held under first-past-the-post.

His proffered alternative was a ballot system in which voters ranked their preferences in order. The choice was a self-serving gambit: New Democratic Party voters and Conservative voters could both be counted on to make the centrist Liberals their second choice.

When opposition to the idea mounted, Mr. Trudeau declared that there was no appetite for reform (nor even for a different form of PR?) and broke his election promise.

The Liberals had also no doubt noticed that the 2015 election had delivered them a strong majority with just 39.5 per cent of the popular vote. That's a typical outcome for multiparty elections under first-past-the-post, in which the candidate who receives the most votes in each riding claims the seat in the House of Commons.

First-past-the-post emphasizes winning votes in specific places over winning a thin layer of votes everywhere, which is good for some parties and bad for others. The Liberals are in no hurry to eliminate it, as PR would make it much harder for them to win a majority, given that their party shares many of its voters with at least two other parties on the left at any given moment.

That math is also why New Democrats have a great interest in moving to proportional representation. The NDP won 16 per cent of the federal vote in 2019, but got only 7 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons – also a fairly typical outcome under first-past-the-post.

So what, then, is the CAQ's calculation? Why is Mr. Legault prepared to end a system that, in 2018, gave his party 59 per cent of the seats in the National Assembly in exchange for 37.5 per cent of the popular vote?

Is he so altruistic as to abandon his newly won majority, as a simulation of his government's proposed system indicated would have been the case had the system been in place in the 2018 election?

The CAQ's plan would see the National Assembly split into 80 "division seats" and 45 "regional seats." People would vote for one riding-level candidate, and also for a party's list of candidates for the regional seats. After the election, the regional seats would be assigned based on the popular vote.

There appear to be two consequences of this proposal. One is that the island of Montreal, which contains most of the province's anglophones and visible minorities, and is a bastion of federalist voters, would lose at least three seats in the National Assembly. That's not the fault of PR; it's simply a wrinkle in this plan. Those seats would go to regions where support for the CAQ's ethnic nationalism is more reliable.

The other consequence of the plan is that it could decimate the Liberal Party of Quebec. As the sole federalist party lined up against at least three other parties leaning in the opposite direction, it would be unlikely to form government again.

So there you have it. Mr. Legault's reform would lessen the representation from the province's most diverse region, where many voters are federalist and anglophone, and ensure that the one party that most speaks for those voters is relegated to permanent rump status.

Proportional representation might offer benefits for Quebec voters, but in crafting this plan, Mr. Legault and his party have kept one eye firmly fixed on their own interests.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AND THEN THERE WERE...

Re The Nightmare Scenario Facing Divided Democrats (March 5): Bernie Sanders may be stuck in the 1960s, but it was a very progressive decade. Advances in civil rights and a massive demonstration of the U.S. distaste for war are two milestones that still resonate today.

As for how Mr. Sanders, as columnist Konrad Yakabuski writes, "hates everything," that seems very much not the case. He stands for a single-payer health-care system. He stands for free tuition for students entering college, and the cancellation of student debt. And he stands for a government that would work on behalf of working people.

■ **Robert Milan** Victoria

The current state of the Democratic race should not surprise anyone. Super Tuesday certainly showed who many Democratic voters feel has the best chance of unseating Donald Trump. Just as importantly, it indicates who they would be most comfortable listening to for the next four years. Moderation and dialogue versus stridency and intransigence – it's an easy choice for most to make.

■ **Chris Marriott** Chelsea, Que.

Re U.S. Democracy May Be Running Out Of Time (March 5): Contributor Sarah Kendzior's view on the inability of senior politicians to govern, because they may die soon and thus are a threat to democratic progress, has to be one of the most offensive ageist opinions I have come across in a long time.

If youth is the future, I suggest the low turnout of younger voters is more of a threat to democracy than folks of my generation ever can be.

■ **Barry Singer** Toronto

Re Primaries Show That Gender Equality Is A Pipe Dream (March 5): I believe there's no arguing with Lawrence Martin's premise that the U.S. primaries have shown a bias against impressive female candidates; that Sarah Kendzior is right about a contest between septuagenarians; that Konrad Yakabuski is right about an ideologically fractured Democratic Party. But all these problems could be constructively solved.

Joe Biden could go a long way toward winning the nomination, and defeating Donald Trump, by choosing a young, talented woman as his running mate – and soon. Someone such as Amy Klobuchar or Kamala Harris on the ticket could bolster campaigning power and send a clear message to younger and more progressive voters. It could help win upcoming primaries and end the nomination race earlier. And it could set the stage for the first female president of the United States; vice-presidents becoming president have become quite common in the last 75 years.

■ **Steve Parish** Ajax, Ont.

CANCON CONUNDRUM

Re The USMCA Cultural Poison Pill: Why The Broadcast Panel Report Could Lead To Millions In Tariff Retaliation (March 2): As chair of the expert panel that produced the report in question, it is appropriate for me to address contributor Michael Geist's concern of "millions" in tariff retaliation by the United States if our recommendations are implemented.

The basic trade principle upon which Mr. Geist relies is expressed in Article 15.3(1) of the USMCA, commonly referred to as the "National Treatment" provision. However, the panel report specifically requires such national treatment. Recommendation 60 states: "We recommend that all media content undertakings that benefit from the Canadian media communications sector contribute to it in an equitable manner. Undertakings that carry out like activities should have like obligations, regardless of where they are located."

The basic principle espoused in our report is simple: There should be consistent obligations to support Canadian cultural policy for all media content undertakings involved in similar activities, whether foreign or Canadian.

Because our recommendations would treat foreign and domestic suppliers alike in similar circumstances, nothing in the report should give rise to a right of retaliation under the USMCA.

■ **Janet Yale** Chair, Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislative Review Panel; Ottawa

Re Should Canada's 1950s Approach To Culture Still Apply In The 21st Century? (March 4): When my 13-year-old daughter comes home and tells me more people in her history class seem to know who George Washington is than Sir John A. Macdonald, we continue to have a cultural identification challenge.

Thankfully, we were able to play for her CBC's *John A.: Birth of a Country*, which enriched her understanding of early Canada and the struggle for nationhood. I dare say she didn't hate it – a tacit teen endorsement if ever there was one.

If we don't do the work to build Canadian identity, then who will? We should empower and enrich our public broadcaster so that we may be enriched, in turn.

■ **Roderick Benns** Lindsay, Ont.

CONSERVATIVE CONUNDRUM

Re Carbon Pricing Conservatives Can Support (March 4): I agree with columnist Andrew Coyne that the Conservatives have failed to put forward a credible climate plan. However, I believe the Liberal plan is only credible to the credulous.

The majority of greenhouse-gas emissions by resource projects result from consumer demand. In my mind, no plan to reduce emissions can succeed without addressing this issue. Yet the Liberal plan, by rebating taxes to consumers, shields them from most of the direct impact. Such a policy might work if the whole world adopted it – I'm not holding my breath. The Liberal plan may actually increase emissions by transferring them to countries with more lax environmental standards.

Canada should have a carbon tax that covers the life-cycle emissions of the products and services we consume. Not an easy task, but I find nothing else is credible.

■ **Barry Bower** Toronto

Columnist Andrew Coyne has it right in saying that carbon pricing is the simplest, cheapest and least divisive way of signalling to producers and consumers where and how to cut emissions. But he also suggests that Conservatives woo voters, paradoxically, by burying a carbon-pricing policy in a series of others that he acknowledges will be disliked by environmentalists, such as the abandonment of current emission-reduction targets.

Environmentally minded Canadians would surely see through such a scheme. Wouldn't it be better to suggest Conservatives adopt a carbon-pricing policy because it is the right thing to do?

■ **Jeffrey Levitt** Toronto

YOURS TO REDISCOVER

Re Ontario To Temporarily Distribute Old Licence Plates (Feb. 29): I would guess no one at 3M Canada or the Ontario government has ever read David Ogilvy, or there would never have been a licence-plate design of white digits on a blue background.

Mr. Ogilvy – perhaps the godfather of contemporary print advertising – repeatedly found that reverse type is much harder to read than dark text on a white background.

That is at least one reason why police can't read these embarrassing plates. And hopefully that is the one reason Ontario will revert to the blue digits on white background with which we are all so familiar.

■ **Mark Christian Burgess** Cobourg, Ont.

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

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OPINION

Alberta could prosper in a fair-trade oil world

Many roll their eyes when Kenney rants about why Alberta oil is ethically superior to that offered by the Saudis, but he's not wrong

GARY MASON
OPINION

EDMONTON

When it comes to the oil industry, Alberta and its Premier, Jason Kenney, are swimming against a very strong current.

Every day, it seems, another major bank or investment company is casting doubt on its future. The capital necessary to unlock crude from the earth is becoming harder to find. As Larry Fink, head of BlackRock, one of the most influential investment institutions in the world, recently proclaimed: "Climate risk is investment risk."

And yet, if oil is the new tobacco, Mr. Kenney does not seem to be panicked, at least outwardly. Ask him about the grim prognostications for a product that has been the goose that's laid the golden egg for his province, and he resorts to a now-familiar refrain.

Oil ain't going anywhere soon.

"This idea that we're going to suddenly flip a switch and in five years we're all going to be living off windmill energy or something is cloud cuckoo land," the Premier said in a recent interview in his office. "It's not anywhere close to scientific reality. It's pixie dust and unicorn farts."

Mr. Kenney's argument hinges on a couple of things. Even in a world that is compliant with targets set out in the Paris climate accord, we are still going to be consuming 67 million barrels of oil annually in 2040, he says. If that's the case, he argues, why shouldn't Alberta get a cut of that action, ahead of some oil-producing dictatorship?

It upsets the Premier that ESG – the acronym for environmental, social and governance, and a term increasingly used by socially conscious investors to evaluate a company's corporate behaviour – doesn't appear to mean much when it comes to oil. He has a point. At the very least, the environmental element of the criteria seems to be given outsized prominence at the moment. That would include the carbon intensity of the oil produced; how much emissions are attached to a particular company's barrel of crude?

On that score, Canada doesn't do as well as countries where oil is easier to get out of the ground. But the Suncors and others operating in Alberta's oil sands are steadily finding ways to reduce their emissions. And they will bring them down further in the coming years.

The biggest problem right now, according to Peter Tertzakian, an energy economist from Calgary, is that you can't easily measure ESG on a barrel of oil. People have been scrambling to determine a standard definition of carbon intensity. This is positioned to change, according to Mr. Tertzakian, but it's still five years away from becoming a reality.

Once that day arrives, Alberta could be in a good position to make the case that its oil is far more ESG-friendly (a transparent industry in one of the most heralded liberal democracies in the world) than the crude coming from Russia, Saudi Arabia or some other country overseen by a ruthless regime. In other words, fair-trade oil could become a thing.

So while many roll their eyes when Mr. Kenney goes on his rant about why Alberta oil is ethically superior to that offered by the Saudis, he's not wrong. It's just that right now, the market doesn't discriminate on the basis of whose crude is more palatable to progressive-minded investors.

"One would assume this bodes well for Alberta oil eventually and I think that's true," Mr. Tertzakian said. "I think it would stack up well against not just Russian oil or Saudi oil, but American oil, too."

Which is crucial. Alberta now competes against the U.S., not the Russians and Venezuelans. On that point, it's fair to ask why Mr. Kenney is measuring his oil against the world's worst suppliers. "Because Alberta is better than the worst" isn't really a great marketing slogan.

Mr. Kenney should be comparing his province's oil to the Norways of the world, not deplorable autocracies. Alberta needs to hope it gets extra pipeline capacity to transmit its product to overseas markets soon. That will certainly help the province emerge from the economic doldrums it has been in for five years now and counting.

But as we know, the energy landscape is changing rapidly. Projections that were made even a few years ago have been ripped up and revamped. Forecasts a decade out aren't nearly as reliable as they once were. Mr. Kenney may be able to make the case that oil from his province is more virtuous than that produced elsewhere. Then again, 10 years from now, that might not mean anything.

Biden is the 'safe' Democratic nominee. Is that enough to beat Trump?

ROBYN URBACK
OPINION

Buoyed by the momentum of an incredible Super Tuesday comeback, the case for Joe Biden leading the Democrats in the U.S. general election just got a much-needed boost of credibility. He is, according to the Democratic establishment, some polling and a handful of former candidates who have recently offered their endorsements, the candidate best positioned to defeat U.S. President Donald Trump.

Their reasoning is fairly straightforward: Mr. Biden is a familiar face nationally; a moderate who enjoys the crucial support of black voters and suburban centrists. He doesn't frighten boomers the way the Vermont senator who flails his arms talking about free college and student-loan forgiveness does. Rather, Mr. Biden is the "safe" choice: a progressive who is not too progressive, whose version of change is more of a reversion to the pre-Trump status quo (when, for example, the market was not susceptible to presidential missives tweeted from the toilet), rather than a dramatic and unpredictable shift to the left.

Bernie Sanders would be a delight to Republican propagandists in a general election, which is why the President, who is unfamiliar with the concept of subtlety, has taken to his defence so fervently on Twitter. Republicans would be quick to attack Mr. Sanders in Pennsylvania for his promised fracking ban, in Florida for his praise of Fidel Castro's literacy program, and in other moderate Midwestern and Sun Belt swing states for his unabashed use of the S-word.

The Democratic establishment has good reason to get behind Joe Biden, seen at a rally on Tuesday, as he is a popular American politician with crucial support among black and suburban centrists. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

That's what the Democratic Party fears anyway, which is why, as the primary field narrowed, Mr. Biden suddenly became the lucky recipient of a handful of endorsements from three former candidates, as well as former national-security adviser Susan Rice and former Senate majority leader Harry Reid. No doubt the coalescing of support Monday, following Mr. Biden's victory in South Carolina on Saturday, helped his phenomenal Tuesday performance in states where he didn't even campaign.

The presumption is that Mr. Biden can turn purple states blue in a way Mr. Sanders cannot. The problem with that line of thinking, however, is that it failed spectacularly in the not-so-distant past, when the party backed Hillary Clinton over the same flailing Vermont senator. Her team overestimated Ms. Clinton's base of support in states such as Michigan and Wisconsin, and underappreciated the appeal of a disruptor such as Mr. Trump to an American electorate hungry for an outsider. The results of that election were not only a shock to pollsters, but also a blow to the political dictum that the most broadly palatable candidate will likely be the successful one.

Rachel Bitecofer, a senior fellow at the Niskanen Center in Washington and a relatively new election forecaster on the scene, earned herself national attention after predicting the outcome of the 2018 midterms with near-perfect accuracy. She also thumbs her nose at the prevailing theories behind election forecasting, including the presumption that elections are decided by swing voters.

According to Ms. Bitecofer, swing voters represent such a small proportion of the result as to be largely inconsequential. What matters, she posits, is turnout – how voters enter and exit the political arena. Activating turnout among potential supporters, either through engagement or negative partisanship (fear of the other guy, in other words) is more important than chasing independents.

By Ms. Bitecofer's theory, Mr. Sanders might in fact be the better choice for Democrats. His radical if ill-defined promises – medicare for all, closing the wealth gap, legalizing marijuana, abolishing tuition fees, universal child care – could engage and activate voters, particularly young voters, far more than Mr. Biden's more moderate promises, lacklustre debate performances and confusing stories about his youthful jaunts at the public pool.

Polling has also shown that Mr. Sanders's supporters are far less likely to support another Democratic nominee (53 per cent will vote for the Democratic nominee regardless) than Mr. Biden's are (87 per cent), meaning "Bernie or bust" voters might simply stay home if he loses the primary race. Yet, it's also plausible that the Sanders effect in terms of negative partisanship – that is, activating the votes of those who don't especially like Mr. Trump, but absolutely do not want a socialist in the White House – could very well cancel out his gain among young and/or Hispanic voters.

There are obviously far more factors at play here, but what we think we know about how the American electorate behaves might not necessarily be correct. The 2016 presidential election, if nothing else, was proof of that.

A moderate Democrat might seem to be the logical choice for 2020, but with one as gaffe-prone as Mr. Biden, and against a guy such as Mr. Trump, it's anything but a sure thing.

The Democrats are having a senior moment. Hopeful VPs should take note

ANDREW COHEN WASHINGTON
OPINION
Journalist, professor and author of *Two Days in June: John F. Kennedy and the 48 Hours That Made History*

As the field vying to lead the Democratic Party narrows, it ages. With the two remaining serious candidates in their late 70s, this will be the oldest presidential race in modern American history.

The circle of septuagenarians ensures that if the next president is a Democrat, he will be the oldest ever to take the oath of office. The unprecedented age of the commander-in-chief will scramble conventional expectations of physical stamina, mental acuity and life expectancy. This is America's senior moment.

If Super Tuesday is a trend, the most likely candidate to face U.S. President Donald Trump is Joe Biden, 77, known for his lapses and gaffes. (Earlier this week, trying to quote the U.S. Constitution, Mr. Biden stumbled over some words and said "you know, the thing.")

The greying of the president will bring new respect to the vice-presidency. It will sharply elevate the office. With the president older than ever before, the VP will be more important than ever before.

This in itself is a sea change. Until the late 20th century, the office was belittled, a consolation prize. Friends were shocked when Lyndon Johnson, the "Master of the Senate," agreed to run with John F. Kennedy in 1960. Nelson Rockefeller called the job "stand-by equipment" long before he took it under Gerald Ford. John Nance Garner, Franklin D. Roosevelt's unhappy No. 2 for two terms, said the office wasn't "worth a bucket of warm spit." Satirist Tom Lehrer sang of LBJ's diminished vice-president, Hubert Humphrey: "What ever became of Hubert?"

That has changed, as presidents have shared duties with their vice-presidents over the past quarter-century. As the cliché says, he or she is only a heartbeat away from the presidency. That didn't matter much when the president was young and healthy. But what if the president is old with a troublesome heart, such as Bernie Sanders?

Actuarially, the chances of the next president dying in office are higher for Mr. Sanders (78) and Mr. Biden than they are for Elizabeth Warren (70), Amy Klobuchar (59), Kamala Harris (55) and Pete Buttigieg (38), all of whom are now vice-presidential prospects.

Mr. Trump, for his part, is 73. He and his challengers will be almost a year older on Inauguration Day next January.

Expect the choice of running mate to become an issue among Democrats as the race moves to their convention in July. It increasingly makes sense for the candidates to announce their running mates before the convention, as Republican Ronald Reagan did in 1976.

First, an announcement will make a splash, giving voters a sense of who may well be president imminently beyond the top of the ticket. It is an early measure of a candidate's judgment.

Second, it will establish a balance of sex, race, ethnicity, ideology and geography on the ticket. Since the Democratic candidate will be a man, he will probably want to run with a woman. Both will consider someone who is a visible minority – African-American or Hispanic.

They may consider choosing a Midwesterner to help reclaim Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, which went Republican in 2016. Philosophically, a moderate nominee might want a progressive running mate, with the reverse for a progressive nominee. A younger running mate brings youth, glamour and vigour to the ticket.

Third, choosing a running mate will ensure a division of labour. A presidential campaign is a marathon, and these folks are old. For Mr. Biden, markedly unsteady, a running mate would offer relief from an enervating campaign and share his unrelenting scrutiny. This is why he should ask Ms. Harris of California to run with him. She is of mixed race, a fierce competitor and a former prosecutor. Mr. Sanders might name Ms. Klobuchar, although she has already endorsed Mr. Biden and may be too moderate for him.

The vice-presidency this time will be quite a prize. Given the prospect of the president dying or retiring early, it is a more likely stepping stone to the White House, as the office has been for 14 of 45 presidents. There's a good chance of succeeding the boss.

The next vice-president may well come to power on the death of the president, caused by illness. This was the story of John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Calvin Coolidge and Harry Truman. Or it might be that he or she is elected, such as John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Van Buren, Richard Nixon (eventually) and George H.W. Bush.

Here's the deal, as Mr. Biden says: Given the advanced age of the next president, your successor won't necessarily have to wait two terms. These prospective presidents are so old that none may serve longer than four years. To admit that now would make them a lame duck, but the possibility is deadly serious.

With the average lifespan of Americans in the mid-to-upper 70s, either one of the two remaining Democrats will be in that zone in his first term. So will Mr. Trump, if he is re-elected, in his second term.

This is the reality of America's new gerontocracy in 2020. The once-scorned, much-maligned vice-presidency has never looked so good.

FILM FRIDAY

REVIEWS | OPINION | PUZZLES | WEATHER

Damian Lewis stars as Rob Ford in Run This Town, but his fat suit is an impediment to his craft. His face can't slacken when he's stoned, or tighten with anger. He can convey only two things: 'sweaty' and 'lumbering.'

You can't fight city hall

For a movie that centres on writers and spin doctors, the storytelling here is way off, and the less said about Lewis's Ford, the better

JOHANNA SCHNELLER

OPINION

Run This Town
CLASSIFICATION: R; 93 MINUTES

Written and directed by Ricky Tollman
Starring Ben Platt, Mena Massoud, Nina Dobrev and Damian Lewis
★

Yeah, it's not good. Writer/director Ricky Tollman has turned the true story of Rob Ford's crack video into a fake *cris du coeur* for millennials. The scandals of the late Toronto mayor are now just background; the plot focuses on the tribulations of three twentysomethings itching to break into journalism and politics, but disheartened that there's no room for them. Or perhaps they are quietly, day-to-day running journalism and politics, yet getting no credit for it. The movie wants to have it both ways, but proves neither. And that's only one of its problems.

The story should be simple: Bram (Ben Platt), a cub reporter at The Record, a fictional Toronto newspaper, is sick of writing listicals like "Best Brunch in the City." One day – is it a year into his tenure? The chronology of the film is so unclear, I couldn't tell – he answers the phone and gets a tip that Ford (Damian Lewis, unrecognizable in ill-constructed prosthetics) is palling around with drug dealers. We follow Bram's start-stop efforts to get the story.

Meanwhile, over at City Hall, smart political aides Kamal (Mena Massoud) and Ashley (Nina Dobrev) are trying to keep the mayor's office functioning despite their increasingly unstable boss. But how loyal should they be to a job that requires lies and sanctions abuse?

For a movie about writers and spin doctors, however, the storytelling here is way off. Scenes that should be quick are stretched thin; scenes that should dive deep stay shallow. Over and over again, Tollman builds the action toward a moment, and then cuts away before the moment comes, killing his own momentum. None of this adds suspense. It adds frustration. In mid-film, a flashback structure is introduced – to serve one scene, it turns out, the climactic one. But the chosen climax, a job interview, is so misjudged, it elicits snorts of derision.

> Scenes that should be quick are stretched thin; scenes that should dive deep stay shallow.

If Tollman's point here is that this generation deserves more respect, he should have crafted characters that earn some. Bram, we're told, won the big prize at a prestigious journalism school. So why doesn't he know the first thing about how to report a story? We're told he's a good writer, but we see only haplessness. Instead of rooting for him, we're infuriated by him at every turn.

On top of that, Tollman gets journalism itself spectacularly wrong. Bram's editor David (Scott Speedman) has zero news instincts, and he offers Bram no guidance – which he certainly would, if only to protect his own backside. David's boss Judith (Jennifer Ehle) actively discourages hot stories at the news meeting. (As if!) And physically, The Record appears to be built on a wormhole in time, because its printing plant is on site. (Hello, 1980s.)

The City Hall characters fare slightly better, once you get past the teeth-grinder of an opening scene, where they swill beers during a late-night strategy session.

The dialogue sounds like bad homework from a class called You, Too, Can Be Aaron Sorkin: "It is my turn to speak." "Now I will counter what you said." "Yet I disagree with you both!"

Massoud creates some genuine empathy for Kamal (which, in one of the film's few nice touches, Ford pronounces as Camel), a child of immigrants who's living the Canadian dream, albeit by enabling an anti-immigrant mayor. The best scene belongs to Dobrev, when Ford sexually harasses Ashley (based on real-life allegations that led to Ford's appalling remark, "I've got more than enough to eat at home"). The scene works not only because we feel how frightening and humiliating sexual harassment is, but also because it's the only scene that's credibly written, well paced and builds to a proper crescendo.

As for Lewis's Ford, the less said the better. Normally a fine actor, he's played great characters all over Peak TV, from his breakthrough in *Band of Brothers* to Brody in *Homeland*, Henry VIII in *Wolf Hall* and Bobby Axelrod in *Billions*. But here, he speaks in a Hoser accent from – well, from the days that newspaper printing plants were on site. And apologies to the makeup department, but his prosthetics are dreadful.

Ford had a small, roundish head; Lewis looks like he's wearing a pink cement block on his neck. You are never unaware of his makeup; it doesn't recede, the way Gary Oldman's eventually did when he played Winston Churchill in *Darkest Hour*. You cannot look at Lewis and see "Ford." You see only "Latex." (Or Mike Myers as Fat Bastard in *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*.)

Buried beneath that much plastic, Lewis can't serve even the basic demands of the script: His face can't slacken when he's stoned, for example, or tighten with anger. He can convey only two things: "sweaty" and "lumbering."

Ford's story could not be timelier – the #MeToo movement has kick-started an examination of the culture of complicity around all types of abusers of power. It should have made a riveting movie. But like Lewis's makeup, its good intentions got buried under layers of dreck.

Run This Town opens March 6.

The rich seam of fast fashion

NATHALIE ATKINSON

REVIEW

Greed
CLASSIFICATION: 14A; 104 MINS

Written and directed by Michael Winterbottom
Starring Steve Coogan, Isla Fisher and David Mitchell
★★★

Filmmaker Michael Winterbottom has a knack for choosing the storytelling mode that best suits his material – in *Greed*'s case, it's a rhizomatic structure as complex as the sprawling economic shell game it explains. As it follows the exploits of self-made retail billionaire Sir Richard McCreadie (Steve Coogan) leading up to his *Gladiator*-themed birthday party, the satire dissects the way layers of glamour, capitalism, vanity and celebrity interconnect and maintain the fast-fashion supply-chain's garment worker exploitation.

The main framing device is a countdown, with flashback biography, semi-documentary scenes, industry facts and financial concept explainers, all folded in with dryly clever comedic elements.

Greed's antihero is known as "Rich" to his intimates and his surname earns him the moniker "greedy McCreadie."

It's not subtle stuff, but then, investigative journalism, censure, documentary exposés and empathy haven't worked so far to cure our rapacious fast-fashion appetite – so why not a movie?

A movie as polemic, to be sure, but the structural gambit works and it's far more entertaining than you'd expect from the subject matter.

And it brings about a great moment of schadenfreude through a literal riff on the concept of the invisible hand of the market.

As Gordon Gekko would say, *Greed* is good.

Special to The Globe and Mail

Greed opens March 6.

From James Bond to bust: How the coronavirus might change the film business

BARRY HERTZ

SCREEN TIME

It is a very good time to be Netflix. Sure, the streaming giant is carrying billions of dollars in debt, faces new rivals armed with more fully stocked intellectual-property arsenals and lower price points, and possesses an Oscar trophy case that remains sparsely populated. But with the coronavirus spooking the global film industry in new and terrifying ways every day, it is not hard to imagine that just that many more moviegoers will decide to avoid the multiplex this year, and wait out the outbreak by bingeing *Love Is Blind*. COVID-19 may not be Netflix's ultimate saviour, but it just might kill the traditional movie business as we know it.

First, the obvious: Of course the coronavirus situation is a serious one that should not be discussed lightly. And any impact that the outbreak might have on any industry – from education to hospitality to travel to entertainment – cannot eclipse the threat that it poses to health and safety, with more than 3,000 people already dead. But as Hollywood goes, so goes the rest of the world; the ripple effects of a film-festival cancellation, a movie premiere-date delay or a dip in box-office sales are huge in both economic and cultural terms, and deserve discussion. The traditional theatrical market has had a target on its back for years now – thanks to the advent of streaming and the paucity of genuine studio-pipeline ingenuity – and a public-health scare could be a potentially fatal blow to an already vulnerable industry.

Already, COVID-19 has shocked the film business in unexpected and unprecedented ways. In January, China cancelled several high-profile film releases, even though the Lunar New Year holiday is the country's biggest and most profitable time period for new releases. (In a move that would have seemed preposterous just a year earlier, the Chinese distributor of the likely blockbuster *Lost in Russia* announced that the film would be available online for free instead; it received 600-million views in three days.) A month later, Disney revealed that it would not release its live-action version of *Mulan* in China on March 27, the same date that it was scheduled to open internationally (a new China release has yet to be set).

> The ripple effects of a film-festival cancellation, a movie premiere-date delay or a dip in box-office sales are huge in both economic and cultural terms.

From there, it has been one shock after another, culminating with this week's announcement that *No Time to Die*, the new James Bond film starring Daniel Craig, would abandon its early April global release in favour of a debut later this fall. While the move might initially seem like fodder for a few good-but-bad jokes – "So, when is the best time to die, then, Mr. Bond?" – the development marks the first major Hollywood movie to shift its release over the virus. And it will likely not be the last.

Already, there are questions as to whether the virus might also mean the cancellations of such major film events as the SXSW festival in Austin next week, the industry-crucial CinemaCon gathering in Las Vegas at the end of March (where the major U.S. studios come to unveil their glitzy 2020-21 offerings for members of the National Association of Theatre Owners), and the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in May. If those organizations decide to take a step back this year, it's not hard to imagine the Venice, Telluride or Toronto film festivals cancelling, too. In other words: The entire industry would sit 2020 out. Productions would lose critical word-of-mouth, deals wouldn't be made. Films would fall or be swallowed into a void.

And then there is the anxiety-inducing day-to-day reality that producers and movie-theatre operators already face. Total movie theatre admissions fell almost 5 per cent in 2019 compared with the year before, with North American box office down 4 per cent. Although there was a boom at the international box office last year – receipts hit an all-time high of US$42.5-billion – that figure will surely take a hit if China continues to shutter its multiplex doors and other countries follow suit.

Not helping matters is that 2020 was already looking like something of a fallow year in terms of sure-fire hits. If Hollywood is counting on the comic-book boom to see it through this year, for instance, there may be a rude awakening: There are only two Marvel movies scheduled for this year, both of them (*Black Widow* and *The Eternals*) not carrying nearly the levels of anticipation that arrived with 2019's triple threat of *Captain Marvel*, *Avengers: Endgame* and *Spider-Man: Far from Home*. One of Warner's two DC titles for 2020, meanwhile, has already disappointed (*Birds of Prey*).

And if James Bond continues to sit on the sidelines – and, say, the producers of the new *Fast & Furious* movie also decide that this spring is not the optimal time for an international publicity blitz – then things will look far more dire than any studio risk-management analyst may have expected back in the heady days of, well, three months ago.

So fire up your Netflix queue now – the service may be encountering a spike in user traffic very soon.

The new James Bond film No Time to Die, starring Daniel Craig, is abandoning its early release in April in favour of a debut in the fall. This marks the first major Hollywood film to adjust its release over the virus.

Using every cliché in the underdog sports-team playbook

Despite a few fouls in character development and predictable plot tropes, Ben Affleck delivers in the lead role

JOHANNA SCHNELLER

REVIEW

The Way Back
CLASSIFICATION: 14A; 108 MINUTES

Directed by Gavin O'Connor
Written by Brad Ingelsby
Starring Ben Affleck, Al Madrigal and Michaela Watkins
★★½

Ben Affleck, centre, gives his best performance in years as an alcoholic who becomes the coach of his former high school's basketball team.

The Way Back is not a basketball movie. It's a grief/booze/recovery movie. But it follows a familiar playbook: Our hero is down at the tip-off, up at the halftime buzzer, has a rough third quarter and then drives hard to the end – though the film dearly hopes that its big finish is not the one you expect.

Jack Cunningham (Ben Affleck), we are told many times, was a Catholic League high-school basketball god, player of the year in '93-'94 (reads the banner that dominates his former gym). Guys in his Southern California industrial neighbourhood still talk about his 47-point game. But when we meet him, he's separated from his wife, Angela (Janina Gavankar), sullen with his sister, Beth (Michaela Watkins), and pounding booze around the clock. His soap rack holds the beers he swills during his morning shower. He pours gin into his thermos at his construction job. He spends his evenings closing down the local bar.

All of this is true to life, but being true to the life of an alcoholic gets boring, since the disease involves repetitive self-destruction. The first act is slooooow.

Then out of the blue, Jack gets a phone call from his alma mater, Bishop Hayes High. Their basketball squad is flailing (enrolment down, only 10 kids on the roster, stuck in a losing streak), and now the coach is sick. Can Jack sub in and save them – and oh yes, just maybe, save himself along the way?

Things pick up in the second quarter. Jack swears a blue streak, to the chagrin of his assistant coach Dan (Al Madrigal). But the kids are receptive to his underdog philosophy – always keep pressing. Do the little things right. Play with a chip on your shoulder. Cue the "We're winning!" montage.

There are some fouls. Director Gavin O'Connor (who previously directed Affleck in *The Accountant*) distinguishes the players in only the most cursory ways: one has a father who doesn't support his hoop dreams; one is a Lothario; one is called Chubbs (he also dances funny). And what happens to all Jack's drinking? We never see him stop; there's no sweaty cold-turkey scene. But suddenly he appears able to get by fairly sober.

Until, that is, the beginning of the third quarter, when we get the big reveal, the family tragedy (a wholly legitimate one, which I won't spoil) that split Jack's marriage and sent him to the bottom of the bottle. After a party scene that's subtle but strong, Jack tells Angela, "I never stop being angry," and fair enough. Still, it's time to cue the downward spiral; Jack returns to booze, swears at a ref and gets tossed from the game, crashes his car, lands in the clink.

Throughout, Affleck does his best acting in years – charming where he can be, a jerk when the story requires it. He's handed a pair of monologues to explain his backstory, and although they're too tidy (two words: daddy issues), he finesses them. He's not playing himself in any way, but he seems to know a lot about a guy who was formerly on top, whose drinking and denial cost him his marriage and threatened a career he loves.

The film clearly wants to take Jack's advice – to chip away at home truths, to pay attention to the little things – and often it succeeds. In the fourth quarter, it pivots away from the sports-movie playbook and sets the climax off the court. It's a solid effort. There are guts here, just not quite enough glory.

Special to The Globe and Mail

The Way Back opens March 6.

Pixar's latest is a whimsical family film that packs an emotional punch

APARITA BHANDARI

REVIEW

Onward
CLASSIFICATION G; 109 MINUTES

Directed by Dan Scanlon
Written by Dan Scanlon, Jason Headley and Keith Bunin
Featuring the voices of Tom Holland, Chris Pratt and Julia Louis-Dreyfus
★★★½

At the end of Disney and Pixar's *Onward*, I was suddenly craving cheese puffs. In fact, I even bought a small bag as I headed home, pondering the movie I just saw. The snack isn't really germane to the story – just a quick plot point in the latter half of the movie. But my purchase reflects the impressive, immersive experience of this animated feature. Like other Pixar hits such as *WALL-E*, *Up*, *Monsters Inc.* and the *Toy Story* series, *Onward* is a delightful family movie that packs an emotional punch. And, as far as I was concerned, manifests itself in a physical afterthought.

Onward tells the story of teenage elf brothers Ian (Tom Holland) and Barley Lightfoot (Chris Pratt), who embark on a quest to connect with their dead father and rediscover the magic forgotten by the modern, suburban world they live in.

There's a distinctly eighties vibe to the film, both in terms of its animation and the storytelling that unfolds. This may well be because *Onward* is inspired directly by writer-director Dan Scanlon's experience of growing up with his brother, after their father died in a car accident. That personal connection of dealing with grief and bereavement clearly informs the movie. Rather than plumbing into depths of sorrow, however, it offers up lessons in life and love, as the two brothers rediscover the bond that ties them together.

As a parent of two fairly sensitive kids, who prefer to avoid scary movies, I appreciated the gentle and whimsical touch to the magical world conjured up, as well as the quick nods to *Lord of the Rings*. Another plus? No overt attempts to add jokes for the parents accompanying the children. Just a good, solid and tight script that was brought alive by all the cast members, no matter how small their part.

Go and watch the wonders of *Onward*. Just stay away from the cheese puffs afterwards.

Special to The Globe and Mail

Onward opens March 6.

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Misery loves company, and companies love misery

SARAH HAGI

REVIEW

Sorry We Missed You
CLASSIFICATION: 14A; 101 MINUTES

Directed by Ken Loach
Written by Paul Laverty
Starring Kris Hitchen, Debbie Honeywood and Rhys Stone
★★★★

Nothing appeals to people more than wanting to be their own boss. I know this, because as a freelance writer (I don't have a full-time job in my field, and likely never will), it's the No. 1 comment that I get when explaining my daily life. Only, the reality of self-employment is far from how it's dreamed when it's not out of choice, but desperation.

Sorry We Missed You examines the world of predatory zero-hour contracts, and how the new normal of precarious employment through the gig economy can destroy an otherwise solid family. Frequent collaborators screenwriter Paul Laverty and director Ken Loach follow up their 2016 Palme d'Or winner *I, Daniel Blake* with a story that is so of the moment, it will be looked back on as the first of its kind to tackle the dangers of how the gig economy preys upon society's most vulnerable.

Sorry We Missed You follows the Murphy family as they try to rebuild their life in Britain after the 2008 recession. Patriarch Ricky finds the opportunity to become a self-employed delivery driver – which is when everything goes downhill. His wife, Abbie, a home-care nurse, sells their family car to afford Ricky's van rental. With the promise that this is all necessary for Ricky to rake in cash and dig the family out of debt, it's a sacrifice that Abbie is willing to make – even if it means taking buses across town, which will mean longer days. Both parents working as hard as they can, their children, a teen son Seb and tween daughter Liza Jane, fall to the wayside. Seb pushes his parents through rebelling the way many teens do, but without parental supervision the problems and consequences become more severe than they should.

We see both Ricky and Abbie work until they can barely stay awake, or see each other, to make ends meet and the toll it takes on their otherwise loving marriage. Both their jobs become increasingly taxing, and the family runs into problems they've never encountered and are not equipped to deal with. *Sorry We Missed You* is not an easy movie to sit through. Much like its predecessor *I, Daniel Blake*, the entire film is deeply affecting – I watched most of it through tears. We see this family sink further into despair and fall apart, not because of a lack of love, understanding or communication – but because of a system that disenfranchises the poor and destroys their lives. Because this film is so rooted in real experiences of delivery drivers and gig workers (and because it's made by Loach) you know to not expect much joy at all. But because the director weaves in enough scenes to show how deeply this family cares for one another, it never feels voyeuristic in its sadness but true to reality. This isn't about emotional manipulation or poverty porn, it's about showing a family as a whole.

Loach, now 83, has been making political films since 1967. It would be easy to assume he might lose his touch over the course of 50 years, or not understand the everyday life of the working class, but *Sorry We Missed You* almost feels too real. If you've shopped online and have opted for same-day delivery or if you've used a ride-sharing app, it's almost impossible to watch the film and not feel a veil lifting, even though the evil of these companies is no secret. The viewer has little choice but to reckon with how they participate in a system that only works for the customer through the exploitation of someone else.

Sorry We Missed You is enough to radicalize anyone into questioning and understanding the toll the gig economy takes – and how the myth of bootstrapping traps so many into thinking that working as hard as you can is enough to overcome the worst of capitalism.

Special to The Globe and Mail

Sorry We Missed You opens March 6.

FIRST PERSON

SHINING A LIGHT

ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL WADA

My daughter's awakening to gender politics recalled my own experiences with inequality and toxic men, **Cella Olmstead** writes. But she needed to know that men are just as capable of decency as they are disappointment

My daughter arrived home from her first term at university, armed with a new awareness of gender politics. Although well meaning, her orientation sessions in equity and inclusivity revealed an unseemly side to education that she must have thought belonged to another era or culture. She sat at the end of the couch one afternoon, scrolling through personal accounts of sexual harassment on university campuses, then clicking on links that detailed each testimonial. I pretended to be immersed in my own reading, avoiding eye contact and silently formulating responses to questions that I knew were forthcoming.

I could start with my mother, who dreamed of going to university but knew the money her parents were saving was reserved for her brother's education. Or my grandmother, an astute and savvy businesswoman, who watched everything transfer to her less capable husband when they were married. My great grandmother's story is the reason we both are here. She was left on the birthing bed to die when the doctor, understandably, focused on saving her twin brother. The midwife stepped in, giving my great grandmother the opportunity to outlive her brother by decades, and for her descendants to outnumber his progeny by dozens.

My own experiences pale in comparison. An elementary teacher who assured me that my success in math was fleeting: The boys would soon catch up and, by implication, surpass me. A summer job denied, despite acknowledgement that my qualifications were superior, because "we need a boy in case something goes wrong." The pattern became familiar when I assembled a bike in half the time it took three male applicants, then fumed as they were offered higher-paying jobs in repairs, while I was assigned to selling clothes. Eventually, I supported my studies serving liquid lunches to businessmen. That deserves another story. At graduate school I wondered, but dared not ask, why so few female professors had children. I was outraged when a biotechnology company invited all the male students for a lavish recruiting dinner and didn't include me. And once, at a conference, I thought I was getting a great job offer from an international researcher until I realized that he wanted to discuss the final details in his hotel room. Most memorably, only three months into graduate school, I trudged over the mountain on a snowy morning in Montreal, then stood in the cold for hours, honouring the 14 students who were killed, just because they were women.

Even as these stories ran through my mind, I knew they were incomplete. I also wanted my daughter to hear the smaller details, the ones that will give her a broader perspective and help her to navigate a future that is likely to wind through these paths.

She should know about my male friends at university who willingly sought my advice on statistics (they still hadn't caught up) or my undergraduate adviser who never lost an opportunity to promote my career, even a decade into his retirement. My graduate supervisor modelled an idyllic work/life balance with his extraordinary devotion to his children and repeated insistence that a PhD schedule was flexible enough to accommodate my long-distance relationship. My grad-student colleagues made long hours in the lab feel like home, even as they adjusted to a different type of family member. They gave up coveted space in a shared office so I had privacy to change after running workouts. They regularly moved my lab equipment, without comment, knowing that I couldn't lift it. As I joined them for lunches, they ventured to new cafés with vegetarian options. When I realized I was being followed home after late nights in the lab, they modified their work schedules so I wasn't walking alone. I knew intuitively that these gestures were not driven by chivalry or political correctness. They were simple acts by decent people who cared about their friend.

> I knew intuitively that these gestures were not driven by chivalry or political correctness. They were simple acts by decent people who cared about their friend.

My postdoc lab was full of women and run by men. They took us to meet their wives, also scientists, and their daughters, future scientists. In grooming us for job interviews, these mentors assured us that no one had the right to ask questions about our personal lives, then prompted us with answers, knowing we would get asked anyway.

New challenges arose for me as a young faculty member, but it was my male colleague who stood up to the administration, refusing to accept a teaching schedule that would have put me in an impossible situation after a maternity leave. When I wanted room for a playpen at work, a senior professor insisted that I switch into his larger office. Another, long retired but still on campus, spent hours with a baby sleeping in his office or bouncing on his knee while I worked frantically to submit grants or mark papers.

Maybe I could remind my daughter about the first man in her life, although she has heard the details many times. Having never touched a baby until the midwife placed one in his arms, her father stepped up to parental leave and quickly became the primary caretaker in our house. Against all odds, we adapted to a new normal, learning that babies can live for days with mushed banana in their hair, that napping is sleeping regardless of where it occurs and that it is virtually impossible for children to overdose on pasta.

As I sensed my daughter's growing agitation, I shifted position on the couch, purposefully invading her personal space until she was forced to look up. In that instant, I was reminded of the years of parenting when my primary goal was to convince her that the world is magical, with new wonders and opportunities behind every door. I still see hints of that childhood joy in her adult eyes, so I jump in before she has the opportunity to ask the first question.

"I have something to tell you," I begin. "It's about simple acts by decent people."

Cella Olmstead lives in Kingston.

First Person is a daily personal piece submitted by readers

Have a story to tell? Please see the guidelines on our website **tgam.ca/essayguide**, and e-mail it to **firstperson@globeandmail.com**

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WORLD FORECAST

	TODAY	SAT.	SUN.
AMSTERDAM	8/2R	9/6PC	10/5R
ATHENS	14/12PC	17/13PC	16/10PC
BANGKOK	32/27T	34/27PC	37/27S
BEIJING	11/2R	14/1S	12/6C
BERLIN	10/4R	6/0R	10/5PC
BRUSSELS	8/2R	9/4PC	11/4R
COPENHAGEN	5/3R	5/0R	6/5C
FRANKFURT	7/2R	6/0R	9/5C
HONG KONG	19/17PC	21/19PC	22/20R
JERUSALEM	12/8R	13/8R	19/12S
LAS VEGAS	26/13PC	22/11S	20/11S
LONDON	10/3PC	11/10PC	12/6R
LOS ANGELES	25/14PC	18/14PC	19/14R
MADRID	11/4PC	15/4PC	16/7PC
MIAMI BEACH	28/15R	20/19PC	21/20C
MOSCOW	9/4C	9/6R	11/6R
NEW DELHI	21/13T	22/14PC	25/14S
NEW YORK	8/0R	7/-1PC	12/5S
NICE	15/7PC	16/7S	15/8PC
ORLANDO	24/8PC	17/10S	22/14PC
PARIS	10/2PC	10/7R	12/5R
PHOENIX	30/17PC	29/16PC	23/13PC
ROME	15/5R	15/4R	16/1R
SAN FRANCISCO	12/8R	9/7R	10/9C
SEOUL	7/0PC	11/0R	16/3S
SINGAPORE	29/25T	28/25T	29/26T
SYDNEY	28/20R	23/19R	23/19R
TOKYO	13/5S	10/7R	13/6C
WASHINGTON	10/2R	10/1S	16/5S

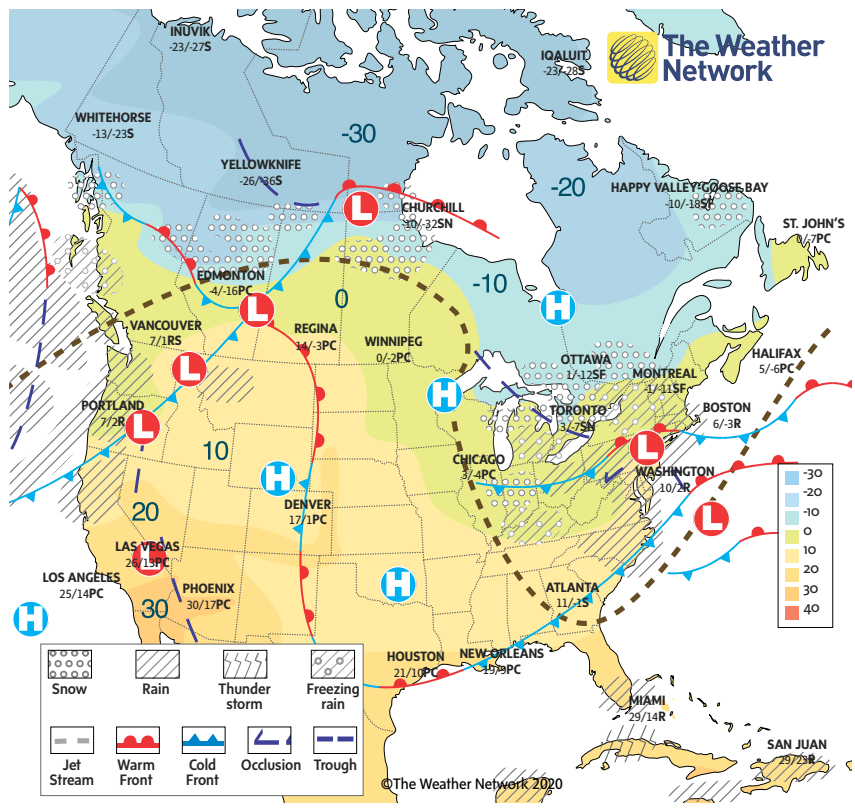
LEGEND

Daytime high, overnight low, and conditions

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

NATIONAL FORECAST

	TODAY	SAT.	SUN.
BANFF	1/-9SN	-8/-14SN	-4/-15SF
BARRIE	2/-13SN	2/-4PC	9/4PC
BRANDON	4/-3S	1/-12FG	-12/-22SF
CALGARY	6/-10S	-9/-18SN	-6/-15PC
CHARLOTTETOWN	-4/-9PC	-8/-10PC	-2/-8PC
CHICOUTIMI	-6/-16PC	-8/-12S	-1/-9SF
CHURCHILL	-10/-32SN	-30/-35S	-29/-37S
CORNER BROOK	-5/-11C	-5/-11PC	-4/-13PC
CORNWALL	0/-12SF	0/-5S	6/1PC
EDMONTON	-4/-16PC	-13/-17SF	-11/-17PC
HALIFAX	5/-6PC	-4/-8C	6/-2PC
HAMILTON	2/-8SN	4/-3S	9/6S
HUNTSVILLE	-1/-14SF	-2/-5PC	6/1PC
IQALUIT	-23/-28S	-18/-19SF	-19/-27PC
JASPER	-1/-10SF	-7/-16SN	-4/-15PC
KELOWNA	7/-1R	5/-7SN	5/-8PC
KINGSTON	3/-8RS	0/-2S	5/2PC
LONDON	2/-8SF	3/-2S	10/6S
MONTREAL	-1/-11SF	-2/-6S	4/-1PC
NIAGARA FALLS	3/-6RS	1/-3S	9/6S
NORTH BAY	-4/-14SF	-3/-6PC	4/-4PC
OTTAWA	1/-12SF	-1/-5S	6/0PC
PRINCE GEORGE	2/-12S	-2/-18PC	0/-12PC
PETERBOROUGH	2/-13SN	2/-4S	7/3PC
QUEBEC	-2/-13PC	-3/-8S	2/-4PC
REGINA	14/-3PC	2/-12SF	-9/-16SF
SASKATOON	7/-9PC	-8/-17SN	-14/-23SF
SAULT S. M.	-2/-9PC	2/-1PC	6/0PC
SAINT JOHN	2/-8PC	-2/-8PC	3/-1PC
SEPT-ÎLES	-6/-14S	-5/-8S	-2/-16SF
ST. JOHN'S	0/-7PC	-4/-5SN	-2/-5SF
SUDBURY	-3/-14SF	-1/-5PC	5/-5PC
THUNDER BAY	-1/-7S	6/-3PC	-2/-13SF
THOMPSON	1/-21SF	-19/-29PC	-21/-26PC
TORONTO	3/-7SN	1/-2PC	9/4S
VAL D'OR	-6/-16PC	-4/-7SF	-3/-11SF
VANCOUVER	7/1RS	6/-1RS	7/-1PC
VICTORIA	6/2R	7/2PC	6/2PC
WHISTLER	2/-7SF	1/-8SN	1/-8PC
WHITEHORSE	-13/-23S	-11/-16PC	-5/-11C
WINNIPEG	0/-2PC	2/-7FG	-7/-17SF
YELLLOWKNIFE	-26/-36S	-26/-30S	-22/-25PC



BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

Your partner opens One Diamond, and the next player doubles. Both sides are vulnerable. What action would you take with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ KJ863 ♥ AQ97 ♦ Q5 ♣ 84
2. ♠ K74 ♥ Q64 ♦ 873 ♣ QJ62
3. ♠ 52 ♥ KJ873 ♦ A9642 ♣ 7
4. ♠ KJ96 ♥ Q852 ♦ J ♣ 9863

1. Redouble. Action over a takeout double takes one of three forms. A pass normally indicates a poor hand, or one where there is no particular reason to bid; bidding a new suit shows a hand between five and nine high-card points where it seems desirable to mention the suit; a redouble announces a hand containing at least 10 high-card points.

The redoubler says nothing about the distributional nature of the responder's hand. The redouble may or may not have support for opener's suit. One possibility is the best result may be achieved by doubling the opponents when they remove the redouble to another contract.

For this reason, the opening bidder usually passes at his next turn to allow the redoubler to double whatever suit the opponents name. In the given case, you plan to double either one heart or one spade at your next turn, and to bid two spades (forcing) if the opposition bids clubs.

2. One notrump. You should apprise partner of your high-card strength and balanced distribution at this point. If you don't, it may become awkward later on for you to enter the bidding conveniently. One notrump informs partner that you have scattered values and allows him to compete as his hand dictates. The notrump bid over the double shows six to nine high-card points.

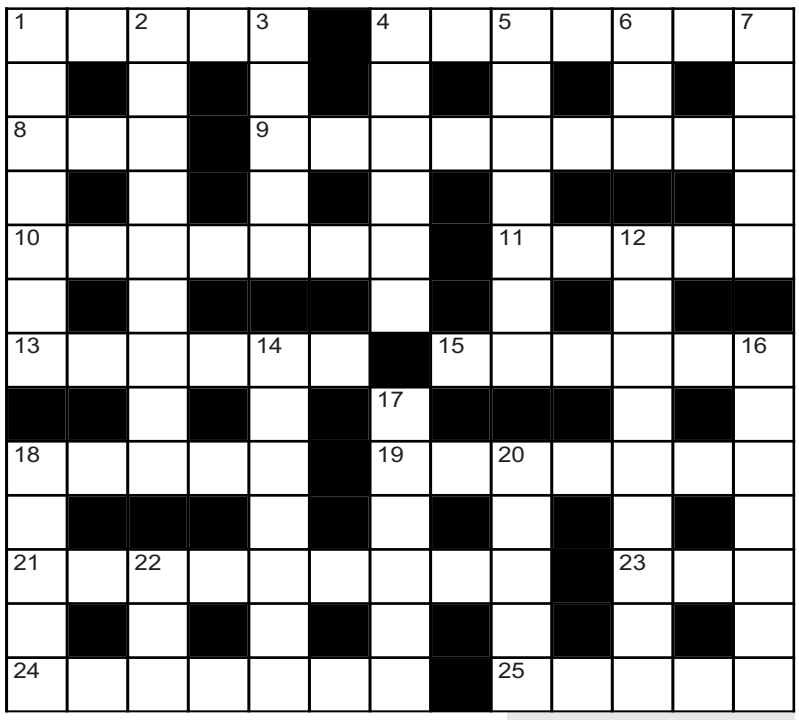
3. One heart. With distribution, your hand is worth at least 10 points, but distributional points are not included in a redouble. As to which suit to bid, it is more advisable to bid hearts now and show your diamond support later, since you would prefer to end up in hearts if partner can support that suit.

Given your shortness in the black suits, the bidding is likely to become spirited, and your side will be better placed if you get your heart suit in now before supporting diamonds later.

4. Pass. There is no need to panic because of your singleton diamond. The odds are very good that the next player will respond to his partner's double by bidding a suit or one notrump. Even if he passes instead, expecting to defeat one diamond doubled, your partner still has a chance to rescue himself if he is unhappy with that contract.

A one-notrump bid would be incorrect, as it would serve to rescue the opposition, who are likely to wind up playing in one of your suits.

CHALLENGE CROSSWORD



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS
1 Return works of deception (5)
4 Stop a girl working behind the bar (7)
8 Spirit shown by rebel fighters (3)
9 The canter adjusted for a jump (9)
10 A lot I've to disturb and disrupt (7)
11 Gems in a ring belonging to a friend (5)
13 Games left on board (6)
15 Insult by leaving on purpose (6)
18 Peru's new money (5)
19 Girl I took on for a job (7)
21 A worker on a plane? (9)
23 It's very cold when I go to church (3)
24 Survey the whole lot with a girl (7)
25 Mother and her boy in the building trade (5)

DOWN
1 Bundles to haul on board (7)
2 Blue and not feeling well (3-6)
3 Girl fared badly (5)
4 Swimmer out of breath (6)
5 Say something quickly and stagger away (4,3)
6 Refuse to observe a request for silence (3)
7 Fruit goes out of fashion (5)
12 Drinks for parties, if stirred (9)
14 There's a girl's name put together here (7)
16 Prison for a debt-collector who has gone wrong (7)
17 In which to find a forger's block (6)
18 Quietly acts on agreements (5)
20 Pushing forwards (5)
22 Batter with butter (3)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS
1 Get aboard in time (5)
4 Local form of language (7)
8 Decay (3)
9 Whatever happens (2,3,4)
10 To function (7)
11 Low-key (5)
13 Turbulent (6)
15 Joyous (6)
18 Absolute (5)
19 Investigate thoroughly (7)
21 Hopeless enterprise (4,5)
23 A popular beverage (3)
24 Disapprove of strongly (7)
25 Crash-land in sea (5)

DOWN
1 Eager to know (7)
2 Prominent (2,3,4)
3 Chief port of Israel (5)
4 To numb (6)
5 Profound (7)
6 Historical period (3)
7 A woollen cloth (5)
12 Retaliation (3,3,3)
14 North African country (7)
16 Bunkum (7)
17 Sumptuous (2,4)
18 Unanimous (5)
20 Offer as excuse (5)
22 Deplete (3)

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

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

3/6

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

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KENKEN

15×		2÷		5−	
	2	1−		12+	
2÷	3÷	4	2÷		
		5−	3−	9+	
120×				2	
	2÷		1	2÷	

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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YESTERDAY'S CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1 Confiscate, 8 Cater, 9 Raiment, 10 Naivety, 11 Asset, 12 In situ, 14 Bolero, 17 Titan, 19 Implore, 21 Obeying, 22 Nails, 23 Hand-in-hand.
DOWN: 2 Obtains, 3 Force, 4 Strays, 5 Agitato, 6 Evens, 7 Stationers, 8 Conviction, 13 Tension, 15 Erosion, 16 Nilgai, 18 Teeth, 20 Punch.

YESTERDAY'S QUICK
ACROSS: 1 Bull-headed, 8 Realm, 9 Revival, 10 Moisten, 11 Lilac, 12 Homage, 14 Leaves, 17 Comma, 19 Reverse, 21 Lincoln, 22 Group, 23 Horse sense.
DOWN: 2 Uranium, 3 Limit, 4 Errant, 5 Divulge, 6 Devil, 7 Black sheep, 8 Ramshackle, 13 Glamour, 15 Various, 16 Fringe, 18 Munch, 20 Vague.

The real reason Warren dropped out

Once again, we're reminded that the spaces of power were not designed for women, queer people or people of colour

JOHANNA SCHNELLER

OPINION

I'm not going to feign impartiality here: I am heartbroken that Elizabeth Warren has dropped out of the U.S. Democratic primary race. Once again, a highly intelligent, qualified, organized, thoughtful, empathetic candidate couldn't get traction with American voters – in large part because she is a woman. Let's not pretend otherwise.

Democrats – I am one, a U.S. citizen who votes in Pennsylvania – insist they want the opposite of Donald Trump. No one is more opposite to an ill-informed, lazy, petulant, divisive, underqualified liar than Ms. Warren. So what stopped voters from embracing her? They call it caution: "Yes," goes the conversation I've had dozens of times with dozens of people in the past dozen months, "it would be great to vote for my ideal candidate, but Trump is so dangerous, we must elect the practical candidate, the person who can beat him, and I just don't think Warren can."

Pressed on why that is, they mumble. She's too schoolmarmish, too lecture-y. Those voters on the fence, they won't tip for her. A female candidate is "just too risky right now," for this make-or-break election.

Meanwhile, the two men who defeated her are the embodiment of shouty, and of risky. To impersonate Joe Biden, Stephen Colbert puts on a pair of aviator sunglasses, tips his head back and YELLS. To do Bernie Sanders, Larry David hunches over, waves his arms, and YELLS. To do Ms. Warren, Kate McKinnon bounds around energetically and whispers. But somehow Ms. Warren is the one who's too strident.

As for risky, the people I've been talking to admit their fears: that Mr. Biden is too bland, too middle-of-the-road to appeal to young voters; that Mr. Sanders is too divisive, too polarizing to attract the former Trumpers suffering from buyers' remorse. But they consider those acceptable risks. We must be honest about why that is.

Full confession: I considered not voting for Ms. Warren, too. For a moment there, I thought I would have to go for Michael Bloomberg. I didn't like it, I'd hold my nose. But I had to think about those nervous white men in the middle, the disillusioned Republicans, the swayable Independents. What would reassure them? What would make them feel comfortable?

Then in the most recent debate, Ms. Warren assailed Mr. Bloomberg, and shook me out of my fugue state. She called him out on his specific practices, his specific ethos. She critiqued things he had done and explained clearly why they were not acceptable. I actually blushed with chagrin. The ways I've been conditioned to put men's needs first! The things I am willing to forgive powerful men for! And if I've internalized the patriarchy to that degree, everyone has.

The spaces of power – the boardrooms and government offices – were not designed for women or queer people, or people of colour. They're not set up for our needs. Some of us get in there by accommodating, by contorting ourselves, by lying low or going high, by pretending we don't notice that we're being looked through or talked over.

Ms. Warren didn't pretend to be less than she is. She is smart. She is organized. She does know what she's talking about. She believes we should listen to her. She knows she's right about a lot of things, and she doesn't apologize for it. That threatens, consciously or unconsciously, the public's comfort level. People love Mr. Sanders's authenticity, and Mr. Biden's. Ms. Warren's authenticity, however – it's just a bit too much.

In the days just before Super Tuesday, as Amy Klobuchar and Pete Buttigeig dropped out and endorsed Mr. Biden, my Twitter feed filled with last-ditch pleas, including an exceptional, long thread by American activist Charlotte Clymer that laid out Ms. Warren's history of being smart, qualified and correct. These pleas made a strong case that Ms. Warren was the candidate most able to create a coalition; the one with a clear platform and plans; the one who could affect the kind of changes the Democrats keep saying the United States desperately needs. Now she's the one who was pushed aside. Again.

If we keep cutting and running from female candidates at the last minute, we'll never get the leaders we want. We'll just keep getting the ones we deserve.

Special to The Globe and Mail

The Syncrude Canada plant near Fort McMurray, Alta., is seen from the air in 2015. Alberta has a 100-megaton cap on oil sands emissions, but no regulations to enforce it. IAN WILLMS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tax: Alberta seeks to retain control over industrial carbon pricing without interference from Ottawa

FROM A1

Alberta Environment Minister Jason Nixon wasn't available for an interview, but his spokeswoman, Jess Sinclair, said in a statement that the province wants to ensure it retains control over its industrial carbon-pricing system without interference from the federal government.

Federal Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson's press secretary, Moira Kelly, said in a statement that the government had not received a formal proposal from Alberta about its carbon-pricing plans, but nonetheless welcomed the news.

"We are pleased to see that the Alberta government is willing to put a price on industrial pollution, as it is an important tool to drive innovation forward to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," the statement said.

Alberta has had various forms of carbon pricing on its emissions-heavy oil sector since 2007, and Mr. Kenney campaigned on the TIER system ahead of last year's provincial election.

Dale Beugin, vice-president of research at the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices, said Alberta's decision to increase the TIER rate is an endorsement of the national climate plan.

"We know climate policy has to get more stringent all across the country over time, and the way to do that is to gradually increase stringency, whether it's the price of carbon or the aggressiveness of regulation," Mr. Beugin said.

"This feels like a step in exactly that direction."

Chris Severson-Baker, of the Pembina Institute, agreed that the planned increases are positive, though he said $50 a tonne, whether at the federal or provincial level, will not be enough.

The federal carbon-pricing plan for industry applies in Ontario, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nunavut, Yukon and two sectors in Saskatchewan. The federal consumer tax on gasoline and other fuels is in place in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Manitoba, Yukon, Nunavut and New Brunswick.

The Manitoba government announced Thursday that it would implement a carbon tax of $25 a tonne on consumers and industry. The price will fall short of the federal requirements, leaving it an open question whether Ottawa will insist on keeping its own tax in the province.

Alberta's decision to adopt the federal price increases follows nearly a year of conflict between Mr. Kenney's government and Ottawa over climate policy.

In addition to the carbon-tax court case, Mr. Kenney has also filed a challenge of federal environmental legislation that overhauled the environmental assessment system and banned oil tanker traffic off the B.C. coast.

As well, Alberta has a 100-megaton cap on oil sands emissions, put in place by the previous NDP government, but no regulations to enforce it. The Kenney government signalled it would be willing to introduce regulations as the issue became a potential sticking point for Teck Resource's Ltd.'s proposed Frontier oil sands mine before the company abruptly shelved the project last week.

When Teck announced that it had withdrawn its application for the project, CEO Don Lindsay told the federal Environment Minister in a letter that the decision was driven in part by the lack of a "framework in place that reconciles resource development and climate change." Mr. Lindsay also reiterated his support for carbon pricing and emissions caps.

Alberta and Ottawa are also negotiating an equivalency agreement for the regulation of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that can leak into the atmosphere during natural-gas extraction and processing. The two governments disagree on whether the province's rules are stringent enough, but the federal government agreed not to enforce its rules during those negotiations.

Abduction: Witnesses say they saw teen calling for help while being forced into car

FROM A1

Earlier on Thursday, police discovered the burned-out remnants of a black Jeep Wrangler identical to the vehicle the teen was seen being forced into on Wednesday morning.

Witnesses told police they saw a teen boy yelling, "Help me, help me," as two or three people forced him into a Jeep Wrangler around 8:30 a.m. Police received a report of "unknown trouble" from a witness soon after and investigated for the next nine hours without knowing the boy's identity.

Staff at Newtonbrook Secondary School missed a morning deadline to issue an automated absentee notification to Shammah's parents, Toronto District School Board spokesman Ryan Bird said. The Jolayemi family received a call at 6:09 p.m.

The board has a policy of sending notifications to parents at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. when children are absent. Four staff have been placed on "home assignment" while the board investigates why no morning call went out to the family.

Mr. Bird said his absence should have been noted in an 11 a.m. call. "For some reason it was not."

The boy's father called police at 5:30 p.m. after his son did not return from school. Once Toronto police correlated the teen's absence with the morning abduction report, they requested an Amber Alert, issued around midnight.

Toronto police released security camera footage of a black Jeep Wrangler with oversized tires and a heavy-duty off-road bumpers. They are looking for two men, between the ages of 18 and 22, who were wearing black jackets and bandanas on their heads.

News of Shammah's disappearance came as a shock to Rita Smith, who helps run an entrepreneurship program for local high-school students in which the teen has been participating since October. Ms. Smith described Shammah as an outstanding participant who never misses a class and always asks "the best questions." He is involved with other activities too, she said, including violin lessons and French immersion studies at Newtonbrook.

"He stood out in our class like a gem," she said.

The teen is about six feet tall with a slim build. At the time of his abduction, he was wearing a grey hoodie, grey track pants with a thin orange stripe, shiny black puffy coat and black-and-yellow Air Jordan shoes.

With a report from The Canadian Press

Toronto boy Shammah Jolayemi was abducted on his way to school on Wednesday, and an Amber Alert was issued later that night. THE CANADIAN PRESS/TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

Canada pushes for efforts to protect civilian aircraft over conflict zones

WASHINGTON

Canada is taking a lead role in what Transport Minister Marc Garneau said Thursday he hopes will become an international effort to better protect civilian airliners around the world from being shot down over conflict zones.

Mr. Garneau was in the U.S. capital to promote what he's calling the Strategy for Safer Skies – a Canadian-led multilateral effort to improve co-ordination, communication and intelligence-sharing between civil aviation agencies and airlines around the world.

"As a global community, we cannot add any more names to the list of lives that have been lost, of families whose lives have been turned upside down," Mr. Garneau told an audience of aviation executives, industry leaders and experts at a summit meeting hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "We must find ways to better manage civil aviation above conflict zones."

Canada has been seized with the issue ever since January, when – in the midst of Iran's ballistic-missile retaliation against Iraqi military bases housing U.S. soldiers for the targeted killing of senior Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani – a Ukraine International Airlines flight was shot out of the sky over Tehran.

Flight PS752 had been bound for Kyiv, but was laden with passengers destined for a connecting flight to Toronto, including 55 Canadian citizens, 30 permanent residents and many others with connections to Canada. All 176 people aboard perished. Iran initially denied involvement, only to admit three days after the crash that its military fired a pair of missiles at the jet, having mistaken it for a hostile target.

After the disaster, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made it clear Canada would take steps to prevent such a tragedy from ever happening again. He cited the specific expertise of the Netherlands, which developed a number of recommendations after a Malaysian Airlines flight was shot down over separatist-held territory in Ukraine in 2014, killing 298.

In neither case was the airspace closed to passenger flights, despite the obvious risk, Mr. Garneau said. "We are not going to depend entirely on the countries where this may be happening, where there may be conflict," he said.

"There has to be an intelligence-gathering process, there has to be a risk assessment following that intelligence gathering and there has to be a sharing of that information. In the case of Iran and Ukraine, they did not themselves close their airspace, and as a result of that, certain airlines flew in and out or over that airspace."

Canada will lead efforts among its partner countries, including members of a working group established after the Jan. 8 incident, to better share information, warnings and directions for avoiding dangerous airspace, and to improve airline safety protocols and day-to-day practices.

The initiative already has the support of the United States, where the Federal Aviation Administration operates an existing "Notice to Airmen" system designed to keep U.S. pilots and carriers apprised of potential dangers.

In an interview Wednesday, Mr. Garneau said Canada has already issued two notices of its own since the Ukrainian jetliner was shot down, warning airlines to avoid potentially perilous flight paths over Libya and Syria.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MODELS WITH SPECIFIC HEADLIGHTS

2020 WRX
IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK
MODELS WITH EYESIGHT® AND SPECIFIC HEADLIGHTS

2020 IMPREZA (5-DR)
IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK
MODELS WITH EYESIGHT® AND SPECIFIC HEADLIGHTS

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2020 LEGACY
IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK+

2020 OUTBACK
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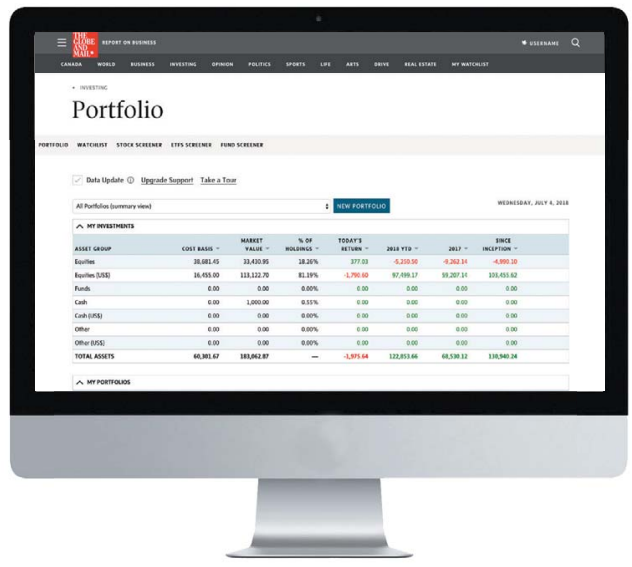

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REPORT ON BUSINESS

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-225.54	-969.58	-106.18	-279.49	-0.13/+0.0023	+25.00	-0.88	-0.17

Virus risks outweigh consumer debt worries, Poloz says

Bank of Canada Governor says rate cut will stabilize housing market, not cause 'froth'

Stephen Poloz says the most 'profound' effect of the coronavirus will be on consumer confidence. CHRIS YOUNG/CANADIAN PRESS

BILL CURRY
DAVID PARKINSON

Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz said the need to buffer the economic harm from the novel coronavirus outweighs the risk that lower interest rates could deepen Canada's household debt problems, as the central bank scrambles to "get out ahead" of a feared consumer-led slump.

In his first public comments since the bank slashed its key lending rate by a half a percentage point Wednesday, Mr. Poloz told a Toronto business audience that the anticipated downturn caused by the virus would likely mute the stimulative impact of the deep rate cut on housing demand and consumer debt.

He said the bank believes the most "profound" effect on the Canadian economy from the virus will be its damage to consumer confidence and the resulting loss of demand, arguing that lower interest rates would help cushion the impact on consumers.

"Governing council [the bank's rate-setting body] agreed that the downside risks to the economy today are more than sufficient to outweigh our continuing concern about [debt-related] financial vulnerabilities," he said. "Indeed, declining consumer confidence would naturally lead to reduced activity in the housing market. So in this context, lower interest rates will actually help to stabilize the housing market, rather than contribute to froth."

Speaking with reporters after his speech, Mr. Poloz indicated that the governing council had been leaning toward a quarter-point rate cut anyway, given evidence that Canada's tepid fourth quarter and likely slow first quarter weren't merely products of temporary disruptions such as weather, strikes and rail blockades, but rather reflected "structural" economic weakness.

The rapid escalation of coronavirus and COVID-19 fears, which now threaten second-quarter growth, convinced the bank's officials that they needed an even bigger cut – the biggest since the 2008-09 financial crisis – rather than wait for the outbreak to start imposing further weight on Canadian economic indicators.

■ BOC, B6

Banks step up contingency planning to handle outbreak

JAMES BRADSHAW
BANKING REPORTER

Canada's banks are in increasingly close contact with governments and regulators about contingency plans to prepare the financial sector to withstand potential outbreaks of COVID-19.

Although banks have focused on updating and testing their own business continuity plans, conversations with the banking regulator – the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) – have become more frequent than usual. So have high-level calls between bank executives and the Finance Ministry, according to sources familiar with the discussions, whom The Globe and Mail is not identifying because they are not authorized to speak about the talks publicly.

Banks' planning in the early days of the new coronavirus – which causes a disease called COVID-19 – focused on minimizing unnecessary business travel, restricting in-person meetings and attendance at large gatherings such as conferences and testing systems to make sure they could handle large numbers of employees logging in remotely.

It is not clear whether the banks plan to implement any new measures in branches.

Each of Canada's largest banks has tens of thousands of employees in multiple countries, and executives and risk officers have to ready themselves for more drastic measures, if necessary. Those could include splitting up teams to reduce the risk of contagion in any one of the bank's functions.

■ BANKS, B5

Ottawa says big three telecom companies must lower wireless prices or face regulatory consequences

ALEXANDRA POSADZKI
TELECOM REPORTER

The three national wireless carriers need to cut the price of their mid-tier plans by 25 per cent over two years or face further regulatory action, the federal government says, as it lays out the details of its promise to reduce cellphone bills.

Ottawa is demanding that **BCE Inc.**, **Rogers Communications Inc.** and **Telus Corp.** substantially lower the prices of unlimited talk-and-text plans that offer two gigabytes, four gigabytes and six gigabytes of data.

That means a two-gigabyte plan would go down to $37.50 a month from $50, while a six-gigabyte plan would go down to $45 from $60. The government said it used prices advertised on the carriers' websites in early 2020 for plans that don't include device costs for its benchmarks.

Navdeep Bains, the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, said the government is targeting mid-tier plans because their prices haven't come down as much as those at the low and high ends of the market.

During the past election campaign, the Liberals promised to drop wireless rates, saying Canadians were concerned about high prices.

"We've seen progress … but more needs to be done," Mr. Bains said in an interview Thursday.

If the carriers fail to meet the government's targets within two years, Ottawa is prepared to take regulatory actions, Mr. Bains said.

That could include, he says, forcing carriers to open their networks to wireless resellers – referred to in the industry as mobile virtual network operators, or MVNOs – something that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission was considering during hearings that wrapped up last week.

■ TELECOMS, B6

Coronavirus hit to airlines could top $100-billion: industry group

ERIC ATKINS TRANSPORTATION REPORTER

A global airlines group says the COVID-19 outbreak could slash spending on airfares by US$63-billion, a loss that could swell to US$113-billion if the deadly illness becomes even more widespread.

The International Air Transport Association warning rattled stock markets, which have already plunged over the past two weeks amid fears the coronavirus will hammer business and consumer spending and tip the world into recession.

The IATA, which represents 290 airlines that collectively account for 82 per cent of global passenger traffic, issued two estimates Thursday of airlines' lost revenue. The first scenario models a "limited" spread of the virus to countries with more than 100 cases and predicts an 11-per-cent drop in revenue, a loss of US$63-billion. The "extensive spread scenario" of markets that have at least 10 COVID-19 cases forecasts losses of US$113-billion, a 19-per-cent drop in seat sales. "Financially, that would be on a scale equivalent to what the industry experienced in the global financial crisis," the IATA said.

"In little over two months, the industry's prospects in much of the world have taken a dramatic turn for the worse," said Alexandre de Juniac, the IATA's chief executive officer. "Many airlines are cutting capacity and taking emergency measures to reduce costs."

Airlines have scaled back or eliminated thousands of flights to China, Italy and other affected countries as consumers and businesses cancel travel plans to avoid contracting the respiratory illness.

■ AIRLINES, B6

GEOFF CADDICK/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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Market turmoil slows corporate deal flow

Coronavirus fallout makes it hard for buyers to asses the value of companies' shares

JEFFREY JONES
MARK RENDELL

Market gyrations triggered by fears over the coronavirus and COVID-19 epidemic are threatening to disrupt corporate merger and acquisition activity, with danger to deals increasing the longer the crisis drags on.

Panic selling hit stock markets around the world last week, leading to a record-setting point loss on Wall Street. The market turmoil, alongside fears of widespread economic disruption, is making it hard for buyers to asses the value of companies' shares in takeover deals, and is making sellers hesitate to proceed while valuations are depressed.

On Thursday, shares in Cineplex Inc., the Canadian movie theatre operator, sank 8 per cent after a U.S. short-seller speculated its takeover by British-based Cineworld Group PLC could fall apart or be repriced.

There is worry that moviegoers will avoid public events because of coronavirus fears, potentially making the $34-a-share buyout price – approved by shareholders of both companies – too steep.

Cineplex shares closed at $29.86 on Thursday, down $2.62. The companies did not comment on the speculation.

The big unknown for M&A deal makers is how severe and lengthy the global slowdown will be and how it will affect corporate cash flows and, by extension, the company valuations that form the foundation of deals, investment bankers say.

"I struggle to create a positive narrative about this. Volatility in equity markets is not conducive to M&A. Valuations are whipping around," said Grant Kernaghan, chairman and chief executive officer of Citigroup Global Markets Canada Inc.

"Until the equity markets have hit some point of stability, it's very difficult to price an M&A transaction."

Until the market swoon last week, the deal flow was shaping up to be as brisk as last year, said Mr. Kernaghan, whose office specializes in cross-border deals, often involving pension and private equity funds as buyers.

Over the past two weeks, markets have whipsawed as investors struggled to gauge the long-term impact of the contagion on world economies and various industries, notably travel, energy and retail. The S&P 500 fell as much as 13 per cent last week. It has since clawed back about 5 per cent.

> "Until the equity markets have hit some point of stability, it's very difficult to price an M&A transaction.
>
> GRANT KERNAGHAN
> CHAIRMAN, CEO OF CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS CANADA

Domestically, the S&P/TSX Composite Index fell as much as 9 per cent, and has recovered about 3 per cent in the same period.

So far, there is no word of formally announced deals or auction processes being put on hold or cancelled as a result of the uncertainty in the markets. However, some in the planning stages are being put on ice, said Peter Buzzi, co-head of global mergers and acquisition at RBC Dominion Securities. He did not divulge which of the bank's clients are involved in rerunning the numbers to gauge if deals still makes sense.

"Right now, we're working on a number of transactions where people have said, maybe it's a good time to just pause and see how this thing plays out over the next several weeks with respect to which direction the markets are going and, more importantly, which direction the economy is going," Mr. Buzzi said.

Bankers, lawyers and companies are considering adding the risk of coronavirus to merger agreements, as a potential "material adverse change" that could trigger the repricing or even cancellation of a deal, said Geoff Barsky, head of mergers and acquisitions, Canada and International, at BMO Nesbitt Burns.

With Cineworld and Cineplex, the agreement signed in December specifically excludes "outbreaks of illness or other acts of God" from its definition of a material adverse effect, meaning the outbreak of coronavirus alone cannot be used to terminate the transaction.

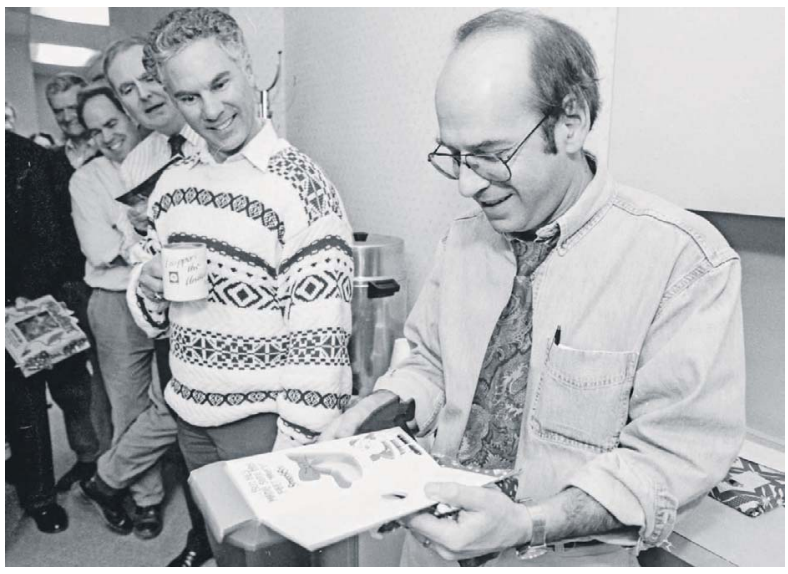
This week, the U.S. Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate by half a percentage point. The Bank of Canada followed, trimming its overnight lending rate by 50 basis points to 1.25 per cent, while signalling the potential for more rate cuts as the virus spreads, possibly hurting business and consumer confidence.

Already, major corporations including Apple Inc., Microsoft Corp., Hyatt Hotels Corp. and Visa Inc. have scrapped their 2020 financial outlooks.

On the deals front, buyers and sellers are taking hard looks at valuations and structures of potential transactions, but none has declared "pens down," Mr. Barsky said.

"What I would say is, nothing outright cancelled, but I think people are taking stock of what the uncertainty could be and what the volatility would be in the coming weeks," Mr. Barsky said.

"I think if any company was going to launch a sale process right now, they'd have to consider the implications of [whether this is] the right time – especially ones that would be dependent on a financing strategy – to ensure that you have certainty around that."



Mike Babad, seen at right at The Globe's 1995 Christmas party, 'was at the very heart of The Globe and Mail's journalism,' editor-in-chief David Walmsley says. FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Michael Babad, long-time Globe editor and columnist, remembered for his humour, strength of spirit

ANDREW WILLIS

Globe and Mail news editor Michael Babad, a journalist and author who shaped business coverage at major Toronto media organizations, died on Thursday after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Mr. Babad, 66, was most recently a widely read columnist and early morning editor at The Globe, where he worked for more than two decades. He was also an editor and reporter at the Toronto Star, Financial Post, Oshawa Times and United Press International.

"Mike Babad was at the very heart of The Globe and Mail's journalism. Empathetic, accurate, charming, competitive and happiest when learning and teaching," said David Walmsley, The Globe's editor-in-chief. Mr. Walmsley said: "He influenced the newsroom with his gentle presence. Deeply knowledgeable of all aspects of newspapering, successive editors and reporters relied heavily on his smarts."

Mr. Babad and his wife, Catherine Mulroney, parents of four children, co-wrote three business books over two decades. Fuelled by strong, early morning coffee that Mr. Babad also brewed for newsroom colleagues, the pair produced *Campeau: The Building of an Empire*; *Pillars: The Coming Crisis in Canada's Financial Industry*; and *Where the Buck Stops: The Dollar, Democracy and the Bank of Canada*.

"Mike Babad was known for his humour, his insights and his energy," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a tribute on Twitter. Mr. Babad worked with Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland when she was a Globe editor.

Mr. Trudeau said: "As an author, columnist, editor and mentor, his contributions to journalism in Canada were vast and will not be forgotten. My thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues as they mourn his passing."

For much of his career, Mr. Babad was part of a team that ran business coverage at major Canadian media outlets and helped chronicle the corporate agenda. As a Toronto-based wire-service writer and editor at UPI, his articles appeared around the world. A graduate of Ryerson University's journalism program, Mr. Babad started his career at the Oshawa Times in 1977. He was editor of The Globe's Report on Business section for two years, national editor of The Globe and business editor of the Toronto Star.

"I had many interactions with Mike in the last 20 years and the common thread was that he was always trying to do his best for The Globe," said Phillip Crawley, the organization's publisher and chief executive. "Over the last 12 months, he displayed an unbelievable strength of spirit as he carried on working while battling his illness. He was an excellent journalist but an even better man. We mourn for him and his family."

In recent years, Mr. Babad wrote a daily "Business Briefing" each morning for The Globe's website that consistently ranked among the platform's most-read articles. He also set the tone for the newsroom early each morning with a detailed and often whimsical internal note, illustrated with photoshopped pictures, that set out the organization's editorial priorities for the day. Outside of work, Mr. Babad was a voracious reader, first in line for the latest action movie and an enthusiastic skimboarder during family beach vacations.

"Readers connected with him because of his insights and consistent perspective," Mr. Walmsley said. "He worked absurd hours but was never a machine. He was a sensitive colleague and helpful. His smile and that twinkle … It is devastating to us that a man of such decency is lost."

I was Bunny, he was Slappie: My memories of Mike

ERIC REGULY
EUROPEAN BUREAU CHIEF

Mike Babad had a lonely life at The Globe and Mail.

For many years, he was the morning man. That meant he was the first editor in the building, usually well before dawn, when the security guards were the only ones around. I live in Rome – six hours ahead of Toronto – and I was usually his first call. Sometimes, he would call me from his car on the way to work as he dodged snow drifts or gently cursed a wayward driver. I can't remember him actually using harsh swear words; and his greeting to me was always: "How ya doin', Bunny?"

Mike's calls were remarkable. First of all, editors almost never call. Almost all communication, especially with correspondents who work beyond the Toronto head office, is by e-mail or WhatsApp. Getting a call, from an actual live human, seemed a quaint relic from a bygone era. I found it comforting, because bureau work can be lonely, too.

Even more remarkable was the subject of the calls, which were about me and my well-being, or lack thereof, or what my daughters were up to – almost never about what I was going to write that day. That came later.

In my 35-year career as a reporter and columnist in four countries, I cannot remember any editor other than Mike who would regularly call me just to see if I was okay. To him, I was Bunny, an ironic nickname given that I am 6-foot-5 and not exactly known for my meekness. His wife, Catherine Mulroney, told me the other day that "our kids frequently had a good laugh about the name Bunny."

I called him Slaphead, because he was bald, or just Slappie. When grown men use ridiculous nicknames, you know you have a good friend.

We would never talk for more than a few minutes, and he was always lousy at office gossip, which I craved. He wasn't really interested in who was shafting who, who was up or who was down. I considered him a happy workaholic.

By the time most Globe employees had lurched into work, he had popped a few newsy items onto the website, capturing our valuable morning readers, and banged out an often-hilarious internal note about who was writing what. I was sometimes the subject of the memes or altered photos that would top the notes and – damn – I only still have a couple of them. My head would be grafted onto Superman or onto the figure of someone lounging in a café or on the beach sipping Prosecco because that's what correspondents based in Italy do all day.

"Eric gets a lump-sum payment because, you know, Rome is such a hardship posting," he said in one note, dropped in after a story line about executive compensation.

Mike and I had worked with each other on and off, for some 30 years, starting at the old Financial Post (now National Post), when I was posted to New York by the paper in the late 1980s and early 90s, then The Globe when I was in Toronto and Rome. He was my one constant, an enthusiastic charmer who always got the best out of me, because I adored him; when he wanted a story from me, it was always the right story, because he had a terrific news sense, and I never, ever said no.

About a year ago, Mike stepped outside his house early one morning, into the cold, to call me. "Hey Bunny," he said. "I need to tell you something. I have lung cancer and I think it may have travelled."

I was devastated, but he was always in good humour, always upbeat, as he went through his hell. His treatments were going well, he said, and I told him about an immunotherapy drug that had worked miracles for the mother of a friend of mine in England. He used that very drug. It seemed to be doing the trick and I sort of stopped worrying about him, convincing myself he was on the mend even if, deep down, I knew the odds were against him.

But we would still send each other e-mails every week, sometimes several times a week. He always said he was okay and would sign off with "Miss you" or "Love you," as if we were blood brothers. I would say the same.

He wasn't okay. My last e-mail from him came about a week ago. He told me "I think I am okay" and I knew immediately that bad news was coming. But, amazingly, he kept writing, because he had to. He was a newsman to his core. His last byline appeared on Feb. 27, just five days before he died.

To me, Mike was the heart and soul of The Globe, a gentle force of nature who combined humour, good nature, a strong work ethic and a killer news sense to make The Globe a fine paper and put a smile on the face of everyone who worked with him. I can't even imagine The Globe without him. Bunny will miss you forever, Slappie.

SHARES OF SPIN MASTER FALL AS TOY MAKER EXPECTS SALES TO DROP THIS YEAR

TORONTO Shares of **Spin Master Corp.** plunged nearly 40 per cent Thursday after the toy maker reported a loss in its latest quarter and warned it expected its gross product sales to drop this year.

The company says it is monitoring the situation around the COVID-19 virus closely, as about 60 per cent of its goods are produced in China and it is not yet able to produce at full capacity.

In its outlook, Spin Master says it expects a decline in gross product sales for 2020 toward the higher end of the mid-single digit range, owing in part to supply chain and other disruptions resulting from the new coronavirus outbreak.

The Toronto-based toy company, which reports in U.S. dollars, says it lost US$17.2-million or 17 US cents per diluted share for the three months ending Dec. 31, compared with a profit of US$11.4-million or 11 US cents per diluted share a year earlier. The adjusted loss was US$7.8-million or eight US cents per diluted share, compared with an adjusted profit of US$6.2-million or six US cents per diluted share in the prior year.

Analysts had expected an adjusted net loss of 12 US cents per diluted share, according to financial markets data firm Refinitiv.

Spin Master shares closed down $11.53, or 39.34 per cent, at $17.78 on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PROMENADE GROUP DONATES $5 MILLION TO MACKENZIE HEALTH.

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From left: Simon Serruya and Michael Serruya, the Serruya family; Fred Darvish, President, Liberty Development; Latif Fazel, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty Development; Michael Uster, Senior Vice President, Liberty Development; Brendan Murphy, Vice President, Liberty Development; and Marco Filice, Senior Vice President, Liberty Development.

No community is complete without a main street. In honour of a transformational $5-million gift, Promenade Main Street at Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital will be named for Promenade Shopping Centre partners Liberty Development Corporation and the Serruya family. With a patient registration area, retail and food services, spiritual care, a public library, "green" walls and courtyard views, Promenade Main Street will be an integral part of the ultimate patient experience at Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital.

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OPINION & ANALYSIS

The CRA should do our taxes for us

It's painful to have to pay to get our own money back, so here's why the government should do the math on our behalf – for free

RITA TRICHUR
OPINION

The pointy-heads at the Canada Revenue Agency have a strange sense of humour.

They kicked off tax filing season by telling Canadians they've made filing a return faster and easier this year. That must be why the CRA doubled the length of income tax returns from four to eight pages – in addition to all those fun and user-friendly schedules, worksheets and information forms, of course.

It's nice to see the CRA taking our complaints about convoluted forms and guides to heart. "Our government is committed to modernizing the CRA and making sure it provides people-first service to Canadians," Minister of National Revenue Diane Lebouthillier said in a recent statement.

Folks, it's hard to know whether to laugh or cry. But if the Liberal government is serious about putting people first, the solution is simple: Make the CRA do our taxes for us.

It's not a stretch. The CRA automatically receives information about the employment and investment income for most Canadians, so let its computers fill out the forms and do the math on our behalf for free. Numerous countries use such systems, so why not Canada?

Some of us learned how to do our taxes in high school. But in recent years, filling out a paper return has become so complicated and stressful only a masochist would attempt it.

It's unseemly because the CRA is effectively pushing people to pay third parties, typically software providers or professional tax preparers, fees to access their own money. (Yes, there's free software but there's generally no phone support if you get stuck, and incessant pushing to upgrade to paid versions.)

Consider this: 62 per cent of people who file tax returns are owed money from the government. The average refund was $1,740 last year. One would be hard-pressed to find a Canadian who doesn't believe that every penny counts.

"I think there is value in the software, but it does raise the fundamental question of why anyone should actually have to pay anything to get their own money back," said Jamie Golombek, managing director of tax and estate planning at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

> It's not a stretch. The CRA automatically receives information about the employment and investment income for most Canadians, so let its computers fill out the forms and do the math on our behalf for free. Numerous countries use such systems, so why not Canada?

"It would be wonderful to see a situation where, effectively, you get a prepopulated digital return, which has all your income and deductions that it [the CRA] knows about there. And you either sign off on it, 'yes' or 'no,' or add any additional lines that are relevant and then submit it. That would be the best-case scenario."

Already 36 countries, including Britain, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands, allow return-free tax filing for some taxpayers, according to the Tax Policy Center's briefing book.

In Sweden, individuals receive a text message and simply reply "yes" or "no." In Estonia, meanwhile, it takes the average person five minutes to file their return, according to The Atlantic.

Such systems spare many individuals the agony of preparing their own returns because there's an assumption that all taxes on income are paid at source, Mr. Golombek said.

A hassle-free system could also exist in Canada since most people receive tax slips each year. Our employers and money managers automatically file that same income information to the CRA, meaning it's redundant for Ottawa to expect individuals to prepare and file a return.

Already, the CRA does allow some people to autofill their returns as long as they have a registered account and are using NETFILE-certified software. But when I tried to register for an account numerous times this week, I kept getting a warning on my computer stating: "This site can't provide a secure connection." It's not exactly a ringing endorsement.

The point remains, however, if the CRA can autofill returns for some Canadians, it should automatically do it for all of us. Individuals could then review and tweak their returns as required without incurring any costs.

At present, the only people the CRA is putting first are those in the tax-preparation industry, and they're profiting handsomely off Ottawa's confusion and decades-long push for people to file electronic returns.

Currently, almost 90 per cent of Canadians file their taxes electronically. It's also estimated that Canadians spend $7-billion complying with the personal income tax system each year, according to the Fraser Institute.

No Canadian should have to incur out-of-pocket costs to file a return and get a refund. Paying taxes is painful enough.

Energy storage innovation can align Ontario's supply with demand

ANNETTE VERSCHUREN
OPINION

Chief executive officer of NRStor Inc. and chair of the MaRs Discovery District board. She is also former CEO of Home Depot Canada and Asia.

A wind turbine is seen at the Pickering Nuclear Power Generating Station near Toronto last April. Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator recently released its annual report, which shows continued surpluses in the amount of energy we have the capability to produce.
CARLOS OSORIO/REUTERS

The electricity system in Ontario – and indeed across North America – is undergoing a rapid transformation as innovative technologies disrupt old ways of doing business.

At the same time, governments and regulators are rightly concerned about maintaining the affordability of the system, even as they ensure its reliability and sustainability.

The emerging technologies of grid-scale energy storage will help us meet all three of those goals, if we're smart.

This innovative technology will allow us to align the supply of electricity more precisely with customers' demand for it. The vast amount of energy currently wasted in Ontario's electricity system can be stored for later use.

In doing so, we can save money for consumers, enhance the reliability of the system with backup power and reduce the need for additional generation at peak times.

However, the provincial government and electricity regulators need to take action to ensure the full value that storage technology can provide to the system is realized.

People and businesses in Ontario remain concerned about their energy bills. To reduce prices, the government has been forced to massively subsidize the cost of power. Ontario taxpayers are on the hook for an estimated $5.6-billion this year alone just to maintain our residential and small-business bills at the current rates.

That figure is likely to grow as the government looks for ways to meet its commitment to reduce households' power bills by 12 per cent.

The provincial government has told all participants in the system to find savings. Developing a fleet of storage projects could contribute to that effort with a low-carbon option that would produce substantial net savings to lower bills.

A big – if not the biggest – challenge for Ontario's grid is that our supply is not aligned with demand. We are inefficient and waste a lot of energy, and this costs all of us a significant sum.

We're now able to address a fundamental shortcoming of the traditional electricity grid: that electrons have to be used as soon as they are generated. We're good at storing water; we're good at storing food. But until now, we hadn't conquered storing electricity at the grid level.

We can be world leaders in new energy storage technology. And we can do so while dramatically improving the efficiency of our electricity system and reducing costs to consumers.

However, we need to show some guts and seize the moment. We can't be afraid of innovation. We need to embrace it, and make it work for us.

Projects that combine renewables and storage are beating out proposals for conventional generation in markets around the world. Stand-alone storage projects also complement a broad array of generation options, including Ontario's nuclear fleet and hydroelectric facilities.

As the disruption in the power sector mounts, business and political leaders in this province have a choice. We can own the change and reap the rewards, or we will have it foisted upon us and pay the costs.

There are a number of technologies that can be deployed. Lithium ion batteries are increasingly cost-effective both on the grid and in industrial and even residential settings. Companies can use electricity to pump water or air into storage facilities during those hours when demand – and therefore wholesale prices – are low, and release the power when it is needed. Flywheels help the grid managers maintain the smooth reliability of the system on a minute-by-minute basis.

Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator recently released its annual planning outlook that shows continued surpluses in the amount of energy we have the capability to produce.

The IESO noted, however, that the energy is not being produced when we need to consume. Storage is the solution to this problem.

We need policies and regulatory approaches that recognize the value of storage, both as a provider of power and also as a customer. Storage also provides low-cost solutions to help grid managers ensure the efficient performance of the system – and that function also provides value.

Energy Storage Canada last year released a "road map" that provides a path through which energy storage can maximize value and the efficiency of the grid for ratepayers.

A key recommendation is for the province of Ontario to establish a co-ordinating committee that would include government as well as representatives from the IESO and the Ontario Energy Board to guide the update of regulation for storage facilities.

Such changes would also demonstrate the province's commitment to maintaining a power system that is more than 90-percent carbon-free.

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Canada is famous for its trading capacity and peacekeeping strength around the world.

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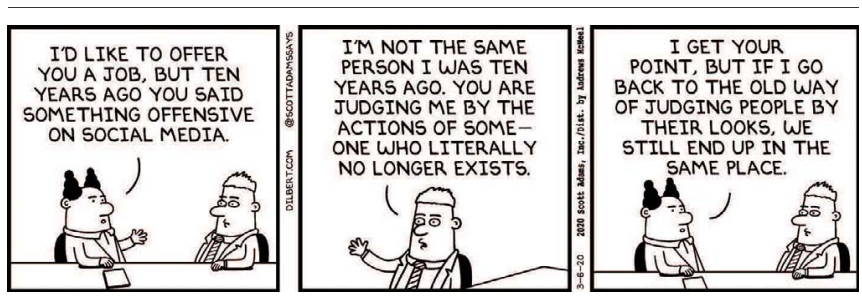
DILBERT



Virus fears spur surges, shifts in consumer demand

As shoppers evaluate their own preparedness, retailers are increasing orders of some products

SUSAN KRASHINSKY ROBERTSON
RETAILING REPORTER

Shoppers are seen at a Toronto-area Costco store on Thursday. Canadian retailers are assessing how to manage inventory amid a run on certain products because of coronavirus worries. FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

At a Walmart store in Toronto one evening this week, a pallet stacked with yellow canisters of Lysol wipes sat shrink-wrapped at the end of an aisle, waiting to restock a wide shelf that had been completely depleted.

It was just one store, and one example of a widespread run on certain products amid fears about the spread of the coronavirus. Last week, federal Health Minister Patty Hajdu advised Canadians to stock up on supplies "to survive for a week or so without going outside" in case someone in their household becomes ill. In general, authorities recommend keeping a reserve of non-perishable foods, water and first-aid supplies in case of emergencies. But worries about the virus have spurred some consumers to examine their own preparedness.

As a result, retailers are now assessing how to manage inventory among surges and shifts in consumer demand.

"We are working closely with our vendors as customers have increasing demand for products across a few categories, for example non-perishables and sanitizers," Walmart Canada spokesman Adam Grachnik said.

Many stores are responding by increasing orders of products that people are purchasing at higher volumes, or that they anticipate will be in high demand.

"We're getting reassurances from our domestic and North American manufacturers that, as things stand, they're able to meet demand, and even increased demand in some product areas," said Karl Littler, senior vice-president of public affairs at the Retail Council of Canada, although he added that supply chains are still recovering from the effects of recent cross-country rail blockades linked to pipeline protests.

Many retailers have compliance fines that they impose on suppliers if they fail to fulfill orders that they have committed to – how those fines are determined varies for each company. On Thursday morning, industry group Food & Consumer Products of Canada sent a letter to a number of retailers asking for relief from those fines, considering the surge in demand. It did the same during the rail blockades, and has so far received a positive response, FCPC chief executive officer Michael Graydon said.

"Everybody's sizing up," Mr. Graydon said. "The manufacturer, in some cases, has to gear up, and may not be running production of that particular product. … They may be able to move the production up a little quicker, assuming they've got the raw materials to be able to run it. There are a lot of variables. There just isn't this massive warehouse sitting there, with all of this product waiting."

At a No Frills supermarket in Toronto this week, shelves that held Clorox powder and Lysol and Clorox disinfectant wipes had been cleared, and supplies of some dried beans and cans of tuna were noticeably low. No Frills parent company Loblaw Cos. Ltd. declined requests to comment on shifts in inventory, as did Costco Wholesale Corp., Metro Inc. and Sobeys parent company Empire Co. Ltd.

Online grocery delivery service Inabuggy has delisted face masks and Purell hand sanitizer, which have been depleted at its retail partners. In some cases, drivers are having to shop multiple stores to fulfill customers' orders.

"Some retailers, their shelves are fully stocked as usual, while others, the shelves are literally empty and you can't get rice, flour, toilet paper, paper towels, water," Inabuggy CEO Julian Gleizer said.

The service's volume of orders has increased 35 per cent over the past two weeks, over and above its typical level of growth, which he attributed to shoppers who are hesitant to go to busy stores but still want to stock up.

"They have contingency plans for supply interruptions, and have identified potential alternative logistics," the RCC's Mr. Littler said of retailers who have previously coped with events such as wildfires and ice storms, port strikes, blockades and SARS. "They've certainly done a lot to ensure that they know where to put their hands on other goods. But obviously, there's competition for those. It's not like there's infinite stock."

Regulators propose guidelines for financial advisers dealing with vulnerable clients

CLARE O'HARA
WEALTH MANAGEMENT REPORTER

Regulators are taking a stand against the financial exploitation of vulnerable Canadians such as the elderly and those with diminished mental capacity with a new proposal that will help investment advisers flag transactions that may put clients at risk.

If approved, the proposal would require investment advisers to try to obtain the name and contact information of someone whom clients would label as a "trusted contact person," as well as the client's written consent to contact that person under specific circumstances.

"Due to the nature of their client relationships, [advisers] are in a position to be among the first to recognize signs of diminished mental capacity or financial exploitation of older or vulnerable clients," said Louis Morisset, chair of the Canadian Securities Administrators, an umbrella group for all provincial securities commissions.

The trusted contact person would not be someone with power of attorney over the client's funds, nor would he or she make any decisions about the client's finances, the CSA said. Rather, the trusted contact is someone advisers could reach out to if they believe something is amiss, or to double-check whether a client is experiencing financial abuse or diminished capacity.

The proposal will also allow investment firms or advisers to place a temporary hold on the purchase or sale of a security if they felt the vulnerable client is a risk. As well, advisers could place a temporary hold on the withdrawal or transfer of cash or security from a client's account.

The CSA said the changes would "provide an appropriate balance between a client's autonomy and investor protection."

Cracking down on elder abuse has been an initiative of Canadian securities regulators after a 2017 study found that Canadians aged 65 or older are the likeliest group to report being victims of financial fraud or other abuse. This can include theft or misuse of funds intended for care, or abuses of a power of attorney over an older person's decision-making.

Alan Fustey, vice-president and portfolio manager at Bellwether Investment Management Inc. in Winnipeg, has been using a vulnerable person policy that his firm set up in early 2018, although it does not include a trusted contact person.

"The idea of a trusted contact person, safe harbour and temporary freeze on transactions are good practices but they are not total fail-safes," he said in an interview. "The reality is a lot of these clients are particularly vulnerable to abuse because they don't have a close family member or friend to turn to, in which case a trusted contact person would be difficult to establish."

For Mr. Fustey, if there is a situation that deems "suspicious," his company policy requires him to escalate the issue to the firm's chief compliance officer.

Ellen Bessner, a partner at Babin Bessner Spry LLP in Toronto, was among the experts who consulted with multiple regulatory bodies and has long recommended that the industry adopt a trusted contact person policy, in addition to having a power of attorney.

"If they cannot locate their client or if the instructions from a power of attorney document cause them concern, there is someone else to turn to confirm the facts," said Ms. Bessner, who works with investment advisers and victims of financial abuse. "It provides alternatives for advisers."

The CSA has been working on the guidelines since last June in partnership with two self-regulatory organizations that oversee investment firms, the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Mutual Fund Dealers Association of Canada.

The "trusted contact person" proposal is out for public comment until June 3.

CNRL trims oil sands budget as crude prices, volatility weigh on results

EMMA GRANEY
ENERGY REPORTER

Canada's largest oil producer will reduce its oil sands capital budget by $100-million after missing fourth-quarter estimates in the face of lacklustre crude prices and volatile market environment.

Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. president Tim McKay said the cut won't affect 2020 production, telling The Globe and Mail in an interview the company is simply reprofiling spending to save money.

"We're trying to look at how we can redo work in the oil sands to save money and be more efficient and effective," he said.

Mr. McKay said the move doesn't signal a change in CNRL's plans for its oil sands operations. Rather, it's about managing long-term business and being "flexible and nimble" in the face of sector changes.

The $100-million cut in capital expenditures brings CNRL's total expenditures this year to $3.95-billion.

Mr. McKay also said Thursday he wants the province of Alberta to consider eliminating restrictions on crude production during summer months.

Alberta has curtailed production for more than a year because of congested pipelines. Many producers reduce output anyway during summer to conduct maintenance.

For that reason, lifting government-ordered curtailments from May until October may make sense, Mr. McKay said in an interview with Reuters.

Last year, Alberta's oil inventories steadily drained during the same period until a leak on the Keystone pipeline in late October backed up supplies again, Mr. McKay said.

Inventories are likely to similarly decrease this summer as oil sands companies conduct maintenance, he said.

"It might be an opportunity for the government to get extra revenues," Mr. McKay said, referring to the royalties it collects.

Alberta Energy press secretary Kavi Bal said in an e-mail that the government is keeping a close eye on oil prices and wants to lift curtailment by the end of the year.

Quarterly production rose about 7 per cent to 1.2 million barrels of oil equivalent a day as producers were allowed exemptions on the cuts enforced by the Alberta government if they committed to move oil by rail instead of pipelines.

The company reported a net income of $597-million, or 50 cents a share, in the fourth quarter ended Dec. 31, compared with a net loss of $776-million, or 64 cents a share, a year earlier. It increased quarterly dividends by 13 per cent.

On an adjusted basis, the company earned 58 cents a share, missing analysts' average estimate of 70 cents, according to Refinitiv IBES data.

With reports from Reuters

CANADIAN NATURAL (CNQ)
CLOSE: $32.58, DOWN 54¢

Banks: Most stringent restrictions in place so far affect business travel

FROM B1

At Toronto-Dominion Bank, a plan to move some staff and infrastructure from open-concept trading floors to smaller, separate sites has been discussed, but not yet implemented, according to sources. All banks have back-up sites at remote locations stocked with enough trading desks and computers to keep crucial operations running.

Bankers must also gauge the risks to their credit books by combing through lending files to identify clients and industries that could be most vulnerable to the economic effects of the outbreak, and that may need the bank's support to avoid defaulting on loans.

As banks test, practise and revise those plans, regulators are stepping up their monitoring to make sure they are sufficient to keep the financial system stable. "Given the virus outbreak, OSFI determined it was prudent to understand the steps that they are taking to address this risk," Michael Toope, a spokesman for the regulator, said in an e-mail. "OSFI supervisors are increasing their communication with institutions and are reviewing their plans for responding to possible impacts of COVID-19."

Banks also share information with each other through the Canadian Bankers Association (CBA), an advocacy group that serves as a gathering place for financial institutions large and small. "Each CBA member institution has its own protocols which reflect the specific nature of that bank's business, global footprint and employee composition," CBA spokesman Mathieu Labrèche said.

So far, no single group has been formed to bring the banks together with government officials, regulators, the Bank of Canada and other agencies to co-ordinate a response. But as it reviews banks' business continuity plans, OSFI "works closely with its federal financial partners," Mr. Toope said.

> OSFI supervisors are increasing their communication with institutions and are reviewing their plans for responding to possible impacts of COVID-19.
>
> MICHAEL TOOPE
> OSFI SPOKESMAN

The most stringent restrictions banks have put in place to date are mostly on business travel. Royal Bank of Canada has advised staff to defer travel to Hong Kong, mainland China and other areas hardest hit by the virus. And other banks, such as Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and National Bank of Canada, now require a senior manager to approve non-essential travel.

TD Bank, which had already restricted travel to areas severely affected by the virus, tightened travel limitations on Wednesday in a memo to all staff sent by executive vice-president of human resources Kenn Lalonde and reviewed by The Globe. The new protocols ask staff to minimize discretionary travel in Canada and the United States, and restrict all travel beyond those countries without special authorization from a top executive.

"We are confident these precautions are the appropriate steps at this time," Mr. Lalonde told TD staff in the memo.

TD also requires employees who have been at high risk of exposure to the virus to stay away from the bank's workplaces for specific periods of time. And at HSBC Canada, which has restricted travel to some destinations, staff returning from those places must self-quarantine, according to spokesperson Sharon Wilks. HSBC Group PLC, the U.K.-based parent bank, does business in 64 countries and has an extensive footprint in Asia.

Yet all of those restrictions will be tested by the coming March break, when large numbers of bank employees and their families have plans to travel for the school holiday.

With a report from Rita Trichur

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DIVIDENDS

AST

DIVIDEND/DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

The following dividends/distributions have been declared.

Company	Issue	Record Date	Payable Date	Rate
Shaw Communications Inc.	Class A shares	March 13, 2020	March 30, 2020	$0.098542 CAD
Shaw Communications Inc.	Class B shares	March 13, 2020	March 30, 2020	$0.09875 CAD
Shaw Communications Inc.	Series A Preferred Shares	March 13, 2020	March 31, 2020	$0.17444 CAD
Shaw Communications Inc.	Series B Preferred Shares	March 13, 2020	March 31, 2020	$0.22825 CAD
Tourmaline Oil Corp.	Common Shares	March 16, 2020	March 31, 2020	$0.12 CAD per Common Share

Dividends Computershare

Notice is hereby given that the following dividends have been declared.

Issuer	Issue	Record Date	Payable Date	Rate
Dream Unlimited Corp.	Class A Subordinate Voting Shares	March 13, 2020	March 31, 2020	$0.030
Dream Unlimited Corp.	Class B Common Shares	March 13, 2020	March 31, 2020	$0.030

British airline Flybe collapses as coronavirus hits global carriers

Hundreds of passengers are left stranded across Europe after bookings dry up and negotiations for loan from government fall through

PAUL WALDIE
EUROPE CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

British regional airline **Flybe** has collapsed into bankruptcy protection, a victim of the coronavirus outbreak that has caused turmoil for airlines around the world.

Flybe grounded all of its flights Thursday morning, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded across Europe and 2,400 workers in limbo. The airline has been struggling financially for months and, in January, the government announced a series of measures to help the company stay afloat, including a potential loan of £100-million, or about $174-million. But negotiations over the loan fell through this week and the airline's problems worsened as bookings dried up because of the coronavirus.

"The coronavirus has impacted both our shareholders and ourselves and has put additional pressure on an already difficult situation," the company's chief executive Mark Anderson said in an e-mail to staff on Thursday. "I am very sorry that we have not been able to secure the funding needed to continue to deliver our turnaround plan."

Flybe was Europe's largest regional airline, carrying around eight million passengers a year between 81 airports across Britain and the rest of Europe, with more than 210 routes across 15 countries. It also operated around 40 per cent of Britain's domestic flights and was a key carrier for regional airports such as Southampton, Belfast City, Aberdeen and Manchester.

"Flybe's problems were known to many and the sector as a whole is going through an incredibly tough period with the coronavirus hitting bookings and dampening demand, and this is being felt across the board," said Tim Alderslade, chief executive of Airlines UK, which represents the British air industry. "That said, this is now the fourth U.K. airline to go out of business in two years."

Virgin Atlantic, which led a consortium that bought Flybe last year, said the group had invested £135-million in the company over the past 14 months to keep it aloft. "Sadly, despite the efforts of all involved to turn the airline around, not least the people of Flybe, the impact of COVID-19 on Flybe's trading means that the consortium can no longer commit to continued financial support," a Virgin spokesperson said.

Airlines everywhere have been struggling to cope with the spread of the virus, which has radically reduced passenger demand in many destinations. British Airlines has cut more than 400 flights to countries including Italy, Germany and the United States. Ryanair, Lufthansa and easyJet have also drastically reduced service to Italy and other countries while Air Canada has dropped flights to China. This week, Virgin Atlantic announced flight cuts and said the company's chief executive, Shai Weiss, will take a 20-per-cent pay cut for the next four months.

On Thursday, the International Air Transport Association, the airline trade body, more than doubled its previous estimate for the impact the virus is having on the industry. IATA said it now believes global revenue losses this year will be at least US$63-billion and up to US$113-billion if the virus spreads further. That compared with its estimate of US$29.3-billion last month.

"The turn of events as a result of COVID-19 is almost without precedent. In little over two months, the industry's prospects in much of the world have taken a dramatic turn for the worse," IATA said. "It is unclear how the virus will develop, but whether we see the impact contained to a few markets and a US$63-billion revenue loss, or a broader impact leading to a US$113-billion loss of revenue, this is a crisis."

An Air China Boeing jet takes off from Vancouver International Airport on Feb. 10. The number of flights to China from Vancouver International Airport has fallen 50 per cent in February and March. BAYNE STANLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS IMAGES

Airlines: Plunge in traffic at Pacific gateway follows a year in which demand for flights to Asia was already under pressure

FROM B1

The Canadian government has issued health warnings about travelling to a list of seven countries. The advisories range from avoiding non-essential travel (China, Iran and Northern Italy) to using "special precautions" (Japan, South Korea) or "usual precautions" (Singapore, Hong Kong).

Ahead of the busy March travel season, Air Canada has suspended flights to Beijing and Shanghai from Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal and to Hong Kong from Toronto. The Montreal-based carrier is waiving rebooking fees for travellers who bought tickets to certain airports in six affected countries.

The number of flights to China from Vancouver International Airport has fallen 50 per cent in February and March, a drop in overall passenger traffic of 3 per cent to 5 per cent, said Craig Richmond, the airport's chief executive officer.

"That means some days the airlines are flying and some days they are not," Mr. Richmond said in an interview.

Airlines flying to China from Vancouver include China Eastern, China Southern, China Airlines and Xiamen Air.

The plunge in traffic at Canada's Pacific gateway follows a year in which demand for flights to Asia was already under pressure because of tensions in Canada-China diplomatic relations, protests in Hong Kong and the grounding of the Boeing 737 Max airplane. Vancouver airport is expecting 2020's passenger count to fall to 25 million from 26.4 million in 2019, Mr. Richmond said. "We had already seen a slowdown, and then in January, the effect of COVID-19."

Air Canada, Air Transat and three unions representing pilots and cabin crews at Canada's airlines declined to comment for this story. "We do not discuss demand outside our quarterly reporting," said Peter Fitzpatrick, an Air Canada spokesman. Leisure carrier Sunwing Airlines said in an e-mail that demand is strong going into March break because the regions it serves – the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America – are not affected by the virus.

Morgan Bell, a WestJet spokeswoman, said the Calgary-based carrier, which does not fly to Asia directly, has seen "isolated cancellations on certain flights" but has no plans to suspend routes.

Air Canada's share price has fallen more than 24 per cent on the Toronto Stock Exchange since Feb. 21, outpacing the broad market's drop of 7 per cent.

Aircraft operator and lessor Chorus Aviation Inc.'s share price fell 5 per cent Thursday after U.K. airline Flybe Ltd. stopped operations and was placed in administration. Flybe leased eight aircraft from Chorus and accounted for 5 per cent of the Halifax company's profit. Chorus said Thursday it is in negotiations to repossess and find new markets for the aircraft.

The IATA said global airline share prices have plunged about 25 per cent since the COVID-19 outbreak began. The drop exceeds by 21 percentage points the share-price swoon seen during the SARS crisis of 2003.

BoC: Canada's major banks have reduced prime lending rates

FROM B1

"We think it's important, if possible, to to get out in front," Mr. Poloz said. "We're hopeful … that by being clear and decisive, and moving in a significant way, that we get a behavioural response that cushions the economy before the real part of the coronavirus [economic] effect arrives."

"We made a decision this week not to dip our toe in the water," he said. "We believe we've done a lot there to cushion the blow. We don't know how big the blow might be."

The Bank of Canada reduced its rate a day after the U.S. Federal Reserve announced a cut of the same size. Finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven pledged co-ordinated action this week to support the global economy as the virus spreads.

Mr. Poloz described the degree of coordination among G7 policy makers as "the highest I've seen" in his nearly seven years as governor.

"We all have a shared understanding of the impacts, we have a shared understanding of what tools we've got and when we would use them," he told the audience. "Those lines are wide open, and we're talking basically every day now."

But Mr. Poloz indicated the Bank of Canada was already headed toward its half-point cut even before the Fed's announcement.

"I'm not saying it didn't matter, it mattered to us, of course," he told reporters. "When you have policy making, if it's a global shock, when it's co-ordinated you get an outsized reaction, because it's more confidence-inspiring when other entities are doing the same thing. … So to us, that was also a positive benefit to the fact that the Fed went on Tuesday and we knew we were going the next day."

After the Bank of Canada cut its overnight lending rate to 1.25 per cent from 1.75 per cent Wednesday, Canada's major banks followed by reducing their prime lending rates to 3.45 per cent from 3.95 per cent. Bank of Montreal chief economist Doug Porter said this week the rate cuts "will put housing on steroids."

Interest rate cuts are aimed at spurring economic activity through increased borrowing. However, the bank has long identified high household debt levels as a concern.

But Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce economist Benjamin Tal noted that borrowing costs were already low prior to the rate cut, yet consumer appetite for new debt has softened of late.

"I think the uncertainty related to what's happening in the economy as a whole will prevent [consumers] from getting too much [debt]," he said. "That's why I think the impact on real estate will not be huge. It will be strong, but it will not be overwhelming."

Mr. Poloz said it is uncertain how much economic harm the virus will cause. Disruptions in China, where the virus first appeared, are having ripple effects on global supply chains. Travel-related sectors are seeing the immediate consequences, as businesses and tourists cancel trips.

"A lot has happened in the past six weeks," Mr. Poloz said. "In particular, the global economy will, at the very least, be significantly disrupted by COVID-19 in the first half of the year. It's possible that the global economy will snap back quickly after health professionals have managed the situation and conditions have returned to normal.

"However, the outbreak and its effects could be more persistent. Consumer and business confidence could be set back for a longer period of time, causing economic growth to slow more persistently. This could include longer-term layoffs, for example. At this point, we simply do not know."

Telecoms

FROM B1

The actions could also include using spectrum policy to encourage more competition. (Spectrum refers to the radiowaves used to send wireless signals.)

The government also said it will begin reporting on wireless prices every quarter for the next two years to monitor progress.

Although the carriers have pointed out that prices have come down in previous months, Mr. Bains has said that the 25-per-cent reductions he has been mandated to achieve are on top of those declines.

BCE spokesman Marc Choma said the company will study the government's direction but added that "policies discouraging investment, including regulating wireless pricing or continuing to deny fair access to spectrum for all competitors, put jobs and innovation at risk."

"It's the worst time to jeopardize our country's wireless success as carriers look to ramp up investment for the global move to 5G wireless," Mr. Choma said in an e-mail.

And Telus spokeswoman Jill Schnarr said it's "extremely disappointing" that only national carriers are being asked to reduce their prices.

"This is yet another punitive action taken by this government against the companies that have built Canada's global-leading wireless networks – and which are being asked to invest billions of dollars to ensure Canadians can benefit from next-generation 5G technology," Ms. Schnarr, vice-president of corporate communications, said in a statement. The government's course of action jeopardizes hundreds of thousands of skilled jobs across the country, she added.

Also on Thursday, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) announced the rules for its coming auction of 3,500 MHz spectrum, a key band for the deployment of fifth-generation wireless technology. The spectrum will be for mobile or fixed wireless services.

Although 200 MHz of spectrum will be made available in the auction, slated for December, ISED will be setting aside 50 MHz for smaller and regional competitors in those markets where enough spectrum is available. The policy is intended to bolster regional competitors that have been credited with driving down wireless prices. Regional providers such as Shaw Communications Inc.'s Freedom Mobile, Quebecor Inc.'s Videotron and Bragg Communications Inc., which operates as EastLink, offer prices as much as 45-per-cent lower than those of the national carriers, according to a pricing study published by ISED on Thursday.

The study, which was originally conducted in May and June of 2019 by Wall Communications Inc., found that the prices of most wireless plans declined last year compared with 2018, with the largest drops – in one case, nearly 10 per cent – occurring at the high and low ends of the market. Meanwhile, mid-tier plans were relatively flat. However, over the following months, the national carriers introduced new unlimited data plans that slow down customer browsing speeds when they hit their data limits, instead of charging hefty overage fees, and revised their other plans. As a result, the average price of a two-gigabyte plan fell by roughly 30 per cent between May and June to $53.48, while the average cost of a five-gigabyte plan fell by about 24 per cent to $66.55.

Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association president and chief executive Robert Ghiz said the data shows that wireless prices are coming down amid a "very competitive and active marketplace."

JPMORGAN CEO DIMON HAS EMERGENCY HEART SURGERY

NEW YORK JPMorgan Chase & Co. chief executive Jamie Dimon had emergency heart surgery to treat an aortic dissection on Thursday morning and is "recovering well," the bank said on Thursday.

The bank announced the surgery by publicly releasing an internal memo sent to all JPMorgan employees.

The memo, signed by bank co-presidents Daniel Pinto and Gordon Smith, said Mr. Dimon had experienced "an acute aortic dissection this morning. He underwent successful emergency heart surgery to repair the dissection. The good news is that it was caught early and the surgery was successful." REUTERS

Fraud prevention month

Six in 10 Canadians are more worried about fraud today than ever before

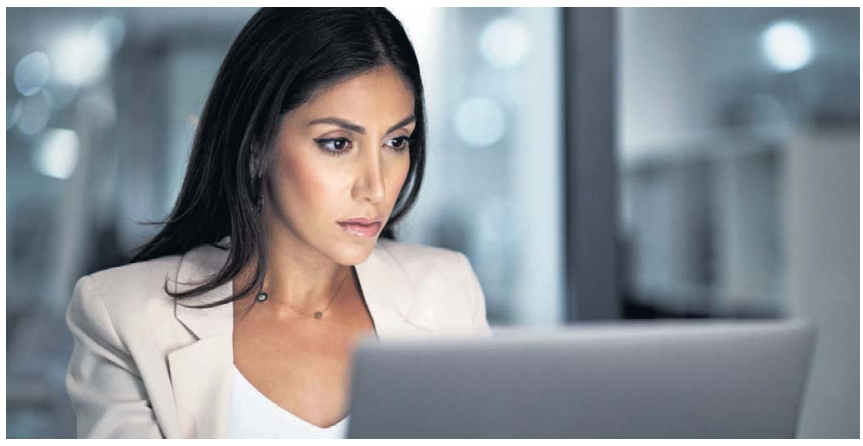
The fraud landscape has transformed and no longer is fraud just the result of stolen wallets or break-ins. Today Canadians are experiencing fraud through multiple channels: in-person, by phone calls, texts and emails, and over public wireless networks.

Canadians recognize the varied ways fraudsters can strike, and 62 per cent worry about it more today than ever before. However, despite their concerns, Canadians continue to engage in behaviours that put them at risk, according to a new national survey from Interac Corp.

For Fraud Prevention Month 2020, the company has released its first *Interac Fraud Prevention Index*, which surveyed 2,200 Canadians across the country about their attitudes toward fraud and fraud prevention. One key finding: nearly half of respondents or their families (48 per cent) report having been victims of fraud.

"Our Fraud Prevention Index shows that while Canadians are worried about fraud, they are overestimating how savvy they are when it comes to protecting themselves from scams," says Rachel Jolicoeur, director of fraud prevention & partnerships at Interac Corp. "Criminals are constantly evolving and developing new, more sophisticated techniques. We need to increase fraud literacy about the different types of fraud and what Canadians can do to protect themselves."

Across all provinces, the most commonly experienced form of fraud is phishing – typically misleading and deceptive emails that falsely claim to be from a legitimate organization (a bank, business or government agency) and which ask the consumer to surrender private and personal information. This type of scam is becoming more prevalent, not only in Canada, but globally.



Six out of 10 Canadians report they feel more worried about fraud than ever before, and nearly half of Canadians or their families report having been victims of fraud. ISTOCK.COM

> "Look for warning signs, such as a demand that you act immediately to avoid a bad outcome; criminals count on you to panic."
>
> **Rachel Jolicoeur**
> Director of Fraud Prevention & Partnerships at Interac Corp.

According to the survey, 47 per cent of Canadians who have experienced fraud say they have been a victim of phishing, while 46 per cent report they have fallen for phone scams.

"We also found that many Canadians are engaging in online behaviours that make them vulnerable to fraud," Ms. Jolicoeur says. "For example, despite all the warnings about the risks of conducting online banking on a public WiFi network – we found that one in three Canadians has done it."

Canadians can stay ahead of email scams by looking for typical "red flags" and by protecting themselves through three steps that Ms. Jolicoeur describes as, "Stop, scrutinize and speak up.

"Stop means don't rush into responding – take a moment and trust your instincts that something probably isn't right," she says. "Scrutinize. Look for warning signs, such as a demand that you act immediately to avoid a bad outcome; criminals count on you to panic."

Finally, she adds, speak up. If you suspect fraud, contact the legitimate organization through other secure means to determine if the contact was from them, and to ensure you didn't mistakenly release sensitive information. Report any concerns.

"Canadians are the first line of defence in preventing fraud, and they have an important role to play when it comes to protecting themselves and their identity online."

INTERAC FRAUD PREVENTION INDEX 2020

EXPERIENCES WITH FRAUD

48% Share of Canadians or their families victimized by fraud

Among those:

47% Victims of online phishing

46% Defrauded through phone scams

RISKY DIGITAL BEHAVIOURS

Almost **2 in 5** Canadians have clicked a link from an unknown source (37 per cent).

1 in 3 Canadians reported changing their online banking or email password only when prompted (35 per cent).

1 in 3 Canadians has accessed online banking on a public WiFi network (34 per cent).

The Interac Fraud Prevention Index is based on a survey of 2,200 Canadians across the country.

INTERVIEW

DIGITAL SCAMS BECOMING MORE FREQUENT AND SOPHISTICATED

Fraud Prevention Month is an annual campaign by the Competition Bureau, Chair of the Fraud Prevention Forum, and its partners to inform Canadians about the dangers of fraud.

Q&A WITH JOSEPHINE PALUMBO, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DECEPTIVE MARKETING PRACTICES DIRECTORATE, COMPETITION BUREAU OF CANADA

For 2020, the campaign focus is digitally enabled fraud. Why this theme?
From 2010 to 2017, the digital economy grew 30 per cent faster than the overall Canadian economy. Because we spend more of our lives online, our risk of exposure to fraud is heightened. Although fraudsters are still targeting victims by phone, mail and in person, the internet has really become the fraudsters' toolkit. The Bureau is keenly aware of the sophisticated scams taking place online. Scammers are continually adapting and used cutting-edge digital tools to cheat Canadians.

How significant is the financial cost of fraud?
Fraud is a crime that threatens every Canadian regardless of age, income or education. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre reports that Canadians lost more than $98-million to all types of fraud in 2019. What's troubling is that the Centre estimates that Canadians report only about five per cent of the cases to authorities, so the actual impact is much greater.

Why is the reporting rate so low?
Fraudsters can target anyone – children, seniors, new Canadians, millennials. Some people feel embarrassed by the fraud or think their financial loss isn't significant enough. This is troubling for law enforcement because it restricts their ability to stop scams and bring fraudsters to justice. Anyone can be a victim of fraud – every demographic and businesses large and small. It is not something to be ashamed about – do step forward and report.

How will you inform Canadians this year about protecting themselves from fraud?
Among our activities will be extensive social media campaigns on Facebook,Twitter and LinkedIn, and the release of alerts about new digital scams.

The fight against fraud is a collective one; we have to work together to achieve progress.

Follow the campaign on Facebook at @competitionbureaucanada, or on Twitter at @CompBureau and with the hashtag #FPM2020.

GLOBE INVESTOR

A stock that offers the best of both worlds

Jamieson Wellness has provided protection and steady growth since its IPO in 2017. CEO Mark Hornick discusses the impact of COVID-19 on the company and its objectives moving forward

JENNIFER DOWTY

INSIDE THE MARKET

During the extreme market volatility experienced in recent weeks, this consumer staples stock has provided investors with a degree of downside protection. Last week, when the S&P/TSX Composite Index plunged 9 per cent, the share price of **Jamieson Wellness Inc.** declined 4 per cent. On Thursday, while the index dropped 1.3 per cent, this stock held its ground, rising 2.4 per cent.

In addition to its defensive characteristics, the stock has other attractive attributes. The company is an industry leader. In Canada, Jamieson is the leading brand in the VMS (vitamins, minerals and nutrition supplements) market. Jamieson Wellness has reported steady revenue growth and rising profitability. Revenue increased to $345-million in 2019 from $248-million in 2016, while the adjusted EBITDA margin expanded to 22 per cent from 19 per cent during this period. (EBITDA stands for earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization.)

The stock has delivered solid gains to its investors with its share price rising approximately 79 per cent since its initial public offering in mid-2017. Furthermore, management is committed to returning capital to its shareholders, targeting dividend increases that are in line with the company's annual earnings growth. In addition, the stock's visibility is increasing with the market capitalization recently crossing above the $1-billion mark, and the company was added to the S&P/TSX Composite in December.

The Globe and Mail spoke with the president and chief executive Mark Hornick, who addressed COVID-19 and discussed management's strategic objectives.

What actions has management taken in response to the coronavirus?

We trained all of our employees in January on coronavirus and precautions for a safe workplace. As well, we made some significant restrictions on business travel in order to protect them and imposed a quarantine program whereby if you were coming back from vacation from a high-risk country, you would work from home for two weeks before returning back to work.

What is the potential impact on your company from a supply chain perspective?

In January, when it became clear that there was a high risk that the corononavirus would become a global pandemic, we focused on three key issues. One, to make sure that our employees are safe. Second, we addressed our ability to supply the market with our products. In our case, there's a third dynamic – when you get global health concerns arising, consumers tend to pay a lot more attention to preventative measures around their health. Supply side, we forecast out our anticipated demand and secured enough inventory to be able to have a good line of sight on increased production requirements into [the third-quarter]. The inbound requirements of raw materials support our business objectives for 2020 as we see the situation right now.

On the recent earnings call, you highlighted three pillars of growth. To expand your brand, your customer base and your footprint. Where have you identified opportunities to expand your brand?

Our innovation pipeline spans all the categories of product that we currently compete in, plus potentially other adjacent categories of health and wellness that are closely related to vitamins. We typically launch in the combined portfolio about 40 to 50 new products a year. Less than 30 per cent of Canadians take a multivitamin, the same for vitamin D; probiotics is around 20 per cent and Omega is also below 25 per cent. Yet, when you look at the nutritional composition of what consumers in Canada are eating, research would say that around 60 per cent of people do not get enough nutrients from food alone. Over time, as consumers build their knowledge of our categories, the usage of them increases. So there's a lot of upside in organically growing the penetration of the different categories of vitamins which we market to consumers in Canada.

You are in drugstores, retailers, dollar stores, online on Amazon and in sport stores. Are there sales channels that you have not yet penetrated?

We don't have a large presence in gas and convenience yet, which is definitely an opportunity. We think we have a long runway to grow e-commerce, and there are a lot of our retail partners who have formats where they haven't been selling vitamins in the past. For example, if you go to a Metro grocery store in Quebec, a lot of those stores don't yet sell vitamins. That provides new opportunities to build distribution.

Jamieson Wellness CEO Mark Hornick, seen in a Toronto pharmacy on Feb. 25, says the company has taken 'precautions for a safe workplace' amid the COVID-19 outbreak. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

> The stock's visibility is increasing with the market capitalization recently crossing above the $1-billion mark, and the company was added to the S&P/TSX Composite in December.

Your products are in more than 40 countries. Where are you focusing your near-term international expansion efforts?

A couple of things about China make it extremely interesting to us. Chinese consumers in general are very favourable toward the brand. We have 1.5 million Chinese Canadians living here who may have some experience with our brand and can serve somewhat as ambassadors to Chinese in mainland China. Jamieson actually has meaning in Mandarin – it means "healthy beauty." In 2017, China opened up approximately 95 per cent of the retail market that was closed to foreign brands. We embarked on a campaign to gain licences by working closely with China FDA. As of today, we have more than 20 licensed products in China, which is significantly more than any other foreign brand that we compete with. Those dynamics [make] China by far our No. 1 incremental expansion opportunity.

As for the U.S., we looked at it in the past as something that had a much higher investment [requirement] and much higher risk given that our brand wasn't known there. However, the rapid growth of e-commerce changed our perspective on that. Weeks ago, we launched products in the United States on Amazon with the view to assess our potential for success in the very large market.

With your expansion initiatives, do you have adequate manufacturing capacity? You have three manufacturing plants in Canada, two in Windsor, Ont., and one in Toronto. What is the capacity utilization?

We are running at approximately 70 per cent of capacity right now with some initiatives in place to allow us to increase capacity. We want to be able to put in enough capacity whereby on a standalone basis we can achieve our 2020 to 2023 growth objectives and have a very sizable amount of additional potential capacity we can tap into in order to make sure that if the upside in China or the U.S. materialized quicker than anticipated, we can capture that opportunity within our current asset base.

Lastly, is acquisition growth a priority for 2020 or do you have enough on your plate?

The way we look at it now, we have a very exciting lineup of organic growth opportunities on our plate for 2020, so acquisitions will likely be more of our agenda from 2021. This year we are really focused on continuing to grow in Canada, maximize our opportunity in China, and kick off a good start to understanding what our possibilities are in the U.S.

This interview has been edited and condensed. An extended version is available on tgam.ca/inside-the-market.

JAMIESON WELLNESS (JWEL)
CLOSE: $28.19, UP 66¢

Momentum stocks: The canary in the market's coal mine

NORMAN ROTHERY

INSIDE THE MARKET

PhD, CFA, founder of StingyInvestor.com

The markets conjured grim visions of collapse and ruination as stocks tumbled into the end of February. The quick correction might be a mere panic attack or the harbinger of things to come.

Signs of a serious decline can be gleaned from the behaviour of momentum stocks, which often act like canaries in the market's coal mine.

Momentum is known for doing very well in bull markets and then disintegrating in market crashes. I expected the first two months of the year to have served up a momentum massacre.

But, before diving into the numbers, it's worth pointing out that most momentum strategies are shockingly simple.

The basic idea is to buy stocks that have gained the most in recent months with the expectation they'll continue to move higher in the short term. It's a simple strategy that has worked well for decades and even centuries.

I explore the state of Canadian momentum by starting with the largest 200 stocks on the TSX by market capitalization. The momentum portfolio buys an equal-dollar amount of the 20 stocks with the highest total returns over the prior 12 months, holds them for a month, sells them and then repeats the process.

Canadian Momentum Portfolio

COMPANY	TICKER	PRICE	12M TOTAL RETURN
Aurinia Pharma.	AUP-T	$24.41	173.96%
Ballard Power	BLDP-T	$12.06	155.51%
Shopify	SHOP-T	$623.22	150.01%
Eldorado Gold	ELD-T	$11.65	104.03%
NovaGold Res.	NG-T	$10.65	104.02%
Lundin Gold	LUG-T	$10.39	88.91%
Alacer Gold	ASR-T	$6.07	84.50%
Altus Group	AIF-T	$44.88	73.55%
Boyd Group	BYD-T	$210.00	72.79%
Element Fleet Mgt.	EFN-T	$12.56	69.88%
Home Capital Group	HCG-T	$28.45	64.93%
Dream Unlimited	DRM-T	$12.75	59.66%
Boralex	BLX-T	$28.65	58.66%
Barrick Gold	ABX-T	$25.60	56.07%
Yamana Gold	YRI-T	$5.23	54.39%
Kinross Gold	K-T	$6.75	53.76%
Pan American Silver	PAAS-T	$26.57	53.04%
Ceridian HCM Holdings	CDAY-T	$95.94	49.74%
Franco-Nevada	FNV-T	$144.10	47.04%
Algonquin Power	AQN-T	$20.40	45.90%

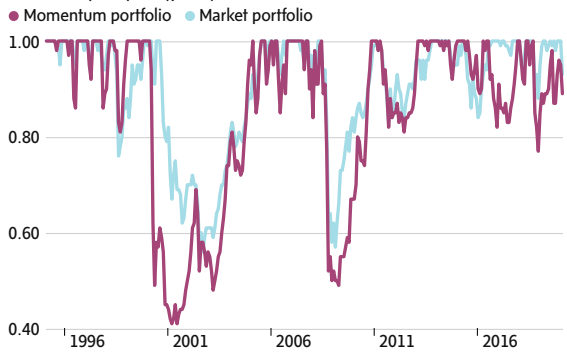
Data as of March 1. Source: Bloomberg

The momentum portfolio generated phenomenal long-term returns. It gained an average of 19.4 per cent annually over the 25 years through to the end of February, according to the Bloomberg back-testing tool. The Canadian market, as represented by the S&P/TSX Composite Index, gained an average of 8.2 per cent annually over the same period. (All of the returns herein are in Canadian dollar terms and are based on monthly data through to the 28th of each month. They include dividend reinvestment, but do not include taxes, trading frictions or inflation.)

The momentum portfolio's returns would have been lower in practice owing to the costs and frictions caused by monthly rebalancing. It would also have needed a good deal of effort to maintain over the years. Perhaps most importantly, sticking with momentum would have been murderously hard.

Problem is, there were 14 months when the momentum portfolio fell by more than 10 per cent. The crashes of 2000 and 2008 were horrific.

Downside of momentum in Canada
Fraction of prior peak (y-axis)



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: NORMAN ROTHERY; BLOOMBERG

In 2000, the momentum portfolio lost 7 per cent in March, 38 per cent in April and 24 per cent in May. Just imagine sticking with the portfolio after that string of losses. Most investors would have given up. In total, the portfolio fell almost 60 per cent from its early 2000 high to its 2001 low.

Similarly, the 2008 crash saw a 16 per cent decline in September, followed by a 34 per cent decline in October.

The portfolio gave up 51 per cent from the top in 2008 to the low in early 2009.

You can see the power of negative momentum in the accompanying graph.

That brings me to the experience of recent months, which – contrary to my expectations – wasn't that bad. Yes, the momentum portfolio fell, but it gave up just 1 per cent in January and 6 per cent in February. While the declines might be a precursor of worse things to come, they weren't unusually bad ones for the method.

The momentum portfolio, shown in the left accompanying table, currently contains a heavy dose of gold and precious metals stocks, which might provide a buffer against further market declines. Time will tell.

While the momentum canary hasn't given up the ghost in Canada quite yet, I'll be keeping an eye on the little fellow. But I hope the new coronavirus will prove to be milder than expected and short-lived. I wish everyone good health and good fortune in the months to come.

Drop in Cineplex shares rattles investors

As COVID-19 outbreak shakes theatre stocks, company is hit by short-sellers debating the future of takeover deal with Cineworld

DAVID BERMAN
INVESTMENT REPORTER

INSIDE THE MARKET

Can the global spread of the coronavirus scuttle a months-old takeover deal between **Cineplex** and British-based Cineworld Group PLC, just weeks after shareholders of both companies overwhelmingly approved the deal?

Cineplex's declining share price is clearly reflecting some rattled nerves.

On Thursday, the stock closed in Toronto at $29.86, down $2.62 or 8.1 per cent, and well below the $34 per share takeover price – offering an intriguing, although potentially risky, arbitrage opportunity of $4.14 per share or nearly 14 per cent if the deal closes as planned later this year.

The global outbreak of the coronavirus has hammered theatre stocks in recent weeks, based on concerns that people will be reluctant to attend public events. On Wednesday, the producers of the latest James Bond film, *No Time To Die*, announced that they will delay the film's release from April to November owing to a "thorough evaluation of the global theatrical marketplace."

But Cineplex, in particular, was hit by a series of tweets on Thursday from a short-seller arguing that the deal between the two companies could either fall apart or be repriced because of the market turbulence.

"The market is indicating a [about] 90-per-cent chance of the deal going through, which we think is horrendously mispriced. We estimate the odds at 50-60 per cent, with the market significantly underestimating the desperation with which we think Cineworld will seek to break or modify the deal," Hindenburg Research said in one of its tweets.

Short-sellers profit when share prices fall, and U.S.-based Hindenburg Research sees the potential for a big gain here: If the all-cash deal between Cineplex and Cineworld fell apart, the short-seller expects Cineplex's share price could fall significantly more, to $15.

> The question is whether weak share prices and the spread of the coronavirus are enough to scuttle a deal, if Cineworld wants to walk away.

A spokesperson for Cineworld said in an e-mail: "We aren't commenting on any market speculation."

A spokesperson for Cineplex was not available for comment. Hindenburg Research did not respond to an e-mailed inquiry.

Theatre stocks were struggling long before the appearance of COVID-19, owing largely to competitive threats from online streaming services from the likes of Netflix, Amazon, Apple and Disney. These threats underscored the deal with Cineworld, which believed that a larger global footprint would help it cut costs.

"Scale matters in this business," Cineworld chief executive Mooky Greidinger told The Globe and Mail in December, when the deal was announced.

But the coronavirus has made a difficult situation worse. AMC Entertainment Holdings Inc. has seen its share price slide 37.5 per cent since Feb. 20, when stock markets began to reflect concerns that COVID-19 could weigh heavily on global economic activity. IMAX Corp. has fallen 14.2 per cent over this period.

Cineworld shares have fallen 35.9 per cent over this period, including a 13-per-cent decline on Thursday.

But the question is whether weak share prices and the spread of the coronavirus are enough to scuttle a deal, if Cineworld wants to walk away. The agreement between Cineworld and Cineplex in December specifically mentioned that illness isn't enough to trigger a material adverse effect clause, which can provide an exit.

What's more, theoretically it may be difficult for Cineworld to argue that it has been harmed significantly more from the coronavirus than other theatre companies, or that the coronavirus will weigh on theatre companies for a long time – conditions that also make it difficult to walk away.

Julian Klymochko, CEO of Calgary-based Accelerate Financial Technologies Inc., which produces hedge fund and private equity exchange traded funds, said that merger and acquisition (M&A) deals can make attractive targets for short-sellers because some investors can be easily spooked.

"I think the deal is likely to close, and people who step in and buy here could be rewarded," Mr. Klymochko said in an interview.

He added: "Every short report I've seen on a Canadian M&A situation has been wrong, and the deals have closed."

CINEPLEX (CGX)
CLOSE: $29.86, DOWN $2.62

Markets summary

CANADIAN STOCKS

The Toronto Stock Exchange's S&P/TSX composite index was unofficially down 225.54 points, or 1.34 per cent. Canada's energy sector dropped 2.6 per cent and the financials and industrials sectors fell 2 per cent and 2.5 per cent, respectively.

U.S. STOCKS

U.S. stocks tumbled on Thursday, with shares of banks and travel companies taking a beating, as a new wave of fear about the spread of the coronavirus and its economic impact gripped investors just one day after election results powered a rally.

The major indexes fell more than 3 per cent. On Wednesday the market tallied huge gains after moderate Joe Biden's success in the Super Tuesday primaries for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In the latest coronavirus developments, Alphabet Inc.'s Google joined other big tech firms in recommending employees in the Seattle area work from home.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 969.58 points, or 3.58 per cent; the S&P 500 lost 106.18 points, or 3.39 per cent; and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 279.49 points, or 3.1 per cent.

The benchmark S&P 500 ended down more than 10 per cent from its Feb. 19 closing high, after last week logging its biggest weekly percentage decline since October, 2008.

All 11 major S&P 500 sectors ended negative, but defensive sectors, such as utilities and consumer staples, fell less than the overall market.

Shares of companies in the travel and leisure industry were punished. The S&P 500 airline index skidded 8.2 per cent, including a 13.4-per-cent fall for American Airlines Group Inc.

COMMODITIES

Oil prices fell on Thursday as the coronavirus epidemic showed no signs of slowing, feeding worries about the global economy and prompting investors to sell more risky assets such as stocks and crude oil and park money in safe havens.

Gold prices climbed 2 per cent to a more than one-week high on Thursday as worries over the global spread of the coronavirus spurred more safe-haven flows and hopes of further monetary policy easing by major central banks.

FOREX AND BONDS

The Canadian dollar weakened against its U.S. counterpart on Thursday as investors grew more concerned about the economic impact of the coronavirus and the Bank of Canada left the door open to further interest rate cuts to cushion the blow.

U.S. Treasury prices rallied on Thursday as fears about the spreading coronavirus left market fundamentals in the dust and the 10-year note yield sank to a record low. The 10-year Treasury yield, which has fallen in 10 of the past 11 sessions, dropped as low as 0.899 per cent, setting a new bottom after slipping below 1 per cent for the first time ever on Tuesday after the Federal Reserve's 50-basis-point interest rate cut.

European equities snapped a three-day winning streak as the epidemic's advance darkened the mood.

REUTERS AND ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flight to safety: Seeking haven stocks with sustainable dividends

SCOTT CLAYTON

NUMBER CRUNCHER

MBA, senior analyst for TSI Network and associate editor of TSI Dividend Advisor.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Sustainable dividends from "safe-harbour" alternatives to bonds.

THE SCREEN

Extreme market volatility is driving demand for bonds as investors seek haven from economic uncertainty. But there is an alternative to chasing meagre bond yields. Top gold, telecommunications and consumer stocks offer investors sustainable and growing dividends as well as capital-gains potential.

Golds are classic flight-to-safety stocks. But we also consider defensive-sector picks that thrive regardless of the economy, such as telecom companies and grocery chains. The latter are all the more attractive if they offer home delivery to allay consumer fears about COVID-19's spread. As well, pharmaceutical stocks offer essential drugs and consumer products such as over-the-counter medications.

Our search started with Canadian and U.S. dividend-payers that we believe limit investor exposure to market tumult. (With their direct and indirect tie to energy, and the volatility there, utilities stocks were ruled out under our criteria.)

We then applied our TSI Dividend Sustainability Rating System. It awards points based on key factors:

- One point for five years of continuous dividend payments – two points for more than five;
- Two points for raising the payment in the past five years;
- One point for management's public commitment to dividends;
- One point for operating in non-cyclical industries, which are less sensitive to the ups and downs of the economy;
- One point for limited exposure to foreign currency rates and freedom from political interference;
- Two points for a strong balance sheet, including manageable debt and adequate cash;
- Two points for a long-term record of positive earnings and cash flow sufficient to cover dividend payments;
- One point if it's an industry leader.

Companies with 10 to 12 points have the most secure dividends, or the highest sustainability. Those with seven to nine points have above average sustainability; average sustainability, four to six points; and below average sustainability, one to three points.

Select TSX-listed dividend stocks

RANKING*	COMPANY	TICKER	DIVIDEND SUSTAINABILITY RATING	POINTS	MKT. CAP. ($ BIL.) **	DIV. YLD. (%)	RECENT PRICE ($) **	1Y TTL. RTN. (%)
1	BCE Inc.	BCE-T	Highest	11	55.9	5.2	63.59	9.2
2	Telus Corp.	T-T	Highest	11	31.7	4.5	51.39	8.9
3	Pfizer Inc.	PFE-N	Highest	10	190.3	4.2	36.40	-15.5
4	Johnson & Johnson	JNJ-N	Highest	10	357.2	2.7	143.48	3.6
5	Loblaw Cos. Ltd.	L-T	Highest	10	24.9	1.8	71.58	9.6
6	Metro Inc.	MRU-T	Highest	10	13.7	1.6	55.44	10.6
7	Barrick Gold Corp.	ABX-T	Average	6	49.0	1.4	27.52	65.6
8	Newmont Corp.	NEM-N	Average	6	40.2	1.1	51.00	48.0

*Ranking is determined by TSI Dividend Sustainability Score. Where overall points are the same, analysts considered P/E, dividend yield and industry outlook to decide final placements.

**Share price and market cap are in native currency. Source: Dividend Advisor

MORE ABOUT TSI NETWORK

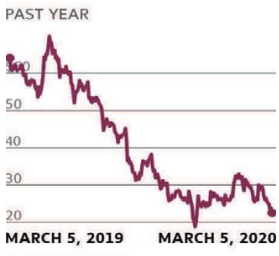
TSI Network is the online home of The Successful Investor Inc. – the group of widely followed Canadian investment newsletters by editor and publisher Pat McKeough. They include our award-winning flagship newsletter, The Successful Investor. The TSI Best ETFs for Canadian Investors is the latest. TSI Network is also affiliated with Successful Investor Wealth Management.

WHAT WE FOUND

Our TSI Dividend Sustainability Rating System generated eight stocks. **Newmont Corp.** and **Barrick Gold Corp.** are the world's two biggest gold producers, and each recently raised its dividend. **Loblaw Cos. Ltd.** and **Metro Inc.** are supermarket leaders, both with drugstore chains and expanded home delivery. **BCE Inc.** and **Telus Corp.** sell telecom services to Canadians. **Pfizer Inc.** and **Johnson & Johnson** are leading sellers of essential medicines, vaccines and health-care products.

We advise investors to do additional research on any investments we identify here.

EYE ON EQUITIES DAVID LEEDER

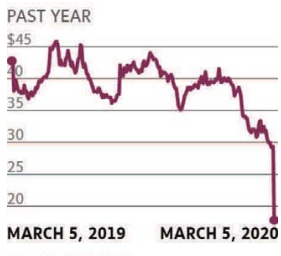


SOURCE: BARCHART

CANOPY GROWTH (WEED-TSX)
CLOSE $22.45, DOWN $1.32

Laurentian Bank Securities analyst Chris Blake raised **Canopy Growth Corp.** to "buy" from "hold," expecting to see improved asset utilization and greater operating efficiencies through its plan to permanently close two B.C. greenhouse facilities and stopping a move to bring another online in Ontario. "We believe it is a prudent and smart strategic decision," he said.

Target: Mr. Blake maintained a $29 target. The consensus target is $32.27.

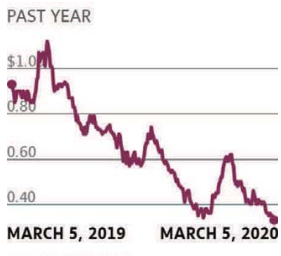


SOURCE: BARCHART

SPIN MASTER (TOY-TSX)
CLOSE $17.78, DOWN $11.53

Seeing its fourth-quarter results and outlook as "disappointing" and emphasizing its declining EBITDA can't solely be attributed to the effects of the spread of COVID-19, D.A. Davidson analyst Linda Bolton Weiser lowered **Spin Master Corp.** to "underperform" from "buy." "Such a poor outlook is surprising," she said.

Target: She cut her target to $20 from $41. Consensus is $36.89.

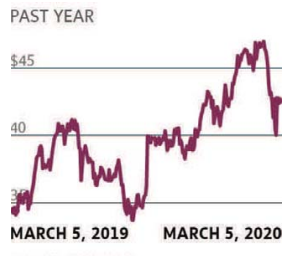


SOURCE: BARCHART

ATHABASCA OIL (ATH-TSX)
CLOSE $0.33, DOWN 1¢

Although its fourth-quarter results met with his expectations, Desjardins Securities analyst Justin Bouchard lowered **Athabasca Oil Corp.** to "hold" from "buy," seeing a "challenging" macro backdrop and emphasizing its "sensitivity" to extended low oil prices. "Our concern is that the business model needs at least US$55-60/bbl WTI to generate an adequate FCF yield," he said.

Target: Mr. Bouchard trimmed his target to 50 cents from $1. Consensus is 82 cents.

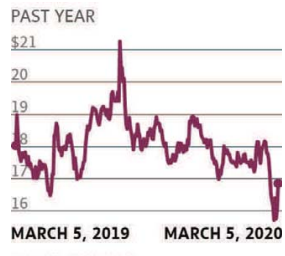


SOURCE: BARCHART

DESCARTES (DSGX-NASDAQ)
CLOSE US$42.55, UP US$2.55

Although its in-line fourth-quarter 2020 results displayed "a little slower" organic growth, Raymond James analyst Steven Li sees **Descartes Systems Group Inc.** "well positioned to benefit from the dynamic global environment and the Amazon effect."

Target: Also seeing Descartes better positioned to handle the impact of COVID-19 "than most," he raised his target to US$42 from US$40 with a "market perform" rating (unchanged). Consensus is US$44.96.



SOURCE: BARCHART

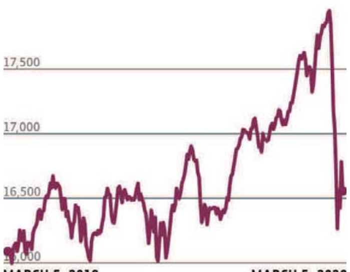
AECON GROUP (ARE-TSX)
CLOSE $16.85, UP 83¢

Aecon Group Inc. sits "ideally positioned as leading contractor of choice in Canada," Desjardins Securities analyst Benoit Poirier said after "another strong quarter supported by the robust backlog." "At this point, we do not see any reason to justify the underperformance of its shares," he said.

Target: Mr. Poirier increased his target to $27 from $25, keeping a "buy" rating. Consensus is $26.

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS

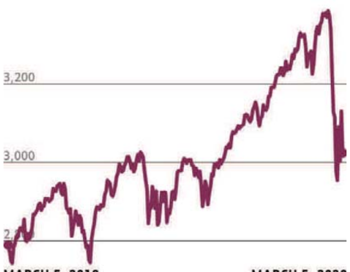
16553.99 | -225.54 | -1.34 % | -2.99 % YTD | 312977 VOL(000)



MARCH 5, 2019 MARCH 5, 2020

S&P 500
PAST 12 MONTHS

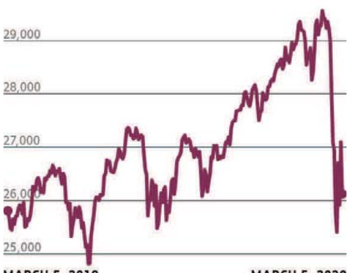
3023.94 | -106.18 | -3.39 % | -6.40 % YTD



MARCH 5, 2019 MARCH 5, 2020

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE
PAST 12 MONTHS

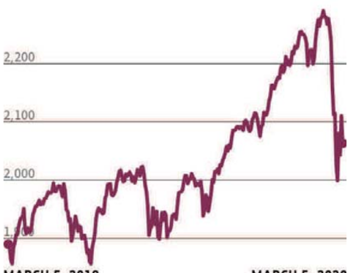
26121.28 | -969.58 | -3.58 % | -8.47 % YTD | 477366 VOL(000)



MARCH 5, 2019 MARCH 5, 2020

S&P GLOBAL 100 INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS

2062.78 | -47.03 | -2.23 % | -5.81 % YTD



MARCH 5, 2019 MARCH 5, 2020

TSX INDEXES AND SUB INDEXES

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
TSX COMPOSITE IND	16553.99	-225.54	-1.34	312977	-2.99
TSX 60 INDEX	987.40	-13.76	-1.37	170599	-2.71
TSX COMPLETION IN	1007.56	-12.55	-1.23	142378	-3.95
TSX SMALLCAP INDE	531.01	-6.80	-1.26	73368	-10.83
TSX VENTURE COMPO	521.27	-4.47	-0.85	65229	-9.74
TSX CONSUMER DISC	175.67	-7.45	-4.07	11411	-12.63
TSX CONSUMER STAP	644.49	7.30	1.15	5698	4.09
TSX ENERGY CAPPED	109.12	-2.89	-2.58	61501	-25.24
TSX FINANCIALS CA	299.91	-6.20	-2.03	50185	-4.93
TSX HEALTH CARE C	62.04	-1.64	-2.58	16433	-18.82
TSX INDUSTRIALS C	282.69	-7.37	-2.54	34395	-1.15
TSX INFORMATION T	125.81	-1.33	-1.05	5953	6.68
TSX MATERIALS CAP	260.80	3.81	1.48	65177	-2.83
TSX REAL ESTATE C	369.03	-1.75	-0.47	12913	6.53
TSX GLOBAL GOLD I	281.22	7.82	2.86	92999	7.62
TSX GLOBAL MINING	76.06	-0.89	-1.16	178175	-7.69
TSX INCOME TRUST	247.46	-1.45	-0.58	13522	6.83
TSX PREFERRED SHA	580.50	-3.22	-0.55	2327	-5.79
TSX TELECOM SERVI	177.11	-3.59	-1.99	16319	-1.17
TSX UTILITIES CAP	321.55	-1.09	-0.34	15184	11.35

TSX VOLUME
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
MFC MANULIFE FIN	22.32	-0.32	-1.41	11044	-15.33
CVE CENOVUS ENERG	8.95	-0.37	-3.97	10401	-32.20
XIU ISHARES S&P T	24.81	-0.34	-1.35	8788	-2.93
BTO B2GOLD CORP	6.09	0.18	3.05	8600	16.89
ABX BARRICK GOLD	28.43	0.91	3.31	8541	17.87
CNQ CDN NATURAL R	32.58	-0.54	-1.63	8533	-22.43
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	34.79	-0.93	-2.60	8238	-18.26
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	51.64	-0.37	-0.71	7769	0.02
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	67.29	-1.35	-1.97	6698	-7.61
K KINROSS GOLD CO	7.70	0.29	3.91	6047	25.00
CPG CRESCENT POIN	3.31	-0.20	-5.70	5833	-42.83
ACB AURORA CANNAB	1.77	-0.09	-4.84	5611	-36.56
RY ROYAL BANK OF	99.80	-1.38	-1.36	5322	-2.87
AC AIR CANADA	32.16	-2.91	-8.30	4866	-33.70
CGX CINEPLEX INC	29.86	-2.62	-8.07	4835	-11.79
HOU BETAPRO CRUDE	3.59	-0.19	-5.03	4409	-45.44
MEG MEG ENERGY CO	6.04	-0.01	-0.17	4234	-18.27
BNS BANK OF NOVA	68.76	-1.97	-2.79	3893	-6.26
XEG ISHARES S&P T	7.02	-0.19	-2.64	3580	-24.84
IPL INTER PIPELIN	19.26	-0.24	-1.23	3530	-14.55

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS
STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AQN ALGONQUIN POW	22.24	0.04	0.18	1937	21.07
AZP-PR-A ATLANTIC	16.53	0.05	0.30	4	3.70
BMO-PR-Q BANK OF	24.60	0.10	0.41	3	1.78
CAR-UN CDN APARTM	61.25	0.41	0.67	873	15.54
CU-X CDN UTIL CL	42.60	0.18	0.42	3	9.23
CU CANADIAN UTILI	42.69	0.09	0.21	736	8.99
CNL CONTINENTAL G	5.49	0.02	0.37	1536	2.62
DRM DREAM UNLIMIT	13.60	0.00	0.00	126	16.24
HBP HELIX BIOPHAR	2.01	0.38	23.31	3	50.00
HBGD HORIZONS BIG	23.67	0.58	2.51	N-A	
IFC INTACT FINANC	157.22	0.30	0.19	499	11.96
KXS KINAXIS INC	118.94	0.06	0.05	156	18.92
MI-UN MINTO APART	27.80	-0.19	-0.68	198	20.09
NGT NEWMONT GOLDC	69.99	1.59	2.32	372	24.01
PVS-PR-H PARTNERS	25.20	0.05	0.20	62	1.82
PRMW PRIMO WATER	20.49	-0.26	-1.25	229	2.71
MNT ROYAL CANADIA	23.99	0.71	3.05	57	14.84

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AFN AG GROWTH INT	35.81	-1.51	-4.05	144	-22.89
AD ALARIS ROYALTY	17.18	-0.88	-4.87	491	-21.66
BCE-PR-O BCE INC	18.12	-0.62	-3.31	3	-5.38
BMO-PR-C BMO PREF	20.40	0.01	0.05	8	-6.72
BMO-PR-D BMO PREF	19.15	-0.27	-1.39	20	-10.30
BMO-PR-E BMO PREF	18.59	-0.17	-0.91	10	-7.47
BMO-PR-F BMO PREF	22.85	-0.35	-1.51	7	-7.53
BMO BANK OF MONTR	88.01	-2.92	-3.21	3173	-12.55
BMO-PR-Y BANK OF	16.80	-0.20	-1.18	11	-13.13
BNS-PR-E BNS PREF	25.39	-0.10	-0.39	1	-2.72
BNS-PR-I BNS PREF	18.17	-0.46	-2.47	27	-8.46
BAM-PF-H BROOKFIE	25.21	-0.05	-0.20	3	-2.29
CM-PR-T CIBC PREF	22.00	-0.60	-2.65	34	-6.06
GOOS CANADA GOOSE	33.98	-1.95	-5.43	514	-27.72
CTC-A CANADIAN TI	129.41	-3.03	-2.29	359	-7.40
CYB CYMBRIA CORPO	49.95	-0.30	-0.60	20	-9.58
FTT FINNING INTL	18.71	-0.39	-2.04	510	-26.05
GC GREAT CANADIAN	37.49	-1.21	-3.13	501	-12.89
LNR LINAMAR CORP	35.36	-1.14	-3.12	195	-28.03
MFC-PR-Q MANULIFE	17.53	-0.22	-1.24	5	-11.20
MFC-PR-R MANULIFE	22.47	-0.29	-1.27	9	-9.87
MFC-PR-H MANULIFE	18.45	-0.20	-1.07	2	-12.14
NA-PR-E NATIONAL	17.02	-0.18	-1.05	13	-9.23
NA-PR-G NATIONAL	18.10	-0.55	-2.95	15	-8.22
NGPE NBI GLOBAL P	25.67	-0.55	-2.10	6	
RY-PR-S RBC PREF	18.15	-0.47	-2.52	25	-6.92
QSR RESTAURANT BR	72.15	-4.73	-6.15	1578	-12.84
QSP-UN RESTAURANT	72.35	-4.55	-5.92	36	-14.07
RY-PR-J ROYAL BAN	16.96	-0.32	-1.85	11	-14.86
RY-PR-M ROYAL BAN	16.58	-0.31	-1.84	8	-14.54
TOY SPIN MASTER C	17.78	-11.53	-39.34	2613	-55.03
SLF-PR-I SUN LIFE	17.00	-0.40	-2.30	6	-10.43
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	34.79	-0.93	-2.60	8238	-18.26
TD-PF-I TD BANK P	19.17	-0.03	-0.16	5	-8.80
TD-PF-D TD BANK P	17.57	-0.26	-1.46	2	-11.26
TD-PF-E TD BANK P	17.99	-0.17	-0.94	7	-9.91
TD-PF-K TD BANK P	18.12	-0.08	-0.44	17	-7.97
TD-PF-L TD BANK P	22.20	-0.54	-2.37	16	-7.69
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	67.29	-1.35	-1.97	6698	-7.61
WPK WINPAK LTD	40.16	-0.13	-0.32	93	-14.52

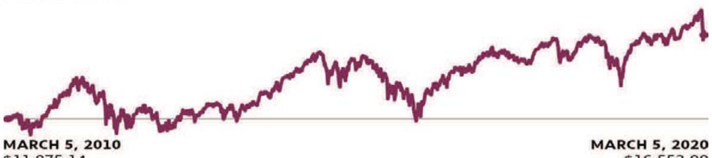
TSX GAINERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
HBP HELIX BIOPHAR	2.01	0.38	23.31	3	50.00
IMV IMV INC.	4.22	0.59	16.25	311	11.94
HUV BETAPRO SP500	47.10	6.26	15.33	405	77.07
MDNA MEDICENNA TH	3.84	0.44	12.94	320	12.94
PTS POINTS INTERN	21.00	2.35	12.60	26	5.95
AXU ALEXCO RESOUR	2.37	0.26	12.32	762	-21.00
CLR CLEARWATER SE	5.65	0.60	11.88	213	-1.57
ONC ONCOLYTICS BI	3.71	0.39	11.75	365	-39.67
AR ARGONAUT GOLD	1.46	0.15	11.45	805	-25.13
TGZ TERANGA GOLD	7.92	0.64	8.79	1019	12.82
HUT HUT 8 MINING	1.32	0.10	8.20	322	23.36
HND BETAPRO NAT G	14.74	1.08	7.91	821	44.65
EQX EQUINOX GOLD	12.00	0.82	7.33	765	20.12
LMC LEAGOLD MININ	3.96	0.26	7.03	727	22.60
DSG DESCARTES SYS	57.12	3.48	6.49	390	2.92
HSD BETAPRO SP500	11.92	0.71	6.33	1778	9.56
HQD BETAPRO NASDA	3.97	0.23	6.15	1423	-2.70
IMG IAMGOLD CORP	4.15	0.24	6.14	2365	-14.43
FRX FENNEC PHARMA	9.92	0.57	6.10	N-A	17.40
PMTS CPI CARD GRO	1.06	0.06	6.00	N-A	-8.62

TSX LOSERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
TOY SPIN MASTER C	17.78	-11.53	-39.34	2613	-55.03
DII-A DOREL INDUS	3.35	-0.65	-16.25	3	-42.74
POU PARAMOUNT RES	3.23	-0.52	-13.87	1177	-57.16
SUSA SCOTIA STRAT	19.45	-2.86	-12.82	36	-16.27
OVV OVINTIV INC	12.55	-1.66	-11.68	2819	-45.43
MAXR MAXAR TECHNO	20.79	-2.65	-11.31	593	2.11
MOGO MOGO INC	2.60	-0.29	-10.03	44	-22.39
HMJU BETAPRO MARI	1.51	-0.16	-9.58	53	-46.83
MYA MAYA GOLD & S	1.20	-0.12	-9.09	52	-38.46
SES SECURE ENERGY	3.48	-0.33	-8.66	612	-31.23
LCS BROMPTON LIFE	4.16	-0.39	-8.57	38	-33.23
AC AIR CANADA	32.16	-2.91	-8.30	4866	-33.70
CGX CINEPLEX INC	29.86	-2.62	-8.07	4835	-11.79
SPG SPARK POWER G	2.06	-0.18	-8.04	51	71.67
WEF WESTERN FORES	1.05	-0.09	-7.89	1182	-13.93
RFP RESOLUTE FORE	3.54	-0.30	-7.81	38	-35.05
MX METHANEX CORP	36.10	-3.04	-7.77	370	-28.02
SLF-PR-J SUN LIFE	10.75	-0.90	-7.73	4	-19.78
HNU BETAPRO NAT G	3.85	-0.32	-7.67	2649	-38.20
GEO GEODRILL LIMI	1.70	-0.14	-7.61	11	18.06

TSX COMPOSITE INDEX $16,553.99 +4,578.85 (38.24%)
PAST 10 YEARS



MARCH 5, 2010 $11,975.14 MARCH 5, 2020 $16,553.99

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX STOCKS
LARGEST STOCKS BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ARE AECON GROUP I	16.85	0.83	5.18	596	-3.82
AFN AG GROWTH INT	35.81	-1.51	-4.05	144	-22.89
AEM AGNICO EAGLE	71.37	3.09	4.53	1438	-10.77
AC AIR CANADA	32.16	-2.91	-8.30	4866	-33.70
ASR ALACER GOLD C	6.56	0.22	3.47	1003	-4.93
AGI ALAMOS GOLD I	8.46	0.34	4.19	633	8.05
AD ALARIS ROYALTY	17.18	-0.88	-4.87	491	-21.66
AQN ALGONQUIN POW	22.24	0.04	0.18	1937	21.07
ATD-B ALIMENTATIO	43.49	0.74	1.73	1736	5.53
AP-UN ALLIED PROP	58.06	-0.25	-0.43	329	11.50
ALA ALTAGAS LTD	21.42	-0.25	-1.15	625	8.29
AIF ALTUS GROUP L	44.87	-0.65	-1.43	148	18.20
APHA APHRIA INC	4.52	-0.31	-6.42	2824	-33.33
ARX ARC RESOURCES	5.94	-0.12	-1.98	2046	-27.38
ATZ ARITZIA INC	21.24	-0.92	-4.15	180	11.50
AX-UN ARTIS REAL	13.48	-0.19	-1.39	620	13.28
ACO-X ATCO LTD CL	53.78	-0.28	-0.52	330	8.06
ATA ATS AUTOMATIO	18.62	-0.16	-0.85	276	-13.11
ACB AURORA CANNAB	1.77	-0.09	-4.84	5611	-36.56
BTO B2GOLD CORP	6.09	0.18	3.05	8600	16.89
BCE BCE INC	62.67	-0.92	-1.45	2953	4.17
BAD BADGER DAYLIG	30.81	-0.81	-2.56	146	-12.32
BLDP BALLARD POWE	14.22	0.06	0.42	1614	53.23
BMO BANK OF MONTR	88.01	-2.92	-3.21	3173	-12.55
BNS BANK OF NOVA	68.76	-1.97	-2.79	3893	-6.26
ABX BARRICK GOLD	28.43	0.91	3.31	8541	17.87
BHC BAUSCH HEALTH	30.15	-0.81	-2.62	975	-22.43
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	1.17	-0.07	-5.65	2537	-37.43
BB BLACKBERRY LIM	6.25	-0.33	-5.02	2090	-25.15
BEI-UN BOARDWALK	47.65	-1.67	-3.39	208	3.74
BLX BORALEX INC	31.15	-0.35	-1.11	511	27.35
BYD BOYD GROUP SE	206.30	-4.93	-2.33	99	1.63
BAM-A BROOKFIELD	83.47	-1.32	-1.56	2923	11.25
BBU-UN BROOKFIELD	52.50	-1.99	-3.65	53	-2.29
BIP-UN BROOKFIELD	71.14	-0.36	-0.50	376	9.68
BPY-UN BROOKFIELD	23.33	-0.03	-0.13	995	-1.69
BEP-UN BROOKFIELD	73.25	0.00	0.00	313	21.48
DOO BRP INC	51.27	-3.14	-5.77	472	-13.34
CAR-UN CDN APARTM	61.25	0.41	0.67	873	15.54
CNQ CDN NATURAL R	32.58	-0.54	-1.63	8533	-22.43
CWB CDN WESTERN B	28.43	-1.16	-3.92	322	-10.85
GIB-A CGI GROUP I	95.61	-1.20	-1.24	995	-12.02
CIX CI FINANCIAL	22.30	-0.36	-1.59	553	2.72
CRT-UN CT REAL ES	16.52	-0.18	-1.08	247	2.35
CAE CAE INC	33.44	-2.69	-7.45	1561	-2.73
CCO CAMECO CORP	11.81	0.14	1.20	749	2.34
GOOS CANADA GOOSE	33.98	-1.95	-5.43	514	-27.72
CM CANADIAN IMPER	101.47	-2.28	-2.20	2827	-6.10
CNR CANADIAN NATI	114.66	-3.35	-2.84	3090	-2.39
CP CANADIAN PACIF	335.09	-9.29	-2.70	423	1.23
CTC-A CANADIAN TI	129.41	-3.03	-2.29	359	-7.40
CU CANADIAN UTILI	42.69	0.09	0.21	736	8.99
CFP CANFOR CORP	11.20	-0.53	-4.52	431	-7.74
WEED CANOPY GROWT	22.45	-1.32	-5.55	2719	-17.80
CPX CAPITAL POWER	36.91	-0.42	-1.13	401	7.33
CJT CARGOJET INC	102.00	-5.61	-5.21	66	-1.29
CAS CASCADES INC	12.16	0.26	2.18	315	8.47
CCL-B CCL INDUSTR	44.87	-0.47	-1.04	350	-18.89
CLS CELESTICA INC	8.72	-0.16	-1.80	201	-19.03
CVE CENOVUS ENERG	8.95	-0.37	-3.97	10401	-32.20
CG CENTERRA GOLD	9.43	0.12	1.29	625	-8.71
CSH-UN CHARTWELL	14.26	0.35	2.52	1491	2.59
CHE-UN CHEMTRADE	8.77	-0.15	-1.68	252	-20.49
CHP-UN CHOICE PRO	14.24	-0.26	-1.79	391	2.37
CHR CHORUS AVIATI	5.92	-0.48	-7.50	2037	-26.82
CGX CINEPLEX INC	29.86	-2.62	-8.07	4835	-11.79
CCA COGECO COMMUN	107.00	-2.09	-1.92	106	-5.48
CIGI COLLIERS INT	108.93	-2.73	-2.44	90	7.74
CUF-UN COMINAR R	14.75	-0.24	-1.60	614	4.17
CSU CONSTELLATION	1397.21	10.21	0.74	63	10.79
CJR-B CORUS ENTER	4.18	-0.16	-3.69	558	-21.43
BCB COTT CORP	19.52	0.49	2.57	1160	10.03
CPG CRESCENT POIN	3.31	-0.20	-5.70	5833	-42.83
CRR-UN CROMBIE RE	15.44	-0.24	-1.53	310	-3.14
CRON CRONOS GROUP	7.95	0.00	0.00	1085	-20.26
DSG DESCARTES SYS	57.12	3.48	6.49	390	2.92
DOL DOLLARAMA INC	39.61	-0.43	-1.07	914	-11.25
DIR-UN DREAM INDU	13.52	0.00	0.00	588	2.89
D-UN DREAM OFFICE	35.95	-0.32	-0.88	147	15.48
ECN ECN CAPITAL C	5.47	-0.04	-0.73	739	14.20
ELD ELDORADO GOLD	12.94	0.04	0.31	2243	24.07
EFN ELEMENT FLEET	12.64	-0.04	-0.32	1378	13.98
EMA EMERA INCORPO	59.91	0.23	0.39	1754	7.38
EMP-A EMPIRE COMP	32.96	1.01	3.16	729	8.21
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	51.64	-0.37	-0.71	7769	0.02
EDV ENDEAVOUR MIN	24.81	0.59	2.44	274	1.14
EFX ENERFLEX LTD	7.10	-0.19	-2.61	728	-41.95
ERF ENERPLUS CORP	5.43	-0.25	-4.40	1374	-41.30
ENGH ENGHOUSE SYS	52.03	0.02	0.04	157	7.99
EQB EQUITABLE GRO	87.76	-5.00	-5.39	60	-19.74
ERO ERO COPPER CO	13.57	-0.47	-3.35	303	-42.52
EIF EXCHANGE INCO	40.02	-1.36	-3.29	180	-10.45
EXE EXTENDICARE I	7.98	0.04	0.50	237	-5.45
FFH FAIRFAX FINAN	556.31	-12.87	-2.26	83	-8.76
FTT FINNING INTL	18.71	-0.39	-2.04	510	-26.05
FCR-UN FIRST CAPI	21.90	0.40	1.86	1177	5.95
FR FIRST MAJESTIC	10.96	0.14	1.29	876	-31.20
FM FIRST QUANTUM	9.61	-0.29	-2.93	2359	-27.03
FSV FIRSTSERVICE	139.49	1.94	1.41	97	15.39
FTS FORTIS INC	58.23	-0.12	-0.21	2710	8.07
FNV FRANCO-NEVADA	161.89	5.22	3.33	942	20.73
FRU FREEHOLD ROYA	6.27	-0.17	-2.64	1127	-13.99
FEC FRONTERA ENER	7.10	-0.38	-5.08	291	-27.55
MIC GENWORTH MI C	49.22	-0.94	-1.87	229	-13.38
GEI GIBSON ENERGY	25.12	-0.71	-2.75	407	-5.53
GIL GILDAN ACTIVE	31.71	-1.40	-4.23	957	-17.40
GRT-UN GRANITE RE	71.20	-0.32	-0.45	209	7.91
GC GREAT CANADIAN	37.49	-1.21	-3.13	501	-12.89
GWO GREAT-WEST LI	30.14	-0.58	-1.89	828	-9.38
HR-UN H&R REAL ES	20.39	-0.17	-0.83	829	-3.36
HEXO HEXO CORP	1.61	-0.06	-3.59	914	-22.22
HCG HOME CAPITAL	26.88	-1.51	-5.32	441	-18.45
HBM HUDBAY MINERA	3.09	-0.22	-6.65	1350	-42.57
HBC HUDSONS BAY C	10.99	0.00	0.00	2247	11.23
HSE HUSKY ENERGY	5.76	-0.39	-6.34	3209	-44.72
H HYDRO ONE LIMIT	28.48	0.15	0.53	1658	13.56
IMG IAMGOLD CORP	4.15	0.24	6.14	2365	-14.43
IGM IGM FINANCIAL	35.55	-0.90	-2.47	254	-4.64
IMO IMPERIAL OIL	29.37	-0.59	-1.97	1838	-14.50
IAG INDUSTRIAL AL	62.43	-1.54	-2.41	175	-12.48
INE INNERGEX RENE	20.91	-0.42	-1.97	505	24.02
IFC INTACT FINANC	157.22	0.30	0.19	499	11.96
IPL INTER PIPELIN	19.26	-0.24	-1.23	3530	-14.55
IFP INTERFOR CORP	11.98	-0.51	-4.08	323	-18.34
IIP-UN INTERRENT	18.82	0.16	0.86	668	20.33
ITP INTERTAPE POL	14.16	-0.33	-2.28	152	-14.80
IVN IVANHOE MINES	3.17	-0.03	-0.94	730	-25.41
JWEL JAMIESON WEL	28.19	0.66	2.40	77	9.48
KEY KEYERA CORP	31.00	-1.10	-3.43	781	-8.88
KMP-UN KILLAM APA	23.22	-0.13	-0.56	319	22.60
KXS KINAXIS INC	118.94	0.06	0.05	156	18.92
K KINROSS GOLD CO	7.70	0.29	3.91	6047	25.00
KL KIRKLAND LAKE	47.88	0.36	0.76	1469	-16.35
GUD KNIGHT THERAP	6.92	0.06	0.87	364	-8.71
LIF LABRADOR IRON	19.60	-0.70	-3.45	182	-20.39
LB LAURENTIAN BAN	37.88	-0.54	-1.41	342	-14.74
LSPD LIGHTSPEED P	32.79	-1.17	-3.45	358	-9.09
LNR LINAMAR CORP	35.36	-1.14	-3.12	195	-28.03
L LOBLAW CO	71.87	0.29	0.41	924	7.27
LUN LUNDIN MINING	6.72	-0.23	-3.31	1982	-13.40
MAG MAG SILVER CO	12.27	0.02	0.16	394	-20.01
MG MAGNA INTERNAT	61.53	-2.59	-4.04	1070	-13.58
MFC MANULIFE FIN	22.32	-0.32	-1.41	11044	-15.33
MFI MAPLE LEAF FO	23.21	0.23	1.00	302	-10.32
MRE MARTINREA INT	10.90	-0.49	-4.30	119	-23.83
MEG MEG ENERGY CO	6.04	-0.01	-0.17	4234	-18.27
MX METHANEX CORP	36.10	-3.04	-7.77	370	-28.02
MRU METRO INC	56.34	0.90	1.62	797	5.13
MSI MORNEAU SHEPE	34.02	-0.25	-0.73	134	0.68
MTY MTY FOOD GROU	51.35	-1.97	-3.69	114	-7.46
MTL MULLEN GROUP	7.57	-0.18	-2.32	317	-18.34
NA NATIONAL BANK	66.29	-2.63	-3.82	2704	-8.03
NFI NEW FLYER IND	29.53	-0.62	-2.06	227	10.81
OSB NORBORD INC	37.44	-0.74	-1.94	409	7.80
NPI NORTHLAND POW	32.52	-0.43	-1.31	903	19.56
NVU-UN NORTHVIEW	36.24	-0.04	-0.11	753	22.27
NWH-UN NORTHWEST	12.43	-0.37	-2.89	861	4.19
NG NOVAGOLD RES I	11.83	0.30	2.60	537	1.81
NTR NUTRIEN LTD	54.25	-0.57	-1.04	2892	-12.74
OGC OCEANAGOLD CO	2.34	0.08	3.54	1162	-8.24
ONEX ONEX CORP	74.35	-2.25	-2.94	294	-9.52
OTEX OPEN TEXT CO	57.50	-0.84	-1.44	820	0.49
OR OSISKO GOLD RO	11.95	0.25	2.14	883	-5.31
PAAS PAN AMERICAN	29.96	0.42	1.42	541	-2.60
PXT PAREX RESOURC	18.92	-0.29	-1.51	1052	-21.66
PKI PARKLAND FUEL	40.00	-0.44	-1.09	366	-16.16
PSI PASON SYSTEMS	12.50	-0.03	-0.24	215	-4.65
PPL PEMBINA PIPEL	47.80	-0.78	-1.61	1587	-0.69
POW POWER CORPORA	28.97	-0.86	-2.88	2804	-13.39
PSK PRAIRIESKY RO	12.57	0.02	0.16	704	-17.47
PBH PREMIUM BRAND	96.39	0.97	1.02	88	5.97
PVG PRETIUM RESOU	10.23	0.11	1.09	685	-29.20
QBR-B QUEBECOR IN	32.33	-0.32	-0.98	905	-2.44
REAL REAL MATTERS	15.09	0.21	1.41	868	22.48
QSR RESTAURANT BR	72.15	-4.73	-6.15	1578	-12.84
RCH RICHELIEU HAR	27.66	-0.57	-2.02	80	1.95
REI-UN RIOCAN REA	26.31	-0.12	-0.45	819	-1.68
RBA RITCHIE BROS	54.61	-1.43	-2.55	245	-1.99
RCI-B ROGERS COMM	64.04	-1.58	-2.41	1930	-0.68
RY ROYAL BANK OF	99.80	-1.38	-1.36	5322	-2.87
RUS RUSSEL METALS	20.01	-0.17	-0.84	214	-9.74
SMF SEMAFO J	3.13	0.08	2.62	1389	15.93
SSL SANDSTORM GOL	8.49	0.25	3.03	740	-12.38
SAP SAPUTO INC	37.32	0.00	0.00	477	-7.16
SEA SEABRIDGE GOL	15.21	0.24	1.60	82	-15.31
SES SECURE ENERGY	3.48	-0.33	-8.66	612	-31.23
VII SEVEN GENERAT	5.04	-0.23	-4.36	786	-40.50
SJR-B SHAW COMMUN	24.07	-0.30	-1.23	1701	-8.65
SCL SHAWCOR LTD	7.07	-0.38	-5.10	278	-43.58
SHOP SHOPIFY INC	669.01	-17.76	-2.59	380	29.58
SIA SIENNA SENIOR	17.67	-0.06	-0.34	207	-3.23
SVM SILVERCORP ME	4.77	0.16	3.47	478	-34.92
ZZZ SLEEP COUNTRY	18.99	0.72	3.94	306	-6.04
SRU-UN SMARTCENTR	30.02	-0.31	-1.02	421	-3.81
SNC SNC-LAVALIN S	30.89	-0.80	-2.52	843	3.14
TOY SPIN MASTER C	17.78	-11.53	-39.34	2613	-55.03
SSRM SSR MINING I	23.19	0.53	2.34	293	-7.20
STN STANTEC INC	41.59	-0.43	-1.02	259	13.32
SJ STELLA JONES I	34.42	-0.80	-2.27	114	-8.26
SMU-UN SUMMIT IND	13.99	-0.09	-0.64	723	16.00
SLF SUN LIFE FINA	57.86	-1.88	-3.15	1854	-2.28
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	34.79	-0.93	-2.60	8238	-18.26
SPB SUPERIOR PLUS	10.36	-0.29	-2.72	840	-17.52
TRP TC ENERGY COR	73.30	0.05	0.07	2950	5.99
TECK-B TECK RESOU	14.56	0.08	0.55	3065	-35.35
T TELUS CORP	50.31	-1.08	-2.10	3328	0.06
TFII TFI INTERNAT	39.23	-1.39	-3.42	410	-10.37
NWC THE NORTH WES	26.17	0.09	0.35	123	-4.24
TSGI THE STARS GR	31.47	-0.47	-1.47	644	-7.14
TRI THOMSON REUTE	101.94	-2.99	-2.85	1160	9.74
X TMX GROUP LIMIT	118.39	4.42	3.88	245	5.28
TXG TOREX GOLD RE	18.32	0.31	1.72	381	-10.72
TIH TOROMONT IND	67.64	-1.21	-1.76	106	-4.18
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	67.29	-1.35	-1.97	6698	-7.61
TOU TOURMALINE OI	10.93	0.00	0.00	1940	-28.19
TA TRANSALTA CORP	10.44	-0.20	-1.88	1022	12.50
RNW TRANSALTA REN	17.41	-0.10	-0.57	556	12.18
TCL-A TRANSCONTIN	16.64	-0.56	-3.26	242	4.85
TCN TRICON CAPITA	11.30	-0.24	-2.08	463	6.30
VET VERMILION ENE	12.71	-0.98	-7.16	2922	-40.13
WSP WSP GLOBAL IN	85.59	-2.30	-2.62	372	-3.47
WCN WASTE CONNECT	137.08	0.89	0.65	649	16.22
WDO WESDOME GOLD	9.99	0.31	3.20	491	-1.77
WFT WEST FRASER T	49.60	-1.47	-2.88	414	-13.41
WN WESTON GEORGE	108.48	0.98	0.91	212	5.30
WTE WESTSHORE TER	13.89	-0.14	-1.00	282	-26.70
WPM WHEATON PRECI	41.20	0.22	0.54	2473	6.63
WCP WHITECAP RESO	3.79	-0.18	-4.53	2590	-31.71
WPK WINPAK LTD	40.16	-0.13	-0.32	93	-14.52
YRI YAMANA GOLD I	5.84	0.19	3.36	3485	13.62

ETFS
STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
FIE ISHARES CDN F	6.70	-0.15	-2.19	465	-7.20
HGD BETAPRO CDN G	2.96	-0.19	-6.03	1868	-18.01
HGU BETAPRO CDN G	20.64	1.09	5.58	1025	10.08
HND BETAPRO NAT G	14.74	1.08	7.91	821	44.65
HNU BETAPRO NAT G	3.85	-0.32	-7.67	2649	-38.20
HOD BETAPRO CRUDE	6.18	0.28	4.75	2996	68.39
HOU BETAPRO CRUDE	3.59	-0.19	-5.03	4409	-45.44
HQD BETAPRO NASDA	3.97	0.23	6.15	1423	-2.70
HQU BETAPRO NASDA	21.53	-1.35	-5.90	436	-3.08
HSD BETAPRO SP500	11.92	0.71	6.33	1778	9.56
HXD BETAPRO S&P T	4.73	0.14	3.05	580	3.96
HXT HORIZONS S&P	36.84	-0.51	-1.37	1458	-2.23
VFV VANGUARD S&P	72.29	-2.28	-3.06	543	-2.88
XEG ISHARES S&P T	7.02	-0.19	-2.64	3580	-24.84
XFN ISHARES S&P T	37.69	-0.79	-2.05	1372	-4.68
XGD ISHARES S&P T	17.56	0.49	2.87	1524	7.80
XIC ISHARES CORE	26.44	-0.38	-1.42	2169	-2.54
XIU ISHARES S&P T	24.81	-0.34	-1.35	8788	-2.93
XRE ISHARES S&P T	20.80	-0.11	-0.53	682	6.72
XSP ISHARES CORE	33.38	-1.15	-3.33	1280	-6.18
ZEB BMO S&P TSX E	27.11	-0.73	-2.62	459	-7.47
ZSP BMO S&P 500 I	44.83	-1.37	-2.97	1037	-2.75
ZUB BMO EQL WGT U	23.67	-1.36	-5.43	459	-22.34
ZWB BMO COVERED C	17.07	-0.43	-2.46	546	-7.38

COMMODITIES

	PRICE	NET CHG
GOLD	1668.00	25.00
SILVER	17.39	0.15
NATURAL GAS	1.77	-0.05
CRUDE OIL WTI	45.90	-0.88
CRUDE OIL BRENT	49.99	-1.14
HIGH GRADE COPPER	2.57	-0.01
LEAD	2348.50	0.00
ZINC	2297.00	0.00
ALUMINUM	1721.25	4.00
HKFE NICKEL CNH	88040.0	290.0
WHEAT	524.25	2.75
LUMBER	410.20	6.10
CORN	384.50	-2.50
SOYBEAN	889.00	-9.75
CANOLA	463.50	-3.40
S&P 500 COMM SRVS	265.20	-9.75
FEED WHEAT	162.00	0.50
BITCOIN CME FUTURES	9195.00	435.00

Gold, Silver (USD/oz), Nat gas (USD/mmbtu), Oil (USD/barrel), Copper (USD/lb), Bitcoin (USD)
Lead, Zinc and Aluminum (USD/tonne), HKFE Nickel (in Renminbi-Yuan/tonne), Lumber (USD/1000 board ft),
Wheat, Corn and Soybeans (in U.S. cents/bushel), Canola and Barley (in Cdn dollars/tonne), Feed Wheat (in Br. pounds/tonne)

BONDS
CANADA

TERM	YIELD	CHG
2-YEAR	0.92	-0.05
5-YEAR	0.88	0.00
10-YEAR	0.97	0.01
30-YEAR	1.27	0.04

RATES	RATE	CHG
BOFC OVERNIGHT TARGET	1.25	UNCH
CANADIAN PRIME	3.45	UNCH

Source: wires

U.S.

TERM	YIELD	CHG
2-YEAR TREASURY	0.59	-0.08
5-YEAR TREASURY	0.67	-0.08
10-YEAR TREASURY	0.92	-0.10
30-YEAR TREASURY	1.56	-0.11

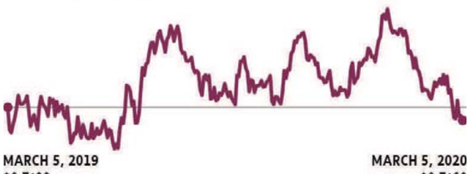
RATES	RATE	CHG
FED TARGET RATE	1.0-1.25	UNCH
U.S. PRIME	4.25	UNCH

Source: wires

CURRENCIES
FOREIGN EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

	CAD	USD	AUD	EUR	GBP	JPY	CHF
CAD	-	0.7456	1.1275	0.6635	0.5755	79.062	0.7046
USD	1.3403	-	1.5122	0.8899	0.7719	106.06	0.9451
AUD	0.8859	0.6609	-	0.5882	0.5103	70.081	0.6248
EUR	1.5059	1.1236	1.6987	-	0.8671	119.15	1.0620
GBP	1.7361	1.2951	1.9567	1.1524	-	137.35	1.2240
JPY	0.0126	0.0094	0.0142	0.0084	0.0073	-	0.8904
CHF	1.4170	1.0566	1.5979	0.9403	0.8156	112.08	-

CANADIAN DOLLAR $0.7460 -0.0030 (-0.3979%)
PAST YEAR, AS OF 4:45 P.M.



MARCH 5, 2019 $0.7489 MARCH 5, 2020 $0.7460

DATA PROVIDED BY BARCHART, EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

SPORTS

Ottawa Gee-Gees look to make the most of host team's automatic entry in U Sports tourney ■ B13

NFL Players Association sends out ballots for members to vote on controversial CBA ■ B17

PHOTO OF THE DAY

No longer Wayne's world

Derby's Wayne Rooney, front, duels for the ball with Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes during their FA Cup match in England on Thursday. Odion Ighalo scored twice as the Red Devils went on to win 3-0 over the side now captained by Rooney, United's all-time leading goal scorer. United has won the FA Cup 12 times, just one shy of Arsenal's 13, and heads on to the quarter-finals ■ B17

RUI VIEIRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global cycling body to investigate sexual-assault allegations

LORI EWING

In the weeks and months after Maggie Coles-Lyster alleges she was sexually assaulted, the Canadian cyclist buried herself in her sport.

The 21-year-old from Maple Ridge, B.C., was just 18 when she joined Doltcini-Van Eyck Sport's women's team as a development rider in 2017. It was during a multiday race in the Netherlands that she said she was repeatedly sexually assaulted during massages by someone associated with the team.

The global body for cycling – the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) – has launched a formal investigation into the Belgian team after Coles-Lyster and American cyclist Sara Youmans alleged abuses within the squad.

The allegations haven't been proved in court.

"I didn't talk about it for a while," Coles-Lyster said in a recent phone interview. "I didn't know what effect that would have on me. You're always considering your future career. There's always the not being believed, still kind of wrapping your mind around what happened. And then when I started talking to Sara, she was coming out with her story … I realized that it's shocking how many people don't really realize this happens in the sport.

"I felt this is a very important message and story that needs to get out for change to start happening because this is out of hand right now."

Coles-Lyster, who captured two medals for Canada at last summer's Pan American Games in Lima, alleged she was assaulted during her first massage with the Belgian team, which was then under title sponsors Lares-Waowdeals. The Canadian alleged the individual straddled her around the tops of her legs and touched her genitals, which "seemed like a strange practice to me." She said the sexual assault was repeated during massage sessions on days that followed.

She also alleged the individual took pictures of her during group meals and sent them to her with intimate messages.

Coles-Lyster eventually confided in her parents. It was a difficult conversation.

"It took a lot of courage for me to come forward and talk to them about it, because it's the whole, as a victim actually understanding and coming to terms with what happened," she said. "There's really a big stigma that a lot of women feel around this, even unfortunately embarrassment, guilt, shame, all these emotions and even though you know your parents would always believe you, there's always just these thoughts in your head. But you know they're going to support you and love you no matter what.

"I have a great relationship with my parents. So once we actually got the conversation rolling, it wasn't that hard to talk to them about it, and for them to help me."

Coles-Lyster also reached the podium twice in UCI criterium races last season, and had a UCI victory on the track.

Team director Marc Bracke said in an e-mail that Coles-Lyster informed staff in April of 2017 that she "didn't feel safe" around the individual "because he was stalking her with messages and photos … I took this seriously as a manager."

Bracke said he'd been unaware of Coles-Lyster's allegations of sexual assault until "I had to hear from the press last Saturday. I can understand that Maggy didn't just dare to say this despite being safe in our team."

■ CYCLING, B12

Alberta beats Saskatchewan at Brier

Bottcher kicks off championship round with a victory after going unbeaten in preliminaries

GREGORY STRONG KINGSTON

Alberta's Brendan Bottcher calls the sweep as his team faces Saskatchewan at the Brier in Kingston Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No surprise teams this time around at the Tim Hortons Brier. And with a field this strong, there's little room for mistakes now too.

The best Canadian men's curling teams – No. 1 through No. 8 in the domestic rankings, in fact – started battling in the championship round Thursday after making the eight-team cut.

Alberta's Brendan Bottcher picked up where he left off after going unbeaten in the preliminary round. He defeated Saskatchewan's Matt Dunstone 9-5 to improve to 8-0.

"A little bit of good luck and a lot of great curling," Alberta third Darren Moulding said of his team's record. "You have to have a little bit of everything to go undefeated in a field like this.

"We still have three games left in the round-robin here and we're looking to keep adding wins to the tally."

Another draw was scheduled for Thursday night at the Leon's Centre. The championship round continues through Friday evening with the top four teams moving on to the Page playoffs.

Brad Gushue of Newfoundland and Labrador (7-1) moved into second place with a 7-4 win over Team Canada's Kevin Koe.

"For the start of the championship pool, we knew we had to just elevate our game slightly as a team," said Newfoundland and Labrador second Brett Gallant. "They have the Maple Leaf for a reason. They're a good team and you know they're going to play well at the Brier every year.

"It was important for us to play well and I think we did."

Saskatchewan and Team Wild Card's Mike McEwen were next at 6-2. McEwen dropped a 6-4 decision to Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs.

Ontario's John Epping, meanwhile, beat Manitoba's Jason Gunnlaugson 9-5 in the other afternoon game. Both teams were in a four-way tie at 5-3 with Koe and Jacobs.

Ontario won its first three games of this competition before dropping three straight. A night earlier, Epping was pushed to his last shot of the preliminary round before claiming the last berth.

"We almost fell off the roller-coaster a few times but I think we've lost our safety belts," Ontario lead Brent Laing said. "We're just holding on for dear life now and it's nice to get another win now to start the championship round."

In the Page playoffs, the winner of Saturday's 1-2 game will advance directly to the final Sunday night.

The 1-2 loser will fall into the semi-final against the winner of Saturday's 3-4 playoff game. The semi-final winner will advance to the final.

The Brier champion will represent Canada at the March 28-April 5 world men's curling championship in Glasgow, Scotland.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Sharp gets extra time off with LPGA events cancelled over coronavirus

JOHN CHIDLEY-HILL

Alena Sharp wasn't expecting an extra month of time off – but she's glad to have it.

Sharp flew home from the ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open on Feb. 16 after the LPGA Tour announced the cancellation of the Honda LPGA Thailand and the HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore. Those events, along with the Blue Bay LPGA on China's Hainan Island that was scheduled for this week, were all cancelled over fears of spreading the new coronavirus.

That means that when the Volvik Founders Cup kicks off on March 19 in Phoenix near Sharp's home, the Hamilton native and the rest of the field will have had four weeks off.

It turned out that Sharp's trip home was timely, as she and her partner continued to mourn a death in the family and one of their dogs needed emergency surgery.

"It's a long break, but it's gone by kind of fast because I've been a little bit occupied with things. … It's been nice to be home, honestly," said Sharp, who turns 39 Sunday. "I'd love to be playing golf, but it's kind of worked out to be able to be home to take care of our dog and then get some rest because the off-season was so short, so it might have been a blessing in disguise a little bit."

After taking just a few weeks off following the 2019 season, Sharp played in three tournaments to kick off the new year. She missed the cut at the Gainbridge LPGA at Boca Raton, Fla., in January, tied for ninth at the ISPS Handa Vic Open in early February, then missed the cut at the Women's Australian Open.

Once Sharp had settled back home in Arizona, she started focusing on her golf again and making the most of the surprise down time. That meant regular rounds at Seville Golf and Country Club, her home course, consulting with coach Brett Saunders, and competing in a Cactus Tour event, a local professional women's circuit.

> I'd love to be playing golf, but it's kind of worked out to be able to be home to take care of our dog and then get some rest because the off-season was so short.
>
> **ALENA SHARP**
> GOLFER

"Even with all this time off I've been up on the course, like three hours a day, not five or six," said Sharp, who prefers intense, high-quality practices over long meandering sessions.

"I'm like, 'Okay, I've … done what I need to do, I don't need to be grinding super hard right now. I still have two weeks. I've got to pace myself.' "

One benefit of the time back in North America has been that Sharp got to work in an impromptu visit to Saunders, who is based at Morgan Creek Golf Course in Surrey, B.C.

"All athletes are very competitive, they want to get at it as scheduled but in Alena's case I think it's really helped," Saunders said. "She had a long season and she played well and she played a few extra events last year that and off the course she had a few personal issues so she didn't really have an off-season. So this little break has helped."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MCILROY TOPS THE LEADERBOARD AT BAY HILL

Rory McIlroy was under water early, but sitting high and dry by the end of his opening round atop the leaderboard at the Arnold Palmer Invitational in Orlando, Fla., on Thursday.

McIlroy, the 2018 champion, made an inauspicious start when he plunked his approach shot into a lake at his second hole at Bay Hill, but it was as if he was merely giving the field a headstart as he roared back with five birdies and an eagle.

At six-under-par 66, the world No. 1 Northern Irishman headed American Talor Gooch by one stroke with half the field back in the clubhouse.

Brooks Koepka, who McIlroy recently displaced at the top of the rankings, had a less pleasing morning, bogeying his final two holes for an even-par 72.

But Koepka, still trying to find form on his return from a knee injury, fared considerably better than Adam Scott.

The Australian followed McIlory into water at the par-four 11th and dropped three shots there en route to a 77.

REUTERS

Cycling: Sport's Canadian body says it is committed to athletes' well-being

FROM B11

The UCI said in a statement it had been informed by the Ethics Commission of the opening of a formal procedure. "The latter, led directly by the Commission, is under way," the UCI said.

Cycling Canada's high-performance director Kris Westwood said in an e-mail that it's committed to the well-being of athletes and the principles of Safe Sport particularly around sexual assault.

"Unfortunately, athletes often find themselves in team environments that are outside Cycling Canada's jurisdiction, and sometimes this environment can be unsafe, as we've seen with the allegations brought forward by Maggie Coles-Lyster, who was a minor at the time of the alleged assault," Westwood said. "We have offered Maggie our support, and we are glad to see the UCI's ethics commission is investigating."

Coles-Lyster's allegations are the latest in a list of several high-profile sexual-assault and harassment stories in Canadian sport. Canada's track and field community was rocked recently by allegations against former national distance coach Dave Scott-Thomas. Former middle-distance runner Megan Brown came forward in a Globe and Mail story recently alleging that Scott-Thomas, a former University of Guelph coach, groomed her for a sexual relationship when she was 17.

Maggie Coles-Lyster wins silver in women's madison in track cycling at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima. She says safe-sport policies need to be stronger and more accessible. DAVE HOLLAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The allegations against Scott-Thomas haven't been proved in court.

Coles-Lyster said, with the current climate in Canadian sport, she felt it was important to speak up.

"It's empowering other women to come forward and address these topics, not leave them under the rug," she said. "Lots of people have come up to me and are shocked that this has happened. So it could be because cycling is still considered such a male-dominated sport or who knows, but for whatever reason people seem surprised that this happened.

"This has been really empowering to see the conversations this has opened up and the other women I've talked to about this who have had similar experiences, and just talking it through and what the steps should be. There's a bunch of other athletes who have come forward recently, and I have considered reaching out to them. I think the strength of women banding together through issues like this is really important."

Coles-Lyster said policies within professional teams and national sport organizations need to be considerably stronger and more accessible. She pointed out that Canadian athletes must complete an annual anti-doping seminar, but there isn't similar information about safe sport.

"What needs to be implemented, probably not even within just sport, but everybody … boys and girls need to have education on what sexual harassment looks like, so this all starts before anybody becomes a victim," she said. "They need to know what it looks like, where to go if it happens. There's still a lot of stigma, so people don't talk about it enough."

It was more than a year before Coles-Lyster finally felt comfortable opening about the alleged abuse, and reached out to a psychologist among others.

"I really had pushed it under the rug, and just tried to focus on racing and I was still going back to Belgium to race and just wanted to focus on that and doing well, because so much of doing well in the sport and succeeding as a cyclist seems to be how well you can do in Europe. So that kind of was my focus," she said.

Coles-Lyster, who no longer competes for Doltcini-Van Eyck Sport, will race in the Manchester Six Day Series track race beginning March 13.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Melissa Tatti of the Brock University Badgers goes for a layup against Erin McIntosh of the University of Calgary Dinos during their U Sports women's basketball championship quarter-final in Ottawa on Thursday. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brock Badgers edge Calgary Dinos in U Sports women's quarter-final

OTTAWA

The Brock Badgers held off a feisty Calgary team primed for an upset, edging the seventh-seeded Dinos 72-71 in the second quarter-final at the U Sports women's basketball championship on Thursday.

The No. 2 Badgers, from St. Catharines, Ont., advance to Saturday's semi-finals to face the No. 6 Prince Edward Island Panthers, who beat the No. 3 Ryerson Rams 75-70 earlier Thursday.

Brock led by as many as eight in the first quarter and 14 in the second before the Dinos started to rally.

Brock's Samantha Keltos had 24 points and five rebounds to earn the player-of-the-game award. Jessica Morris added 20 points for the Badgers. Liene Stalidzane led Calgary with 18 points.

The Dinos struggled from the free-throw line, hitting just five of 12. But Calgary was far better on the boards, out-rebounding Brock 42-29.

Calgary got the lone wild-card spot in the tourney. The Dinos were 18-2 in the regular season before falling to Alberta in the Canada West semis. Brock won the Ontario title.

The Panthers, meanwhile, staged a fourth-quarter comeback to beat Ryerson in the opening quarter-final. Trailing by 10 after three quarters, the Panthers outscored the Toronto-based Rams 29-14 in the fourth to pull off the victory.

Panthers guard Jenna Mae Ellsworth, named national player of the year Wednesday, had a team-high 22 points, 13 rebounds and five assists. Reese Baxendale added 19 points and Lauren Rainford had 18 for the Panthers.

"We didn't give up one minute there," Ellsworth said after the win. "We were down in the third and we just kept battling." Ellsworth was named player of the game.

Panthers head coach Matt Gamblin said his team showed "resilience and toughness" to shut Ryerson down in PEI's first appearance in the national championship in more than two decades.

"It comes down to who wants it more," Gamblin said. "I think these guys decided if we lose we're going to lose fighting and they fought hard."

Baxendale went down with an injury late in the fourth quarter. Gamblin said he didn't have an update yet on her condition.

Marin Scotten scored a game-high 31 points and added 10 rebounds for Ryerson, the runner-up in the Ontario conference this year.

PEI qualified for the Final 8 after winning the Atlantic conference title for the first time in 22 years.

The other Thursday quarter-finals feature No. 4 Laval Rouge et Or against the No. 5 Alberta Pandas, and the No. 1 Saskatchewan Huskies versus the No. 8 Carleton Ravens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What to expect from the U Sports championship men's quarters

OTTAWA

Here's a look at the four quarter-final matchups at the U Sports men's basketball championship on Friday:

NO. 1 CARLETON RAVENS VS. NO. 8 CALGARY DINOS

Calgary got the at-large bid, setting up a rematch of last year's final, won by Carleton. The Ravens look to continue their dynasty with a new coach in Taffe Charles. Carleton has won 14 U Sports titles since 2003. The Ravens' only loss this season was against Ottawa at the same TD Place Arena where national championship will take place. The Dinos have national player of the year in forward Brett Layton.

NO. 2 DALHOUSIE TIGERS VS. NO. 7 OTTAWA GEE-GEES

The Tigers' Keevan Veinot became first Dalhousie player to earn Atlantic conference MVP award. This quarter-final matchup features the only two teams in the tournament without a national title on their résumé. The Gee-Gees are in as hosts after losing to Carleton in the Ontario semis. Ottawa was ranked as high as third in the country this season.

NO. 3 UBC THUNDERBIRDS VS. NO. 6 BISHOP'S GAITERS

The Thunderbirds are aiming for their first national title since 1972. UBC coach Kevin Hanson became the winningest coach in Canada West history this year when he earned his 314th career victory in early January. The Gaiters finished third in Quebec in the regular season before a surprising playoff run, capped by a buzzer-beater in the final against UQAM. The Gaiters' Nervens Demosthene scored 39 points against Concordia on Feb. 20, the most in Quebec conference play since 2014.

NO. 4 ALBERTA GOLDEN BEARS VS. NO. 5 WESTERN MUSTANGS

The Golden Bears got All-Canadian forward Brody Clarke back from injury late in season. Alberta is in the Final 8 for a program record fourth time in a row. The Mustangs led Ontario in three-pointers, averaging 10.5 a game. Western's lone national title came in 1991.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa aims to ride home court to win at tourney

ADAM STANLEY OTTAWA

Even though the Ottawa Gee-Gees had a guaranteed spot in the national university men's basketball championship this season, coach James Derouin didn't change his approach.

For the first time, the men's and women's national U Sports championships are being held at the same venue at the same time this week. Ottawa is the men's Final 8 host while crosstown rival Carleton is playing host to the women.

With that, Ottawa received an automatic entry into the tournament.

"Qualifying for the national final in U Sports basketball is one of the toughest things to do in all of sports," Derouin said. "When you have that luxury of that automatic bid, how do you treat things differently? I've taken a lot of feedback but the most consistent thing I heard, and that goes for this week, too, just treat it like you always would."

Although TD Place Arena at Lansdowne Park is about halfway between Ottawa and Carleton, Derouin feels like there will be a home-court advantage for his team.

The seventh-seeded Gee-Gees face the No. 2 Dalhousie Tigers in one of four quarter-finals Thursday.

"Playing in this gym already there's a familiarity," Derouin said of TD Place, which was used for the Capital Hoops Classic last month. Ottawa beat Carleton 68-67 in that game – Carleton's only loss of the season.

"We had a successful season and we're excited for the tournament this weekend and showing the country that not only did we get the bid automatically, but we deserve to be here."

Derouin says top-ranked Carleton (21-1) is the tourney favourite, but Dalhousie is "1A."

> "When you have that luxury of that automatic bid, how do you treat things differently? I've taken a lot of feedback but the most consistent thing I heard, and that goes for this week, too, just treat it like you always would.
>
> **JAMES DEROUIN**
> OTTAWA GEE-GEES COACH

The Ravens have been a dominant force for years, winning 14 national titles between 2003 and 2019.

Carleton comes in as the defending champion after knocking off the Calgary Dinos 84-49 in the final last year.

"When a program in any sport has had a dominant run like Carleton's had, and obviously being a crosstown rival on top of that, any win is huge. It's 10 times a regular win for our school specifically," Derouin said of the Capital Hoops win. "To carry that win into the tournament certainly does give us a level of confidence.

"I can walk into the locker room at any time and say, 'We've had some tough losses but at our best, we've beaten No. 1' and they should remember that."

The Tigers feature the Atlantic conference MVP in guard Keevan Veinot, the defensive player of the year in Xavier Ochu, and the U Sports coach of the year in Rick Plato.

"You've got two really good teams playing Friday. A lot of people look at it as a tough draw, for both teams, and no one wants to lose in the first round but someone is going to have to," Derouin said.

"We're fully aware Dal has had an awesome season and has an awesome team."

The last time Ottawa made it to the gold-medal game was 2015 when it got thumped 93-46 by Carleton in Toronto. Derouin says that game was "a disaster" (he got ejected after receiving two technical fouls) but says he learned a lot from the experience.

With no member of that team still playing for Ottawa, he says his players have a fresh perspective on what it means to play for a national title.

"There's a lot of grit to this team. It's a lot of fun to coach them," he said. "We have our hands full in the first-round game, but we'll be prepared and maybe give the fans another Capital Hoops-type performance."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian cricket team stays home as coronavirus forces postponement of Malaysia tournament

NEIL DAVIDSON

The Canadian men's cricket team, due to leave Friday for the International Cricket Council Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League A in Malaysia, learned Thursday that the tournament has been postponed because of the new coronavirus.

The 11-day tournament, scheduled for March 16-26, also involved teams from Denmark, Malaysia, Qatar, Singapore and Vanuatu.

Chris Tetley, the head of events for the ICC, called it a "difficult decision."

"We have been monitoring the situation very closely and have concluded that the best course of action is to postpone the event owing to the increasing travel difficulties between countries and the potential uncertainty around teams returning home," he said in a statement.

"The well-being of everyone involved is our first priority and we look forward to the event being played later in the year," he added.

Canada was due to open March 17 against host Malaysia. The Canadians were to start the 2020 tournament as group leaders, having lost just once – to Singapore – during the 2019 competition.

The Canadian players were due to fly into Toronto on Thursday evening, so none had started the journey to Malaysia.

"It's not a big surprise to me that this has happened," Cricket Canada general manager Ingleton Liburd said, citing the rise in cases of the virus.

"It's a bit of a down but I think health comes first," he added. "We understand the situation. I think some of the players were a little nervous about [going]."

He says the tournament could be rescheduled for September in Malaysia, depending on what happens with the virus outbreak.

The Canadian squad is captained by opening batsman Navneet Dhaliwal and coached by Amarinder Bhinder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANADA'S FERNANDEZ UPSETS STEPHENS TO REACH MONTERREY QUARTERS

MONTERREY, MEXICO Canadian teenager Leylah Annie Fernandez has advanced to the quarterfinals at the Monterrey Open.

The Laval, Que., native upset American Sloane Stephens on Wednesday at the Abierto GNP Seguros tennis tournament, taking the Round of 16 match in three sets. The 17-year-old Fernandez, ranked 126th in the world, beat the fifth-seeded Stephens 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-3 in a little more than two hours at the hard court event. Fernandez is coming off a run to her first WTA final at the Mexican Open last week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	Pts
ATLANTIC DIVISION								
Boston	67	42	13	5	7	220	168	96
Tampa Bay	66	41	20	5	0	231	185	87
Toronto	67	35	24	4	4	235	223	78
METROPOLITAN DIVISION								
Washington	66	40	20	4	2	228	204	86
Philadelphia	66	39	20	2	5	225	192	85
Pittsburgh	65	38	21	6	0	211	181	82
WILD CARD								
Columbus	68	32	21	11	4	177	182	79
NY Islanders	65	35	22	6	2	183	181	78
Carolina	64	35	24	5	0	207	183	75
NY Rangers	66	35	27	2	2	218	206	74
Florida	66	33	26	3	4	224	224	73
Montreal	68	31	28	8	1	209	209	71
Buffalo	66	29	29	6	2	189	208	66
New Jersey	66	26	28	6	6	177	219	64
Ottawa	67	23	32	7	5	181	231	58
Detroit	68	15	48	3	2	136	257	35

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	Pts
CENTRAL DIVISION								
St. Louis	67	40	17	7	3	216	185	90
Colorado	66	40	18	7	1	226	177	88
Dallas	66	37	21	5	3	178	170	82
PACIFIC DIVISION								
Vegas	68	37	23	6	2	219	202	82
Edmonton	67	36	23	6	2	214	205	80
Calgary	68	35	26	6	1	204	208	77
WILD CARD								
Vancouver	66	34	26	3	3	216	208	74
Winnipeg	68	34	28	4	2	204	199	74
Arizona	68	33	27	4	4	191	180	74
Minnesota	66	33	26	4	3	209	207	73
Nashville	66	32	26	5	3	208	215	72
Chicago	66	30	28	4	4	201	209	68
San Jose	66	29	33	3	1	174	211	62
Anaheim	67	27	32	7	1	174	214	62
Los Angeles	66	25	35	3	3	164	206	56

Note: the top three teams per division and the two next-best records in the conference qualify for the playoffs; a winning team is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; a team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point, which is registered in the respective OL or SL column.

Thursday

Carolina at Philadelphia
Washington at NY Rangers
Boston at Florida
Montreal at Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh at Buffalo
NY Islanders at Ottawa
Dallas at Nashville
Edmonton at Chicago
Minnesota at San Jose
Toronto at Los Angeles

Wednesday

Philadelphia 5 Washington 2
Calgary 3 Columbus 2 (OT)
Anaheim 4 Colorado 3 (OT)
Arizona 4 Vancouver 2

Friday
All Times Eastern

St. Louis at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Vegas at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Arizona at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Colorado at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Leon Draisaitl, Edm	43	65	108
Connor McDavid, Edm	32	63	95
David Pastrnak, Bos	47	45	92
Artemi Panarin, NYR	32	58	90
Nathan MacKinnon, Col	34	54	88
Brad Marchand, Bos	28	56	84
Nikita Kucherov, TB	31	49	80
Patrick Kane, Chi	29	51	80
Auston Matthews, Tor	46	33	79
Jack Eichel, Buf	35	42	77
Jonathan Huberdeau, Fla	22	55	77
John Carlson, Wash	15	58	73
Mark Scheifele, Wpg	28	43	71
Kyle Connor, Wpg	35	35	70
J.T. Miller, Vcr	26	43	69
Evgeni Malkin, Pgh	21	46	67
Mika Zibanejad, NYR	33	33	66
Steven Stamkos, TB	29	37	66

Not including Thursday's games

OHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	Pts
CENTRAL DIVISION								
x-Sudbury	60	32	26	1	1	240	230	66
x-Barrie	59	27	26	4	2	207	242	60
Mississauga	59	26	28	4	1	214	217	57
Niagara	60	18	36	5	1	190	295	42
North Bay	59	16	39	4	0	183	298	36
EAST DIVISION								
y-Ottawa	59	47	11	0	1	273	163	95
x-Peterbrough	59	34	21	2	2	225	196	72
x-Oshawa	60	31	19	6	4	225	220	72
Hamilton	60	24	28	7	1	229	251	56
Kingston	59	19	36	2	2	195	271	42

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	Pts
WEST DIVISION								
x-Saginaw	60	39	16	3	2	277	216	83
x-Flint	61	39	20	1	1	269	236	80
x-Windsor	59	34	19	6	0	249	223	74
S. S. Marie	61	26	31	3	1	237	250	56
Sarnia	60	21	33	5	1	239	294	48
MIDWEST DIVISION								
x-London	59	42	15	1	1	255	184	86
x-Kitchener	60	38	15	5	2	250	201	83
Guelph	60	31	21	3	5	209	195	70
Owen Sound	59	29	22	4	4	230	198	66
Erie	61	25	25	4	7	222	230	61

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division

Thursday

Saginaw 6 Mississauga 2
Kingston at North Bay
Hamilton at Peterborough
Owen Sound at Windsor
Sudbury at Barrie

Wednesday

Erie 4 Guelph 3
Owen Sound 5 Flint 2

Friday
All Times Eastern

North Bay at Mississauga, 7 p.m.
Sault Ste. Marie at Sudbury, 7:05 p.m.
Oshawa at Guelph, 7:30 p.m.
Barrie at Kitchener, 7:30 p.m.
Sarnia at London, 7:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
M. Rossi, Ott	36	74	110
C. Perfetti, Sag	36	67	103
P. Tomasino, Osh	39	59	98
C. McMichael, Ldn	43	54	97

Not including Thursday's games

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	Pts
NORTH DIVISION								
Belleville	60	38	17	4	1	229	185	81
Rochester	59	31	19	4	5	170	163	71
Utica	58	32	21	3	2	204	180	69
Syracuse	59	28	22	4	5	195	203	65
Binghamton	58	30	24	4	0	170	175	64
Laval	59	27	24	5	3	170	179	62
Toronto	58	28	25	3	2	199	204	61
Cleveland	58	24	28	4	2	153	177	54
ATLANTIC DIVISION								
Hershey	59	35	18	3	3	180	153	76
Providence	58	34	18	3	3	185	148	74
Hartford	58	31	16	6	5	168	161	73
Charlotte	57	32	21	4	0	194	164	68
Springfield	58	30	26	2	0	183	179	62
W-B/Scranton	59	27	24	3	5	153	181	62
Lehigh Valley	58	24	26	2	6	150	167	56
Bridgeport	59	20	32	5	2	134	191	47

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	Pts
PACIFIC DIVISION								
Tucson	54	33	18	1	2	186	155	69
Colorado	52	31	17	3	1	174	155	66
Stockton	52	29	16	4	3	184	157	65
Ontario	55	29	20	5	1	165	191	64
San Diego	53	28	18	5	2	176	154	63
Bakersfield	54	20	26	5	3	156	196	48
San Jose	52	19	27	4	2	167	183	44
CENTRAL DIVISION								
Milwaukee	60	39	13	5	3	201	136	86
Iowa	60	36	17	4	3	187	161	79
Grand Rapids	60	27	26	3	4	170	188	61
San Antonio	58	24	22	7	5	159	173	60
Chicago	58	26	25	5	2	148	166	59
Rockford	60	28	29	1	2	150	181	59
Texas	58	24	27	3	4	159	183	55
Manitoba	59	26	32	1	0	154	184	53

Thursday

Laval at Cleveland
Tucson at Chicago

Wednesday

Belleville 8 Toronto 4
Utica 3 Rochester 1
Milwaukee 3 Texas 2 (OT)
San Jose 5 Iowa 1

Friday
All Times Eastern

Syracuse at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Utica at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Belleville, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Bridgeport at Lehigh Valley, 7:05 p.m.
W-B/Scranton at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Hershey at Hartford, 7:15 p.m.
Texas at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Grand Rapids at Rockford, 8 p.m.
Ontario at Colorado, 9:05 p.m.
Bakersfield at Stockton, 10 p.m.
San Diego at San Jose, 10 p.m.

WHL

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	Pts
B.C. DIVISION								
x-Kamloops	59	38	17	3	1	251	158	80
x-Vancouver	60	32	23	3	2	182	157	69
x-Victoria	61	31	23	5	2	168	179	69
Kelowna	60	27	27	3	3	168	201	60
Prince George	60	18	34	4	4	135	198	44
U.S. DIVISION								
x-Portland	61	43	11	3	4	261	159	93
x-Everett	60	44	12	3	1	217	135	92
x-Spokane	61	38	18	4	1	244	175	81
Seattle	60	23	30	4	3	168	229	53
Tri-City	60	17	37	4	2	155	282	40

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	Pts
EAST DIVISION								
x-Prince Albert	61	35	17	5	4	204	152	79
x-Brandon	61	34	21	4	2	222	167	74
x-Winnipeg	59	34	24	1	0	211	203	69
Saskatoon	60	31	24	2	3	198	192	67
Regina	60	21	33	4	2	176	245	48
Moose Jaw	59	14	41	4	0	144	274	32
CENTRAL DIVISION								
x-Edmonton	62	41	11	6	4	234	162	92
x-Lethbridge	61	37	17	2	5	242	182	81
x-Mdicine Hat	60	38	19	2	1	251	177	79
x-Calgary	62	35	22	4	1	215	189	75
Red Deer	59	22	32	2	3	167	236	49
Swift Current	60	10	46	1	3	123	284	24

x — clinched playoff berth

Thursday

No Games Scheduled.

Wednesday

Calgary 4 Saskatoon 3
Spokane 6 Edmonton 2
Prince George 2 Lethbridge 0
Portland 11 Tri-City 2
Kamloops 4 Vancouver 2

Friday
All Times Eastern

Brandon at Prince Albert, 8 p.m.
Winnipeg at Moose Jaw, 8 p.m.
Regina at Saskatoon, 8 p.m.
Swift Current at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Spokane at Red Deer, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Medicine Hat, 9:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Prince George, 10 p.m.
Lethbridge at Kamloops, 10 p.m.
Seattle at Kelowna, 10:05 p.m.
Tri-City at Everett, 10:35 p.m.

QMJHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	Pts
EAST DIVISION								
x-Chicoutimi	60	42	12	5	1	242	180	90
x-Rimouski	62	37	17	4	4	247	170	82
Baie-Comeau	60	23	26	7	4	192	224	57
Québec	62	25	32	4	1	195	243	55
MARITIMES DIVISION								
y-Moncton	60	47	12	1	0	265	142	95
x-Cape Breton	60	38	19	2	1	257	189	79
x-CharlttHown	61	31	25	5	0	181	194	67
x-Saint John	61	30	30	1	0	220	260	61
Halifax	60	19	36	3	2	161	251	43
Acdie-Bthurst	61	12	38	7	4	163	263	35

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	Pts
CENTRAL DIVISION								
y-Sherbrooke	61	49	8	3	1	280	161	102
x-Drmmndvlle	60	34	24	2	0	218	210	70
x-Shawinigan	61	29	30	2	0	224	238	60
Victoriaville	61	24	28	5	4	182	198	57
WEST DIVISION								
x-B.-Boisbriand	61	31	27	2	1	203	213	65
x-R.-Noranda	60	28	28	2	2	174	200	60
Val-d'Or	60	25	28	5	2	199	236	57
Gatineau	61	21	35	5	0	197	236	47

x — clinched playoff berth; y — division

Thursday

Saint John at Charlottetown
Moncton at Acadie-Bathurst

Wednesday

Cape Breton 6 Québec 1
Rouyn-Noranda 4 Shawinigan 3
Chicoutimi 3 Blainville-Boisbriand 1
Rimouski 7 Victoriaville 3

Friday
All Times Eastern

Québec at Halifax, 6 p.m.
Drummondville at Acadie-Bathurst, 6 p.m.
Saint John at Charlottetown, 6:30 p.m.
Rouyn-Noranda at Victoriaville, 7 p.m.
Val-d'Or at Sherbrooke, 7 p.m.
Baie-Comeau at Gatineau, 7:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
A. Lafreniere, Rim	35	74	109
A. Khovanov, Mon	32	63	95
E. Sokolov, Cap	45	44	89
F. Robert, She	36	53	89
C. Pare, Rim	37	51	88

Not including Thursday's games

CURLING

TIM HORTONS BRIER

At Kingston, Ont.

ROUND ROBIN

Late Wednesday

DRAW 14
Canada 9 British Columbia 3
Ontario 11 Northwest Territories 8
Saskatchewan 12 Yukon 3
Wild Card 9 New Brunswick 4

END OF ROUND ROBIN

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

Thursday

DRAW 16
Alberta 9 Saskatchewan 5
Newfoundland & Labrador 7 Canada 4
Northern Ontario 6 Wild Card 4
Ontario 9 Manitoba 5

DRAW 17
Alberta vs. Canada
Wild Card vs. Manitoba
Newfoundland & Labrador vs. Ontario
Saskatchewan vs. Northern Ontario

Friday
All Times Eastern

DRAW 18, 1 P.M.
Wild Card vs. Newfoundland & Labrador
Canada vs. Northern Ontario
Saskatchewan vs. Manitoba
Alberta vs. Ontario.

DRAW 19, 7 P.M.
Ontario vs. Northern Ontario
Saskatchewan vs. Newfoundland & Labrador
Wild Card vs. Alberta
Canada vs. Manitoba.

END OF CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE

WEEK SIX

	MP	W	L	D	PF	PA	Pt
Leeds	5	4	1	0	180	60	8
Wigan	5	4	1	0	128	58	8
Castleford	5	4	1	0	122	81	8
St Helens	4	3	1	0	112	45	6
Huddersfield	4	3	1	0	76	68	6
Perpignan	3	2	1	0	82	79	4
Hull	5	2	3	0	114	112	4
Wakefield	4	2	2	0	67	82	4
Warrington	5	2	3	0	69	92	4
Salford	5	1	4	0	62	120	2
Hull Kingston	5	1	4	0	68	139	2
Toronto	6	0	6	0	70	214	0

Thursday

Leeds 66 Toronto 12

Friday
All Times Eastern

St. Helens vs. Huddersfield, 2:45 p.m.
Wakefield vs. Hull FC, 2:45 p.m.
Warrington vs. Castleford, 2:45 p.m.

WTA TOUR

LYON OPEN

At Lyon, France

SINGLES — ROUND OF 16
Sofia Kenin (1), United States, def. Jaqueline Adina Cristian, Romania, 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4.
Anna-Lena Friedsam, Germany, def. Kristina Mladenovic (2), France, 6-3, 6-3.
Daria Kasatkina (7), Russia, def. Irina Bara, Romania, 6-3, 6-2.
Viktoria Kuzmova (8), Slovakia, def. Tereza Martincova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

DOUBLES — QUARTERFINALS
Lesley Pattinama Kerkhove and Bibiane Schoofs, Netherlands, def. Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, and Aleksandra Krunic (2), Serbia, 6-2, 6-2.

MONTERREY OPEN

At Monterrey, Mexico

Singles — Round of 16
Johanna Konta (2), Britain, def. Tatjana Maria, Germany, 7-6 (4), 6-3.
Anastasia Potapova, Russia, def. Tamara Zidansek, Slovenia, 1-6, 7-6 (3), 6-1.

Doubles — Quarterfinals
Wang Yafan, China, and Miyu Kato, Japan, def. Georgina Garcia Perez and Sara Sorribes Tormo (1), Spain, 6-7 (1), 6-4, 10-8.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	53	9	.855	—
Toronto	43	18	.705	9½
Boston	42	19	.689	10½
Miami	40	22	.645	13
Indiana	37	25	.597	16
Philadelphia	37	25	.597	16
Brooklyn	27	34	.443	25½
Orlando	27	35	.435	26
Washington	22	39	.361	30½
Charlotte	21	40	.344	31½
Chicago	21	41	.339	32
Detroit	20	43	.317	33½
New York	19	43	.306	34
Atlanta	19	44	.302	34½
Cleveland	17	45	.274	36

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	47	13	.783	—
L.A. Clippers	42	19	.689	5½
Denver	41	20	.672	6½
Houston	39	21	.650	8
Utah	39	22	.639	8½
Oklahoma City	38	24	.613	10
Dallas	38	25	.603	10½
Memphis	31	31	.500	17
Portland	28	35	.444	20½
Sacramento	27	34	.443	20½
San Antonio	26	34	.433	21
New Orleans	26	36	.419	22
Phoenix	24	38	.387	24
Minnesota	19	42	.311	28½
Golden State	14	48	.226	34

Thursday

Denver at Charlotte
L.A. Clippers at Houston
Philadelphia at Sacramento
Toronto at Golden State

Wednesday

Milwaukee 119, Indiana 100
Oklahoma City 114, Detroit 107
Boston 112, Cleveland 106
Memphis 118, Brooklyn 79
Utah 112, New York 104
Miami 116, Orlando 113
Minnesota 115, Chicago 108
Dallas 127, New Orleans 123, (OT)
Portland 125, Washington 104

Friday
All Times Eastern

Atlanta at Washington, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at New York, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Miami at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Utah at Boston, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Portland at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

Thursday

Houston 5, Boston 0
N.Y. Mets 7, St. Louis (ss) 7
Philadelphia 5, Toronto 3
Tampa Bay 2, Pittsburgh 1
Detroit 15, N.Y. Yankees 11
Arizona 11, Texas (ss) 9
Cleveland 7, San Francisco 1
Texas (ss) 5, Chicago Cubs 0
Chicago White Sox 7, Colorado (ss) 6
Oakland 5, L.A. Dodgers 1
Milwaukee 6, Cincinnati 4
Minnesota 3, Baltimore 3
San Diego 3, Seattle 0
Colorado (ss) 9, Kansas City 1
St. Louis (ss) vs. Washington

Friday
All Times Eastern

IN FLORIDA
Philadelphia vs. Detroit, 1:05 p.m.
Boston vs. Atlanta, 1:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay vs. Minnesota, 1:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Toronto, 1:07 p.m.
N.Y. Mets vs. Houston, 6:05 p.m.
Baltimore vs. N.Y. Yankees, 6:35 p.m.
Washington vs. Miami, 7:05 p.m.

IN ARIZONA
Chicago White Sox vs. Chicago Cubs, 3:05 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. Oakland (ss), 3:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (ss) vs. Kansas City (ss), 3:05 p.m.
Oakland (ss) vs. Cleveland, 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Milwaukee, 3:05 p.m.
Colorado vs. Arizona, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Kansas City (ss) vs. L.A. Angels (ss), 3:10 p.m.
Seattle vs. L.A. Dodgers, 8:05 p.m.
Texas vs. San Diego, 8:40 p.m.

PGA TOUR

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FIRST ROUND

Matt Every	32-33—65
Rory McIlroy	31-35—66
Talor Gooch	35-32—67
Scottie Scheffler	34-33—67
Sam Burns	31-37—68
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	35-33—68
Tyrrell Hatton	35-33—68
Brendon Todd	35-33—68
Keith Mitchell	34-34—68
Graeme McDowell	35-33—68
Scott Brown	34-35—69
Sung Kang	34-35—69
Adam Long	36-33—69
Matt Wallace	35-34—69
Rob Oppenheim	37-32—69
Harris English	34-35—69
Hideki Matsuyama	33-36—69
Ian Poulter	36-33—69
Emiliano Grillo	36-34—70
Charley Hoffman	35-35—70
Also	
Corey Conners	**37-36—73**
Nick Taylor	**37-36—73**

SCORING LEADERS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Harden, Hou	57	574	581	1990	34.9
Beal, Wash	54	561	368	1644	30.4
Anttknmpo, Mil	56	613	350	1658	29.6
Young, Atl	57	519	459	1689	29.6
Lillard, Por	55	513	374	1616	29.4
Doncic, Dal	50	469	346	1426	28.5

Not including Thursday's games

NBL CANADA

	GP	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTIC DIVISION					
Moncton	22	18	4	.818	—
St. John's	18	11	7	.611	5
Halifax	22	8	14	.364	10
Island	22	6	16	.273	12
CENTRAL DIVISION					
London	21	14	7	.667	—
Sudbury	20	11	9	.550	2½
Windsor	20	9	11	.450	4½
K.-Waterloo	23	7	16	.304	8

Thursday

Halifax 137 Sudbury 118

Wednesday

Halifax 114 Kitchener-Waterloo 107

Friday
All Times Eastern

Island at Moncton, 7 p.m.
St. John's at Windsor, 7 p.m.

TELEVISION

FRIDAY (EASTERN TIME)

BASEBALL

MLB: Boston vs. Atlanta, TSN 2, 1 p.m.

BASKETBALL

NCAA: Wake Forest vs. NC State, TSN 4, 7 p.m.
NBA: San Antonio vs. Brooklyn, NBA TV Canada, 7:30 p.m.
NBA: Utah vs. Boston, SN 1, 8 p.m.
NBA: Milwaukee vs. L.A. Lakers, SN 1, 10:30 p.m.

CURLING

Tim Hortons Brier: Championship Pool — Draw 18, TSN 1, 3, 4, 1 p.m.
Tim Hortons Brier: Championship Pool — Draw 19, TSN 1, 5, 7 p.m.

GOLF

PGA Tour: Arnold Palmer Invitational — Second Round, Golf Channel, 2 p.m.
Champions Tour: Hoag Classic — First Round, Golf Channel, 6 p.m.
European PGA Tour: Commercial Bank Qatar Masters — Third Round, Golf Channel, 4 a.m. (Saturday)

HOCKEY

AHL: Syracuse vs. Toronto, LNN, TSN 2, 7 p.m.
NHL: St. Louis vs. New Jersey, SN Ontario, East, Pacific, 7 p.m.
NHL: Vegas vs. Winnipeg, TSN 3, 8 p.m.
NHL: Arizona vs. Calgary, SN West, 9 p.m.
NHL: Toronto vs. Anaheim, TSN 4, 10 p.m.
NHL: Colorado vs. Vancouver, SN Pacific, 10 p.m.

CORNERED

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Leeds Rhinos hand Wolfpack a sixth straight loss

The lopsided defeat – 66-12 – matched the most points Toronto has ever conceded

LEEDS, ENGLAND

The Leeds Rhinos ran in 11 tries Thursday, hammering the Toronto Wolfpack 66-12 in handing the transatlantic rugby league team its sixth straight defeat in Super League play.

The lopsided loss matched the most points the Wolfpack has ever conceded. The team was beaten 66-10 by Warrington in Challenge Cup play in May, 2018.

Toronto (0-6-0) was coming off a 32-0 loss at the hands of defending champion St. Helens that marked the first time the Wolfpack had ever been blanked.

The offence let Toronto down last week.

This time it was the defence that was cut open repeatedly with Leeds leading 36-6 at halftime. The Rhinos outgained the Wolfpack 881 metres to 426 in the first half with Toronto missing 19 tackles.

The Wolfpack's defence stiffened in the second half, but the damage was done.

The game at Emerald Headingley Stadium was Toronto coach Brian McDermott's first against his former club.

Coming off a 36-0 win over Warrington, Leeds (4-1-1) extended its win streak to four games and moved atop the Super League table – at least temporarily with more games to come this week.

Captain Josh McCrone and Jack Wells scored tries for Toronto. Gareth O'Brien booted two conversions. McCrone was sent to the sin bin in the 79th minute for a professional foul as Leeds pressed for its 11th try.

Robert Lui and Luke Gale scored two tries apiece and Brad Dwyer, Richie Myler, Ash Handley, Cameron Smith, Mikolaj Oledzki, Adam Cuthbertson and Konrad Hurrell added singles for Leeds. Rhyse Martin kicked 11 conversions.

The Rhinos' Alex Mellor attempts to tackle the Toronto Wolfpack's Tony Gigot during their Super League match in Leeds on Thursday. The Rhinos extended their win streak to four games. GEORGE WOOD/GETTY IMAGES

McDermott, who took over Leeds in 2011, was fired in July, 2018, after a 162-97-6 run as coach that saw the Rhinos win four Grand Finals, two Challenge Cups, a League Leaders' Shield and a World Club Challenge.

At the time of his firing, however, injury-ravaged Leeds had lost seven straight in Super League play and nine of 12 matches in all competitions. He signed with Toronto after the Wolfpack failed to win promotion in 2018.

McDermott did not pull punches after the Leeds match, calling the performance "as bad as it gets." But he said teams have to endure "these really ugly days."

"That's what environments are built upon – the ugly bits. As well as the good bits," he said. "You've got to hold your nerve through those really really bad moments, which today is."

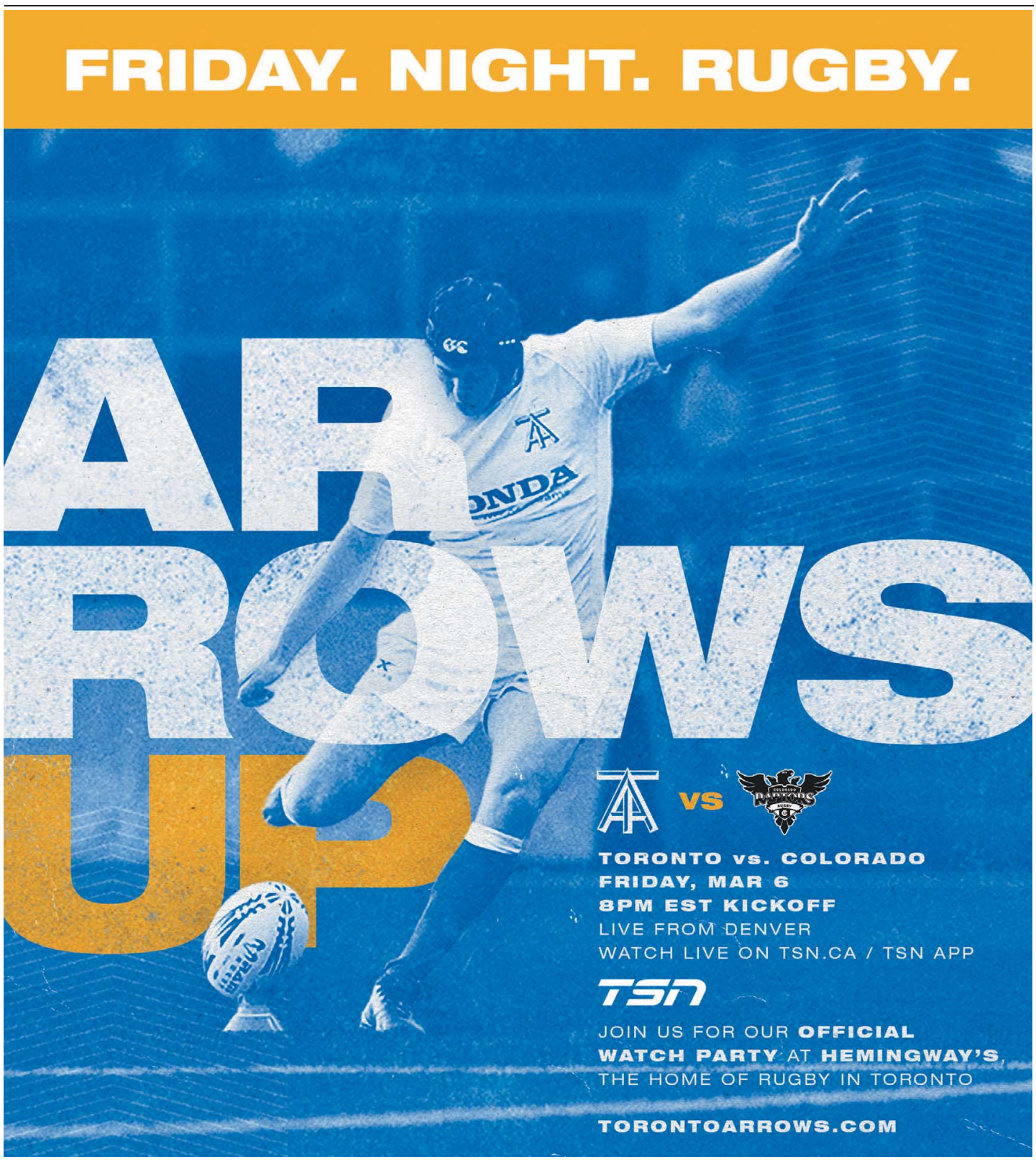
Leeds struck early, with Dwyer bulling his way through two tackles in the fourth minute after a Wolfpack penalty for a high tackle. Toronto winger Matty Russell flew over in the corner three minutes later, but his foot was judged to be in touch thanks to a flying tackle by Harry Newman.

Myler made the Wolfpack pay in the eighth minute, completing a flowing move that saw a linebreak by Martin and behind-the-back-pass by Gale that sliced open Toronto's defence for a 12-0 lead.

McCrone put Toronto on the board in the 16th minute, touching down a Tony Gigot grubber kick that Leeds failed to handle. But the Wolfpack was cut open again in the 21st minute with Gale, marking his 300th career appearance, making an inside run after the Wolfpack yielded more metres to a penalty.

Leeds continued to find holes in Toronto's offence with Lui in the 27th, offering a dummy and then running in untouched. Lui scored again in the 33rd as Leeds probed the Toronto defence until it found an opening.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Many NFL players, including Aaron Rodgers of the Green Bay Packers, seen during the NFC Championship game against the San Francisco 49ers at Levi's Stadium in January, have spoken against the proposed collective bargaining agreement. EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

NFL players' union sends labour proposal to members for vote

DAVE CAMPBELL

The NFL Players Association sent ballots to members Thursday for voting on the proposed collective bargaining agreement, giving the union a week to either ensure another 11 years of labour peace or sending the matter back to the drawing board.

The NFLPA announced that votes would be accepted through March 12 at one minute before midnight. The more than 2,000 members will have a window of about 7½ days to examine the 439-page document and cast a yes or no vote. Ratification requires a simple majority. So if only 1,000 ballots were returned, the union would need 501 yes votes to approve.

Every player who was a dues-paying member during the 2019 season received a ballot, the NFLPA said. Votes will be confidential and received by an independent auditor.

"We encourage every NFL player to review the full collective bargaining agreement and exercise their democratic right to vote," the union said in a statement.

The distribution took place two weeks after league owners voted their approval of the agreement that's a product of 10 months of talks between both sides. The NFLPA's 11-member executive committee initially voted 6-5 against the proposed terms, but last week in Indianapolis during the NFL scouting combine the 32 team representatives narrowly voted in favour of sending the CBA to the full membership for approval. The new rules, if accepted, would be in effect through the 2030 league year.

With the owners unwavering in their favour of a 17-game regular season, players focused more on safeguards for the additional wear and tear and an increased share of the revenue that would grow with the extra game.

Plenty of high-profile players have adamantly spoken out against the proposal, including Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers, Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson, Houston defensive end J.J. Watt, Pittsburgh centre Maurkice Pouncey and Minnesota wide receiver Stefon Diggs.

Their primary contention with the terms is that they don't go far enough to reward and protect the players for the extra game. Pouncey went so far as to announce recently on social media he was arranging a contingency fund with fellow critics Mike Pouncey and Russell Okung that would assist young players in the event of a strike.

There's no telling how the full vote will turn out, though, with lesser-known and fringe players outnumbering stars. This CBA would give a bigger boost to the rank-and-file players than usual, with a roughly 20-per-cent hike to the minimum salary right away, to US$610,000. That figure would top US$1-million by 2029.

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith said last week he believed the proposal would pass. NFL owners initiated a lockout in 2011 that lasted more than four months, but the two sides came together to reach the current agreement right before training camps were to begin.

The most recent time games were lost to a labour dispute was during the player strike in 1987.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Atletico Ottawa makes teen Coupland its second signing

NEIL DAVIDSON

Teenage midfielder Antoine Coupland will be juggling Grade 10 and pro soccer when Atletico Ottawa opens play in the Canadian Premier League this season.

Coupland, who turned 16 in December, is the second player to join expansion Ottawa – and the youngest player signed with the Canadian league.

"It's very special," Coupland said. "It shows that the CPL wants to develop local players like me. It's an honour being the youngest in the Canadian Premier League.

"I think it sends a message to all the young players out there, not only in Ottawa but also across Canada, that becoming a professional soccer player is very possible."

The native of Chelsea, Que., who calls the Ottawa-Gatineau region home, became the youngest player in Ottawa Fury history when he joined the USL club last July at 15 after graduating from Ottawa's Futuro Soccer Academy, which he joined at 11.

The 5-foot-6, 140-pounder made three appearances for the Fury in 2019 – all wins, he points out – and trained with the team throughout the season.

"Having Antoine join Atletico Ottawa is exciting," club chief executive officer Fernando Lopez said in a statement. "He is a young talent with incredible potential. Having made his professional debut at the age of 15 is a testament to his passion and drive for the game and we are looking forward to working with him to develop his talent."

The teenager follows Vancouver winger Ben Fisk in signing with Ottawa, whose parent club is Atletico Madrid.

Coupland joins a small but select band of Canadians to turn professional so young.

Canadian international fullback/winger Alphonso Davies, now a 19-year-old rising star with Bayern Munich, was 15 when he signed a homegrown contract in July, 2016, with the Vancouver Whitecaps – becoming the youngest active player in MLS at the time (Freddy Adu holds the MLS record for youngest signing at 14 years 168 days in 2004 with D.C. United).

Midfielder Jahkeele Marshall-Rutty, who turns 16 in June, became the youngest player in Toronto FC history to sign for the first team when he inked a homegrown player deal in January.

Coupland trained in Germany with Red Bull Leipzig and Eintracht Frankfurt last year. He was also offered a trial with England's Sheffield United but turned it down to focus on the Ottawa Fury. He still hopes to play in Europe at some point in his career.

The left-footed Coupland says he looks up to Barcelona's Lionel Messi and tries to be creative up front, happy to score or set up others.

He grew up supporting Barcelona because of Messi, but says he has also been watching Atletico Madrid in recent years because of its success.

Away from soccer, Coupland attends Saint-Alexandre College in Gatineau.

"The administration and the teachers there are amazing," he said. "They help me, they support me throughout my dream of becoming a professional soccer player."

He's not sure what his schedule will look like when Atletico Ottawa is playing. But he says he is ready for the challenge.

"My goal is to keep working hard on the field and off the field, And when I'm not playing soccer, thinking about soccer, then I'm doing schoolwork."

Coupland will run across several ex-Ottawa Fury teammates in the CPL this season. Callum Irving, Jamar Dixon and Thomas Meilleur-Giguère, three players he says helped him on and off the field, are all now with Pacific FC.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man United beats Rooney's Derby to reach FA Cup quarters

DERBY, ENGLAND

Odion Ighalo scored twice as Manchester United beat second tier Derby County 3-0 on Thursday to reach the FA Cup quarterfinals and leave its all-time top scorer Wayne Rooney on the losing side.

United will travel to Norwich City in the last eight after the Premier League's bottom club beat Tottenham Hotspur on penalties on Wednesday.

Derby started well, but Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men took control when defender Luke Shaw broke the deadlock in the 33rd minute with a shot that bounced off the turf and over goalkeeper Kelle Roos.

Shaw then provided the assist for Ighalo to muscle through and poke home United's second four minutes before halftime.

The 30-year-old Nigerian striker, who arrived at Old Trafford in January on loan till the end of the season from China's Shanghai Shenhua, doubled his tally in the 70th minute with a left-footed shot off a rebound.

"As long as my teammates believe in me, the boss believes in me and the fans believe in me, I just have to keep going," said Ighalo, who has now scored three goals from two starts.

Rooney, who joined Derby this season after a stint with MLS side DC United, had a great chance to equalize but the midfielder's 36th-minute free kick drew a fingertip save from United keeper Sergio Romero.

The bearded 34-year-old was then booked for a hard tackle on Scott McTominay.

"There were some scary moments there," Solskjaer told BT Sport. "Early on, I didn't think we played particularly well but of course when you get two goals the way we did that was pleasing.

"A nice goal again from Odion and fantastic save by Sergio from Wayne's free kick.

"It's great for us to have Odion to call upon. He's a different type of striker, he holds it up well."

United, 12-time FA Cup winner and one off Arsenal's record 13, was without captain Harry Maguire, who rolled his ankle in training.

"I wasn't going to rest him today but it's one of those things that happens," Solskjaer said. "I think he'll be alright, he'll be fine."

United plays host to local rivals City, the FA Cup holders, in Sunday's Premier League Manchester derby.

England international Shaw put in a man of the match performance and was having nothing of claims the ball had gone in off Jesse Lingard.

"No chance, he can't claim that. Whatever happens I am claiming it," he said.

"The most important thing is the win and another clean sheet for the boys. We are in a very confident period. Massive game on Sunday, we are looking forward to that one."

REUTERS

BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES

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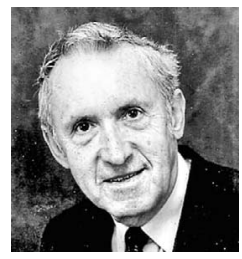
IN MEMORIAM



ANTHONY VRCKOVNIK
January 7, 1931
March 6, 2010

Miss you always, love you forever. xo family

DEATHS

DR. JUDITH ANNE COLBERT
November 2, 1945
March 1, 2020

Judy passed away courageously and peacefully on March 1, 2020 at Guelph General Hospital with loved ones by her side.

She will be deeply missed by her sister Nancy Pullman, brother-in-law Roy Pullman, nephew Drew Pullman (Jennifer), niece Allison Watts (Geoff), and great-nieces Victoria and Vera. She was predeceased by her parents, Whitney and Evelyn Colbert.

Judy was born in London, Ontario and grew up in Hyde Park, a community for which she held great pride, and one that she had written about in several non-fiction stories about her childhood and early life on the farm and in the village.

Judy graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Ph.D. in English in 1978. Her career has been spent as an educator, writer and consultant in language, communication, and early childhood education. In more recent years, much of her work has centered on young immigrant and refugee settlement, including drafting legislation in Canada and the US and speaking internationally. She was also the editor of *businesshealth* magazine.

Judy will be fondly remembered for her generosity, intelligence, love of the arts, and as an enthusiastic conversationalist and friend.

A celebration of Judy's life will take place at the Arboretum at the University of Guelph, on Saturday, March 28th, 2020 at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, Judy has requested donations be made to the London & Middlesex Heritage Museum and UNICEF. Donation cards are available at Gilbert MacIntyre & Son Funeral Home (519-822-4731) and condolences may be sent to

www.gilbertmacintyreandson.com

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DEATHS

FRANCES MARY FROST
(Faye)

Frances (always known as Faye) died in Toronto on Sunday, March 1, 2020, at 87 years of age. She leaves her husband, Harry; son, Derek; daughter, Sarah; son-in-law, Allan Brookes; and grandchildren, Rebecca, Frances McCullaugh, and Harry III. She also leaves her sister, Gloria Jeffreys of Winona; her brother, William Murdy in England; and her cousin, Brenda McClelland in Northern Ireland.

Faye married Harry, a young naval officer, at nineteen years of age in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. The couple lived in Dartmouth, NS, Edmonton, AB, Vancouver Island, Kingston and Ancaster, ON, where their children were born. Settled with young children, her love of reading led her to become head of the local library. Her interest in early learning also led her to establish a Montessori School. Ballet, especially furthering the gifted young to attend the National Ballet School in Toronto, became a lifelong artistic interest.

The family moved to Montreal where Faye furthered her interest in great art. She became a modest collector of paintings and sculpture.

When the children were grown Faye and Harry moved to Toronto. There Faye became a student of the harp. After a few years business took them to London, England, where they spent the next twenty years. Faye indulged her passion for art and music in London and in travels throughout Europe and Japan.

Her last two years were spent in her home in Toronto with her husband of sixty-seven years where she enjoyed the love and support of her children and grandchildren whom she adored unconditionally. She has left countless friends from wherever she lived. Admired and loved, she will be greatly missed.

A Requiem Eucharist will be celebrated in her memory at St. Thomas's Anglican Church, 383 Huron Street, Toronto at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 14th. Regrettably, it is not wheelchair accessible.

A reception for the congregation will follow the service in the adjoining Parish Hall to which all are invited. Refreshments will be served.

No flowers please. In lieu, for recognition of their outstanding care to Faye, donations may be made to St. Michael's Hospital Foundation. Contact information for the foundation is 416-864-5000, or visit their website at www.stmichaelsfoundation.com. Condolences may be forwarded through www.humphreymiles.com.

Humphrey Funeral Home
A.W. Miles - Newbigging Chapel
416-487-4523

DEATHS

CONSTANCE HEWITSON
"Conti"

Conti Aileen Hewitson, 96, of Ottawa, Ontario, passed away, on March 1, 2020.

A memorial service will be held at St. James Anglican Church at 3774 Carp Road in Carp Ontario on Saturday, March 7th at 11:00 a.m, officiated by Reverend Baxter Park. Burial will follow on Monday, March 9th, at Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston, attended by the immediate family.

Conti was born on November 27, 1923 in Roorkee, India, to Jack and May Stevens.. In her early years, Conti travelled extensively with her parents within India, as well as to England, Europe and Malta. She attended Kimmins School near Pune in India, and later attended boarding school in England, but returned to India at the outset of WWII, where she joined Army Intelligence. There she married Captain John Kidd, and gave birth to her daughter Elizabeth. Sadly, John was killed in action in Burma in 1945. At the end of the war, Conti travelled to England where she married a film maker, Wallie Hewitson.

Conti and family moved to Nairobi, Kenya for 3 years, where her son Andrew was born, then emigrated to Canada, where Wallie joined the National Film Board. The family settled in Ottawa and later in Pointe Claire, Quebec, where Belinda was born. Conti was active in the local school board, the church, and enjoyed pottery-making, square dancing and raising her family. In 1961 the family travelled to Nigeria, where Wallie helped set up a Federal Film Unit. Later, while living in Beaconsfield, Quebec, Conti and Wallie travelled throughout Africa to make films for C.I.D.A. In 1971, Conti, Wallie and Belinda moved to Gloucester, Ontario. There Conti studied Museum Technology at Algonquin College and worked for many years for the Canadian Museum of History. Conti later worked on a number of valuable projects for the Gloucester Arts Council and Library. Once retired, Conti and Wallie travelled widely in Europe and North America. For several years they lived in a Kingston high-rise overlooking the St Lawrence, but ultimately settled in a retirement residence in Ottawa where they enjoyed excellent care and the visits of family and friends. Conti lost Wallie in 2010.

Conti is preceded in death by her parents, her brother Hugh and her husband, J. Walford Hewitson. She is survived by her children Elizabeth, Belinda and Andrew, her grandchildren–Sandra, Jennifer, Heidi, Morgan and Erin and great grandchildren–Sophie, Alex, Ryan, Ben, Kate, and Charlie. The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the Red Oak, and the Hazeldean Gardens retirement residences for their great care, and support in her final days.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Native Women In The Arts (Canada), through CanadaHelps.org, at; https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/native-women-in-the-arts-canada/ , will be greatly appreciated.

DEATHS

BEV JONES
(Broadhurst), B.Sc.

Passed away suddenly at Trillium Hospital in Mississauga on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at the age of 62 years.

Survived by beloved husband Stephen Broadhurst, daughter of the late Anne and Ken Jones of Nobleton, daughter-in-law of Marj Broadhurst and the late Vincent Broadhurst, dear sister of Stan (Jo-Anne) Jones, Doug (Janice) Jones, sister-in-law of Dale (George) Orfanakos, Carol (Andrew) Minialoff.

Cherished aunt of Kimberley (Jason) Matheson, Stephen (Penny) Jones, Spencer Morris, Taylor Morris, Ryan (Kat) Jones, Darren (Sarah) Jones, Brandon (Amanda) Jones, Matthew Orfanakos, Dustin (Darcy) Minialoff, and Nicole (Marc Potvin) Minialoff.

Great aunt to Jessica Matheson, Jordan Matheson, Hayley Jones, Nicholas Jones, Brooklyn Jones, Vincent Minialoff, and Sophie Minialoff.

Highly esteemed as an award winning realtor with RE/MAX Professionals Inc for 32 years, Bev successfully balanced her career with her love for family, wonderful friends, travel and the cottage. She had a passion for life and an insatiable appetite for adventure and fun.

Friends may call at the Turner & Porter Yorke Chapel, 2357 Bloor St. W., at Windermere, east of the Jane subway, on Thursday, March 5, 2020 from 6-9 p.m. and Friday, March 6, 2020 from 2-5 p.m. Funeral service will be held at Kingsway Lambton United Church, 85 The Kingsway, Toronto, on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 3 p.m.

For those who wish, donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Online condolences may be made through www.turnerporter.ca

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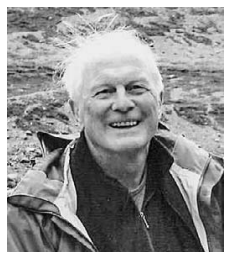

WILLIAM F. TRIMBLE
"Bill"

Passed away peacefully on February 28, 2020 at the age of 82. His warmth and humour will be greatly missed by his wife of 60 years, Janet, sister Gloria, daughter Cindy, sons Tom and Duff and their spouses Jim, Lisa and Eimear and his grandchildren Aaron, Matthew, Mary, Reed and Wil. A proud graduate of University of Toronto Schools and UWO (Western), Bill was an accomplished athlete and excelled at football, baseball, basketball and almost any sport he tried. During his days as Director of Human Resources at Western, he could often be found playing pick up basketball or cheering on the Mustangs' football team. "Bigs" had a strong passion for the outdoors which he shared with family and friends. He enjoyed leading canoe trips, paddling and rowing at Go Home Bay, walking in the forests and fields of Rob Roy and back country skiing at Lake O'Hara. Travels further afield took Bill and Janet to New Zealand, Patagonia, Europe and numerous times to their beloved Arctic. Bill will be remembered for his puns, as a devoted husband and father, loyal supporter of close friends and above all, as one who treated all people with respect.

At his wish, no service will be held. Donations in his honour to Nature Conservancy Canada or Concussion Legacy Foundation Canada would be most appreciated.

DEATHS

JEAN PARNEY

Peacefully on March 4, 2020. Jean passed away surrounded by her family.

Born in Toronto in 1939, Jean attended Havergal College before graduating from The Wellesley School of Nursing in 1961. Many of her nursing classmates became life-long friends with whom she shared laughs and reunion weekends. Jean continued on to The University of Western Ontario, where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Following graduation she sailed away on her honeymoon, and began a 57 year love story with Bob. Together, they raised 3 children and created a full and meaningful life. Despite what Dad would say, Mom was in charge and always had the last word!

Jean and Bob and family spent many wonderful summers in Pointe au Baril on Georgian Bay. Whether she was on the dock watching her grandkids dive into the Bay, or daring to enter the chilly waters herself (amusing family with her two-hour entries), Jean was happiest surrounded by her loved ones.

In the winter months, Jean loved the coziness of their home in Collingwood where she could be found puttering in the kitchen or working on one of her many crossword and jigsaw puzzles. Thanksgiving and New Years were always best celebrated in Collingwood around the family table.

Beloved wife of Bob, mother to Jennifer Parney, Robin (Tim) Saunders, and Chris (Danielle) Parney. Loving Nana to Mitchell, Thomas, Matthew, Owen, Emma and Sarah...all of whom adored their Nana. Survived by sister Alexandra Baker, brother Ted Olver and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation to take place at Mount Pleasant Funeral Centre, 375 Mt. Pleasant Rd, Toronto (East Gate entrance, north of St. Clair Ave.) on Tuesday, March 10th from 6-9 p.m. A funeral service will be held in Mount Pleasant Funeral Centre Chapel on Wednesday, March 11th at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to The Kidney Foundation of Canada or sponsoring Jennifer's Ride To Conquer Cancer at www.conquercancer.ca/goto/jenniferparney

DEATHS

DR. ALBERT WILLIAM PETER VAN NOSTRAND
M.D. FRACP(C)
October 8, 1933
January 29, 2020

After a brief illness, Peter passed away peacefully at Holly Park, his home in Mulmur, with family by his side. Predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Janet (nee Langdon), and his son, James. He is survived by his son, John; James's wife, Lynne (Benjamin and Jacob); daughter, Sarah (William Spotton, Mackenzie, John, Sophia); and son, Peter (Jennifer, Rebecca and Charlotte).

Peter was born in Toronto, the fourth of six children of Fredrick and Dorothy (nee Hillary) van Nostrand. He grew up on Nordlands Farm, the family homestead in Vandorf Ontario. He attended Aurora High School where he met Janet, and the University of Toronto, completing his medical degree in 1959. He worked as an intern in Vancouver for two years and a GP in Maple for several years before returning to UofT to specialize in Pathology. This training led to a fellowship at Cambridge in England in 1967, and a position in the Department of Pathology at the Toronto General Hospital in 1968.

He worked for 20 years at TGH, served as Deputy Chief of Pathology for 10 and achieved the rank of Professor at the University of Toronto. In his professional career Peter was held in high regard by all who associated with him. These included particularly residents in Pathology and other medical specialties, staff surgeons at TGH and colleague pathologists in both the hospital and the University Departments of Pathology. He was a superb teacher, a widely respected expert in the practice of surgical pathology, and an affable administrator. In 1975, he moved his family back to Nordlands and took over the beef farming operation. In 1989, he joined MDS Laboratories (now Life Labs) where he served as Medical Director until his retirement in 1998.

Janet passed away three years ago, and Peter missed her terribly. She spent her last days at Holly Park, the special place they built together. Per Peter's wishes, he also spent his last days at Holly Park. Despite his accomplishments as an ENT pathologist and professor, he thought of himself as a fourth-generation farmer, husband and father. He often said that his greatest achievement in life was persuading Janet to marry him.

Special thanks to Dr. Cathy Candusso and Nurse Elaine Caldwell for enabling palliative care at Holly Park and providing great support for the family. Cremation and a private family service have already taken place, and a celebration of life is planned for sometime in the summer. In lieu of flowers, donations to Hillary House in Aurora and St. John's York Mills Anglican Church in Toronto would be welcome.

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MENDELSOHN, David - 124 Springmount Avenue.
GLIED, Jaffa - 240 Heath St. West, Suite 1502.
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JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR

DIPLOMAT, 100

FORMER UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ENDED EL SALVADOR CONFLICT

Then-UN secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar speaks at a news conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York in 1985. Mr. Perez de Cuellar took the role in 1982 after a 40-year career that began as a student clerk at the Peruvian Foreign Ministry. JOHN SOTOMAYOR/NYT

He took over at a time when the organization had lost much of its clout, but brokering a truce in the fractured Central American country on the eve of his departure from the role was perhaps his greatest accomplishment

STAFF

He was a cautious man, often described as colourless, but as secretary-general of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar ended 13 years of brutal conflict in El Salvador on the eve of his departure from the office.

It was probably the greatest achievement for Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who died on Wednesday. During his decade as the world's most senior diplomat, he had the unenviable task of attempting to reconcile squabbling nations at the UN's headquarters in New York.

The fighting in El Salvador had pitted leftist rebels against a series of U.S.-backed governments and it killed an estimated 75,000 people while leaving the Central American country in economic ruin.

Eighteen months before Mr. Perez de Cuellar's second term of office was to expire on Dec. 31, 1991, he dragged both sides to the bargaining table to effect a truce. On New Year's Eve, he skipped his own sendoff party when an agreement seemed near and, at the last possible minute, he announced that a truce had been negotiated.

"I am a free man, I feel light as a feather," he said after it was over.

The end of the Cold War had worked in Mr. Perez de Cuellar's favour. The demise of the Soviet Union meant that the United States no longer regarded Latin America as a security risk and Congress was quick to grab the opportunity of dropping its support for a government that had a dubious human-rights record.

In 1982, the Peruvian-born Mr. Perez de Cuellar was a compromise candidate for the post of secretary-general when his predecessor, Kurt Waldheim, ran into a repeated Chinese veto in his quest for an unprecedented third five-year term. China wanted a diplomat from a developing country, and Mr. Perez de Cuellar's credentials were impeccable.

He was keenly aware that the UN he inherited, though more than three times the size of the 51-nation organization built after the Second World War, had lost much of its clout. Instead of taking collective action to keep the peace, it was too often condemned to collective inaction due to East-West and other rivalries.

Its main deliberative organs – the Security Council and the General Assembly – were more often arenas for waging battle than solving problems, but Mr. Perez de Cuellar still believed the secretary-general could play a useful, if limited, role.

"I am not a person who wants to play the principal role and to be the protagonist in every negotiation," he once told a reporter.

This philosophy was soon put to the test when fighting erupted between Argentina and Britain in April of 1982 over the Falkland Islands. The conflict called for his personal intervention.

Widely respected as a decent and honourable man, he failed to halt the bloodshed but earned praise for his efforts at negotiating sessions between the two countries' UN envoys.

This limited accomplishment seemed to typify at least the first of his two terms in office which, as one diplomat said, had more political hits than misses. Others said that, within the framework of the job, he had done the best that was possible.

But apart from his first annual report to the General Assembly, in which he scolded members for straying from the UN Charter, Mr. Perez de Cuellar succeeded by being inoffensive and was unopposed when he sought a second term.

In 1985, Mr. Perez de Cuellar brought together the Greek and Turkish Cypriots, who since 1960 had fought desperately for control of Cyprus. The Greeks who were in the majority wanted a political alliance with Greece and in 1974, Turkey was drawn in when fighting broke out between the two factions.

Since 1964, Canadian troops had been part of a UN peacekeeping force on the island and their service had passed its silver anniversary before Mr. Perez de Cuellar was able to tell the Security Council in 1990 that both sides were bending. Canada pulled its peacekeeping force off the island in 1993, however tensions have continued to simmer there to the present day.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar had something of a banner year in 1988 with an agreement in April providing for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan by the following February. By August, he had negotiated a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and cajoled the two sides into beginning talks for a final peace. When the General Assembly met in September, diplomats were talking about "peace breaking out" around the globe.

> [Javier] Perez de Cuellar had something of a banner year in 1988 with an agreement in April providing for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan by the following February. By August, he had negotiated a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and cajoled the two sides into beginning talks for a final peace.

Then in October, the UN's peacekeeping forces, which had been serving in the world's trouble spots for 40 years, won the Nobel Peace Prize. The award was an indirect tribute to Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who might have won the award himself had he been nominated before the Feb. 1 deadline.

As his second term drew to a close, Mr. Perez de Cuellar's efforts led to the release of all the Western hostages held in Lebanon. (The last two, German relief workers Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner, were freed several months after his departure.)

"In view of the secretary-general's efforts, and the co-operation of Iran, Syria and the kidnapping organizations … it is expected that the hostage file will be closed forever," Iranian radio said in a commentary monitored by the BBC.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar became secretary-general after a 40-year career that began as a student clerk at the Peruvian Foreign Ministry. In the interim, he served Peru as ambassador to Venezuela, the Soviet Union, Poland, Switzerland and the UN and held other diplomatic posts in France, Britain, Bolivia and Brazil.

He was at the UN at the first session of the General Assembly in London in 1946 and over the years held a number of senior appointments with the organization, including a two-year stint in Cyprus.

He was born in Lima on Jan. 19, 1920, an only child who lost his father when he was 5. He had planned to be a lawyer but developed an interest in diplomacy when, as a student, he took on a part-time job with the Foreign Ministry.

He still got his law degree and entered Peru's diplomatic service in 1944. His first posting was to France, arriving in Paris immediately after its liberation from Nazi occupation.

Before Mr. Waldheim, an Austrian, the United Nations had been led by U Thant, from Burma; Dag Hammarskjold, from Sweden; and Trygve Lie, from Norway.

He was predeceased by his wife, Marcella Temple. Information on those whom he leaves was not immediately available.

With reports from Sandra Martin

To submit an I Remember: **obit@globeandmail.com**
Send us a memory of someone we have recently profiled on the Obituaries page.
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LIVES LIVED

KENNETH HARTLEY MCNEELY

Family man. Traveller. Genealogist. Intellectual.

Born Nov. 25, 1932, in Russell, Man.; died Sept. 12, 2019, in Oro Station, Ont., of natural causes; aged 86.

Ken McNeely was the original Most Interesting Man in the World. From working in British Columbia mines as a teen to becoming the Asian Development Bank's "Mr. Afghanistan" in the 1970s, with stints as a chemist, a professor and an extra in Chuck Norris movies, he lived so much and lived it well. He would have been uncomfortable with this description, and would have launched into stories about the *really* interesting people he met, including composers, doormen, priests and a DEA informant.

Ken's childhood in Depression-era Manitoba was happy. His father kept his job and, as a result, aunts, uncles and cousins moved into the family home ensuring that there was always someone to play cards with or to go fishing with. Ken's public-school teachers were laid-off university professors who gave their intellectually gifted student the education of a lifetime, even helping him borrow books from the University of Toronto.

Ken finished high school, won a scholarship and began his BSc at Brandon University at the age of 15. This was followed by an MSc at the University of Toronto and a PhD at the University of Ottawa. In 1960, he won a year-long scholarship to study chemistry at Sapienza University in Rome, where he learned Italian and discovered *la dolce vita*, mohair sweaters and European sports cars.

Upon his return to Canada, Ken taught chemistry at the Royal Military College in Kingston and then at St. Francis Xavier University. At a St. FX party, he met Helen Hammond, who soon became his partner in life and in adventure.

After their marriage in 1966, the couple moved to Jamaica, where Ken lectured at the University of the West Indies, and where their daughters Catherine and Elizabeth were born. Ken joined local caving clubs to map the country's spectacular caves, and his caving stories entertained friends and family for the rest of his life. After Ken's brief stints at CUSO and the Canadian International Development Agency in Ottawa, where the couple's third child, Thomas, was born, the family relocated to the Philippines in 1977 when the Asian Development Bank offered Ken the job of his dreams.

Ken's wanderlust was fuelled by a childhood passion for adventure fiction and stamp collecting, and he was thrilled when his first ADB assignment was to Afghanistan. He fell in love with the country and its people, and was considered to be the bank's expert for years.

Haiti, Guyana, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Thailand, Laos … Ken's work took him to many places, but there were also family holidays. These were on a tight budget, but the trips were endlessly fascinating because everything was worthy of interest. South Korea, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Kenya, Nepal, France, Ireland, Greece, Italy, Turkey – in each country there were many magical and frequently unpredictable adventures.

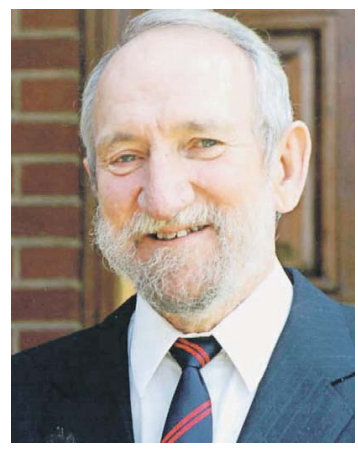
Once, the after-dinner entertainment in Bangkok was watching the night-market dentist use an antique pedal-drill on his patient. A bus ride in Hong Kong led to an explanation of goitres (visible on one passenger) and iodine deficiency. While snorkelling in the Philippines, and a little stranded, he hailed a *bangka*, and learned how to skin the bats the fishermen had caught. On Coloane Island, viewing a bone of St. Francis Xavier led to a private viewing of boxes of bones from Christian martyrs. With Ken, adventure was always right around the corner.

Ken relentlessly shared his passion for genealogy and many an eye glazed over as he recounted the details of his family tree. As far as Ken was concerned, if he loved something, then everyone should love it.

He talked to his cats and drank Scotch, and argued with anyone, anywhere, about the merits of Canada.

Ken was never bored and never boring.

Catherine McNeely is Ken's daughter.



Kenneth Hartley McNeely

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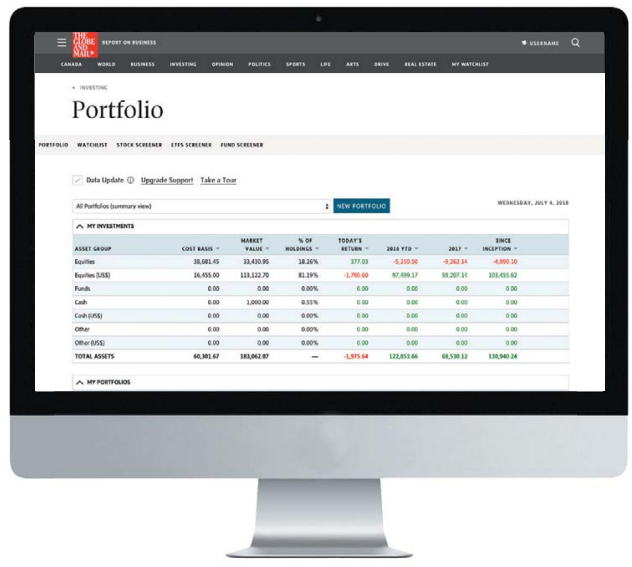

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DRAWN TO THE WATER

Jesleen Rana and Jihad Abouali made a quiet lakeside location a priority – and wanted a home to match ■ H4

All the principal rooms of Jesleen Rana and Jihad Abouali's Scarborough, Ont., home face Lake Ontario. DOUBLESPACE PHOTOGRAPHY

NEXT MOVE
With prices on the rise, Toronto is overrun with bully bidders ■ H2

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Squamish Nation has big plans for its massive housing project ■ H3

ARCHITOURIST
A heritage home almost lost to fire – twice – rises from the ashes ■ H5

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Bully bidders run rampant as prices escalate

'I wish I had 50 condos – that stuff is flying off the shelves,' one realtor says

CAROLYN IRELAND
NEXT MOVE

TORONTO

Real estate agents in Toronto and the surrounding suburbs say rapidly escalating house prices are pushing some buyers onto the sidelines and forcing others to change strategies. They're also watching to see if the spread of the coronavirus will change the market dynamics.

For now, bullies – who submit a pre-emptive offer before the scheduled deadline – are rampant.

Patrick Rocca, a real estate agent with Bosley Real Estate in Toronto, says listings are starting to trickle back into the market, but they quickly disappear.

"I wish I had 50 condos – that stuff is flying off the shelves," says Mr. Rocca, who specializes in the midtown markets of Leaside and Davisville.

Mr. Rocca says the first-time buyer market is scorching, the price segment above $1-million is hot, and the segment above $2-million has not fully reignited.

"It's spotty," he says of the higher end.

He points to one midtown house with an asking price of $1.89-million which sold for $2.2-million, while others in that price range languish.

Investors who built high-end homes are continuing to struggle, he says, because many of them are holding out with very high asking prices in order to recoup their investments.

As for buyers looking in the $1-million range, competition is fierce, Mr. Rocca says.

He has one set of clients with a maximum budget of $1.05-million who have been looking for a house in midtown. Properties comparable to the ones they were looking at in the fall now fetch $1.2-million, he says.

"I think they may be priced out of the market now," says Mr. Rocca, who has advised them to move their search to East York and other more affordable neighbourhoods.

Real estate agent Thien Nguyen says he's happy for the sellers of this townhouse in Maple, Ont. – who got $945,000 for the property, $225,100 above asking price – but also says he finds the run-up in prices in the region alarming. IGUIDE

"I get it," he says of buyers who feel discouraged. "They're probably disappointed, frustrated."

Thien Nguyen, a real estate agent with TrilliumWest Real Estate Brokerage in Kitchener, Ont., recently drew 27 offers for a 1,625-square-foot townhouse in the bedroom community of Maple, Ont. The end-unit freehold townhouse sold for $945,000, or $225,100 above the asking price of $719,900.

Mr. Nguyen says the list price was set to draw attention, but he estimated the townhouse would sell for between $825,000 and $830,000, based on recent comparable sales.

"This number truly surprised me," says Mr. Nguyen, who had more than 300 people tour the property during two open houses.

Mr. Nguyen set a date for offers and the sellers refused to consider pre-emptive bids before that deadline because they had been beaten many times by bullies when they were acting as buyers.

"We decided to give everyone a fair shot on offer day and let the market decide the best value for this home."

Many of the house hunters were first-time buyers who were already pushing their budget to the limit, he says.

Mr. Nguyen says he is truly happy for the sellers, but he also finds the run-up in prices alarming. A house across the street sold three months ago for $785,000.

"The scary thing is, the precedent is now set in the small town of Maple."

Mr. Nguyen says that leaves his buyer clients with budgets in the $700,000 to $800,000 range out of the market.

He is planning to take his clients to look at townhouses in more distant Newmarket and Innisfil, where, he says, deals can still be found on townhouses around the $700,000 mark.

"I'm having to move my clients further and further outside of the city."

Mr. Rocca is gearing up for a busy couple of weeks before students and their families head into the March break for public and private schools.

He expects a lull in the market for single-family dwellings during the school holidays, then another burst of action.

Mr. Rocca says one factor that could slow down the pace is the spread of the novel coronavirus, which causes the illness COVID-19. People have begun raising the question of whether the virus will affect sales, but it's too soon to say, he says.

He points out that an economic slowdown caused by the virus would be a risk to real estate.

"I don't know if it will have an impact on this market," Mr. Rocca says. "If we're talking about a recession, there's a real threat of that."

He adds that financial market volatility caused by nervous investors reacting to news of the virus could in turn unnerve real estate purchasers.

"What's the trickle-down effect and what's the timeline? I think in the second quarter it could have an effect."

Real estate agents Paul Maranger and Christian Vermast of Sotheby's International Realty Canada say uncertainty may lead buyers to temporarily shelve their plans to move up to a more expensive property, for example.

Mr. Maranger and Mr. Vermast say foreign buyers may also have to delay plans to purchase in Canada.

The two had a potential buyer for one of their own listings who was waiting for approval from parents in Singapore. The purchase was put on hold when the family members couldn't get out of Singapore, they say.

With stock markets correcting, peoples' perception of their personal wealth diminishes, they add.

On the flip side, the risk of the illness may only reinforce a sense of comfort and security at home for some residents.

Also, when stock markets correct, some investors favour assets that they perceive as safe havens, such as gold, government bonds and real estate.

Toronto seeks to tame 'Wild West' of short-term rentals

SHANE DINGMAN
REAL ESTATE REPORTER
TORONTO

THE LISTING

The City of Toronto is in the process of designing a regulatory and enforcement regime for short-term-rental (STR) operators. But if the experience of other cities is any guide, the new rules could kick off a high-stakes game of cat-and-mouse with hosts bending the rules to continue their lucrative businesses.

This spring, Toronto will begin registering short-term-rental operators. It will then begin enforcing the rules first passed in 2017. Those rules were upheld in 2019 by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal after commercial STR hosts filed an appeal.

"The city will first focus on educating the public about the new regulations. City staff will also work with both short-term-rental operators and companies to ensure compliance," said Carleton Grant, executive director of the municipal licensing and standards division. "The city has the authority to cancel registration rights of short-term rental operators, if a short-term operator does not carry out activities with integrity and honesty, violates any federal, provincial or municipal law or bylaw, or conducts activities in such a way that infringes on the rights or endangers the health and safety of the public."

As recently highlighted in The Globe and Mail, many short-term rental operators may already be violating the city's existing bylaws around rooming houses and the provincial fire code.

The Globe highlighted the case of a listing calling itself "The Mansion" in North York, a single house for which there were 35 individual listings. The operator was known to have played host to more than 20 people at a time in triple-bunk beds packed into almost every room in the mid-century house at 1 Toba Dr.

One technique used by short-term-rental hosts who are looking to evade scrutiny from municipal officials and condo security guards is to create what are called vampire listings: postings for units that go online at night and then come down during the day. FRED LUM/ THE GLOBE AND MAIL

> "[Airbnb's] whole business model hinges on them downloading responsibility to thousands of individual hosts and not being held accountable for what they post on their platform.
>
> THORBEN WIEDITZ
> ACTIVIST AND SPOKESPERSON FOR THE FAIRBNB COALITION

After the story appeared, local councillor Jaye Robinson's office notified the licensing and standards department and an investigation was opened. On Feb. 21, bylaw investigators issued a notice to comply with zoning and an order to comply with property standards.

A spokesperson from Airbnb said that when a listing is brought to their attention that could affect the safety of the community they may take action against a listing – including suspension or removal. To date, 1 Toba's host, listed only as "Walter," still has an active account. The "Mansion" listing has been taken down, but his account still shows a second rented house being sublet on Airbnb at 411 Carlton St., although his profile is filled with automated reviews notifying users he has cancelled many coming stays.

Harmari STR, a compliance services company active in many U.S. states, did a data analysis of Toronto to estimate how widespread the rooming house issue was. The company's Toronto-based chief executive officer, Allen Atamer, searched the database the company has built for commercial clients – including 15 condo buildings in Toronto and 47 municipalities in North America – for "listings that include the keyword 'bunk' in their reviews, plus any [STR] listings that advertise over 12 guests." More than 400 examples with multiple bedrooms and claims of being able to accommodate between 13-18 guests at a single property showed up on such platforms as VRBO, Airbnb and Booking.com.

"It's still the Wild West in this industry," Mr. Atamer said.

Harmari STR got its start nine years ago in an earlier era of digital disruption, when it would analyze sites such as Kijiji and Craigslist for police and motor vehicle regulators seeking information about those using the classifieds platforms as a vector for stolen cars and other forms of insurance fraud. "We are applying that expertise and skill to STRs, to find and identify them. Without knowing where they are [cities] can't police them. That's where the gap is with the platforms and municipalities," he said.

Harmari examines 60 sites that do short-term bookings, although Airbnb is still the market leader estimated to control close to 80 per cent of Toronto's listings.

Some listings Harmari found sublet as many as seven bedrooms per house, well above the city's limit of three per STR site, and some even advertise their likely status as an unlicensed rooming house in the listing name: "Toronto 6 Bedroom entire House," "Lavish townhouse w/ sauna & jacuzzi - Sleep 18," and "81 Fancy Entire House for Up to 20 people".

"[Airbnb's] whole business model hinges on them downloading responsibility to thousands of individual hosts and not being held accountable for what they post on their platform," said Thorben Wieditz, an activist and spokesperson for the Fairbnb coalition that has pushed Canadian cities toward harsher regulations on the industry.

Toronto's bylaw says hosts can rent up to three bedrooms in a unit for an unlimited number of nights a year (up to a maximum of 28 days per stay) or their entire home for a maximum of 180 nights a year. The major roadblock for commercial operators in Toronto's bylaw is a restriction that only a host's principal residence can be used for short-term rentals.

According to Mr. Atamer, there are already more than 30 large-scale property management companies operating STRs in Toronto – some with 100 or 200 rooms under management – that could evade this rule today using a web of identities. "One of the classic examples I can give, you see an Airbnb hosted by a very attractive female blonde, in the reviews it's all comments about her 'friend Yuri' handling the listing. You'll see him 20 times in the reviews, and then in other reviews on other listings. It's all a façade," Mr. Atamer said.

So far, Harmari's Toronto clients have been condo boards that ban short-term rentals, and the service is also attractive to buildings with an integrated hotel component – such as the former Trump Tower, now the St. Regis Hotel, at 325 Bay St. – that property managers are loathe to undermine.

Mr. Atamer said Toronto hosts attempting to evade scrutiny are also beginning to borrow a tactic his company has identified elsewhere: vampire listings.

"Vampire listings pop up at night and go down during the day, they are trying to hide from condo security guards, from bureaucrats and others," he said. In a snippet of research Harmari published last year, about 12.6 per cent of the 4,914 STR listings in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., were intermittent "vampire listings" that hosts remove and repost every day. Sonoma County, Calif., a popular wine region, saw 14 per cent of its 5,156 listings behave the same way.

According to a spokesperson for licensing and standards, Toronto is considering hiring outside contractors to build up its monitoring systems. A contract to build the registration system was awarded to accountancy giant KPMG, but a request-for-proposals for the investigative tools has not been awarded yet.

The Senakw project's five-phase plan will see 11 residential towers built, ranging from 32 to 56 storeys tall.

Squamish Nation seeks to chart its own path

Group's high-density 11-tower development project will provide thousands of units of rental housing

KERRY GOLD

OPINION

VANCOUVER

When the Squamish Nation announced its ambitious plan to add 11 residential towers to the south end of Burrard Bridge, adding 6,000 extra units of housing to the area, more than a few eyebrows were raised.

The high-density Senakw project, on a boomerang-shaped 11.6 acres that stretches east and west from the bridge, will be built quickly because the First Nation does not have to go through the gauntlet of the city zoning and permitting process.

The acreage is federal land for Indigenous use and benefit, and for more than a decade, the Squamish had planned to develop it. Now, with Westbank as partners, the Squamish will play a key role in providing thousands of units of rental housing for Vancouver in the next few years. The five-phase plan is for towers ranging from 32 to 56 storeys. At least 70 per cent of the 6,000 units will be rental. The remainder will be sold as market-rate condos on leasehold land. Although the project won't be marketed as "luxury," it will likely fall into that category, says Squamish spokesperson and council member Khelsilem, who uses one name.

The location and views alone would make it pricey housing.

Rental has proved to be a challenge to most developers because of high land values and costs, a lot of red tape and tight margins. But for the Squamish, they own the land and have full control of whatever gets developed, so construction of the first two towers will start as soon as next year, Khelsilem says.

Originally, the plan had only been for 3,000 units, but the Squamish pushed to double the density, he says.

"Really that's where the profit angle is important for us, because we are trying to create a long-term revenue stream for the nation," he says, seated at a coffee shop in Chinatown. "So it was the nation pushing for an exploration of increased density on it, not the developer."

There had been a much lower density project planned for the site in 2007, but then the economic downturn of 2008 happened, and the plan was shelved. The delay was fortuitous because rampant speculation drove land values up, reaching record prices a couple of years ago.

"We are a little bit late to the game if we see it through that lens," he says. "Mind you, a lot of that was condo and a lot of it was speculation. So building 4,800 rental as the tech industry comes to town might be also seizing that moment."

The project is just the start of a new development venture for the Squamish, which aims to generate revenue to cover programs and services for its community of 4,100 members. Most of their current revenue comes from passive lease arrangements, but that's become old school, Khelsilem says. The new plan is for the nation to become developer of properties that can generate long-term revenues and maximize profits, Khelsilem says.

"We have a small team, but we will be scaling up. Instead of having a bunch of non-Squamish people running the company, we could have our own people running the company. But how many people are trained and educated to take on the jobs? The answer is next to none. So I'm thinking about how to prepare our community members to take advantage of those careers."

Khelsilem, seen below Vancouver's Burrard Bridge on land that will be developed for the Senakw project, says the project has received a surprising amount of support from multiple levels of government. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Because they don't have the financing to go it alone, so far they've been entering into 50-50 profit sharing deals with established developers. They put up the land; the developer puts up the financing.

"We are still figuring it out, but we are learning a lot," he says. "Financing is a big one. We are at the early stage, because we don't have access to financing the same way that a normal developer would."

He says they've received a surprising amount of support for the Senakw project, which could draw 10,000 to 12,000 residents to the area. Supporters have included all levels of government, and government agencies and neighbourhood groups that want to work with the Squamish.

Khelsilem spoke about the project at a recent Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. conference on the issue of housing and supply. At the conference, Mayor Stewart Kennedy also spoke, and, as he has done before in media interviews, he praised the project.

But not everyone is as open to the idea, Khelsilem concedes.

Former chief planner for the city of Vancouver, Ray Spaxman, has been an outspoken opponent of the project. He says there is an absence of crucial information for so much added density, and nobody can offer him answers.

"All that we've got is the propaganda," Mr. Spaxman says. "I don't think it's going to be especially livable, at that density. I can't quite understand the design.

"If you talk to people in [neighbouring] False Creek South and Kits Point, who worry about what this is going to mean, there's nothing that says, 'this is where the schools are going to go, where the transit is going, and the sewers, and the water, and open space. Here's the way to walk from one part of town to another. The towers will be arranged this way around these corridors with these views and all that sort of stuff.'

"Normally you are able to look at that and it's explained. There isn't enough information to make your mind up."

Others have questioned the effect such density will have on current transit, schools, infrastructure and amenities. Because the project is mostly rental, the developers are not including much parking, because renters typically use transit. So far, it's unknown whether financing will allow for affordable housing at Senakw, other than for Indigenous members.

Others have wondered whether the project will adhere to the provincial speculation and vacancy tax, and the foreign-buyers tax. Khelsilem says that leasehold land doesn't typically attract speculators, but they could find a mechanism to apply such taxes. And because the nation collects all taxes, it would be in their interests to do so. They'd similarly find a mechanism to mirror the Residential Tenancy Act, to protect both tenants and themselves, in the event a tenant matter has to go to arbitration.

"I see comments, some funny stuff, about how the First Nation are just wanting to be greedy like everybody else now," Khelsilem says. "I would say there are people who are genuinely, in their heart, opposed to anyone making a profit off of housing, and politically they disagree with it.

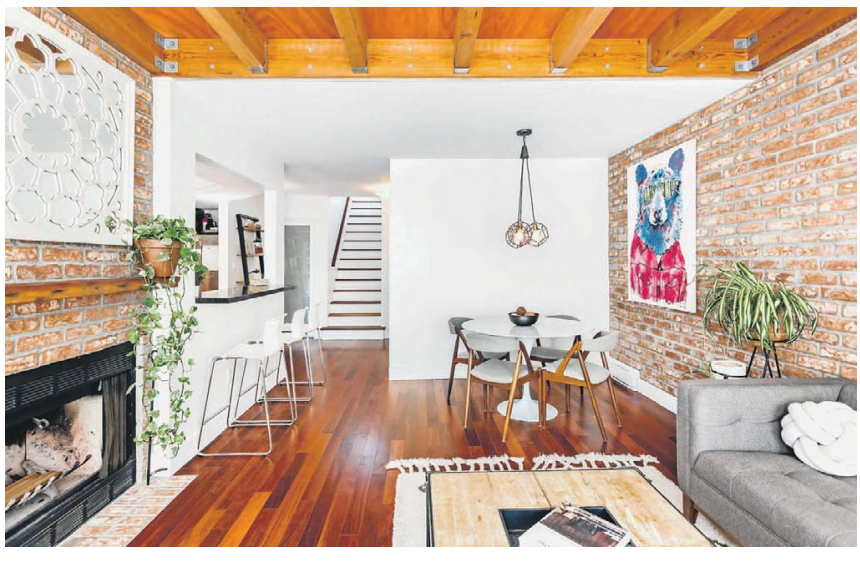
"But the other side of it, too, is there are also people who might normally be opposed to a tower by a private developer, but because it's a First Nation doing it, they are actually less opposed, because fundamentally our interest isn't to make money for one individual or anything like that. It's not like most of the developers, where it's a family that's going to become billionaires off of it. With this, all the profit is going to go back into [the Squamish] community, services for housing, education, health care et cetera."

Penthouse on the beach sets Kitsilano record

DONE DEAL

2110 Cornwall Ave., No. 306, Vancouver
KITSILANO

Listing price: $998,888
Selling price: $950,000
Previous selling price: $582,000 (2014)
Days on market: 73
Taxes: $2,112.96
Maintenance fee: $441
Listing agent: Denny Dumas, Keller Williams Elite



WHAT THEY GOT This 995-square-foot, two-level loft penthouse across the street from Kitsilano Beach has brick walls, exposed wood ceiling, a 200-square-foot private rooftop deck with mountain and ocean views, two wood-burning fireplaces and large bay window. Built in 1987, the building is fully rain-screened and the one-bedroom-with-flex-space unit had been fully updated throughout.

THE ACTION The sellers had purchased the unit in June, 2014, for $582,000. Listing agent Denny Dumas had more than 100 showings, with open houses every week. It was the highest priced one-bedroom condo sold in Kitsilano in 2019. "In a different market, this would have sold much quicker," Mr. Dumas said, citing the market downturn. Several people came through after seeing the pictures on their Instagram feed, he said. The unit sold in November and recently closed.

THE AGENT'S TAKE "Rarely do properties like this come on the market," he said. "It truly is a one-of-a-kind place."

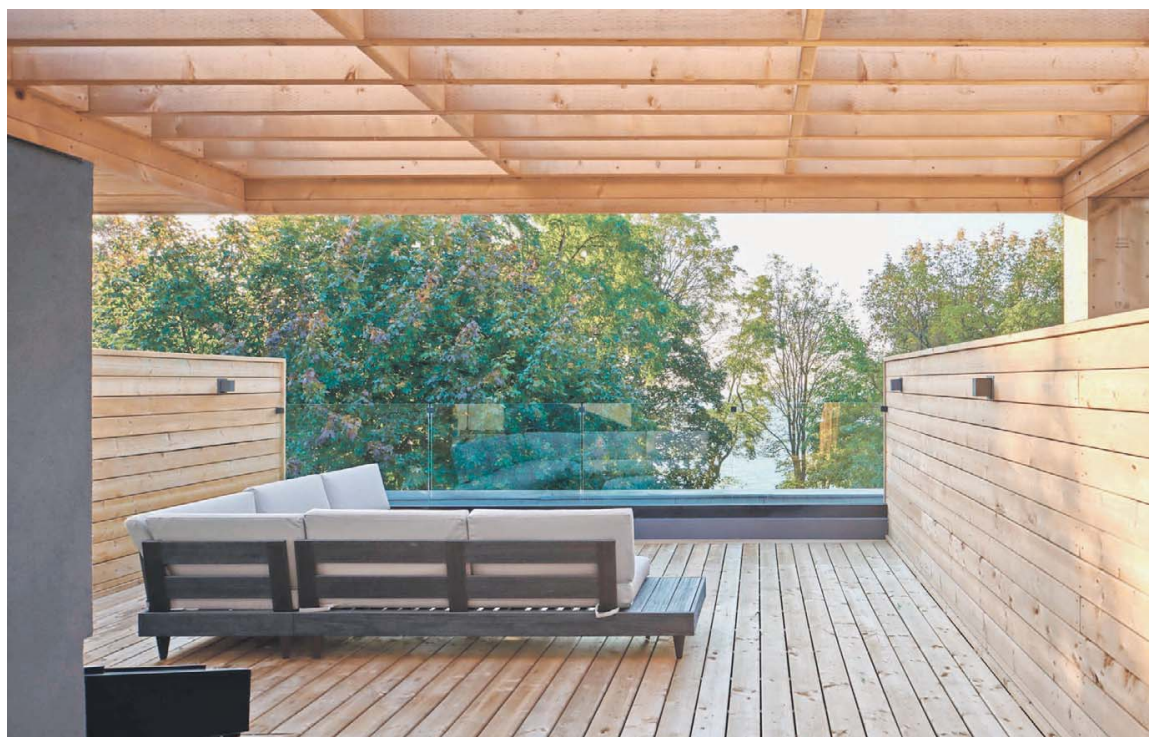
– KERRY GOLD

An enterprising real estate agent went door to door in search of a house for Jesleen Rana and Jihad Abouali with views of Lake Ontario. PHOTOS BY DOUBLESPACE PHOTOGRAPHY

Building from scratch in Cliffside

Toronto couple sought a quiet lakeside location that they wouldn't feel bad about overhauling to make it their own

MATTHEW HAGUE TORONTO



The roof's sheltered patio, above, is among the many spaces that face water. Double-height windows, below, let in tons of light while also facilitating similar views of the lake. Exterior and interior use similar palettes of materials, including white walls and slats of wood.

About four years ago, Jesleen Rana and Jihad Abouali, both doctors, started thinking about having a family and wanted more space to raise kids than their 1,000-square-foot downtown Toronto condo. At the time, their wishlist for a residential upgrade was different than many new buyers. They didn't dream of a newly renovated kitchen or an open-concept floor plan or lots of storage. Their dream was a wreck.

"We were looking for something that we wouldn't feel bad about replacing," Ms. Rana says.

"A tear down made sense for us so we could build something entirely our own," Mr. Abouali adds. "We wanted to make a forever home while we were young and had many years ahead of us to enjoy it."

One thing they were particular about: they were determined to be by Lake Ontario, somewhere quiet with views of the water. After years of living at one of the city's busiest intersections – Queen Street West and University Avenue, which is endlessly packed with cars and people – they longed for a lot that would be the opposite. Serene and still, a hideaway to decompress from their demanding jobs.

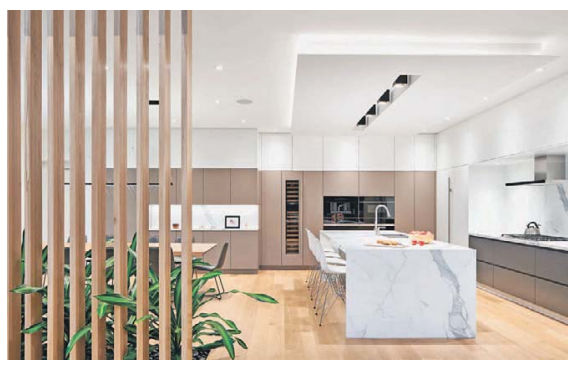
Finding a vacant, lakeside property to build a single-family home is nearly impossible to do in Toronto. The shoreline seems to be all condos and warehouses, industrial remnants of the city's past as a shipping port. But the east end, in Scarborough's Cliffside neighbourhood, offered Ms. Rana and Mr. Abouali what they were looking for: wide, leafy lots on the top of the Scarborough bluffs with panoramic vistas of the water. Many of the existing homes are small, mid-century bungalows that are currently being replaced by larger, contemporary piles.

Thanks to an enterprising real estate agent – someone who went door-to-door, asking residents if they were interested in selling – Ms. Rana and Mr. Abouali bought a site that wasn't even for sale. The structure met their ideal level of dereliction. It had a series of suspect, leaky additions on the back that weren't done to code and appeared to be falling down of their own accord.

"But when we walked to the backyard and saw the lake right there, we knew we were home," Ms. Rana says.

For the rebuild, Ms. Rana and Mr. Abouali chose Taylor Smyth Architects. "We drove by another house they designed in the area, also on the Bluffs, and really loved the clean, modern style," Mr. Abouali says.

"So we did some research to figure out who designed it."



"We basically called them up and said they didn't have a choice but to work with us," Ms. Rana jokes.

Much of the resulting, 4,600-square-foot design is set up to capture the natural beauty of the context. Right from the front foyer, there are clear site lines south, through a series of double-height windows, out to the lake. All the principal rooms face the water, including the living area, dining space and kitchen on the ground floor, the master bedroom on the second level, and the sheltered patio on the roof ("it's a great place for sunsets," Mr. Abouali says).

A similar palette of materials, including white walls and slats of wood, continue from the exterior in, blurring the inside-outside boundary. (That said, the exterior wood is actually a Dutch laminate product Trespa. "Maintaining real wood outside takes a lot work and dedication," says Michael Taylor, co-founder of Taylor Smyth Architects. "Not a lot of homeowners are interested in refinishing their exterior every couple of years.")

Although Ms. Rana now has a slightly longer commute to work, one benefit of moving from condo-land to the suburbs is that the couple have more access to the sun, as there no shade-casting buildings around. "We tried to bring in as much light as possible," says Marco Bonatti, an associate architect at Taylor Smyth who oversaw the project. "There are big windows facing the lake, as well as a long skylight and a clerestory over the living room. During the day, it's incredibly bright."

The show-stopping surrounds don't eclipse the true purpose of the house, though. "Both Jihad and I have big families," Ms. Rana says. "Part of why we wanted a big space was for the sheer joy of having our families over. We love to entertain our relatives." Recently, the couple comfortably played host to about 30 people, including cousins, nieces and nephews.

Since purchasing the property, they also started a family of their own. Their first daughter, now 2, was 1 when the house was being finished in December, 2018. Their second daughter, on the way, is expected later in 2020. Each has their own bedrooms on the second level, both decked in whimsical wallpaper (think giant flowers, but with feathers not petals).

The couple have a serene master bedroom for whenever they want kid-free peace and privacy. The space has a spa-like sense of luxury, with bathtub under a skylight, a shower with views of the lake and a dressing room that's almost as large as many downtown urban condos. "We tried to make a really sexy en suite," Mr. Taylor says, pointing out LEDs inset into the walls that create a calming, soothing glow.

Retreat aside, the couple spend most of their time with their daughter either in the basement rec room (they have a wall projector for movies) or in the living room, where they are waiting until their kids are older to get a coffee table, preferring to leave the area open to maximize toy space (and minimize the risk of damaging an expensive piece of furniture).

"My daughter loves it here," Ms. Rana says. "Every morning she comes down to the living room and says, 'hello world! She likes to wave out to the bird and the trees."

Special to The Globe and Mail

The heritage house at 314 Jarvis St. in Toronto is seen circa the 1970s. GOLDSMITH BORGAL

After two fires, a rose rises from the ashes

Developer treads lightly, spends heavily to preserve a bit of Toronto's onetime Champs-Élysées

DAVE LeBLANC

ARCHITOURIST

TORONTO

It's not often that one experiences a heritage emergency.

But, last Labour Day, it happened to Graywood Developments' Neil Pattison.

The September sun beating down on his heavy coat, the fire marshal said that the wall at 314 Jarvis St. had to come down; his people needed to get inside to check for evidence of arson, and, perhaps, for victims.

For Mr. Pattison, it wasn't so cut-and-dry. That wall – and most of the rest of the handsome 1902 house near the corner of Jarvis and Carlton Streets – was designated as heritage, and therefore protected from demolition. And, since the house had already survived an earlier fire in January, 2016, Mr. Pattison didn't want an unsympathetic backhoe ripping into what remained.

The police detectives weren't making things any easier. They were peppering Mr. Pattison with questions, hoping he'd slip up and say something incriminating – don't most developers want to be rid of problematic historical buildings?

The thing is, Mr. Pattison, a vice-president at Graywood, isn't like most developers. After acquiring the property in July, 2019, with Phantom Developments, he'd spent the summer strategizing with his colleagues on how best to incorporate the Beaux-Arts house – once owned by two very prominent Torontonians – into a new condominium development. Should it be retail? An office? An amenities space?

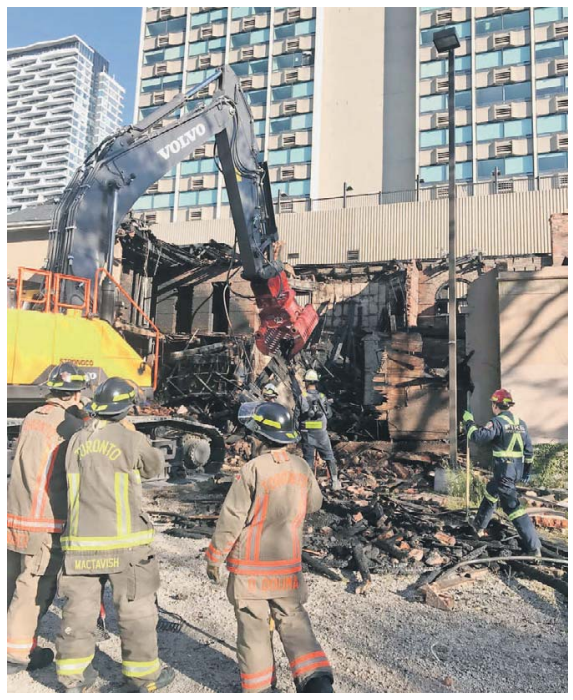
However, with the fire marshal breathing down his neck, those questions had to be shelved for the time being. What was needed was a heritage professional to show up, and quickly.

"It was quite the intense experience," Mr. Pattison said on a cold February morning a few weeks ago.

Thankfully, Joe Muller, program manager at the city's Heritage Preservation Services, was only a phone call, and bicycle ride, away.

After much back-and-forth with Mr. Muller, a cherry picker deposited a Graywood engineer and architect Chris Borgal of Goldsmith Borgal & Co. into the charred ruin from above. While Mr. Borgal pointed to what was heritage and what was not, the engineer tagged what needed to be removed for safety's sake and what needed to be reinforced, regardless of heritage, while fire professionals and Mr. Pattison cooled their jets in the empty lot beside the house.

Only the north and east walls are still standing at 314 Jarvis St. after the second fire. DAVE LeBLANC/THE GLOBE AND MAIL



Firefighters had to remove the house's south wall after the fire, and its west wall was deemed too weak afterward. GRAYWOOD DEVELOPMENTS

"This happens at a glacial pace," Mr. Pattison explained. "It took us all day to say, 'okay you can take this wall down,' because they had to go back to city hall and get the approval."

They are important walls. Designed for Dr. Charles Sheard (1857-1929) when in his mid-40s and Toronto's chief medical officer (sources suggest – but can't confirm – his architect brother, Matthew, was responsible), the home was one of many along Jarvis – the city's Champs-Élysées in the late-1800s and early-1900s – occupied by the professional classes. The upper portion of the street was reserved for the very rich. When Dr. Sheard purchased the property as a newlywed in 1885, it had been a much smaller wood-framed home that he and wife Virna (née Stanton) occupied; four sons by the turn of the century meant a larger house was necessary.

Just before that home was constructed, Mrs. Sheard (1862-1943) saw her first poems and stories published, many of them in The Globe and Mail. By the time the couple were picking out furnishings, her second book, *A Maid of Many Moods*, was published. While Mrs. Sheard would achieve great status as author and poet – penning five volumes of poetry – by the time she was widowed, the status of her beloved neighbourhood was changing. A 10-storey apartment house, Frontenac Arms, was being constructed just to the south (it became a hotel, and still is today) and many of her neighbour's homes had been converted to rooming houses. After the Second World War, this trend would increase as the city struggled with a housing shortage.

Eventually, the Sheard residence would succumb as well and have much of its interior unsympathetically rejigged; it would remain a rooming house until the 2016 fire.

The owners at that time, Toronto Ward 13 councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam said, were "horribly combative" and "didn't care about the Sheard heritage house."

"When 314 Jarvis went up in flames, it felt like a big middle finger to the city and neighbourhood," she continued. "Toronto Fire, Toronto Building, City Planning and my office were all dealing with the owners and they did the minimum to keep the house safe." In contrast, Graywood/Phantom "has been pro-active in their communication, courteous to their neighbours and responsive to city requests."

Perhaps that's because Mr. Pattison is a self-confessed "nerd" when it comes to history. While only a coffered ceiling, some moulding, a small staircase and the ornate radiators remained when he first walked through, the plan was "to preserve the entire structure, all four walls, and try and reinstate some of the original pieces back into it." The second fire, however, destroyed most of that, and the need to gain access to the basement (no bodies or evidence of arson was found) means Graywood/Phantom had to switch gears.

So, today, the keen aficionado who finds herself walking past will notice only the north and east walls standing. After the backhoe had its way with the south wall and the rear, west-facing wall was deemed too weakened, a compromise was made with the city: Document those walls with detailed architectural drawings and then take them down. The curved-and-columned front porch will get the same treatment, although in that case samples have been saved in order to reproduce it to exact specifications (the original roofline and dormer window will also be rebuilt). If our aficionado looks closer, she'll note waterproof caps on exposed walls, cinder block and steel bracing added here-and-there for reinforcement, and replaced or re-pointed brick.

"What you see today, all the fire damage and all the restoration," said Mr. Pattison, "it's about half a million dollars' worth that's been sunk into this."

From glorious to glum, and from almost-lost to rising, literally, from the ashes, one could say a rose will soon return to Jarvis Street. Well, Mrs. Sheard may have put it that way:

From out the limbo where lost roses go
The place we may not see,
With all its petals sweet and half-ablow,
One rose returned to me.
The Gleaner, 1913

The five-bedroom house at 178 Balmoral Ave. in Toronto 'has an extraordinary street presence,' according to real estate agent Boris Kholodov. PHOTOS BY EMRE ISCEN

A house with meaty history

This grand Toronto home was built in 1904 for meat-packing magnate William Davies

CAROLYN IRELAND TORONTO

178 Balmoral Ave.
TORONTO

Asking Price: $4,795,000
Taxes: $16,472.75 (2019)
Lot Size: 57½- by 135¾ feet, irregular, tapering to 81½ feet at rear
Agent: Boris Kholodov (Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd., Johnston and Daniel Division)

The couple who bought the Balmoral house 12 years ago undertook a renovation that preserved much of the original character while adding modern fixtures. For instance, the old flooring was replaced with new wood laid in a herringbone pattern, and the foyer has a heated stone floor.

THE BACKSTORY

Twelve years ago, Kelly and Jason Trainor had two young daughters and a baby on the way when they purchased a grand three-storey home in Toronto's South Hill neighbourhood.

Ms. Trainor was attracted by the curb appeal of the three-storey, red-brick house and its adjacent coach house.

The five-bedroom home sits on a slight rise on Balmoral Avenue, which runs along the top of the escarpment just south of St. Clair Avenue West.

"It has an extraordinary street presence," says real estate agent Boris Kholodov of Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd., Johnston and Daniel Division.

Once they took possession, the Trainors were curious about the history of the house. Ms. Trainor visited the archives and found that it was built in 1904 for William Davies, who had built a commanding presence in the meat-packing business.

Davies was an English grocer who emigrated to Canada and set up a stall in St. Lawrence Market. In 1861, he erected a major building for smoking and curing meats, which helped establish Toronto's reputation as Hogtown.

"He had eight kids here," Ms. Trainor says.

Inside, the house had retained its leaded glass windows and other original details, but the interior had become a bit tired over the decades, Ms. Trainor says. The fluorescent lighting was jarring in an Edwardian-era home and the hardwood floor throughout most of the main floor was worn down.

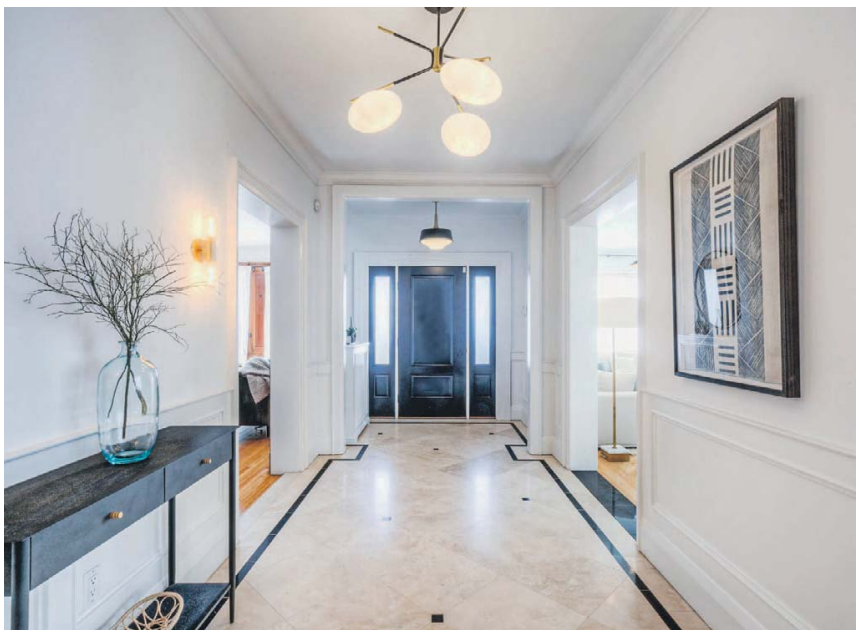
"It needed some love," Ms. Trainor says.

The couple undertook a renovation that would preserve much of the original character while adding comfort and modern fixtures. The plaster was torn down and floors were ripped up.

"We took it down to the brick," she says.

Outside, previous owners had divided the two-storey coach house so that half belongs to the Trainors and half is owned by the neighbours.

The historic red brick stable, which likely housed horses and carriages, still has a hook on the facade for drawing bales of hay up through the window to the loft.



THE HOUSE TODAY

Ms. Trainor says the contractors were working hard to finish the project before the baby arrived, but they didn't quite make it. The Trainors moved into the newly renovated, 4,122-square-foot house three weeks after their son Joey was born.

On the main floor, they kept the centre hall plan, but rejigged some of the rooms. Today, guests arrive to a foyer with a heated stone floor.

There's a living room on one side and a library on the other.

Ms. Trainor says she believes the rich wood panelling in the library was likely installed for Davies when the house was built. Two sets of French doors lead to an outdoor terrace.

The Trainors preserved the original formal staircase with wood railings and banister, but they removed a second staircase that was likely used by servants.

Today, that space is taken up by a wine cellar and tasting room next to the dining room.

"That was a better use of space for us," Ms. Trainor says.

Throughout most of the main floor, the old flooring was replaced with new wood laid in a herringbone pattern.

A side sun room was likely added sometime in the 1970s or so, Mr. Kholodov says. Similarly, the area that houses the kitchen was likely an addition on the rear of the house in the 20th century.

Today, the kitchen has wood cabinets painted blue and a breakfast area with French doors leading to the backyard.

On the second floor, four bedrooms provide space for kids and guests. There's also a laundry room.

At the front of the house, 15-year-old Tralee and 13-year-old Teagan each have a bedroom with a shared bathroom in between. Eleven-year-old Joey has a bedroom with a separate bath.

Outside, the house has a backyard with mature trees and enough space for the Trainors' large trampoline.

Ms. Trainor says the South Hill neighbourhood is very family friendly, with good schools nearby. The Toronto Transit Commission subway, streetcar line and buses all pass through the area.

The shops and restaurants of Summerhill and Yonge Street are a short stroll away and the Trainors often take their dog Lucky to nearby Sir Winston Churchill Park and the Nordheimer Ravine.

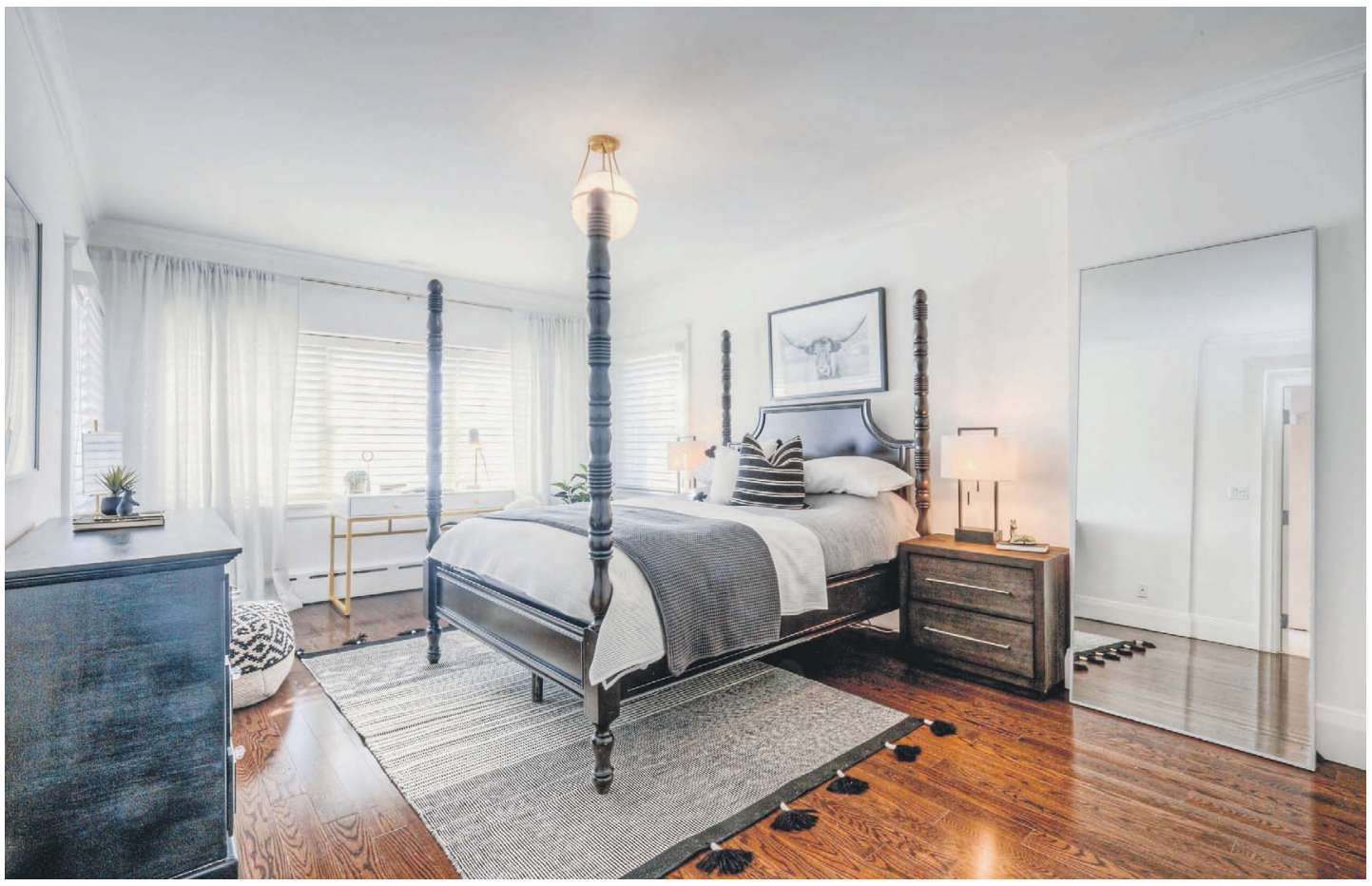
"We love the neighbourhood. There are lots of families. It's a really great community," Ms. Trainor says. "Now that the kids are older, they can go to the subway on their own."

THE BEST FEATURE

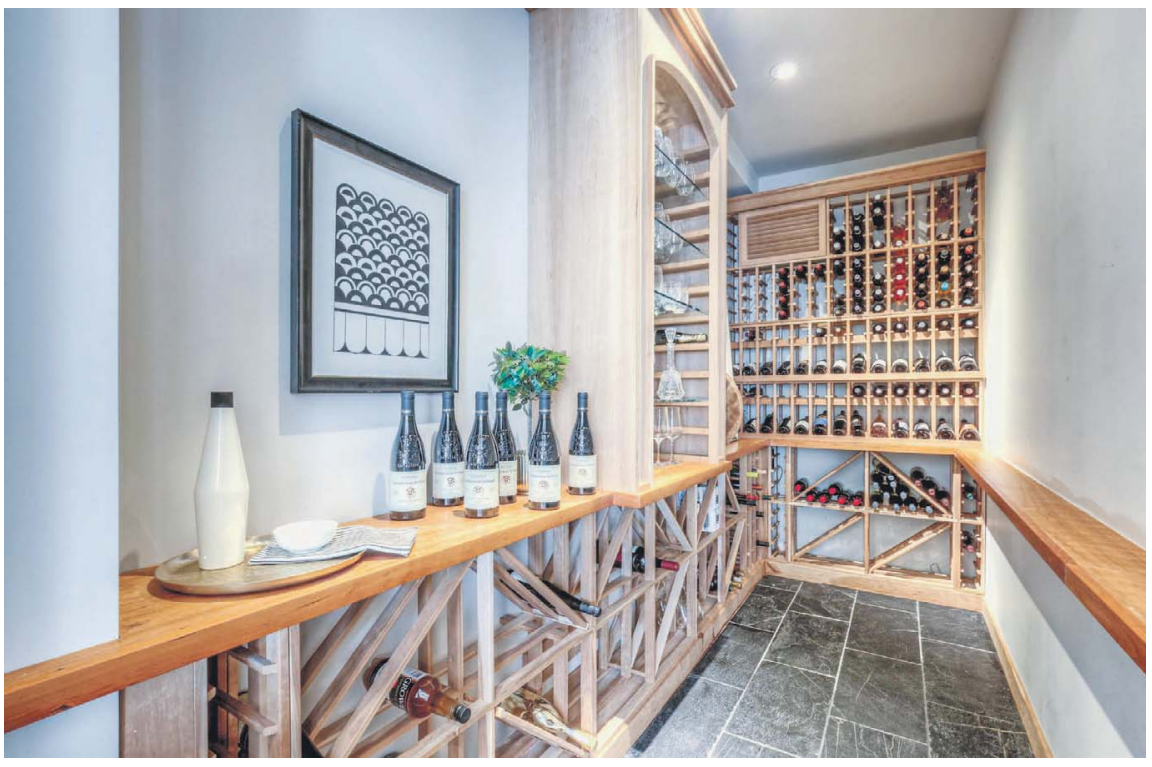
The third-floor master suite is a quiet sanctuary, Ms. Trainor says. The cathedral ceiling brings height to the bedroom and there's a view of the CN Tower from the bedroom window.

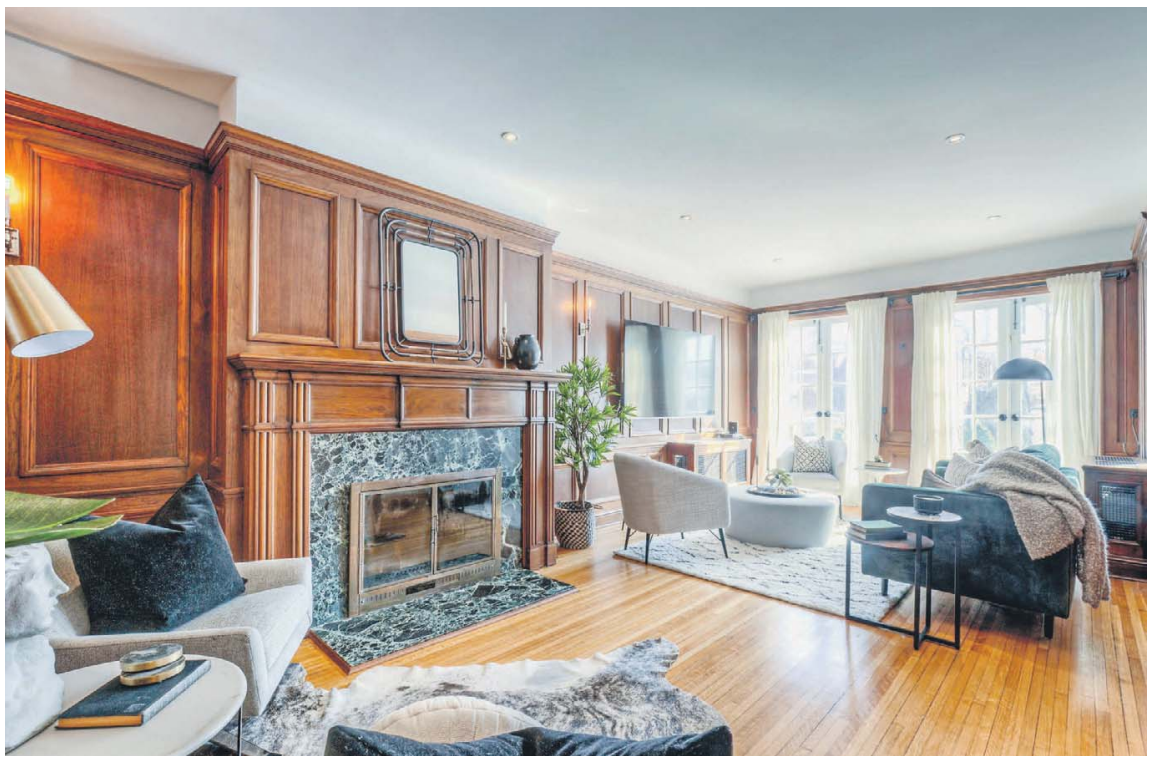
There's a walk-in closet and dressing room.

The ensuite bathroom has heated floors, a soaker tub, a walk-in shower and his-and-hers vanity.

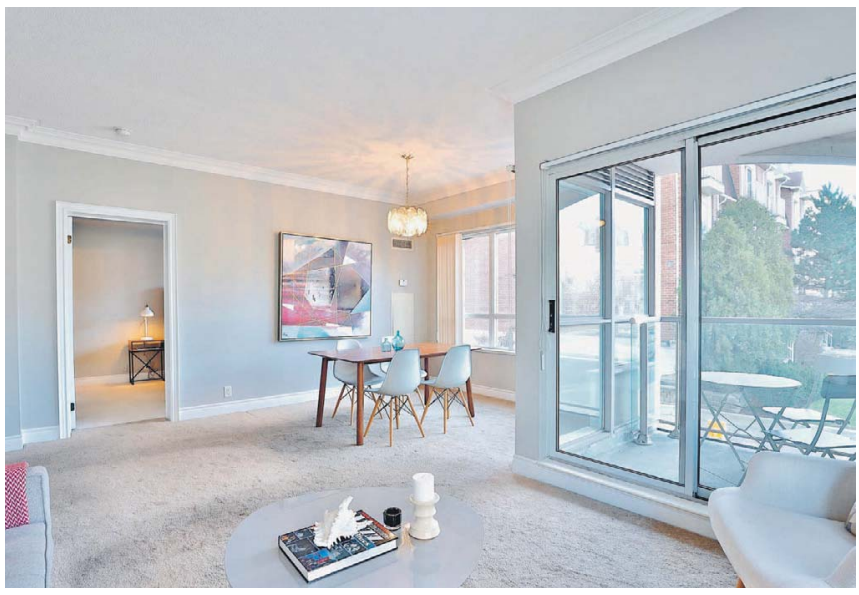


The Trainors preserved the original formal staircase with wood railings and banister, but removed a second staircase that they replaced with a wine cellar and tasting room.
PHOTOS BY EMRE ISCEN





Homeowner Kelly Trainor says when renovating, she and her husband, Jason, 'took it down to the brick.'



North York condo goes under asking

2 Clairtrell Rd., No. 215, Toronto
BAYVIEW VILLAGE

Asking price: $695,000
Selling price: $667,500
Previous selling prices: $305,000 (2006); $252,680 (2004)
Taxes: $2,631 (2018)
Days on the market: 25
Listing agent: Christopher Bibby, Re/Max Hallmark Bibby Group Realty

THE ACTION Late last year, this two-bedroom corner suite was cleaned, painted and staged, giving 17 potential buyers the chance to visualize what it might be like to make it their new home. Though it was the sole unit available in the roughly 16-year-old Bayview Mansions building, it still took a couple of weeks for an offer to emerge.

"[Buyers] in the general Bayview Village and Bayview/Sheppard area don't appear to have the same sense of urgency as the downtown core does," agent Christopher Bibby said.

"Rather than wait until the spring [market], we opted to go on right at the end of December because we figured there might be someone looking at that time and we'd take advantage of what appeared to be a period of low inventory."

WHAT THEY GOT Just a block west of Bayview station and Bayview Village Shopping Centre, this corner suite is flooded by sunlight with windows in the kitchen and both bedrooms, as well as a balcony off the open living and dining area.

- The unit also comes with two bathrooms, laundry machines and a parking spot. Monthly fees of $764 cover the cost of water, heating, concierge and fitness and recreation facilities.

THE AGENT'S TAKE "The ease of accessibility to transit, highway [401] and shops was a determining factor for families and empty-nesters," Mr. Bibby said.

"[Furthermore], in the area, you're going to get larger, more expansive floor plans than you would in the core, so the sheer size, and the fact it has a split bedroom plan, an eat-in kitchen and detached balcony facing north away from Sheppard, were really what attracted people there."

Sale postponed to new year for basement renovation finds ready buyers

176 Glengarry Ave., Toronto
LAWRENCE PARK

Asking price: $2,059,000
Selling price: $2,125,000
Previous selling price: $1,176,174 (2012)
Taxes: $8,714 (2019)
Days on the market: Five
Listing agents: Robert Nelson and Nigel Denham, Sotheby's International Realty Canada

THE ACTION Last fall, the owners of this three-bedroom home deliberated over the best time to sell, so agent Robert Nelson suggested they renovate the basement bathroom first rather than leave it as is. In the new year, they welcomed nearly 20 visitors in two days alone and had two solid offers days later.

"If [sellers] miss the fall market or it's getting late in the fall market, I encourage them to go on in January because, especially uptown, everyone shuts things down and gets into holiday mode," Mr. Nelson said.

"Usually by the end of November, nothing new is going to come out, so if you come out in January, you're satisfying six to seven weeks of [pent-up] demand."

WHAT THEY GOT This 1,760-square-foot house was built on a 25-foot-by-106-foot lot about 30 years ago, but numerous renovations have been carried out since then.

- The current floor plan has an eat-in kitchen and central dining area, as well as main- and lower-level entertaining spaces with fireplace and double doors to the deck and backyard.
- On the second floor, the master suite has a walk-in closet and one of four bathrooms.

THE AGENT'S TAKE "It was a turnkey home, not even a speck of paint needed to be done," Mr. Nelson said. "For that part of Yonge and Lawrence, a garage and private drive for that price point is virtually unheard of."

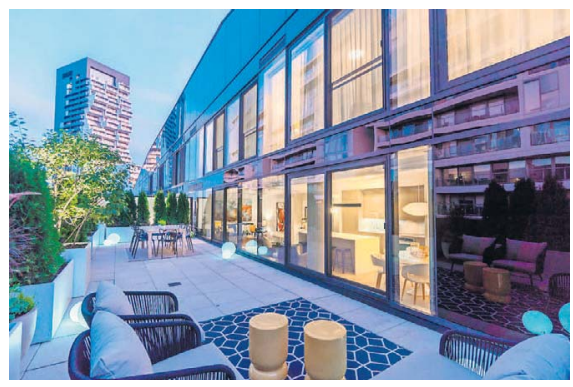
The short street is also insulated from traffic and noise on major arteries nearby. "It's an eight-minute stroll to Lawrence subway and it's in a tremendous school district, so it's a convenient spot on a quiet street," Mr. Nelson said.

– SYDNIA YU

Apartment price tweaked three times before landing buyer

47 Lower River St., Ph 40, Toronto
WEST DON LANDS

Asking price: $1,795,000 (Nov. 2019)
Listing price history: $1,985,000 (Sept. 2019); $1,845,000 (Early Oct. 2019); $1,495,000 (Late Oct. 2019)
Selling price: $1.7-million
Previous selling price: $761,239 (2013)
Taxes: $6,355 (2019)
Days on the market: 21
Listing agent: Robin Pope, Pope Real Estate Ltd.



THE ACTION This two-storey suite at the River City building is only seven years old, but agent Robin Pope suggested to the owners that its value could be increase with some renovations, including makeovers in the kitchen and three bathrooms, and the conversion of a den into a second walk-in closet for the master bedroom.

After that work was done, the marketing strategy – and price – was altered three times to reach more buyers. Several offers were rejected, including initial bids from one party that eventually rose to $1.7-million in late November.

"We started at a higher price based on all the efforts we had made, but the problem was the terrace had a lack of privacy because it faced units across the way. But the same apartment with a view and privacy would cost $400,000 to $500,000 more," Mr. Pope said.

"My client wished to get more [than $1.7-million], but it was a business decision. The property could sit on the market for three or four more months and burn through the costs of holding the property and professional staging."

WHAT THEY GOT This 1,774-square-foot suite has a wide and shallow footprint, allowing for Juliet balconies off three bedrooms upstairs. On the lower level, there are walls of windows and two walkouts to a 703-square-foot terrace off the living and dining areas.

- Storage is ample with two lockers and there's parking for two cars. Monthly fees of $1,103 pay for 24-hour concierge and amenities, such as an outdoor pool.

THE AGENT'S TAKE "It was a beautiful apartment," Mr. Pope said.

"Apartments this size – with a terrace and parking – are very uncommon … so it was like selling the most expensive house on the street."

Asking price tests the market for waterfront penthouse

80 Palace Pier Court., Ph503, Toronto
MIMICO

Asking price: $1,895,000 (Oct. 2019)
Selling price: $1.7-million (Nov. 2019)
Taxes: $4,376 (2019)
Days on the market: 17
Listing agent: Christopher Bibby, Re/Max Hallmark Bibby Group Realty

THE ACTION In Mimico, few units are as spacious and stylish as this renovated two-bedroom penthouse and even fewer have three balconies and southeast exposure overlooking Humber Bay Shores Park and Lake Ontario.

However, its roughly $2.1-million price was double or triple that of older suites nearby, so it was relisted with two successive asking price drops of about $100,000 in the fall. Finally, in November, a deal was negotiated for $1.7-million.

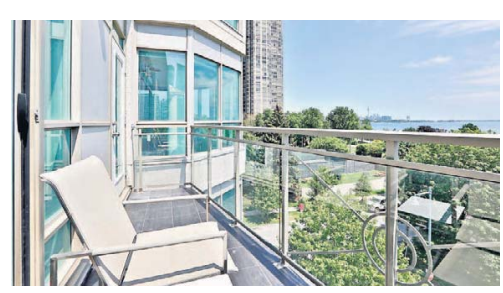
"What was being offered was quite uncommon, so we couldn't use any comparables in the building or anything in the surrounding area," agent Christopher Bibby said. "Nothing has sold for over $1,000 per square foot, so we were willing to take a chance and see how far we could push the price."

WHAT THEY GOT In a mid-rise building not quite 20 years old, this 1,705-square-foot unit comes with many added extras, from three-car parking and three bathrooms to 16-foot ceilings in the principal room.

- The custom Downsview kitchen also features a quartz island and Sub-Zero, Miele and Wolf appliances.
- Monthly fees of $1,324 cover water and heating.

THE AGENT'S TAKE "In a lot of high-rise buildings, you're not getting a view until the 10th, 18th or 30th floor because you have buildings in every direction. But for us on the [fifth floor], we had a pure lake view," Mr. Bibby said.

"It felt like you had a cottage. There were times when I was on the balcony and the only thing you could hear were ducks or birds taking off from the lake."

The unit's recent makeover was also standout. "Our clients did a very high-end renovation and opened the whole place up with a designer … so it wasn't just a matter of putting in a new kitchen or floors, but all the electrical, plumbing, bathrooms, home automation systems and integrated lighting and sound," Mr. Bibby said.

– SYDNIA YU