

# The Royal Gazette

YOUR SCHOOL. YOUR NEWSPAPER.

November 2017 Edition

## Meet Your New Student Council Presidents!

by Ashley Barry



This 2017-2018 school year, Ancaster High is very lucky to have Olivia and Akshay, two grade twelve students, leading this year's Student Council.

"It all started in Grade 9. Olivia asked me who I was and promised that in Grade 12 she and I would be the Student Council Presidents," Akshay said.

Since that year, Olivia and Akshay became the power duo that were hungry for the best leadership opportunity at AHS. For Olivia and Akshay, it was the opportunity to be the leaders of an amazing school, to create an extraordinary

partnership with each other as best friends, and together be a part of something meaningful.

"I wanted to lead something where my own ideas influenced and benefited the student body. I wanted to do great things for the school," Olivia says.

This year the duo wants to focus their attention on school spirit.

"We want to bring back the old Ancaster High. My dad always told me about how great his high school experience was because Ancaster

High was equal with the students. Everyone had fun and respected each other," Olivia mentioned. "We also want everyone to feel comfortable and that they as individuals at AHS are special and have something to offer," Akshay said.

"The school spirit and history here is outstanding and we want students to acknowledge that," Olivia said.

Royals, your Student Council Presidents are killing the game, and this year is looking up to be a great one for Ancaster High!

## Homecoming: Getting Drunk Doesn't Make It More Fun

by Alexa Kouroukis



*Welcome to Ancaster High's homecoming dance, where you can hang out with friends, dance to super loud music and... get drunk?*

Some students choose to get drunk before the dance because they think it would be a good time, but end up regretting it. Making this choice embarrasses you in front of your teachers and friends. There is school the next day, and how can anyone have fun during homecoming day when they have a massive headache? Not only that, but you won't even remember much of what happened at the dance, so what's the point?

I hope this article made you think more about your future choices, but if you're still thinking about drinking, please try not to throw up in the hallway and remember: the principal and the police are always watching.



# 01. SPORTS



## Senior Boys Football: No Practice, No Play

by Paige Stegne & Peighton Williams



Most of the student body is aware that the senior boys' football season ended abruptly, especially since the exciting homecoming game never happened, but now we're aware of why: primarily dedication issues.

Coach T. Page made the decision to bring the team's season to a close, stating that "the students didn't feel like they wanted to attend enough [practices] to form a team where they could play and be safe."

The players not wanting to attend practices and the absence of commitment caused the team to be cancelled.

Players on the team, who wished to remain anonymous, described how they felt about the team

folding. One confessed, "I'm kind of ticked about it." Another commented, "At first I was angry, upset and disappointed, but now I kind of see why [Coach T. Page brought the season to an end]. A third player said being on the football team meant a lot to him, but also went on to say, "I didn't come to a lot of practices...I wasn't the only one; a lot of people had commitment issues."

With that being said, a lot of the football players said that being on the football team did mean a lot to them, and Coach T. Page also explained the importance of having a football team. "Overall, it's an excellent way for male students to find themselves in a position where they have to give to a team where they have to take responsibility to represent a school and community other than just themselves. And it's a chance for them to use their physicality and there's not many areas of life where they can enjoy doing that especially when they are young men."

Additionally, having a football team is a great way for school spirit to spread across the student body. Even though this season's team ended quite suddenly, there is still hope for next season, with Coach T. Page adding, "It's the first time it's happened and I don't think it will reoccur."

We look forward to the next season of senior boys football at Ancaster High School!

## Girls Field Hockey

by Larissa Kouroukis



This season our girls' field hockey team made it to division one for the first time ever! During the season, they won almost all of their games. Many players were playing field hockey for the

first time and learned a lot from the grade 12 girls on the team. The team lost at semi finals playing a tough game against Saltfleet, but they played their hardest and are eased with their overall

placing of 3rd in the first division! We are sad to have so many grade twelve players leaving the team next year, but are excited for another awesome season to come!



# 01. SPORTS



## Last Month's Must-See Movies

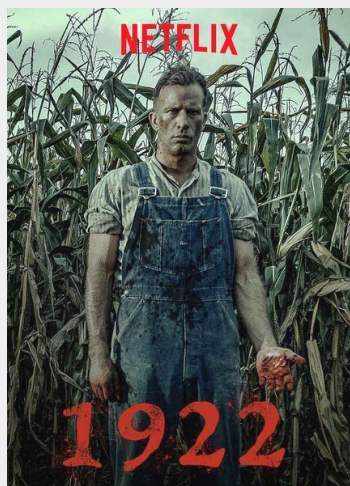
by Ayaet Rakem & Ilijana Popovic



### The Babysitter

(Available October 13)

A young boy discovers his babysitter is planning to kill him in this horror-drama.



### 1922

(Available October 20)

Based on the short story by Stephen King, this movie follows a man who decides to kill his own wife.

## Girls Touch Football Wins 9-0

by Finola Smiley and Celia Harrison



Congratulations to the girls' touch football team for their big win against Westmount Secondary School finishing with a score of 9-0! Great season girls - hope to see you next year!

## Meet the AHS volleyball team!

by Abbey Alliston



Meet the Ancaster Royals' senior boys volleyball team! With a powerful offence and a solid defence they are a team to look out for. Coach, Mr. Schurer, has high hopes for this OFSA bound team! Good luck, Royals!

# 02. MEDIA



## Book Reviews

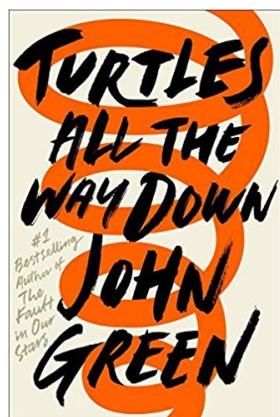
by Marwah Hosinyar



### The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

★★★★½

When 16-year-old Star Carter witnesses her best friend being killed at the hands of a white police officer, she is forced to pick a side, speak out and stand up. But at what cost? Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this novel addresses the issues of racism and police violence with honesty and wit.



### Turtles All The Way Down by John Green

★★★★★

A fugitive billionaire, a sixteen-year-old girl determined to investigate and the promise of a cash reward. At its core, "Turtles All the Way Down" is about lifelong friendships, an unexpected reunion, the ups and downs of a mental illness and a whole lot of Star Wars references. John Green once again has made a comeback with another hard-hitting novel.

03. LOCAL



The Ancaster High Water Fountain Crisis

by Adrienne Jonathan & Sophie Jensen

It's no surprise to any of the student body that sweating in a room full of others, who also happen to be constantly secreting hormones, is a reality at Ancaster High. This occurs in every public school, yet nobody on the school board can imagine why it's so much harder for students to concentrate in the summer...

However, there are some issues where a line must be drawn. Water. Each and every person on this earth survives on water; without it we'd all die. It's a fact of life. Nowadays, it doesn't take a scientist to figure out that dehydr-

ation can lead to nausea, fatigue, and dizziness, all of which decrease mental performance. So it seems quite ridiculous that we, people living in the developed world, need to worry about the water supply at our school. The number of faulty water fountains in the school is alarming - of the eleven available, six have broken parts, low pressure, or are just downright disgusting. We, as a student body, need to bring this to the attention of the administration.

Everybody has a right to clean drinking water, and we need to exercise that right.

How the Dangers of Big Oil Can Hit Home

by Ayeza Tahir & Avery Oliver



Protesters sit in front of construction vehicles at an Enbridge pipeline site on Highway 52.

The Dakota Access Pipeline is one of many big oil investments that has come under scrutiny for their questionable advances into sensitive territories. "Why do they continue to drill and transport oil," questions a young Ancaster High environmentalist, "when we have so many other sources of cleaner energy?"

However, many locals fail to realize that such issues thrive close to home as well. Enbridge, the same company responsible for the Dakota Pipeline, is fostering an ever-growing influence here in Ancaster. Just last month, an anonymous opponent of Enbridge's Line 10 Oil Pipeline claimed that, "Whenever we felt the urge, we drilled various sized holes into pipeline segments while spilling corrosives inside others." Despite being reckless and indescribably dangerous, this act was meant to garner attention and support regarding the issue. Enbridge construction

crews are lining up from Westover, through Ancaster, and towards Glanbrook in an effort to replace a 38-year-old, faulty line with a new one. The sabotage was inspired by the protestors' belief that the pipeline was an act of war and an insult to the Indigenous peoples of the area.

Ancaster too has a long and destructive history with big oil. Incidents like 45-minute long gas leaks in 2005, exploding machines in 2007 and 100,000 litres of leaked gas in 2010 are often overlooked by local media, despite the fact that they occur only kilometers away from Ancaster's residential areas.

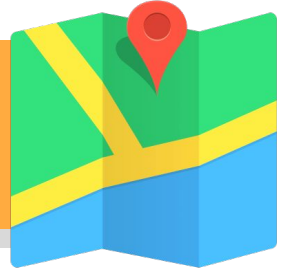
In the end, it is evident that the issue of oil pipelines' path through vulnerable areas is a local one. The ecosystem in the Hamilton area is vibrant and complex; it is the duty of every citizen to protect and defend it.



The 6 faulty water fountains in the school.



## 03. LOCAL



# Feeling the Heat in the Hallways

*Why can't Ancaster High get the air conditioning it so badly needs? We asked Mr. Gallant to find out.*

by Jalen Samkoe & Emaan Tora

It has been brought to our attention that the students of Ancaster High are not satisfied with the temperatures inside the school and feel it negatively affects their learning. Due to the complaints and suggestions the school has received, the Ancaster High Royal Gazette decided to interview our principal, Mr. Gallant, and ask him a couple of questions about these issues.

Many students have been wondering why we have iPads and no air conditioning, but the question we should be asking is "Who decides if our school can have air conditioning?" Mr. Gallant responded saying, "The trustees make the ultimate decision, but the director, associate directors and superintendents ensure the decisions are implemented in the schools."

Every school gets a budget and it is Mr. Gallant's decision to allocate the budget. He says, "If our school wanted air conditioning, one; our school doesn't have enough money for that, and two, I wouldn't be able to do that anyway. I would have to get permission from the board of trustees, then I'd have to work through the facilities people to be able to do something like that within the school. That is the reason the 9th and 10th graders have iPads because it was the board of trustees who made the

decision."

Mr. Gallant also noted, "I make decisions daily, some big some small. For the bigger ones you'd want to have discussions on them to see how it impacts the school. So, I do have some authority. For anything from a facilities standpoint, the changes in terms of the building, I have to get permission."

We then asked, "What about if we did a fundraiser for AC? Would we be able to do that?"

He replied saying "Any fundraising that goes on in the school must come to the principal for approval. [Unfortunately] we wouldn't be able to do a fundraiser for AC. I would have to go to the board for that, because the board makes the ultimate decision on the facilities."

Our next questions was "Do you think there should be a heat limit, where kids don't have to go to school if the temperature is above certain degree?"

"There is currently no heat limit in place," but Mr. Gallant says, "We try to put something in place to try to alleviate some of the issues with heat, i.e, allow kids to have water, or drink a lot, reduce physical activity, hold classes in



some of the air conditioned spaces in the school (Library/Learning Commons, computer labs etc.)"

"Unfortunately, I can't go against the board policy; I can't cancel school. But do I think the heat we had in the last month or so affected the learning in classrooms? Absolutely it did, everybody knows that. We unfortunately don't have many air conditioned spots. It would be great if the goal was for every school to be air conditioned, but it's not, so we have to work that. But yes, it does affect the learning."

Unfortunately, installing air conditioning is not as easy as it seems and is most definitely not in Mr. Gallant's power. Hopefully, in the future, we can find a way to make attending school in the warmer months more pleasant, and ultimately reach our goal.

If you have any further concerns about this issue, there is a suggestion box in the main office.

“The question we should be asking is “Who decides if our school can have air conditioning?”

# LEST WE FORGET

For the fallen and  
the free

by Jalen Samkoe

In fields poppies blow  
Planted between  
crosses row on row  
Black for the  
gunpowder  
Red for the bloodshed

The place marriages  
were lost  
They mark the many  
hearts covered by frost  
Black for tombstones  
Red for shattered hearts

As to this day, the  
poppy brings pride yet  
dismay  
Pride for our country's  
continuous life  
Dismay for the soldiers  
who burnt out their light

Their names will be  
carried on  
The symbol of the  
poppy lasting long



# The Importance of Remembrance

by Mary McDermott



*The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa.*

He trudges through the frigid, knee-deep water, his feet swollen and numb as they squelch in the mud. A rat of monstrous proportions scurries along the cold mud wall, and the stench of death hovers in the air. He is exhausted and afraid, but still he keeps a brave face as he arrives at his position, preparing for battle. Suddenly out of the dark and quiet of the night, there are several explosions and the sky blazes red...

This is only a glimpse of what a soldier enduring the trench warfare of World War I would have experienced. Although everyone is taught about the battles in school, the enormity of the sacrifices made and the lives lost is buried beneath names, dates, and report cards. Over one hundred years ago, approximately

424,000 Canadians served overseas in the War to End All Wars, but people have become distanced from the reality that these courageous individuals were real people who served not only for their country, but for world peace. About 62,000 Canadians died for this cause, but only 21 years later, World War II took roughly 44,000 more. Since World War II, there have been hundreds of wars around the world which have stolen the lives of countless people, disrupted the peace of several nations, and caused significant environmental destruction.

In the present day, people tend to feel so pressured by their daily lives that they rarely take time to think about the past and all that was sacrificed to keep our country free and safe. This is why Rememb-

rance Day is important; it allows people to reflect upon Canada's past which is necessary in order for us to create a better future for all. Remembrance Day reminds us that there were faces behind the names, and the bloodshed. By honouring the memory of how these strong men and women who fought for freedom and peace in both past and current conflicts, we learn that it is essential that we uphold these core values of our society. On this national day of remembrance, we are united not only as a country but as human beings, and through commemoration of those who served Canada in years past, we can hopefully move toward making the world a more peaceful place.

# The Royal Gazette

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*Thank you to the coaches of the teams mentioned in the paper this month: Ms. Kay, Ms. Hubert, Ms. Clark, Mr. Rotskas, and Ms. Provost!*

## Newspaper Staff

<b>Editors</b> Ashley Barry	Erika Ehrenberg	Emily Outerbridge	<b>Photographers</b> Sophie Jensen	Alexa Koukouris
<b>Writers</b> Abbey Alliston Celia Harrison Marwah Hosinyar Adrienne Jonathan Larissa Kouroukis Alexa Kouroukis Mary McDermott	Amilia Oliver Avery Oliver Ilijana Popovic Ayaet Rakem Jalen Samkoe Finola Smiley Paige Stegne	Ayeza Tahir Emaan Tora Peighton Williams	<b>Publicists</b> Reilly Walton Ilijana Popovic Ashley Barry	Emily Outerbridge Celia Harrison Iris Elik
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