

The Royal Gazette.

Your school. Your newspaper.

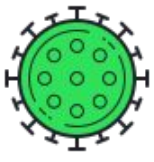
**How Dangerous Are
“Murder Hornets”?**

pg 4

**Farewell from the
2019–2020 Execs**

pg 13





COVID-19:
June Update
pg 5

This Month's Top Stories

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

HAMILTON

Citizens assemble for
Black Lives Matter
protests



Above: Protesters at the Black Lives Matter assembly in Hamilton on June 13. (Ashley Barry/the Royal Gazette)

Across Hamilton and indeed, the rest of the country, Canadians are gathering to show their support for the Black Lives Matter movement catalyzed by the killing of George Floyd late last month, and taking a stand against police brutality. These two particular rallies, held in Gore and Dundurn Park on the afternoon of Saturday, June 13, attracted hundreds of participants. Together, they make up the fourth and fifth anti-racism demonstration in the city since May.

“Unity is power, diversity is strength,” said Jesse Kelly, a former Hamilton schoolteacher who was present at the demonstration. “White or black, gay or straight. Here we stand with our fists up, united.”

At both protests, people gathered to honour not only those who have suffered at the hands of police brutality, but also to fight for change within the system. The gathering began with a moment of silence for those who had died from police violence, followed by speeches and poems read by community members that commemorated various Black American and Canadian victims of such discrimination. Indigenous a-

ctivists were also present to demand justice for citizens such as Rodney Levi or Eishia Hudson, Indigenous folks who were killed by police as well. Additionally, Dylan Wulf also drew attention to the plight of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, and the police’s apathy to their persecution.

Hamiltonians present at the protest had all manner of reasons for participating, and many had been touched by police brutality themselves. Some, like Zora Aikman, came to the march to rally for her father, a Jamaican immigrant who witnessed gun violence and racism from police officers as a newcomer to Toronto. Others, like Dayna Robinson, gathered in support for their children. Robinson fears that her son could one day become a victim of police violence or profiling.

“I fear him leaving to do anything when he’s older and never coming back. It’s just unfair”, she says.

While these protests attracted a police presence, they remained peaceful. Demonstrators continued to follow social distancing measures to stay safe while they gathered.

**Unity is power,
diversity is strength.**

Jesse Kelly, a former
Hamilton schoolteacher and
rally leader

The protests being held here are mirroring those south of the border in the USA, where tensions are high as citizens demand an end to the unjust treatment of Black citizens by police. Despite being separated by several hundred miles, the policing system of Minneapolis and the one in Hamilton bear some uncomfortable similarities. Amongst all this unrest, many have begun looking towards police abolition and defunding officers as the solution to reducing such incidents of violence.

Evelyn Myrie, President of the Afro-Canadian-Caribbean Association, explained the concept in an interview with CBC News. “The idea behind defunding is to reallocate funding to health care and social service programs and re-imagine policing in our community. It’s a timely conversation that has growing support across communities.”

CANADA

Officials reveal plan
for returning students
to school



Above: Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce addresses the media in Toronto on June 9, 2020. Lecce had promised a plan for a safe September reopening of schools by the end of June. (Nathan Denette/The Canadian Press)

Ontario students are predicted to start returning to school by this September with a mix of in-person and remote learning, as detailed in a plan revealed by the Ontario government on June 19. Exactly how this return will be carried out depends on how the COVID-19 situation will have evolved by the time school is expected to reopen, although Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce has outlined a number of broad objectives regarding this proposal.

School boards across the province are expected to develop a response to three different scenarios that may occur in September:

- A return to in-class learning, albeit with heightened sanitary protocols such as classes of no more than 15 students at a time.
- The continuation of online learning, but with more rigorous standardization should closures be extended or if parents choose not to send their children to school.
- A mix of in-person and online sessions, with students alternating between each type of delivery every few days or weeks.

For many board officials, the decision to reopen school is a difficult one. While safety and health is a top

priority for staff and students, the disconnect caused by online learning is beginning to take a toll on some kids' mental health and performance. Lecce acknowledged this in his announcement, saying "We know the value of human connection."

Still, the decision to return to school, should health standards allow it, is likely to be a voluntary choice. Additionally, Premier Doug Ford also elaborated on how the specific implementations of this plan will likely be tailored to local needs.

"We simply can't provide a blanket solution for the whole province," he explained.

The province is also looking to increase their funding to school boards to cover technology costs, enhanced cleaning services, and mental health services in order to aid students during the pandemic. Every student will receive approximately \$250 more in funding than before, in contrast to the reduced funding education services faced last year under Ford. Guidelines developed by Toronto SickKids experts also recommended better air filtration systems, providing hand hygiene, and holding classes outdoors when possible.

Despite the government's efforts, many see flaws and gaps in the plan. NDP critic Marit Stiles poin-

ts out how difficult it will be to split up classes without hiring new teachers to teach them or rearranging schedules.

"...It's totally unrealistic to add zero new teachers and expect teachers to juggle students who are rotating between classrooms and emergency distance learning," she said, regarding the plan's three-scenario scheme.

Meanwhile, Ontario's COVID-19 cases are continuing to decline, which hints at some optimism for the future. On June 19, 2020, 178 new cases of COVID-19 were reported. While it was a small increase from the previous day, it follows the current trend of dwindling cases. Hospitalization numbers and those being treated in ICUs are also falling. More regions of the country are being allowed to reopen, although the GTA and Hamilton areas remain in the first stage of reopening due to their larger urban populations; along with cities close to the Canada-USA border that have high populations of migrant workers.

As with most things during the pandemic, the plan is still in the works, and will likely evolve in response to the rapidly changing realities of COVID-19.

WORLD

US Supreme Court rules against LGBTQ+ discrimination in the workplace



Above: Activists block the street outside the Supreme Court in Washington on October 8, 2019, as it hears arguments in three major employment discrimination cases on whether laws prohibiting workplace discrimination on the "basis of sex" covers gay and transgender employees. (Jonathan Ernst/Reuters)

In a landmark decision, the US Supreme Court determined on June 15, 2020 that federal law prohibits discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals in the workplace. This 6-3 ruling comes as a victory against the Trump administration, which attempted to assert that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which "prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin", does not extend its protection to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender workers. Opposing this argument was Justice Neil Gorsuch who, despite being one of President Trump's Supreme Court nominees, argued that employers who fire "an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex." Thus, Gorsuch believes that such terminations are a violation of Title VII, since sex plays a necessary role in the decision to fire that employee.

Despite the fact that the Civil Rights Act would not have typically extended its protections to LGBTQ+ citizens, since it was written in 1964, Gorsuch still makes a case about how the law can be reinterpreted to validate such a defence. Indeed, the Civil Rights Act's wording has been interpreted differently in the past to achieve other similar rulings that may have been unintentional at its time of writing, such as rulings against discrimination on the basis of motherhood, or on issues of male sexual harassment.

"Consider, for example, an employer with two employees, both of whom are attracted to men," he explains. "The two individuals are, to the employer's mind, materially identical in all respects, except that one is a man and the other a woman. If the employer fires the male employee for no reason other than the fact he is attracted to men, the employer discriminates against him for traits or actions it tolerates in his female colleague."

Both President Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden responded to this ruling favourably. Trump said that "[the Court has] ruled, and we live with their decision. That's what it's all about. We live with the decision of the Supreme Court,"

while Biden declared the decision "a momentous step forward for our country."

Other advocacy groups also voiced their support for the decision. Sarah Kate Ellis, President and CEO of GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) said that this decision "affirms what shouldn't have even been a debate: LGBTQ Americans should be able to work without fear of losing jobs because of who they are." Kristen Browde, co-chair of the National Trans Bar Association, wrote "this decision sends an unambiguous message that equal protection under the law applies to all and that an employee's failure to adhere to an employer's gender stereotype is not a licence to discriminate."

To some, the ruling came as a surprise, seeing that the Supreme Court has a slight conservative majority. Unsurprisingly, the finding was also not without some criticism. Justice Samuel Alito, for instance, said that "even if discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity could be squeezed into some arcane understanding of sex discrimination, the context in which Title VII was enacted would tell us that this is not what the statute's terms were understood to mean at that time." Meanwhile, Justice Brett Kavanaugh insisted that despite the progress LGBTQ+ civil rights advocates have made today, this decision was not the Court's to make, but Congress'.

Gorsuch's argument lay on the premise that "it is impossible to discriminate against a person for being homosexual or transgender without discriminating against that individual based on sex."

WORLD NEWS

Murder Hornets: Are They as Scary as They Sound?

By Anika Kanagaretnam and
Rose He — Junior Editor and Writer



Sensational reports of Asian “murder hornets” are flooding the Internet, but how dangerous are they in reality?



Above: A dead Asian giant hornet from Japan is held on a pin by Sven Spichiger, an entomologist with the Washington state Department of Agriculture. (AP)

The Asian giant hornet, nicknamed the “murder hornet” by social media, has become increasingly popular after the *New York Times* published a report with news of the invasive species being found in Washington State. They were the first to give this species such a name, and it has stuck ever since. Their reputation has also caused fear in people.

Asian giant hornets originate from East Asia and Japan, and are commonly found in those areas. Although it is unclear on how they arrived in America, they were first discovered in Washington, and a hornet nest was later found on Vancouver Island in Canada. The most likely reason for their spread is similar to any other invasive species: through cargo ships.

Many people wonder if these are truly something we need to worry about. The answer to that is *no*. You should be cautious and report any sightings of these insects, but there is no need to panic or fear. These hornets only become dangerous if they have been disturbed, so the best thing would be to keep your distance from them.

If they do come near you, do not run away under any circumstances. These hornets have been known to chase their victims for kilometers, and they can reach flying speeds of 40 km per hour. According to one victim, “The more you run, the more they want to chase you.”

Here are some features of Asian giant hornets that can help you identify them:

- First, they nest in the ground, and most other species do not do that. This is one of the easiest ways to identify them if you happen to see a nest.

- Second, they have a wingspan of around 4-7 centimeters. They are quite large, with an orange head and black eyes. The queens can be spotted at nearly 5 centimeters long, and the workers are around 3.5 centimeters long.

Though the “murder hornets” do not quite live up to their title, any invasive species will always have the effect of creating an imbalance in the environment, the economy, or on human well-being. In this case, these hornets potentially could affect agriculture at an alarming level, since they may play a dangerous ecological role in North America.

These Asian giant hornets don't pose a threat to humans themselves, but they are a major predator of the common honey bee and other similar insects. These hornets are capable of aggressively attacking and decapitating entire honey bee colonies, and honey bees are especially vulnerable because they don't have any natural defense mechanisms against the hornets.

Honey bees are one of the most important animals to agriculture, due to their critical role in pollination and because they act as natural predators against agricultural pests. Having honey bees decrease in numbers when they are already an endangered species will no doubt influence agriculture and may cause significant economic harm.

Some of us may wonder now: how do Asian honey bee species defend themselves against these hornets better than the ones in North America? We know that honey bees in North America haven't yet evolved to a state where they have a good defense against the Asian giant hornets, since their stingers aren't strong enough to pierce through the thick exoskeletons

of the hornets.

Luckily for the Asian honey bee species, they worked their way through evolution and had developed a decent defence system. Hundreds of these Asian honey bees have the ability to form a “ball” around the hornet, and then flap their wings quickly to build up heat until they roast the hornet alive.

Due to this useful technique of the Asian honey bees, beekeepers are trying to help honey bees in North America develop this or some other defence mechanism against potential threats from the Asian giant hornets, when they do become a greater threat. If more Asian giant hornets invade North America, beekeepers will continue to do their best in protecting the honey bees.

So despite the name “murder hornets,” the threat these insects pose to North American ecosystems and humans are only minimal. The real reason people nicknamed them “murder hornets” is because of their status as predators towards honey bees, which are a species our agriculture and economy depends on. Other than that, the nickname only provokes unnecessary fear and exaggerates the danger.

FACTS ABOUT THE “MURDER HORNET”

- Largest hornet species in the world
- Kills up to 50 people a year in Japan
- They make a distinctive buzzing noise when they fly
- Only females have stingers, and the sting lasts ~36 hours



WORLD NEWS

COVID-19 in Ontario:
June Update



A look at how the COVID-19 situation has changed in June.

By Brooke Vesentin — Writer

Above: A nurse greets patients outside a coronavirus disease assessment centre in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on March 25, 2020. (Patrick Doyle/Reuters)

With COVID-19 cases now reaching 31,000 and public buildings and areas beginning to open back up again, many are left wondering what the next steps will be in Ontario regarding the reopening of the province. The province has set out various stage of reopening, and as the pandemic dies down, more and more places will open up.

Currently, all of Ontario is still in stage one. An official statement from the Government of Ontario describes the first stage of reopening as one that focuses “on workplaces that are well-positioned to follow public health advice to maintain physical distancing, implement workplace safety guidance and limit gatherings.” Stage one will also lessen the pressure on public transit and other services, giving them more time

to safely prepare for future stages.

As part of Ontario’s cautious and responsible approach, protections for vulnerable people will continue to be maintained throughout each stage of restarting. As for stage two, the Greater Toronto Area, along with Niagara, Windsor, Hamilton, are the only parts of Ontario that will not commence with the second stage. The rest of Ontario will begin stage two on Friday, June 12th.

As for the places not reopening, we are still awaiting further instruction on when we will enter stage two. During stage two, the province will be “taking a regional approach to opening more businesses and services, as well as community, recreational and outdoor spaces, while emphasizing public health advice and personal responsibility.” Stage two will allow for gatherings of up to ten people at a time, which will allow for more social gatherings this summer. There are also plans for places of worship to reopen. You will still be required to wear face masks when in settings that involve more than 10 people and are still to stand 6 feet apart from one another.

To reopen workplaces safely, employers must review the workplace health and safety guidance and ensure that appropriate measures are in place. Employers must also meet all existing occupational health and safe-

ty requirements. This will allow for more people to be able to go back to work. Television and film production will be allowed to resume and large shopping centres such as malls have a possibility of reopening in the near future. Many public pools, water parks, beaches and recreational areas that take place outdoors and involve water will reopen. Additional places set to reopen are libraries and campgrounds. Small weddings and funerals will be able to proceed.

As for stage three, the final stage, there is no set time for when it will happen. The government has stated that stage three will consist of “reopening most remaining workplaces and community spaces, while carefully and gradually lifting restrictions. Public health advice and workplace safety guidance will remain in place and available. Large public gatherings will continue to be restricted.” We will just have to play it by ear and wait for a lessening in the spread of COVID-19 in order for stage three to commence.

As for schools, nothing specific has been said of when they will reopen in Ontario, although they are expected to by September. Nonetheless, we should keep an eye out for that as well. Even with many restrictions being lifted across Ontario, we must still make sure we are carrying out proper social distancing measures and are staying safe and healthy.

STATS AS OF JUNE 22

29,021

current active cases

8,430

total deaths

63,866

total recovered

BLACK LIVES

Meet the
movement bent
on changing the
world.

MATTER.

By Vita Rao — Writer



May 25, 2020 – a day that will forever be remembered as a turning point in history; a day that sparked a larger global movement. George Perry Floyd Jr.: a loving father, brother, and lover of sports. Recognized by his community as someone who used his experiences to help others overcome their obstacles. A person; a Black man with a family and life, lost his entire future in just 8 minutes and 46 seconds. The incident began when a store clerk — who believed that Floyd had paid with a counterfeit bill — called the police to report Floyd and his refusal to return the cigarettes he had purchased. The tension quickly escalated, with other officers arriving and eventually restraining Floyd on the ground. Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, began to kneel on Floyd's neck — even after repeated pleas from Floyd, saying “I can't breathe” — and remained in that position for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. Floyd was pronounced dead later that day.

The incident sparked global outrage, with many recognizing the extent of the issue of systemic racism and the need for change, both societally and in terms of the law. This led many to protests, awareness through social media, and donations amongst other things, causing great tension between the government and the public. With the anger increasing, many have also started looting stores and malls. Law enforcement has resorted to more violent tactics of crowd control (i.e. tear-gassing and rubber bullets). Ignorance is no longer tolerated, people want change, or rather, they demand change. Since May 25th, all four police officers have been fired and charged, with only one managing to post bail.

The primary target of the outrage is law enforcement, as their lack of emotional training and control of the system has been highlighted. Many have uncovered the unnerving statistics surrounding the punishment of bad cops, with statistics showing that most victims do not receive justice. Others have been debating over whether cops are right or wrong to target Black people because they supposedly make up a significant portion of the crime rate in America. Although statistically factual, what many don't realize is that there are other factors affecting that number. The system allows cops to have an internal bias; i.e. giving white people the benefit of the doubt, but not doing the same for other people of colour, specifically, Black people. This has resulted in numerous people signing petitions and calling for change by defunding the police and changing the law. Although seemingly radical, it is the

only way to reduce the amount of power that police officers have and distribute money to areas that can be equally, if not more beneficial.

With the Black Lives Matter movement gaining so much traction, there has been much controversy and misinformation. For instance, something that people are often confused about is the difference between systematic and systemic. The word systematic is used when a concept or behaviour is so normalized that it is seemingly a result of the system. Whereas, systemic is an occurrence within a system or something that affects the whole system. It's referred to as systemic racism because it exists in the system, not as a result of it.

There are many other misconceptions, so having meaningful discussions and doing research is greatly beneficial. It is vital that people educate themselves and address the racial bias within them. Understand that privilege does exist and if you are a non-Black person, it's your duty to use it for good. There are a variety of ways to do this, from watching movies to reading books and having meaningful conversations with others. In fact, some platforms are allowing viewers to have access to some educational movies for free. Also, look within yourself and find ways to support the Black community.

It is important to remember that the story does not end here, racism will continue as long as the system prevents accountability. From Breonna Taylor to Ahmaud Arbery, and Curtis Price, the cases continue to grow. Ignorance is no longer accepted, the issue must be addressed. It is essential that we say the names of the victims and never forget them. Although some of the topic has been addressed in this article, there is so much more to the movement. Internal and societal change, as well as research and education, are the only ways things can be changed. Privilege is not power, unity and equality are.

PETITIONS TO SIGN



for
George
Floyd



additional
petitions



for
Breonna
Taylor



ending racism
in Ontario
schools

WHERE TO DONATE

George Floyd Memorial Fund • Justice for Breonna Taylor • I Run With Maud • Tony Mcdade Memorial Fund • Act Blue Bail Funds • Mutual Aid • ACLU • NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund • Black Lives Matter Bail Project • Minnesota Freedom Fund • AdSense donation playlists

WHAT TO READ

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou • The Colour of Law by Richard Rothstein • White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo

WHAT TO WATCH

13th • Dear White People • Just Mercy • Fruitvale Station • The Hate U Give



LOCAL NEWS

Being Student Council Presidents During COVID-19



Jeremy Ippolito and Larissa Kouroukis reflect on their year as AHS Co-Presidents.

By Ashley Barry — Club Advisor

Above: Jeremy Ippolito and Larissa Kouroukis, Ancaster High's Student Council Presidents. (Student Council/the Royal Gazette)

Q: Although your time at AHS has been cut short, what has been your favourite moment/memory as Student Council Presidents?

Larissa: My favourite memory as president was definitely the Holiday Workshop! It was something so easy to organize and lots of students loved it. Overall, it was just such a fun event to lead, especially with our amazing student council!

Jeremy: Organizing Ancaster High's inaugural "Exam De-Stress Day" was one of the more memorable events held this year. This event had high student engagement and we received significant food donations from local sponsors. I hope this event can live on and assist in building new partnerships for Ancaster High after I graduate!

Q: What has organizing and planning things such as grad wear been like during quarantine?

Larissa: Organizing grad wear during quarantine has been pretty easy to do. I think it might be even easier considering I don't have to go to school; I can just focus on grad wear without many things prioritizing over it.

Jeremy: Being in quarantine, it has been tough to stay motivated as many of our plans changed. However, we adapted and focused on more time-sensitive initiatives. While Larissa has focused on gradwear, I have been organizing a slideshow for graduating students focused on celebrating everyone's post-secondary plans. It is amazing to see where everyone is going and we will be excited to celebrate everyone's future plans however possible!

Q: Do you miss meeting with everyone?

Larissa: I always looked forward to our weekly meeting to say hi to people as well as come up with new ideas for the school. I remember the meeting where we were trying to come up with an idea for what we should do at the holiday assembly as a student council. The members pitched in so many cool ideas that lead to other even better ideas and then we finally decided on what we would do. It felt like a very welcoming space for students to share ideas which is the most important thing to have during a meeting!

Jeremy: It is definitely disappointing that we are not able to meet like normal at school. However, this time has inspired a lot of student initiative. I have been getting messages from students asking how they can get inv-

olved or how they can prepare for next year. I strongly recommend all students take advantage of this time to learn a new skill or start/join a new initiative. Staying busy will improve mental health and strengthen your resume for future university supplementary applications.

Q: What do you wish you were able to do for the students at AHS?

Larissa: I wish we were able to run the Cut Cancer event as it is so much fun for everyone at the school. We were also looking into running the "Exam De-stress Day" where we got restaurants to come in and give out food for free. We were really excited to plan the next one since we already had contacts with the restaurants who came last time, and were planning on making it an even bigger event.

Jeremy: I was very excited to assist in organizing the "Exam De-Stress Day" for the June exam season. We had some exciting plans to bring in more restaurants and even have therapy dogs at the school. The annual Cut Cancer event has also been successful and it is disappointing it will not be able to run. Yet I have faith in next year's team in bringing back these events once public health guidelines allow!



Above: Ancaster High’s 2019-2020 Student Council, taken outside of the East Wing hallway near the Library Learning Commons. (Yearbook Club/the Royal Gazette)

Q: Has COVID-19 been a positive or negative experience for you?

Larissa: For me, there’s been positive and negative times during the pandemic. At first, it was so exciting that we weren’t going to have school for two weeks after March break, I couldn’t believe it! At the time it was announced I don’t think anyone knew how serious this whole thing would get. It’s been hard to occupy my time but I’ve been tutoring elementary students through Zoom, organizing grad wear, learning to crochet, and watching wayyyyy too much TV and Netflix. All of that has been fun, but it’s so disappointing that us grade 12s won’t get a proper welcome to university/college, but I’m optimistic that we’ll get a rewarding experience through our second, third and fourth years.

Jeremy: I won’t lie when I say COVID-19 has been difficult. My graduating class has lost a lot of memories and onetime milestones that we will not be able to get back. However, how you handle it comes down to your attitude. There comes a point where you have to start developing solutions and making the best of the situation. This may mean setting new goals, building new skills or just watching more Netflix. Technology has allowed for a lot more communication and opportunities for students. This will be a long fight and we need to stand with the front-line workers to get through it. There are many great opportunities that will come out of quarantine that we would not have had if everything was normal. It comes down to if you see the glass half empty or half full.

Q: What did you accomplish as

Student Council Presidents?

Larissa and Jeremy: I think we accomplished the most we could have over our shortened year as student presidents. We organized a student vs teacher basketball game where we donated all of our funds to Mission Services. We also re-introduced the holiday workshop that last week before the holiday break in the library at lunch where we gave out hot chocolate, students decorated cookies, and took pictures at our photobooth. Right after that in January we hosted an “Exam De-Stress” lunch where local businesses came in to sample their food to students for free! Right before March Break we were in the midst of planning Cut Cancer, spearheaded by our co-vice presidents. We were also planning to host another “Exam De-Stress” lunch for the June exams, but it would have been bigger and better! Overall, I’d say Jeremy and I accomplished a handful of things as presidents, the most important thing I hope we accomplished is promoting a sense of community at Ancaster High!

Q: Do you feel satisfied with everything you were able to accomplish?

Larissa: I definitely feel like our time as co-presidents was incomplete. We had a lot of fun stuff planned for the spring and it’s too bad we weren’t able to bring more events to Ancaster High. With the time we had, I am satisfied with what we accomplished, I only wish we could have completed the year and done more fun events. the ideas we had!

Jeremy: Overall, I think Larissa and I completed a lot at the school. I would

say that I am satisfied with the events we were able to pull off, but remain disappointed at the fact that we only had half a year to be co-presidents. Cut Cancer was a huge event we were planning and it’s too bad we didn’t get the opportunity to plan and run it for the students.

Q: Any final messages addressing the student body?

Larissa: To the student body, I would tell you all to make sure that fear doesn’t stop you from doing what you want to do. Don’t be shy to join new clubs or to take on a leadership position. Even though it might seem daunting to be Fab 5 for Grade Nine Night, or become the president of a club, always know that the teachers and other students are there to help you out in any way they can! Lastly, thank you to the students for giving me this opportunity to be your co-president, it was such a unique role and I will remember it forever! :)

Jeremy: If I could give any final messages, I would strongly recommend to get involved and build a strong school-life balance. The best memories and friends I have met in high school all came from extra-curricular experiences. You can gain so many intangible skills you could not build elsewhere. It is important to make sure you build a work-ethic while being social and building new skills as well. Finally, I would like to thank the student body for electing me Student Council Co-President. I have learned so much about myself, our students and the work necessary to succeed. It has been an amazing experience and it is truly the people that make this school so special.



By **Jocelyn Mattka** — Writer



Here’s some of the things that went down at Ancaster High in 2020.

Above: Grade 9 Night student leaders participate in the welcoming ceremony dance. (Jade Graham/the Royal Gazette)
Illustration by Noor Mendel

The 2019-2020 school year has definitely not turned out to be the year that many of us would have imagined. Right from the get go, we could see this year was gearing up to be a strange one. With the CUPE and OSSTF strike actions, a lot was up in the air. Extracurriculars were called into question and there was talk about being unable to perform the school musical in the winter. Every part of the system seemed stressed.

That was before a pandemic broke out. A pandemic that took us out of school for over three months; the better part of the second semester. We’ve missed sporting events, clubs, performances, prom, graduation and even the English department’s Shakespeare’s birth/death day!

It would be easy to stop there. To get hung up on all that was lost. I wouldn’t consider that to be an accurate reflection of the school year though. Even if it’s easy to forget sometimes, the 2019-2020 school year was full of non-strike, non-covid related memories.

Right away in September, I covered our school’s entrance into the Ancaster Fair’s Demolition Derby, a tradition that was upheld even when

we were met with adversity. Grade 9 Night, a rite of passage for any Royal, lived up to all of its expectations and welcomed a whole new cohort to AHS. Not long after, we held our annual Terry Fox run out in the fields. A fall coffee house ran, our winter semi-formal was a blast and our musical theatre class put on Footloose in December. There were bake sales, spirit days, the 12 days of Christmas challenges and so many clubs it’s hard to keep them all straight. Chess Club. Everyone remember Chess Club? I doubt any club has ever seen such intensive advertising or packed room 2027 so completely.

Next year’s grade 9s had the chance to come see the school during the Day in The Life event and meet some of our student leaders. We had a student teacher basketball game, a badminton intramural and at the end of February, our Junior Girls Volleyball team won the City Championship and qualified for SOSSA. Our school spirit carried through all the way to the final day of school, when teams of three competed in the Piathlon on March 13. That day, the math hall was the place to be.

It’s all the little things though that truly make a year memorable. Whether that moment was completi-

ng the iconic roller coaster assignment in Mr. Crowley’s physics class, Mr. Gallant telling you good morning as he passed you in the hall, re-enacting Shakespeare for your English class or even just having lunch in the cafeteria, our school has brimmed with life and spirit all year long. The best part? When school closed, that spirit didn’t end.

Microsoft Teams meetings replaced face-to-face teaching and brought a whole slew of brand-new classroom inside jokes and memorable experiences. We’ve found ways to participate in group activities, submit work in a variety of different forms and develop time management and independent learning skills. We overcame a challenge, with the help of each other, that no group of AHS students has ever undertaken before. We explored the possibility of digital learning, had the chance to better ourselves and grew from our experiences.

Our school paper stayed on schedule just as it has for the last three years and a yearbook is still being produced. Keep your eyes open for it and make sure you get yourself a copy. It’s not just a yearbook, but a memento of a truly memorable year. Keep it up Royals; I can’t wait to see what next year brings!



OPINION

Single-Use Plastics: the Societal Bad Habit

Above: Plastic bags are a form of single-use plastic that is rapidly becoming popular again. (iStock)

By **Ethan Coleman** — Writer



The dilemma of reintroducing single-use plastics during the pandemic.

A trip shopping under the COVID-19 safety measures will undoubtedly be filled with sanitation stations outside the doors, routes for shoppers indicated by tape-arrows or signs, floor markings for spacing out those waiting in line, and a diverse assortment of masks — both disposable and reusable. An ill-timed sneeze or cough will make you the focus of glaring eyes. With these changes, the resurgence of single-use plastics and disposables has subtly returned to daily use. It's not just the obvious disposable masks and gloves, but also disinfectant wipes, plastic bags, takeout containers and boxes used for delivery and curbside pickup. The support for banning single-use plastics that was all the rage a few months ago has been cast aside by most in favour of preventative measures, whether just or excessive. A unique situation is presented: the Canadian government can support the return of single-use plastics, or take strong measures to ensure their downfall.

It makes logical sense that to stop a virus spreading, we reduce the objects and services that foster the most shared contact; it is a cheap, quick, and easy partial solution to prevent the spread of the virus. When government programs take time to set in place and yield results, businesses cautiously adapt and test new procedures, and citizens need to adapt their social behaviours, plastic bags, and disposables are easily reinstated — they were only recently

phased out for those businesses that encouraged reusable or recyclable containers.

...strong government authority may be of use when it comes to provoking action against climate change and pollution.

The fast and decisive response was much-needed to help the burdened health care system, although at the cost of the disposable nature of the products being overlooked. The priority of nations and businesses was of a health care crisis, not an environmental one which arguably has justification. However, this rapid and single-minded response may be an indicator of the continuation of environmentally damaging preventative measures to reduce the spread of viruses.

In this moment of dire need, the Canadian government stepped up and enacted measures to combat the COVID-19 threat: measures that enforced social distancing, kept gatherings low, forcibly closed some businesses, and provided massive financial relief for unemployed people and small businesses. This level of “big government” hasn't been questi-

oned due to the apparent need for such assertive power, but like the convenience of single-use plastics as an easy way of preventing viral spread, big government could stick around in the name of ensuring preventative measures so that a second wave of the virus doesn't hit Canada. Some will support it and others will fiercely hate, but strong government authority may be of use when it comes to provoking action against climate change and pollution.

The leverage from heavy government involvement helped fight a nationwide pandemic. In this case, the Smithian approach of “letting the private sector just figure it out” might have worked, but would the response be as assertive? Governments have supported corporations and banks through thick and thin while threatening to crack down with promised climate change action such as capping carbon emissions and waste outputs. Businesses are set to suffer from such action, particularly the ever-so-important oil companies — the mainstays of the Canadian economy. The Canadian government has demonstrated its authority; their power can be used to both meet goals set by the Paris Climate Agreement *and* simultaneously enforce preventative measures against COVID-19. This ensures that they do not allow for the resurgence of single-use plastics, but instead support movements towards reusable containers, waste elimination, and emission reduction.

ENTERTAINMENT

Stars Who Came Out As LGBTQ+ in 2020



Illustration by Rose He

By **Ashley Barry, Noor Menhel,**
and **Rose He** — Club Advisor
and Writers



To celebrate Pride Month,
here are some celebrities
who came out as LGBTQ+
this year!

Happy Pride Month everyone! It's an interesting time to celebrate Pride... since usually around this time of year, the world isn't in "lockdown" or facing a global pandemic that has resulted in the cancellation of the usual festivities such as parties and parades. Nonetheless, a pandemic won't stop the LGBTQ+ community from celebrating and embracing who they are! People of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as allies, are taking to social media, whipping out their Pride flags and outfits to celebrate and share their stories with others! Many celebrities have also shared their support for the LGBTQ+ community, some even taking this month to publicly embrace their identity! Here are some celebrities that have come out to the world in 2020:

Auli'i Cravalho

Markus Thormeyer

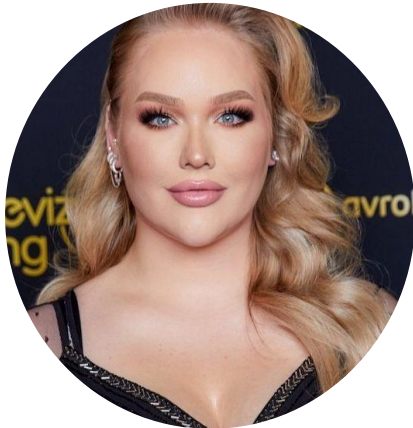
Nikkie de Jager



This actress, most notably known for voicing Moana in Disney's *Moana*, came out as bisexual in a TikTok video.



This Canadian Olympic swimmer described how coming out to his team allowed him to be "more comfortable in his own skin."



On her makeup YouTube channel *NikkieTutorials*, Nikkie stated that she was transgender.

Chyler Leigh

Curdin Orlik

Justice Smith



The actress of *Supergirl* described that when filming her character Alex's coming out scene, it helped her come to terms with her own sexuality.



Known as "Switzerland's first out gay male professional athlete", he stated how he thought "I don't want to be gay. But it's me."



Actor Justice Smith used his Instagram to show his support for Black queer lives and Black trans lives, while coming out as queer.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

Ashley Barry

Being a part of the Royal Gazette has been the highlight of my high school career. Having taken this leadership opportunity has allowed me to become more diligent with my time management, understanding of the qualities and fundamentals it takes to run a successful newspaper, and the confidence needed to be a student leader. From this opportunity, I have been able to take on the position in the *Royal Gazette* as the Club Advisor along with my best friend, Emily as our Editor-in-Chief — and it has been so much fun!

It honestly feels like it was yesterday when my best friend Emily and I went to our English teacher, Mrs. Bentham with the idea of creating a newspaper. From that day on, we had numerous meetings to figure out the logistics of what our newspaper could look like. When would we publish it? How could we get students involved? What roles would there be? How do we format a newspaper? How can we advertise? What content will we publish?

I remember being so excited that our idea was starting to transpire into a legit newspaper. That summer, Emily and myself had spent days creating posters and banners for advertisement, researching multiple platforms to construct a newspaper, as well as creating “first meeting” presentations — it was awesome! And now it has been nearly three years of publishing the *Gazette*. I have so much gratitude towards everyone who has been, and is currently involved with the *Royal Gazette*. Without Anne Fu (designer), our writers, editors, and subscribers, we wouldn't have the capability to publish our newspaper and establish this club that contains such an immense amount of passion for writing and journalism.

I would also like to thank our teacher supervisors: Mrs. Bentham, Mr. Sheeler, and Mrs. Rotskas who volunteered their time and energy towards helping Emily and myself establish the *Royal Gazette*. This experience

has truly meant so much to me, and it wouldn't have been possible without your guidance and commitment... so thank you!

As I am graduating this year, it is time to pass on the leadership of the *Royal Gazette* to another generation of students who are dedicated, hard-working, and inspired by journalism. Over the last couple of months, I have been working with two wonderful Grade 9 student writers, Brooke Vesentin and Hannah Breiding towards passing on the legacy of the *Royal Gazette* as Club Advisors; and Anne Fu, as Editor-in-Chief. I am ecstatic to have found Brooke, Hannah and Anne! They're amazing students and great people, and I cannot wait to see what they will accomplish with the *Royal Gazette*.

I am forever thankful for this amazing opportunity, as I have not only grown as a writer and leader, but as a person. I hope to see the *Royal Gazette* continue at Ancaster High!

Emily Outerbridge:

I consider myself very lucky to have been a part of creating the *Royal Gazette*, with loads and loads of help from the newspaper's co-founder and one of my best friends, Ashley Barry! I remember talking to my parents about what clubs I could join in grade 9, and being disappointed that there was no newspaper club at Ancaster High where students like myself, who at the time was very interested in journalism, could share their writing and become invested in the news around the world and in the school. My dad was originally the one who suggested to me, “Hey, you could start a newspaper club!” At the time I didn't even consider this suggestion, because how could I, a mere grade 9 student, create an entire club by myself? However, as I became more comfortable at Ancaster High and became better friends with Ashley, I realized that creating this club was something the two of us could actually



Above: Emily Outerbridge and Ashley Barry. (Gabe Farion/the *Royal Gazette*)

do! We began the club as a small idea, and were then able to make it into something much bigger. With lots and lots of work, and of course a lot of help from our original teacher supervisor, Ms. Bentham! I am so happy that we were able to create a club for students to come together and share their writing skills, opinions, and interests in a way that can be shared with the entire student body. I also want to sincerely thank all three of our teacher supervisors who helped us along the way: Mrs. Bentham, Mr. Sheeler, and Mrs. Rotskas!

I hope that the *Royal Gazette* will continue on at Ancaster High for a long time after Ashley and I graduate, however just being able to be a part of a school newspaper for these few years was special enough to me! I know our new Club Advisors, Brooke and Hannah; as well as our new Editor-in-Chief, Anne Fu, will do a fantastic job of carrying on the legacy of the *Royal Gazette*, and I can't wait to see what more the *Royal Gazette* team can accomplish!

We wish Ashley and Emily the best of luck in their post-secondary pursuits. Thank you to every staff member of the 2019-2020 team of the *Royal Gazette* for making this publication what it is!



LEGACIES

Passing on a Legacy: Meet the *Gazette's* New Club Advisors!

**By Ashley Barry, Brooke Vesentin,
and Hannah Breiding** — Club Advisor
and Writers



After 3 years of the *Royal Gazette*, our executives are graduating and are passing on their legacy to Brooke and Hannah.

Above: Hannah Breiding and Brooke Vesentin together.
(Brooke Vesentin/*the Royal Gazette*)

The Royal Gazette was established by myself, Ashley Barry, and my best friend, Emily Outerbridge, when we were in grade 9. It continues to amaze us both as to how our idea for creating a school newspaper nearly three years ago has transformed into the successful, award-winning newspaper it is today. We are so thankful to have had such wonderful students and teachers involved in our club. It is very gratifying to see how far we have come and that we have founded a club that inspires student journalism and writing.

This year, Emily and I are graduating from Ancaster High, and we are hoping that the legacy of the *Royal Gazette* will continue for years to come! To achieve our legacy, we have been working with two stellar Grade 9 students, Brooke Vesentin and Hannah Breiding, to take over our positions as the Club Advisors. We are confident that they will do a spectacular job, as they have many exciting ideas to bring to the *Royal Gazette*!

Below are introductions to the *Royal Gazette's* future Club Advisors!

Hannah Breiding:

Hello, my name is Hannah! I'm in grade 9, and my friend Brooke and I will be taking over *the Royal Gazette* next year.

I am interested in running the newspaper for multiple reasons; for example, getting the experience of being a leader, learning new things, gaining more confidence and overall allowing young writers, photographers and editors to pursue their dreams of becoming one of ma-

ny careers in writing, photography or editing. Not only that but I also like being a part of the *Royal Gazette* because of the opportunities it may bring now and later in life.

For example, it looks good on resumes and job applications and allows you to improve your writing. Another thing I love about the newspaper is the overall group of people we have. Everyone always has the articles in on time and (for the most part) and knows what topics they want to write each month! It's a very exciting environment! For future years,

I hope to carry on the *Royal Gazette* for students who have the same passions as we do!

Brooke Vesentin:

Hello, my name is Brooke Vesentin, and I am a writer for the *Royal Gazette*. I am extremely thankful and honoured to be taking over the *Royal Gazette* alongside my friend Hannah Breiding, next year. I would like to thank Ashley and everyone involved in the making of the newspaper for trusting us to take over. I know that both Hannah and I have many wonderful ideas involving the future of *the Royal Gazette*, and are truly excited to have the opportunity to run into something as important and adored as this newspaper.

Not only are we full of our own ideas, but we want to hear your ideas too! We definitely want to expand the *Royal Gazette* and bring some new and exciting things to it! I know that when I came to Ancaster High; I had no idea what clubs I wanted to join. I knew I loved to be reative, and I adored writing and when I found out about the *Royal Ga-*

Hannah and I could not be more excited to be taking over and I hope to successfully carry on the legacy...

Brooke Vesentin, next year's co-Club Advisor

zette; I knew I had found the club for me. Not only has it given me an amazing writing outlet, but has allowed me to become a better writer with each and every article I write.

It has also opened my eyes to all the inner workings of a newspaper and all the hard work that goes into it and the various editing stages during publication. It has introduced me to the wonderful world of journalism.

Overall, I adore the *Royal Gazette* and I am so glad I joined! I am overjoyed that I will get to play such a large part in the gazette next year! I want to keep the gazette a fun and safe place where writers, photographers, editors etc. can all use it as a creative outlet just as I have and will continue to do.

I want to continue the amazing levels of communication that everyone has with each other and also bring some new and exciting features to the newspaper as well.

I also encourage those reading this to join the *Royal Gazette* if you have not already!

I know that Hannah and I could not be more excited to be taking over and I hope to successfully carry on the legacy that the *Royal Gazette* holds here at Ancaster High!



Anne Fu discusses the past 3 years of the *Gazette*, as well as the paper’s future.

LEGACIES

Taking the Next Step: Meet the *Gazette*’s New Editor-in-Chief!

By Anne Fu — Head Designer

Above: Anne Fu, the *Gazette*’s current Head Designer and next year’s Editor-in-Chief. (Anne Fu/*the Royal Gazette*)

Hello Royals! As the school year draws to a close and the *Gazette* finishes its publishing run for the year, I’m delighted — and even a little nervous — to be saying that I’m stepping into the role of Editor-in-Chief for next year’s volume of the *Gazette*. These last few years as Head Designer for the paper have put me in a bit of an unorthodox leadership role, but have also immersed me into the culture and spirit at this school like nothing else. Words can’t describe how incredible it’s been to see the *Gazette* thrive and grow as a part of its membership.

This year, our club executives Ashley and Emily are graduating, and in their place Brooke, Hannah and I are succeeding them. As part of the new leadership for the *Gazette*, I’d like to take a moment not only to reflect on how far we’ve come in the past couple of years, but also where we plan to go moving forwards.

Firstly, I’d like to extend my thanks to the tireless staff team of writers, editors, photographers, designers and contributors behind each issue. It goes without saying that this wouldn’t have been much of a newspaper without your work. We know that writing a 500-word article, capturing that perfect shot, or pumping out a brand new illustration every month on a deadline is no easy feat — so whether you’ve contributed to one issue or a dozen, we truly appreciate it. I’d also like to express our gratitude to the many staff advisors that have helped us through

all our growing pains as a new publication: Mrs. Bentham, Mr. Sheeler, Ms. Rotskas and Mrs. Woof. On behalf of everyone at the *Gazette*, thank you for all you’ve done.

Second, I’d like to address our reader base. The *Gazette* would most definitely not be what it is today without your support, commentary, and participation. Our publication reaches as many as 400 people an issue, which is a very significant audience for a high school newspaper to have, and we’re so grateful to have so many people reading and listening to what we have to say. In light of a number of recent events, the world is finally beginning to see how important it is that young people’s voices are heard. The *Gazette* has always prided itself on being a platform where Ancaster students can speak their mind and learn more about the issues affecting their world today, and we hope to continue to fulfill that mission in the coming years. If you’re ever looking for a way to express your thoughts, hone your writing skills, and become more informed about modern affairs, we’d love to welcome you onto our team once September rolls around. Getting involved in student journalism is an opportunity that you won’t regret, and is one that can guide you for years to come.

Speaking of legacies and futures, it’s not uncommon for most people to be feeling a little lost about theirs right now. COVID-19 has cut our school term short, and many of

us are feeling like we never got the end-of-year closure we deserved — especially the juniors approaching their most crucial year of high school, and the seniors with their university plans hanging in the balance. No one is quite sure what the world will look like once we emerge from quarantine, except that it’ll be vastly different from what it was before. Things will not be the same once we come back, and that may be for the better. In these times, it’s vital that we focus not on the fear or the hatred, but on those of us helping us bridge the gap between that “before” and “after”: those of you adhering to social distancing measures, those of you who are essential workers, and those of you opting to show compassion and courage in the face of such uncertainty.

When we eventually return to school, it is my hope that the *Royal Gazette* will also return to regular operation: that is, publishing, writing, illustrating and investigating about the world that our youth are faced with, whatever that may be. In the 2020-2021 school year, we will strive to be a newspaper that is more inclusive, transparent, and representative of the Ancaster High student body than ever before — and we would love nothing more than for you to be a part of it too.

So that’s all for now, Royals. From everyone on the *Gazette* team to all of you, we wish you the very best. Stay safe, and have an excellent summer!



AQUARIUS

January 20 - February 18

Though times have been hard Aquarius, look forward to a good comeback. School has taken a toll on you but this break is definitely your time to shine.

Lucky numbers: 99, 1, 24

TAURUS

April 20 - May 20

Your procrastination habits have built up, it's time to take a breather and step back. Free yourself from all these tasks, there are people who want to spend more time with you.

Lucky numbers: 27, 143, 72

LEO

July 23 - August 22

You've been getting lots of love from everyone around you Leo, it's time to give back. Show the people closest to you that you in fact do care. It's never a bad thing to show some love.

Lucky numbers: 95, 32, 60

SCORPIO

October 23 - November 21

Success is right around the corner. Although you're not exactly achieving what you wanted, continue to pursue your dreams, even if things don't go as planned, you've got nothing to lose.

Lucky numbers: 34, 16, 7

PISCES

February 19 - March 20

The road you have chosen will be full of all sorts of obstacles. Don't blindly jump in, think everything through one more time, you've got nothing to lose.

Lucky numbers: 65, 42, 11

GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

Focus more on the positive side than the negative.

These days Gemini, everyone around you has been brought down by your pessimistic thoughts.

Improve yourself and look more on the bright side after all, it is your month.

Lucky numbers: 15, 89, 35

VIRGO

August 23 - September 22

Right now you are fighting your own mindset, open up a bit and allow others to be with you, help you and care for you. Virgo, you may think you've got it all under control alone but you don't, it's time to change.

Lucky numbers: 30, 5, 9

SAGITTARIUS

November 22 - December 21

You're determined and you've got a goal, don't let anyone stop you from reaching it. Life is gonna throw obstacles in your way, think of it like a test, eventually you'll be done and get the results you worked for.

Lucky numbers: 6, 79, 14

ARIES

March 21 - April 19

It may feel like time has stopped for you but everyone around you continues to move forward, as should you. Don't think too much of the past, look forward to the future.

Lucky numbers: 4, 21, 83

CANCER

June 21 - July 22

Spend more time to yourself rather than being excessively loud to everyone around you. Sometimes, it's good to make your own decisions too.

Lucky numbers: 121, 54, 62

LIBRA

September 23 - October 22

Things have been chaotic the last few weeks, this quarantine just might drive you insane. Libra, you are stronger than you think, together with everyone around you, you can pull through.

Lucky numbers: 102, 37, 0

CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 19

Your special someone(s) may need your support. Through these hard times Capricorn, people are reaching out to you and continue to watch over you or rely on you. At the end of the day, you don't have to do anything except be yourself

Lucky numbers: 12, 25, 3

Scan to Subscribe!



See you in September!

In This Issue

Editor-in-Chief

Emily Outerbridge

Club Advisor

Ashley Barry

Jr. Club Advisors

Brooke Vesentin
Hannah Breiding

Graphic Designers

Anne Fu
Noor Menhel
Rose He

Illustrators

Anne Fu
Noor Menhel
Rose He

Supervising Teachers

Mrs. Woof

Writers

Ashley Barry
Anne Fu
Brooke Vesentin
Emily Outerbridge
Ethan Coleman
Hannah Breiding
Jeremy Ippolito
Jocelyn Mattka
Larissa Kouroukis
Noor Menhel
Rose He
Vita Rao

Contact Us

 @ahsroyalgazette

 gazetteroyal@gmail.com

 royalgazette.ca

Join us.
Wednesdays
Room 207