

# The Royal Gazette.

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Ancaster High's newest theatre production brings a sizzlingly energizing 80's classic to stage.

# This Month's Top Stories

Get the most important news right away. Here are some of the top stories of December.



## HAMILTON

Strike action shows no signs of slowing down.

### Strikes Continue for Secondary Schools

**Above:** Ancaster High teachers march outside the school during the strike. (Cathie Coward/The Hamilton Spectator)

**Frustrated by the new** conservative Ford government's policies on education, schoolteachers took to the streets on Wednesday, December 4th to protest the upcoming changes that are said to damage students and educators alike.

These new reforms propose a radically different education curriculum, including 2 mandated online courses, increased class sizes for grades 4-8, and cutting funding for special needs students. They also include lower salaries for teachers.

Teachers' union OSSTF engaged in talks with the Ministry of Education all the way up to the eve of December 4th, but an agreement could not be made, and so a one-day strike commenced. In total, approximately 200 teachers from

AHS and Nora Henderson marched in front of Ancaster High on the day of the strike.

Meanwhile, "work-to-rule", a policy that states that educators should do no more than the minimum required by their contract, has already made waves in the Ancaster community. Extracurriculars and athletics programs have been on the verge of being cancelled this year, and homecoming was postponed in light of a custodial strike in October as well.

Elementary school teachers have also faced similar pressures as work-to-rule is put into place while their union, ETFO, negotiates with the Ontario government. And as for some other school boards, another strike was planned for December 11th, 2019, although the HWDSB did not take part.

Negotiators have similarly expressed their exasperation with the subject. "I would like to come to the table and make proposals that safeguard the quality of education," said Harvey Bischof, the OSSTF president. "It would be really nice if we could get back to the table and start talking about issues that are good for the quality of education."

Education minister Stephen Lecce, on the other hand, has a different idea: "We are being reasonable; we are trying to put students at the centre of this discussion. My message to OSSTF is clear: cancel this needless strike."

As for now, tensions will continue to rise between the government and teachers' unions. A compromise is still out of reach for both.



## Remembering the Polytechnique Attacks



**Above:** 14 lights shine over Parliament Building in memoriam of the 14 women killed in the December 6th shooting at the École Polytechnique de Montréal. (Adrian Wyld/The Canadian Press)

**On December 6th, 1989,** mass shooter Marc Lépine opened fire on the École Polytechnique de Montréal, killing 14 women and wounding 14 others. Now, 30 years after the attack, Canadians look back on the massacre with a new sense of remembrance and reflection.

Lépine's massacre was primarily misogynist in nature — in his suicide note, he pointed to feminism in particular as his motive for the shootings, stating that “the feminists have always enraged me. They want to keep the advantages of women... while seizing for themselves those of men.” On the day of the massacre, Lépine entered an engineering classroom in the École Polytechnique, separated the classroom by sex, and killed 6 of the 9 women in the classroom, before proceeding throughout the rest of the school, killing 8 more, and then committing suicide.

The date has since been memorialized as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, and remains the deadliest mass shooting in Canadian history.

On the 30th anniversary of the attack, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a speech in Montreal condemning the attacks

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**We finally found the word that was missing: femicide.**

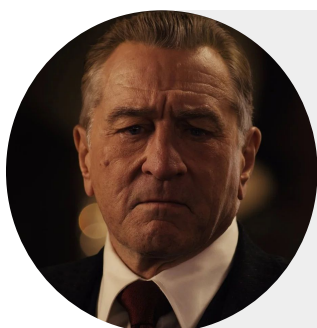
► Serge St. Arneault, brother of Annie St. Arneault

and violence against women. In addition to this, a new plaque was unveiled in the memorial park of Place du 6-décembre-1989, to honour the victims of the shooting. Most

notably, whereas the plaque once called the event a “tragedy”, it has since been changed to a specifically “anti-feminist” attack. This marked change in language represents Canada's recognition of the fact that Lépine's massacre was specifically targeted against women and feminists. “We finally found the word that was missing: femicide,” said Serge St. Arneault, whose sister was killed in the mass shooting.

Victims of the killing include St. Arneault's sister, Annie, as well as 13 other women: Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Haviernick, Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz, Maryse Laganière, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard and Annie Turcotte. The majority of these victims were engineering students.

## And In Pop Culture...



Director Martin Scorsese's sprawling 3-and-a-half hour long mob epic, *The Irishman*, debuted on Netflix on November 27th to wide acclaim. It follows the fascinating journey of Frank Sheeran into an underworld ruled by the mafia, and in classic Scorsese fashion, is filled with colourful depictions of troubled criminals and bloody retaliations.

## WORLD

Chile riots continue to escalate.

# Deadly Protests in Chile

**Above:** Soldiers patrol the streets of Concepcion, Chile, on October 20, 2019, during protests. (Pablo Hidalgo/Getty Images)

# 2,840

protestors have been arrested.

# 2,500

people have been injured.

# 19

people have been killed. (as of October 26, 2019).

# 500M

pesos worth of damage to metro stations.

**What started as a 4-cent** hike in metro fare in Chile has sparked several months of violent unrest in the country, particularly in retaliation against rising living costs, class disparity, and corrupt government officials in the country. Coming hot on the heels of many other mass demonstrations around the world, such as those in Hong Kong and Iran, the Chile protests are just one instance of civilians taking up the fight against injustice in recent years. Casualty numbers vary, but some say as many as 19 may have died from the protests.

Although Chile's economy was previously hailed as one of the most stable in Latin America, this recent upheaval tells a different story: that Chile maintained its economic stability by allowing for drastic inequality instead, and the government's refusal to listen has made some Chileans desperate.

When 1 million citizens gathered in Santiago for a peaceful demonstration, it was a clear sign to elected officials that Chileans were demanding change, but attempts at quelling the violence and chaos have been

mostly ineffective. New government reforms have been dismissed as reactionary, empty promises that do not address the core problem.

"These latest protests are the latest manifestations of that ongoing discontent. The fact that the protests spread beyond Santiago quickly show there's deep underlying discontent nationwide," says Mark Keller, an economic analyst who specializes in Latin America.

The military's handling of the problem is what has left the larger international community particularly enraged, with their usage of dispersal tactics such as water cannons, rubber bullets and tear gas to make protestors break up by force, and the imposition of curfews at night. All of this is meant to curb the arson, looting and violence that has followed the protests, but groups such as the Human Rights Watch approach the excessive usage of force with suspicion.

Protests of this size haven't been seen since Augusto Pinochet's regime, Chile's infamous dictator that ruled the country from 1973 to 1981.

## EDUCATION

# Strike Action Makes a Splash

by Rose He – **Writer**

The Ford government's budget cuts are becoming all too palpable for students and teachers across Ontario.



**On Wednesday**, December 4th, public secondary teachers across Ontario participated in a one-day strike against Premier Doug Ford and Education Minister Lisa Thompson's proposed education cuts plan for high school students. The plan was revealed by the Ontario Government on March 15th, titled "Education that Works for You." The plan outlined 3 major changes to the secondary education system, designed to reach their goal to "modernize" classrooms, learning, and health/physical education. A few notable changes the plan has asserted include mandatory e-learning courses and increased average class sizes.

The evening before the strike, the provincial government and the union representing Ontario public high school teachers held their press conference on the situation. The union proclaimed how their members will hold a one-day strike the subsequent day if there was not a new cooperative agreement reached by the midnight deadline. Nonetheless, both parties failed to reach an agreement, though it was expected considering the union had affirmed earlier that a settlement was highly unlikely. Harvey Bischof, the president of

the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) has stated how the government did not push forward for any constructive proposals throughout the negotiation. As an outcome, the OSSTF has later validated the job action, allowing potentially hundreds of public high schools across Ontario to close their doors for Wednesday.

HWDSB was one of the numerous school boards in Ontario which was required to close their high schools because of the job action. This resulted in the teachers from Ancaster High partaking in the one-day strike by walking along Jerseyville Road near the school building in shifts, from 8:00 am-3:30 pm. Teachers held flags, signs, or wore accessories to support the OSSTF and against the education cuts. Occasionally, vehicles that drove past Ancaster High chose to encourage the teachers by honking their horns. If the provincial government and teachers union proceed to struggle in reaching an agreement, there will be definite future strikes such as the one that occurred on Wednesday.

## A Teacher's Perspective:

Mr. Rancourt from Ancaster High speaks for the teachers on this situation. "I stand for our union. We need to keep things status quo, in terms

While we sympathize absolutely with students and parents facing disruption and anxiety, a single day strike doesn't come close to the kind of disruption this government will wreak on the education system if they're allowed to go forward with their destructive proposals.

**Harvey Bischof**  
Union President

Instead of focusing on political stunts, I encourage the unions to work cooperatively with us on the real challenges facing Ontario's education system such as the fact that too many of our kids are failing math – graduating without the skills necessary to successfully enter the workforce.

**Lisa Thompson**  
Education Minister

of class sizes of 22 to 1 ratio," he shared. "I don't think e-learning should be mandatory. I think it would be advantageous to some people, such as if some people have health issues and they need to be working from home. I don't



want to see students being put at a disadvantage in all of Ontario. There’s going to be areas where students can’t access e-learning from no access to the internet, no availability to devices, or too remote as a community to even have that for them. E-learning is not for every student, just like being in a classroom, it may not be for every student. That’s why we have a lot of different programs within every board for students who may not fit well in a classroom,” Rancourt commented.

As for the predicted effects

of the cuts, Rancourt explains the main issue.

“I don’t know how cuts will affect me in terms of class sizes but if the ratios get up to 28 to 1, it can affect a lot of teachers. Whether it affects me or not, it’s the fact that it’s affecting people I work with and even my own 4 children who are in the school system which I think is the main issue. I would want to make sure that they are getting good quality education no matter what. If we start cutting certain specialty classes, because of those numbers, it’s going to affect the quality of education that all stud-

ents are going to be getting.”

Ultimately, teachers such as Mr. Rancourt put their trust in their union in negotiating a quality education plan: “I’m sure our union is going to be willing to negotiate with the province when they’re ready to sit down and talk to us. I think the problem is that our government hasn’t been ready to talk, they seem to be bargaining through the media a lot, but that’s maybe a little bit more personal than normal. The reality is we’re fighting for the best quality of education that we could give students in Ontario,” Rancourt stated.

The strike will call political attention to the cuts that this government has already imposed and wants to impose further. We have seen this government change direction when faced with political opposition and so that’s our intention.

**Harvey Bischof**  
Union President

What Ford Cuts Have Affected So Far		
<b>Environment:</b> Cut 700+ green energy projects	<b>Education:</b> Removed new sex-ed curriculum	<b>Social services:</b> Cut budget by \$1 billion overall
Cancelled cap and trade policies	Cut tuition fees by 10%	Cancelled \$1 minimum wage increase
Cancelled the White Pine Wind Project	Increased class sizes	Halved public library funding



Above: Teachers stand outside of Ancaster High holding signs in support of OSSTF. (The Royal Gazette)

FEATURE

# Everybody Cut

# Footloose

Take an in-depth look at the cast and crew of our musical theatre class' production of *Footloose the musical*.



PRODUCTIONS

# AHS Presents Footloose

by Jocelyn Mattka – **Writer**



**Above:** The cast of Footloose after a dress rehearsal. (Yearbook Club)

This December, the musical Footloose was performed at Ancaster High! The final performances took place on December 9, following the two evening shows the weekend before. As a student who was heavily involved with the production, I can confidently say that the show was a success!

Unlike some of Ancaster High’s previous school productions, the performers in the show were all a part of the school’s relatively new musical theatre course. This is only the third time the course has run, but the advantages of it are already clear.

The musical theatre course, taught by Ms. Turner, provides a really unique experience for many of the students involved. Spontaneously breaking out into song is completely acceptable, dancing is never a crime and it’s a great way to unwind for all of us who have “been working so hard” (except for tech-week of course!). While in the rehearsal process,

students are given the opportunity to take on leadership and production roles that for many would not be positions that they would regularly be exposed to. These experiences are extremely beneficial, not only for building confidence, but also for allowing students to feel like they have a hand in the final product that they’re investing their time into.

Additionally, a student-led environment helps to create a team where all of the students feel a sense of responsibility for the production’s success or failure. In the end, it gives them something to be proud of and an accomplishment to share with each other that they have all individually contributed to.

Outside of the students in the class, many others have had the chance to become involved in the school’s production. The students who volunteer their time to help with positions including running crew, set production and

tech are invaluable to making the production a reality.

With next year’s option sheets only a couple of months away, any students interested in drama or performance should strongly consider signing up for musical theatre or becoming involved in the production as part of the crew. Until next year, that’s a wrap!





CELEBRATIONS

# Semi-Formal 2019

by Ashley Barry – Club Advisor

How did this year's semi-formal stack up to others?

“

I genuinely believe that the majority of students had a great time! Everything from the music, food, and decorations made the night spectacular.



**Above:** Students enjoy semi-formal. (Jenna Scott/The Royal Gazette)

**Throughout my high school career** I have attended every Winter Semi Formal dance, and comparing this year's Semi Formal at the Leander Boat Club in Hamilton to other Semi Formals from past years, I would have to say this dance was by far my favourite!

To begin, I would firstly like to acknowledge Mrs. Behiel (the teacher in charge of organizing the event), Ancaster High's Grad Committee: Kiernan Knight, Juvana Agina, Caroline Kelly, and Madison Parsons, and all of the teacher volunteers who dedicated their time and effort towards making this year's Semi Formal truly exceptional.

I genuinely believe that the majority of students had a great time! Everything from the music, food, and decorations made the night spectacular. The DJ, in particular was amazing and played a variety of songs that seemed to suit everyone's diverse music tastes. He played popular rap and pop songs, early 2000's

throwbacks that everyone knew the lyrics to, and classic jams that got students racing to the dance floor, including: "Dancing Queen" by Abba, "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus, "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen, and "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond. In addition to the DJ's stellar playlist, he was also taking song requests, allowing students to further contribute to the event by sharing the songs they like to dance to!

Another important aspect at semi was the food. In previous years, the dances have been held at Carmen's Banquet Centre and Marquis Gardens where there has been some good food. This year however, the food was catered by Boston Pizza and they had a variety of finger foods including chicken fingers and pizza, as well as delicious pasta and Thai chicken! It was served buffet style at 7 PM and students could grab food whenever they pleased. Along with the great food, staff and students did a fantastic job with decorating the interior of the

Boat Club. Above the dance floor, there were strings of warm coloured lights and sparkly snowflakes creating a very beautiful winter vibe, and the DJ booth had colourful disco lights which created a beautiful effect when the lights hit the sparkly snowflakes. As well, each dinner table was decorated with a centerpiece made out of shiny blue and white Christmas Ornaments.

This year, there were also door prizes! The Grad Committee gave away gift cards to Starbucks, Cineplex and other restaurants to six students whose ticket numbers were drawn. Along with the prizes, there was a free photo booth to take lots of pictures with friends, and large silver balloons that spelled "SEMI" that also made for an awesome photo spot!

Overall, the night was so much fun and I certainly didn't want to leave! I couldn't have hoped for my last Semi Formal dance at Ancaster High to be any better!

LIFESTYLE

# The Top Eight Christmas Gifts Under \$20

by Vita Rao – **Writer**

Ho ho ho! It's that time of year again where it's essential we find the perfect gifts for our loved ones. With Christmas soon-to-be underway, here's a list of ideas for less than \$20!



## PETS Seasonal Treats

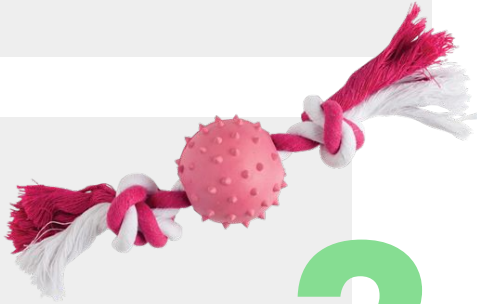
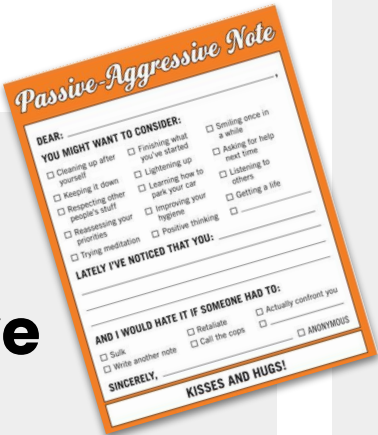
While pets aren't necessarily aware of the occasion, they're still an integral part of the family. Therefore, a fun present to give your pets is seasonal treats! These can be found at any pet store, but I would recommend PetSmart or Amazon. While these treats are somewhat expensive—costing between \$3-6—pets will definitely enjoy them!

2

FUNNY

## Passive-Aggressive Notepad

Unlike Christmas, the annoyance of your siblings and family is year-round. Therefore, a fun and comedic gift for loved ones is a passive aggressive notepad. While these can be hard to find, they can be purchased via Amazon or crafted. They tend to cost around \$6-8 on Amazon.



## PETS Toys

Although dependant on the type of animal you have, toys are usually a wonderful gift for your pets. While you can purchase something seasonal, any toy would be much appreciated by your animals! Depending on what you want, toys can cost anywhere between \$3-20. I would recommend local pet stores like PetSmart, Ren's Pets, and Pet Valu, or online shopping websites like Amazon!

3

5

FUNNY

## Personalized T-Shirt

A classic holiday gift choice is a t-shirt with a personalized message on it. Whether it be an inside joke or simply poking fun at loved ones, these shirts are always a fun gift to give and receive! These can be DIY'd or ordered on websites like VistaPrint and SpreadShirt for \$8-\$20.



SEASONAL

## Ornaments

One of the most enjoyable parts of the Christmas season are the decorations. Making a personalized ornament can be of great sentimental value to loved ones. Blank ornaments can be purchased via Amazon, Michaels, or even Etsy for \$15-20!

4





6

SEASONAL  
Clothing



From a cozy onesie to a warm hat, seasonal clothing is a gift that can be given to anyone. Whether it is a Christmas-related piece of clothing or something that can be utilized year-round, these are wonderful gifts for loved ones! These can be found at any clothing store—H&M, Bluenotes, Ardene etc.—for \$15-20.



COSMETICS  
Toiletries

Whether it be during vacation or during the year, relaxation is key to happiness. Therefore, products like bath bombs, face masks, and essential oils are extremely enjoyable gifts for loved ones. These can be purchased at drug stores and cosmetic stores like Shoppers Drug Mart, Sephora, and Lush for \$15-20, depending on what you want to buy.

7

COSMETICS  
Jewelry



Although often associated with price, the sentimental value defeats all others. For a cute and personalized gift, you could create jewelry for loved ones. This leaves you to create virtually anything, exercising your creativity! The supplies needed for this craft could be found at Michaels, Curry's, or Dollarama for under \$20, depending on what you're planning to buy.

RECIPES

Holiday Recipes  
You Can Try!

by Caitlin Adams-Nequia – **Writer**

What better way is there to celebrate the holidays than food? Here are some fun recipes to try out this winter season!



8

Crunchy Non-Bake  
Chocolate Cookie Bites  
Warning: Contains nuts

Ingredients:

- ¾ (175ml) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ¾ (175ml) peanut butter chips
- 1½ (375mL) chow mein noodles
- ½ (125mL) roasted salted peanuts
- Maldon salt

Instructions:

1. Line a baking tray with parchment paper.
2. Combine chocolate chips and peanut butter chips in a large metal bowl on top of a small pot of simmering water (do NOT boil) to melt.
3. Remove from heat and stir in noodles and peanuts.
4. Drop ¼ cup portions on parchment paper lined sheets. Top each mound with a pinch of maldon salt. Cool until firm.
5. Store in airtight container between layers of parchment paper. Cookies will keep for a week.

Peppermint Bark

Ingredients:

- 25 mini candy canes
- 4 cups chocolate chips (700 g)
- ½ teaspoon peppermint extract
- 3 cups white chocolate chips (525 g)

Instructions:

1. Place the mini candy canes in a zip top bag and use a rolling pin to crush them into chunks. Transfer into a medium bowl.
2. In a separate medium bowl, stir the peppermint extract into the melted chocolate chips. Pour onto a parchment paper-lined baking sheet and spread evenly with a spatula. Freeze for 5 minutes.
3. Take the pan out of the freezer and pour melted white chocolate over the chocolate, spreading evenly with a spatula.
4. Sprinkle the crushed mini candy canes over the white chocolate.
5. Freeze for at least 1 hour.
6. Remove the bark from the freezer and break into pieces.



MOVIES

# Movie Reviews

by Brooke Vesentin  
—Writer

The Gazette's opinions on some of the most notable movies of December.

Above: Anna and Elsa return in *Frozen 2*, 6 years after the original. (Disney)

## Noelle: A New Holiday Classic

The film *Noelle* was directed by Marc Lawrence and stars Anna Kendrick as Noelle, and Bill Hader as her brother, Nick. The movie is currently only available on Disney's new streaming service, Disney+, which launched this past November. The film is delightfully funny, whimsical and is full of Christmas cheer. It is a movie the entire family can enjoy together, and is perfect for the holiday season.

The film follows Noelle, who is the daughter of Kris Kringle (most commonly known as Santa Claus), played by Bryan Breckle. Santa, along with his children and his wife, Mrs. Claus (Julie H-

agerty) live in the North Pole, accompanied by the children's nanny, Elf Polly (Shirley MacLaine). The role of Santa has been passed down in their family for generations, and after Noelle's father passes, her brother Nick, being the next male in line, is forced to take on the role of Santa. Due to the amount of pressure that it brings on, Nick is hesitant to become Santa, and feels stressed and as though he isn't right for the position. Noelle recommends that he take a weekend long vacation, in order to calm down and clear his head. However, when Nick doesn't come back from his vacation, Noelle feels obligated to get him back to

save Christmas by traveling to none other than hot and sunny Phoenix, Arizona! Otherwise, the holiday could be in great danger, because without Santa, there's no Christmas!

It is a wacky and fun adventure movie that follows a similar plotline to that of some other classic Disney Christmas films. It is an enjoyable watch and has the perfect balance of humour and heartfelt moments. It's one of those Christmas movies that you can rewatch each year and still have a good time. So grab a glass of milk and a plate of Christmas cookies and enjoy this new, extremely festive Disney movie!

## Frozen 2: A Sequel That Lives Up to the Original!

On November 22nd, the highly anticipated movie, *Frozen 2*, was released. 6 years after the original *Frozen* came out, Disney decided to release the sequel.

It may seem like a way to make more money off the original movie, but time was spent to make this sequel one that *Frozen* fans would enjoy. Of course, it can't beat the original, but it lived up to its high expectations. *Frozen 2* takes viewers on another mystical adventure with the beloved characters; Anna and

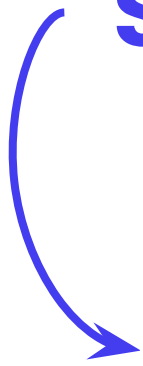
Elsa have to face new challenges alongside Olaf, Kristoff, and Sven. The audience gets to see glimpses of the sisters' pasts, and many secrets start to unravel. This sequel is set 3 years after *Frozen*. Elsa searches for answers about herself, such as why she was born with powers. Eventually, she starts to figure out who she truly is, and she finds her purpose. New characters are introduced as well, along with new outfits and hairstyles for the characters, which are extremely eye-catching. Anna and Elsa also

learn more about their family's history as they go on this journey. There were many emotional scenes that added to the experience, and it was also quite humorous at times, which gave the audience a good laugh. In addition to that, the soundtrack was very well put together. The songs were very meaningful and full of passion. In fact, the *Frozen 2* soundtrack has reached #1 on the Billboard Top 200 for albums.

Overall, *Frozen 2* captivated the audience and left many satisfied.



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