

# The Royal Gazette

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## Nigerian Citizens Protest SARS *pg 05*

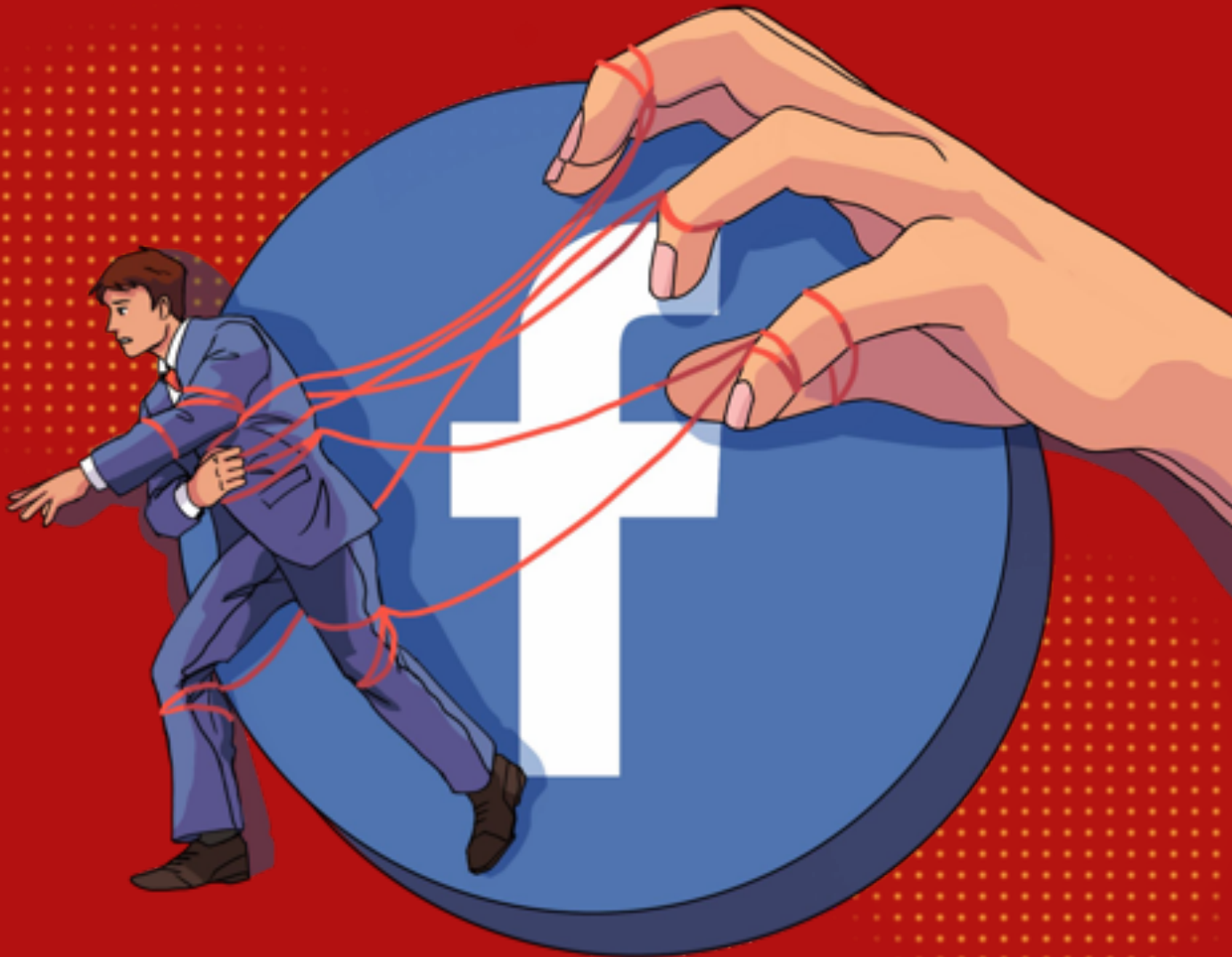
The SARS police regiment's controversial actions have triggered an outpouring of criticism.



## Google Faces Antitrust Action *pg 10*

The tech giant is being forced to defend itself against the Supreme Court.

# NOTHING TO HIDE, NOTHING TO FEAR.



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What happens when our social media platforms know more than we do?

Peek Inside...

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### Pandemic Affects Local Hockey

Explore how COVID-19 has influenced regional sports.

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### Addressing the Uighur Muslim Crisis

Muslim staff writer Aisha Mahmoud speaks out against the genocide.



# This Month's Top Stories

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

By Anne Fu — Editor-in-Chief



**EXTERNALS**  
**Dodgers Break Dry Spell in the World Series**  
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**VOICES**  
**The Dangers of Period Stigmatization**  
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HAMILTON

## Daily COVID-19 Cases Reach Record Numbers

According to a survey conducted in July 2020, 78% of Ontarians say they would wear a mask if social distancing wasn't possible.

**Above:** A group of four people with masks on walk down James Street in Hamilton. The city's number of COVID-19 cases continues to climb in November. *(Bobby Hristova/CBC)*

**400 active cases of COVID-19** were reported in Hamilton on November 14th, 2020 — a record high for daily cases in the city. As Ontario rolls out its new colour-coded tier system for managing COVID-19 protocols this month, some express concerns over where the province is headed in containing the virus.

Since October 25th, Hamilton has been averaging 25-26 new cases of COVID-19 a day. Wednesday's numbers mark the highest daily increase in cases that the city has ever experienced since the pandemic began. During the week of November 1st to 7th, Ancaster High recorded 2 new COVID-19 cases itself, while surrounding secondary schools such as Bishop Tonnos, St. David and Cathedral reported positive tests of their own amongst their students.

In order to manage outbreaks more effectively, the province has developed a five-level system for classifying different regions by risk severity. Different colours are used to organize COVID-19 situations from least to most acute, beginning with "Prevent" as green, "Protect" as yellow, "Restrict" as orange, "Control" as red,

and "Lockdown", the most drastic measure, as grey. Each level involves progressively stronger restrictions on gatherings, businesses and workplaces, and public spaces in order to contain the virus' spread. Regions are classified based on factors such as their number of new weekly cases, the number of new cases caused by each infected person, and hospital capacity, amongst others. As a region's situation escalates or deescalates, it moves stepwise up and down the framework's sliding scale of measures, as protocols are tightened or loosened accordingly.

"The framework will also provide more certainty to businesses, families and workers. It will help us introduce preventative measures early, to slow the spread," said Premier Doug Ford in a public address on November 4th. As he describes, the ultimate goal of the program is to bring every region of Ontario into the "Prevent", or green zone, and to provide citizens with clear and constant updates on how well their region is doing in containing the pandemic.

Under this system, districts such as Huron, Haldimand-Norfolk, and Middlesex are currently classified

as being in the yellow "Protect" category; Guelph, Brant, Niagara, Waterloo in the orange "Restrict" stages; and Hamilton and York in the red "Control" zones, and Toronto and Peel entering the grey "Lockdown" tiers.

Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott had strong words of warning for those living in red zones like Hamilton.

"If you live in a red 'control' region please only leave the house for essential purposes. We all have personal responsibility to control the spread of COVID-19," she said.

In the red stages of quarantine, gatherings are confined to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, bars and restaurants are allowed to seat a maximum of 10 people at a time, and weddings, funerals and religious services are restricted to 30% capacity indoors and 100 people outdoors. These measures will be in place for 28 days, unless the situation worsens.

At this time, officials recommend staying home whenever possible and attending social events cautiously.

## And in Pop Culture...



Ariana Grande's R-rated *Positions* album, released on October 30th, was the singer's newest foray into the trap-pop sound she's been cultivating for the past several years.

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**ARTS AND CULTURE**  
**Fall Fashion Week Makes Headlines**



CANADA

## Mi'kmaq Battle for Lobster Fishing Rights

**Above:** A Mi'kmaq man stands on a lobster fishing ship in Saulnierville, Nova Scotia. For the past several months, Indigenous and non-Indigenous fishermen have clashed over this industry. *(John Morris/Reuters)*

In Nova Scotia, Indigenous and non-Indigenous commercial fishermen are battling over crucial lobster fishing rights in a feud that dates back centuries.

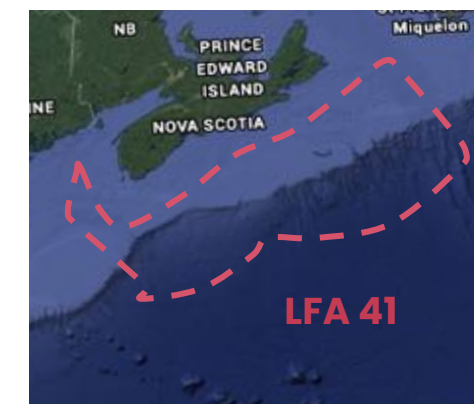
On September 17, 2020, the Sipekne'katik Mi'kmaq First Nation opened a fishery in St. Mary's Bay, Nova Scotia, on the shores of the Gulf of Maine. Although the Supreme Court ruled this action to be within the tribe's constitutional rights, commercial fishermen are resisting it fiercely. Some believe that by opening a fishery during the federally-regulated off-months, Indigenous fishermen could be undermining conservation efforts. Lobster catches have been slowly declining over the past several years, and with the COVID-19 pandemic eliminating several key seafood markets, overfishing in seasons where the lobster population is vulnerable could put the entire trade at risk.

The Peace and Friendship Treaty, established in 1792, outlined the Mi'kmaq people's original rights to fish on their lands and to form trade relations with settlers. In 1999, however, this treaty was expanded to allow Mi'kmaq fishers to not only hunt, but sustain a "moderate livelihood" through such means. The new ruling left the exact definition of this term vague, which has led to conflicts between Mi'kmaq and commercial fishermen in Nova Scotia. While the Mi'kmaq people argue that it is their right to operate independent fisheries to provide for themselves, commercial lobster farmers fear that these farms

will interfere with their vocation.

Although animosity between Indigenous and commercial fishermen has existed for decades, these recent clashes have become especially hostile, as non-Indigenous fishermen turn to violent methods to defend what they perceive to be both their primary source of income and the sustainability of the Canadian lobster industry as a whole. Others, however, believe that the small-scale fishing Indigenous tribes are conducting will have no long-term effect on the lobster industry in comparison to commercial fisheries.

"The scale of the livelihood fishery as it exists right now with 350 traps is not a conservation concern," said Dalhousie University Marine Affairs Professor Megan Bailey. "With 350 traps, if you multiply that by 10, I still don't think it would be a problem."



**Above:** LFA 41, the territory that Clearwater and the Mi'kmaq have fishing rights over. *(Google Earth)*

In the weeks since the fishery opened in St. Mary's Bay, the conflict escalated to violence, riots, physical threats, vandalism, and property destruction. In October, Mi'kmaq farmers saw their catches destroyed, their boats and vans damaged, and their traps lost or sabotaged. Jason Marr, an Indigenous fisherman, was trapped in a warehouse by a mob of approximately 200 non-Indigenous fishermen, who cut the power and stole the pounds inside.

"They said they were going to give us until midnight or they were going to burn us out," Marr told BBC News. As it would go, the warehouse was set alight on October 17, destroying the hundreds of pounds of lobster that had been stored inside.

Things changed, however, on November 11th, when the Mi'kmaq nation purchased 50% of Clearwater Seafoods, a major Nova Scotian fishing company, in a deal worth \$1 billion CAD. With this partnership, Indigenous fishermen will now have access to Clearwater's offshore fishing licences and exclusive fishing areas such as LFA 41, as well as new job opportunities within the company.

"...today, on this truly transformational day, we are owners of a global leader in the fishery. For so many years, our communities were not welcome to participate in big industry. Today, on our own terms we are 50% commercial owners," said Chief Terrence Paul of the Membertou Mi'kmaq First Nations.





WORLD

## Terror Attacks in Europe Highlight Divisions

**Above:** A man holds a sign reading “Hey Abadou...! You don’t represent Islam nor Muslims!!!” at a rally in memory of Samuel Paty. **(AFP)**

A wave of deadly extremist attacks in Europe has left citizens shaken, causing some to question the success of Europe’s integration policies and others to double down on secular principles.

This new surge in terrorism began on October 16, 2020 with the beheading of Samuel Paty, a French schoolteacher. Days after showing a naked caricature of the Prophet Muhammed to students in a class on free speech, he was killed by 18 year old Chechen refugee Abdoullakh Anzorov, who was subsequently gunned down by police. In Islam, depictions of the prophet are blasphemous; the display thus drew the ire of Anzorov and other members of the Muslim community who felt insulted by Paty’s lesson.

French President Emmanuel Macron emphasized that he would not allow the attacks to sway France’s commitment to free speech, declaring that “Islamist separatism” threatened the country’s democratic ideals. Following in his footsteps, defiant French citizens projected cartoons of Muhammad onto building walls at a tribute for Paty on October 21st.

13 days later, a stabbing at a Christian church in Nice took 3 lives, after 21 year old Tunisian immigrant Brahim Aouissou attacked 2 women and a man. Although Macron placed the country under high alert and deployed military reinforcements to guard schools and places of worship, he remained staunch in his views.

“I say it with great clarity once again today: we won’t surrender anything,” he announced after a visit to Nice.

Muslim leaders were quick to condemn both attacks, with organizations such as France’s Council of the Muslim Faith calling for solidarity and for Muslims to cancel Mawlid festivities that would have normally celebrated the prophet’s birthday on October 28th and 29th. At the same time, others also insisted that France’s demands for secularism and integration were backsliding into Islamophobia. In Muslim-majority nations such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia, protestors took a more aggressive stance, with thousands taking to the streets to burn flags and effigies of Macron and denounce his defense of the cartoons.

**I say it with great clarity once again today: we won’t surrender anything.**

**Emmanuel Macron, President of France**

“We urge the government to convey our anger to France and boycott French products until France offers a public apology for what it has done to Muslims,” said Akramul Haque, a Pakistani protestor. The following days saw French goods such as Louis Vuitton bags, yogurt, sparkling water and toothpaste pulled from shop shelves in countries like Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan accused Macron of being deliberately provocative and counterproductive in his anti-terrorism efforts.

“This is a time when Pres[ident] Macron could have put healing touch (sic) & denied space to extremists rather than creating further

polarisation & marginalisation that inevitably leads to radicalisation,” he tweeted.

A few days later on November 3rd, a shooting outside a synagogue in Vienna left 5 dead. The gunman was identified by police to be a 20 year old Islamic State sympathizer, who is still at large at the time of writing. Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz condemned the attacks as “despicable” — an opinion shared by many other European leaders from Angela Merkel to Boris Johnson, to even American President Donald Trump.

The last several years have seen Europe plagued by multiple religious and cultural schisms, as the continent struggles to adapt to an increasingly diverse population. Indeed, a significant portion of Europe’s Muslims feel frustrated with having to contend with extremism from within their own communities and Islamophobia from outside them.

“As Muslims, we pay the damages of those two forms of extremism,” explained Naziha Mayoufi, a member of the French Muslim association LES Musulmans to the *New York Times*.

Nevertheless, leaders like Macron seem to remain resolute in their stances on secularism and freedom of speech. On October 2nd, several days before any of the attacks occurred, the French leader had already announced an “anti-separatism” bill designed to crack down on terrorism and Islamic radicalism in the country. The goal is “to build an Islam in France that can be compatible with the Enlightenment,” he insisted in his speech.

# External News

The biggest stories from outside the Ancaster community on a provincial, national and international scale.



**EXTERNALS**  
**Canada’s Single Use Plastics Ban**  
*pg 06*

By John Kerr  
Staff Editor & Writer

4 days after the polls closed on November 3rd, Democratic Party nominee Joe Biden will become the 46th President-elect of the United States of America. After pulling and passing the threshold of 290 electoral college seats on Saturday November 7th, Biden officially defeated former President Donald Trump in an election that pitted urban against rural for the future of the nation.

Biden’s cemented victory came Saturday morning as the states of Pennsylvania and Nevada were added to his total, each state providing 20 and 6 seats to his cause respectively. As of November 8th, only the states of North Carolina and Alaska, leaning Republican, and Georgia, leaning Democrat, have yet to be definitively called.

With this loss, Trump will join the short list of incumbent presidents whose bids for second-term reelection failed. The last to only serve a single term was Republican, George H. W. Bush, in 1992 after failing to recognise and combat the racial tension in America sparked by the Rodney King crisis during the election year.

However, Trump has yet to concede the presidency to Joe Biden stating that the election was “stolen” from him, naming the possibility of widespread voter fraud and mail-in ballot issues as the culprit. As formerly red states shifted to blue as mail-in ballots, the majority of them being Democrat, were counted, Trump took to Twitter to announce: “I WON THE ELECTION, GOT 71,000,000 LEGAL VOTES.”

Trump will launch lawsuits in the states of Georgia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, questioning the validity of the election results, and will attempt to call a recount in Wisconsin.

As the election stands, Biden will emerge with both the lead in electoral college seats and with the support of over 50% of Americans having received a record 75,000,000 votes in an all-time high turnout for any U.S. election.

Less than 8 hours after he was declared the president-elect, Biden and vice-president-elect, Kamala Harris, took to the stage at his campaign grounds in Wilmington, Delaware, to deliver a speech to the American people.

“This is a time to heal America,”



EXTERNALS

## Joe Biden Wins the US Election

**Above:** People celebrate media announcing that Joe Biden has won the 2020 U.S. presidential election in Manhattan, New York City. **(Andrew Kelly/Reuters)**

he said after calling his victory “clear” and “convincing”. “Let’s give each other a chance. It’s time to put away the harsh rhetoric, to lower the temperature, to see each other again, to listen to each other again.”

As the oldest-ever elected president, Biden states that he wishes to unify the American people and be a president for the citizens regardless as to which way they voted in this election. His key campaign ideas; containing the spread of COVID-19, repairing the racial injustice in America, and focusing on the environment, will all be prioritised in the coming months as he prepares committees and teams to begin work on these issues after he is sworn into office in January.

He plans to re-join the Paris Agreement after Trump pulled America out of the international organization. He will reinstate Obama-era emissions regulations and will pour investments into other sustainable research to save the U.S. from the “climate emergency.”

On the social justice front, Biden was able to rally the support of a large number of minority groups in large U.S. cities by promising to bring an end to the racial inequality in the nation. However, seeing as Biden has come under fire for policies in the mid 90’s that targeted black people, he now has to live up to his promises and provide a long term solution to this major societal issue.

As for vice-president-elect, Kamala Harris, she will become the first woman to hold the second highest position of power in the U.S. government but not the first person of

color, as is widely claimed. Although, Harris herself has been slammed for anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation that she has supported.

As what her placement as VP will mean for Biden’s cabinet, many believe that her poor performance in the vice-presidential debate against Mike Pence, despite being favoured by the moderator and given extra opportunities to speak as Pence repeatedly got cut-off in the midst of landing substantial blows to her credibility, is a sign that next president is going to have a gaping hole in the credibility and functionality of his team. The debate revealed her to be spineless towards China, cold and insincere, and relatively unlikable through her refusal to answer major political issues forwarded during the debate. She revealed her extremist views on the environment and taxation and, on multiple occasions, was found to be incompetent and left speechless, unable to answer questions about packing the supreme court, how she would improve relations with China, and fracking.

Fortunately, with Biden as president, and previous relations to Canada and prime minister Justin Trudeau still in place, the economic ties between the U.S. and Canada are believed to remain stable during this pandemic.

Biden will be sworn into office in January 2021, as the 46th President of the United States and will be faced with the monumental task of uniting a divided country, red and blue, rural and urban, White and Black, all with an incumbent president who will be fighting this election across America for another two months.



28 million

total tweets were made in support of #EndSARS in October.

Rihanna • Kanye West • Beyonce • Naomi Campbell • Nicki Minaj • John Boyega • Chance the Rapper

Numerous celebrities, actors and artists have spoken out in their support for #EndSARS, using their platforms to raise awareness for the issue.



EXTERNALS

## Nigerian Citizens Protest the SARS Police Unit

**Above:** A group of people holding banners gather to protest against brutality of Nigerian Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Nigeria in London, UK. *(Hasan Esen/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images)*

By Joe McDermott  
Staff Writer

Outside a hotel, a man is shot as stricken bystanders look on in distress. Members of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, commonly called SARS, take another life in the Nigerian streets.

This was the catalyst for the onset of widespread demonstrations calling for government action against police brutality across the West African nation, where many specifically requested that the SARS police unit be abolished. Resistance had been met with police response, where supporters of SARS claim the unit essential to maintaining order and security for Nigerian citizens. By October 22, more than 56 people had perished due to the violence exemplified by the squad.

The unit, established in 1992, initially intended to reduce the rampant crime escalating in many of the country's major cities such as Lagos and Abuja. In an attempt to maximize efficacy, SARS officers operated covertly, wearing plain clothes and orchestrating spontaneous stop and searches. Lack of regulation

**[Buhari] has committed the greatest atrocity. No one has massacred the youth of Nigeria like this.**

**Oyedoyin Olajide**, Nigerian resident of London to CNN

and supervision of the unit prompted some members to engage in illegal activities while remaining unopposed. These activities included illegal arrests, extrajudicial killings, brutalization and sexual assault — all of which classified as human rights violations.

A notable fuel for the outrage exhibited in Nigeria's streets was the role of social media in publicizing their plight. Use of the hashtag #EndSARS, which has been in circulation since as early as 2017, served as a primary promotional method. Individuals from around the world have henceforth expressed solidarity with the demonstrators, as well they have communicated with protesters to support their efforts. The "End SARS" movement has offered a remarkable example of how social media can be used as a tool for freedom and change.

Following a week's worth of intensive pressure for government accountability, authorities were compelled to take action. SARS was immediately disbanded on October 11, days after the tightening of restrictions on the unit. However, protesters remained skeptical — Nigeria has long-witnessed a succession of empty promises concerning systemic change. The corruption endemic to Nigerian politics has significantly diminished confidence in the authorities. Pledges to reform SARS began in 2015 yet to this day no changes have been made, and a vast number of Nigerians remain unlawfully persecuted. Many of the most recent demonstrations relate primarily to the Nigerian government's

refusal to enact change, extending far beyond the issue of SARS.

Many social justice advocates identify the SARS unit as yet another remnant of Africa's colonial history and recognize the recent response as a demand for justice and liberation, not unlike the recent situations observed in the west. Independence from British rule in 1960 marked Nigeria as its own state, but the disturbance created under colonizers persisted, leading the nation down a path of military regimes and illiberal democracies. The current president Muhammadu Buhari himself was once a leader of one such regime in the 1980s. It could be that Nigeria's youth refuse to tolerate the past wrongs.

### IN DEPTH: HOW DID SARS BECOME CORRUPT?

Officials point to Nigeria's rising poverty rate when identifying one cause of the lawlessness amongst SARS members. These disparities resulted in widespread corruption, but also incentivized police officers to look out for themselves rather than other citizens, leading to the abuse of power that exists today.

With the Nigerian youth mobilizing once more in a nation built through dissent, authorities take note of the challenge they face as the world witnesses a historic crisis from within the largest African state.

### BY THE NUMBERS

86%

of plastic in Canada is dumped into landfills. Only 9% is recycled.

57

million single-use plastic straws are thrown away by Canadians each day.

700

Nearly 700 species are threatened by plastic ocean pollution.



In BC, microplastics pose a particular danger towards local wildlife such as salmon and whales, as well as Indigenous groups.

EXTERNALS

## Canada's Single-Use Plastics Ban

**Above:** University student Hannah Kosick holds microplastics picked up from T'aalan St'ang beach in Haida Gwaii, British Columbia. *(Conner McDowell/Ocean Wise Aquablog)*

### WHAT ABOUT COVID-19?



The Trudeau administration has specified that the single-use plastic ban will not affect COVID-19 PPE, but urge citizens to keep in mind the effect that medical plastics may have on the environment. Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson says that provinces have committed to responsible PPE disposal so far.

as all businesses will be provided ample time for adjustment. The Liberals reason this is the case, reminding the nation that talks of reducing plastic use had begun well before the announcement on October 7. "It's a commitment we made two years ago," the Prime Minister said.

Trudeau also has emphasized the presence of innovation in Canadian industries. He referred to the transition from styrofoam to cardboard fast-food containers as an example of this phenomenon.

For some, however, objection to the ban is directed at the timing. The concerns mounting over the ban pertain to the expectations for businesses during the pandemic and economic recovery. Currently a large proportion of businesses utilize disposable plastic products for safety and cost reasons. Small businesses in particular have expressed their criticism of the ban, where alternatives to the banned plastics prove exceptionally expensive in comparison. Those who oppose the Liberals' decision assert how it will further damage restaurants which have suffered great losses throughout the pandemic. The Trudeau government claims that businesses can adapt to these changes within the time-frame laid out last month.

When contacted, METRO stated their plan entails "waste management and optimization of packaging and printed materials" and that they are "finalizing a packaging

and printed materials policy [which] will help [them] continue to move forward in the field and help reduce the waste associated with packaging." They assured their strategies are effective and evidence-based, stressing that they "rely on sound research, rigorous methodologies and recognized approaches" to develop initiatives, listing life cycle analysis and circular economy as chief examples.

Representative from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business Muriel Protzer issued her comments on the timing of the ban, saying that "it's very important that the federal government make it absolutely clear to businesses what the regulations are and also help them in finding new products to replace their single-use items with". Protzer does however recognize the national standard approach in that it ensures consistency — without this no progress would be made in combating the climate crisis. Additional worries that such an abrupt change for businesses will spur on inflation due to increased production costs also surround the discussion of the ban.

Most Canadians accept that the country is due for environmental changes. Trudeau himself has acknowledged that "Canadians know there is far too much plastic going into our landfills and not being recycled". But still the new decision has not resonated with all citizens and businesses in the way the government believed it would.



<b>2020:</b> 4-2 against Tampa Bay Rays	<b>1965:</b> 4-3 against Minnesota Twins	<b>1955:</b> 4-3 against New York Yankees
<b>1988:</b> 4-1 against Oakland Athletics	<b>1963:</b> 3-0 against New York Yankees	Although this may have been the Dodgers' first World Series in several decades, the team has had plenty of previous experience when it comes to taking home the championship.
<b>1981:</b> 4-2 against New York Yankees	<b>1959:</b> 4-2 against Chicago White Sox	



EXTERNALS

# LA Dodgers Capture First World Series Since 1988

**Above:** Dodgers celebrate Tuesday night after winning their first World Series title since 1988 in a 3-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 6 at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. *(Wally Skalij/Los Angeles Times)*

By Nicholas Tazzeo  
Staff Writer

32 years. That is how long the World Series drought was for the Los Angeles Dodgers. That might not seem like a big number in terms of age, but in sports, 32 years without a championship is considered an extremely long time. After numerous failed attempts to win a World Series, the Dodgers finally captured their 7th World Series championship in 2020, which might just be their best win of all time.

It all started with Andrew Friedman, the president of the Dodgers. Admittedly, he had some players on the team ready for him when he got there, but if it wasn't for him they never would have acquired star right fielder and 2018 NL MVP winner Mookie Betts from the Boston Red Sox, Max Muncy, AJ Pollack, and they never would have drafted their up-and-coming ace, Walker Buehler, out of Vanderbilt in 2015. Accompanying those players are 4 time Cy Young winner, left-handed ace Clayton Kershaw, 2019 NL MVP winner Cody Bellinger. With legendary former Red Sox outfielder Dave Roberts as the manager, you have a team that is destined for success. Friedman previously built the Tampa Bay Rays rom the ground up by signing key free agents and smart drafting before he got to Los Angeles, which made for an interesting narrative for this year's World Series.

As the season started, the Dodgers were the favourites in the World Series. The Tampa Bay Rays were not. They had a good lineup and pitching depth, but for them to be able to get through the hard-hitting New York Yankees and the extremely talented Houston Astros in the American League was thought to be impossible for Tampa Bay. Every series that the Rays were in for this postseason, they were not favoured. But Tampa Bay overcame the odds to make it to their franchise's 2nd World Series while trying to win their 1st. The Dodgers beat the young San Diego Padres and the high-scoring Atlanta Braves in the NLDS and the NLCS to advance to their franchise's 21st World Series while trying to win their 7th.

... it feels like it right now with all these Dodger fans around. To see how happy these fans are, they've been waiting a long time, too... It's just a special feeling.

Clayton Kershaw, LA Dodgers pitcher on the team's win

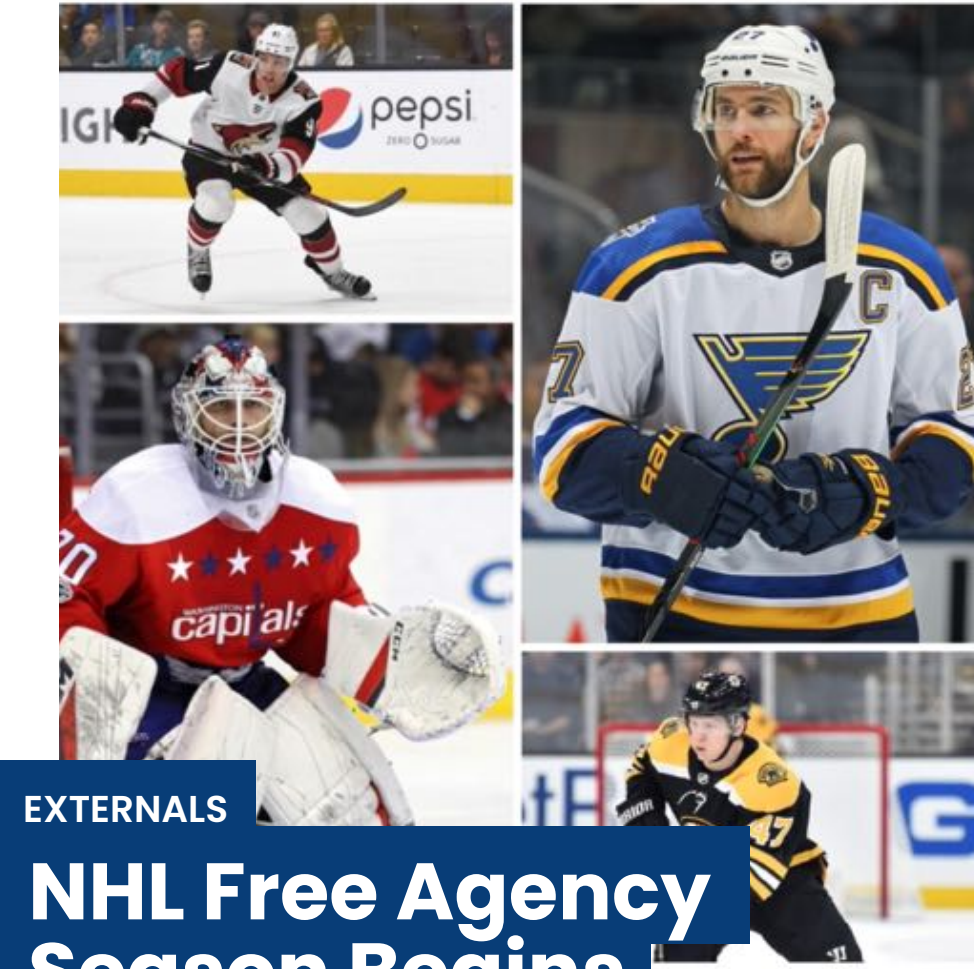
Game 1 was a Dodgers hitting clinic plus brilliant pitching from Clayton Kershaw to take a 1-0 series lead while Game 2 the Rays won to tie the series. In Game 3, the Dodgers dominated the same way they did in Game 1 with brilliant pitching and hitting to win the game 6-2 and take a 2-1 series lead. Game 4 will be remembered as one of the most enter-



**Above:** Dodgers pitcher Julio Urías celebrates after defeating the Rays. *(Robert Gauthier/Los Angeles Times)*

taining games in MLB history because of an error that happened at home plate which caused the Rays star player Randy Arozarena to slide in for the winning run to tie up the series. Game 5 was another brilliantly pitched game from Clayton Kershaw which led his team to victory and in the 6th and final game, his team won it all in a 3-1 low-scoring game.

Overall, the Dodgers are going to savor the moment and the off-season, which they are spending as world champions. They are going to be a force to be reckoned with for years to come in the MLB.



EXTERNALS

# NHL Free Agency Season Begins

**Above, clockwise from top left:** NHL players Taylor Hall, Alex Pietrangelo, Torey Krug and Braden Holtby. *(various)*

By Joely Stockl  
Staff Writer

As we await the start of the 2020-2021 National Hockey League season, we have headed into free agency, which officially began on October 9th at 12:00 PM. Free agency is the time of year when salaries and terms of new player contracts are negotiated. Players may also decide not to sign with their original teams, so that they can test out the free agent market. This is where teams from around the league are free to negotiate and sign with players who did decide to test out the market. In 2020, free agency was slow moving, and there are still many impactful players looking for deals today. Around the league, there were many big fish up for grabs, who have now been signed. Those such as Alex Pietrangelo who has signed a massive 7 year, \$61.6 million contract with the Vegas Golden Knights, Taylor Hall who unexpectedly signed a contract with the Buffalo Sabres for one year for a total of \$8 million, and Torey Krug who signed a 7 year contract with the St. Louis Blues worth \$45.5 million. Let's look and see how the 7 Canadian teams did in this year's Free agency:

Calgary Flames

After the Calgary Flames were knocked out of the first round of the 2020 NHL Playoffs, it was clear there were many positions they needed to improve, and goaltending was one of those positions. Cam Talbot was going

to be released by the Flames in free agency. It turned out that Jacob Markstrom, who had two outstanding previous seasons playing with the Vancouver Canucks, would sign a 6 year, \$6 million per year contract with the Flames. Other notable signings for the Flames were defenseman Chris Tanev, who also played with the Canucks last season, as well as forwards Josh Leivo and Dominik Simon who will help fill out their forward depth.

Edmonton Oilers

The Edmonton Oilers, who have two of the NHL's big superstars, Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl, made some important signings this offseason. Perhaps the most notable was defenseman Tyson Barrie, who was signed by the Oilers for a one year deal where he will make \$3.75 million. Barrie will add some much needed offense on the back end, especially if he gets top minutes playing alongside the two top stars. Edmonton also managed to sign Kyle Turris, who will likely fill in the 3rd line center position behind McDavid and Draisaitl.

Montreal Canadiens

The Montreal Canadiens were somewhat quiet this offseason, but it was rumoured they were negotiating with many top players; however, it all fell through. Two significant players the Canadiens picked up were wingers Tyler Toffoli and Josh Anderson. While Toffoli was signed as a free agent, Josh Anderson was acquired through a

## WHAT'S CHANGED?

COVID-19 has noticeably interfered with the NHL. For one, an extended Stanley Cup season pushed free agency season back from July to November. The salary cap is around \$81.5 million USD, due to the decrease in revenue.

trade for center Max Domi. Both wingers were a much needed boost in offensive production for Montreal.

Ottawa Senators

The Ottawa Senators, a team who is at the tail end of their rebuild, acquired some much needed players. Most importantly, they signed two-time Stanley Cup winning goaltender, Matt Murray. This is a huge addition for the Senators as their goals against has been a concern. Other notable signings include winger Evgeni Dadanov and center Alex Galchenyuk, who will most likely fit in on the second or third lines.

Toronto Maple Leafs

The Toronto Maple Leafs had a much-needed successful off-season as they improved two major areas in their lineup: defense and physicality. They signed a top pairing defenseman to play with Morgan Rielly, TJ Brodie who signed a 4 year, \$20 million dollar deal. They also signed a depth defenseman who is likely to play on the 3rd pair in Zach Bogosian. Toronto acquired Wayne Simmonds, Jimmy Vesey, and Joe Thornton among others to build their forward depth and fill gaps in their offense. Specifically, 41-year-old Joe Thornton should add some much wanted character and leadership in the Leafs locker room.

Vancouver Canucks

This free agency, the Vancouver Canucks gave up a lot more than they acquired. Many say that the Canucks are now looking like a worse team than they were in this year's playoffs, but they hope to remain top contenders in the Western Conference. The only notable name that the Canucks signed this offseason is Stanley Cup champion Braden Holtby. Holtby came from the Washington Capitals, where he won a cup as the starting goaltender.

Winnipeg Jets

The Winnipeg Jets, perhaps the quietest Canadian team this offseason, did not make any notable signings. The only impactful player they acquired was in a trade from the Vegas Golden Knights. They got a veteran centre in Paul Stastny, who returns back to the Jets after playing two seasons in Vegas. Stastny should be a familiar player to the organization and be able to contribute right away.



By Anne Fu  
Editor-in-Chief

This November 11th, Canadians dedicated a solemn day of recognition to the nation's veterans on the 102nd anniversary of the armistice of World War I. However, few knew about the equally significant holiday that precedes it: November 8th, National Aboriginal Veterans' Day. Since its establishment in 1994 by the Winnipeg City Council, the celebration has been adopted across the country. The annual event reminds Canadians to consider the contributions of Aboriginal soldiers alongside those of their non-Aboriginal counterparts, and the long-standing history of Indigenous involvement in the Canadian military.

Although Indigenous people were not granted full citizenship until 1960, they still enlisted heavily in the military to fight for Canada during World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Those who wanted to join had to volunteer for duty, as they were ineligible for conscription due to their non-citizen status. Their reasons for serving were diverse, be it out of patriotism, a desire to honour traditions of warriorhood, to observe their treaties with Canada and Great Britain out of an expectation for these nations to return the favour, or simply a steady income and a chance to see the world. Aboriginal enlistment rates were the highest per capita out of any ethnic group in Canada, with some 7,000 First Nations people serving across these three wars — although historians estimate this number could be as high as 12,000 in reality, as the original figures did not include Inuit, Metis or non-status Indigenous people who enlisted.

On the battlefield, Aboriginal soldiers brought valuable hunting, tracking, and fighting skills to the warfront. Within their regiments, Indigenous and non-Indigenous people interacted with each other on a daily basis, which served to counteract many of the negative stereotypes about Aboriginal Canadians that non-Aboriginal people had been exposed to prior to joining the military. Several Indigenous servicemen and women were recognized for their bravery in World War I, including Francis Pegahmabow, the most decorated Indigenous soldier in Canadian history; Louis Norwest, an Albertan Metis who became one of the most famed snipers in the entire Canadian corps; and Edith Anderson Monture, a Six Nations nurse who served with the American military treating soldiers in France.

During World War II, Indigenous people continued to play a key role in the war. Cree 'code talkers' such as Charles 'Checker' Tomkins used their native languages to transmit sensitive messages in a way that would resist enemy decryption; while overseas, soldiers like Ojibwa Sergeant

IN DEPTH: HOW THE HOLIDAY CAME TO BE



Randi Gage of the Chippewa First Nation organized the first Aboriginal Veterans Day in Manitoba, 1998. The event was inaugurated next year by the Winnipeg City Council, and has since been adopted on a national scale.



EXTERNALS

Remembering Indigenous Veterans

Above: A beaded poppy by an Indigenous artist that symbolizes the contributions and sacrifices Indigenous veterans have made to the Armed Forces. (Duncan McCue/Twitter)

Tommy Prince provided Allied forces with indispensable intelligence by carrying out reconnaissance missions in enemy territory. On the homefront, Aboriginal people continued with their involvement by collecting resources, money, and food to support the war effort. Since 1945, Indigenous people have continued to serve in the military in conflicts such as in Korea and Afghanistan, or use their knowledge of the land to help patrol remote areas of the country as a part of the Canadian Rangers today.

Despite the vital contributions that Indigenous people have made to the Canadian military, their treatment at the hands of the government in the years following remains contentious. During the war years, many tribal members opposed active recruitment or petitioned for their soldiers to be brought back from the front; while others criticized the government's decision to reappropriate 'idle' reserve lands for food production during the war. Following World War I and II, returning Indigenous veterans had their services and benefits denied or lost, their lands carved up to give to settlers for their service, and their rights stripped away by their loss of Indian Status. To this day, a great number of Indigenous soldiers have gone unrecognized for their service, including men like Prince — who had been a highly-decorated soldier during World War II and the Korean War, but ultimately had to sell his medals to support himself. Prince died homeless in a hospital in 1977.

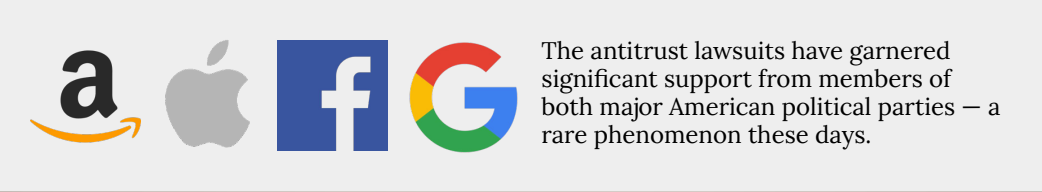
NOV 8 DID YOU KNOW? According to its original organizer, Randi Gage, November 8th was selected as Aboriginal Veterans' Day because the number resembles the Metis infinity symbol sideways.

In 2000, the federal government apologized for their prior mistreatment of Indigenous veterans and offered a repayment of \$20,000 to every living veteran. For some, however, this recognition was all too little, and came all too late.

"Nobody really wants to take [the money], but they're too damn old to wait," said Grand Chief Howard Anderson of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association, in an interview from 2000. "The lawsuit was never about money. It was about honor. Most of the veterans are gone now, and the ones who are still alive simply want to be acknowledged as equal to the rest of the veterans of the Canadian forces."

Although 20 years have passed since that recompensation, Indigenous veterans continue to play a key role in the Canadian military, both in the past and the present. This November 8th and 11th, Canadians are invited to reflect on the role Indigenous soldiers have played in the military, to remember their stories, and to examine the state of Aboriginal affairs today.

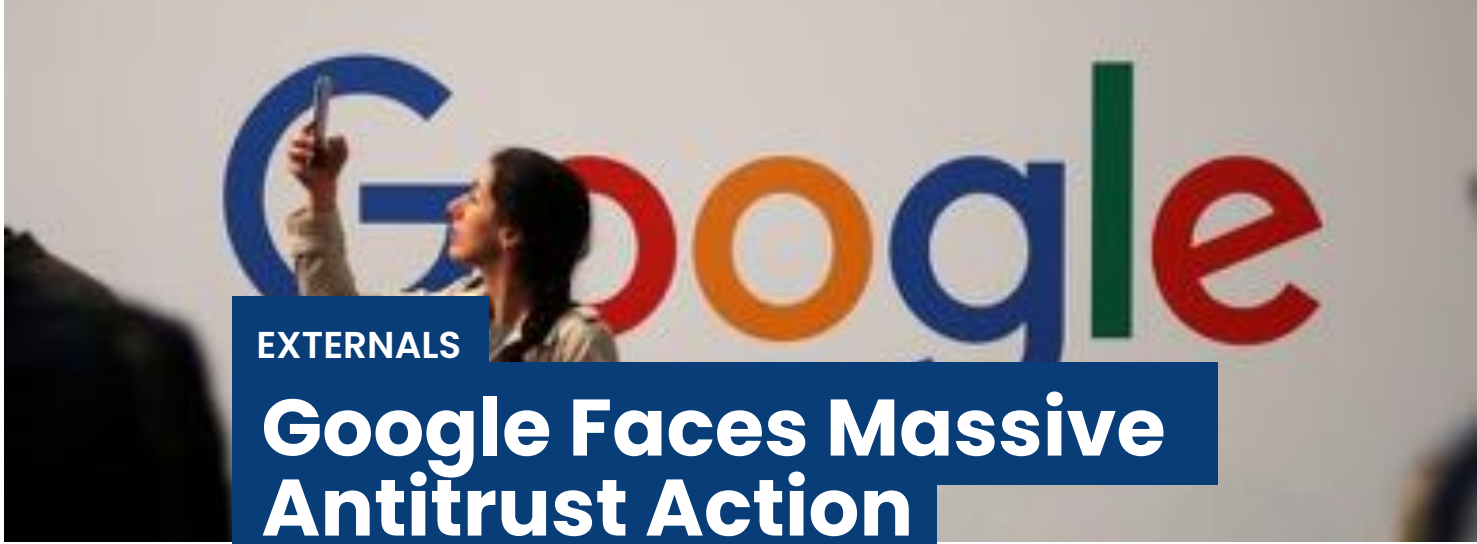
A COMMON ENEMY?



The antitrust lawsuits have garnered significant support from members of both major American political parties — a rare phenomenon these days.



See more coverage on technology corporations and cybersecurity on pg 21.



Above: Google is one of the companies the US Department of Justice has its eye on, for carrying out monopolistic practices that shut out the competition. (Dado Ruvic/Reuters)

By Gavin Liu  
Staff Editor & Writer

A battle is being waged by the American legal system. This adversary is virtually unavoidable, showing up in every facet of our online lives. Can this gatekeeper of knowledge be held accountable, and if so, what about the other masterminds of the field?

America's antitrust lawsuit against Google is shaking up the tech world, and showing that the government is finally ready to start holding large tech companies accountable.

In mid-October, the Department of Justice filed an antitrust lawsuit against the tech giant, attacking the most important and influential part of Google's business model: their search engines. The main crux of the DOJ's argument is that Google is anti-competitive by controlling a monopoly on search engines. By paying other companies to use Google, like Apple, they can effectively shut out all other possible competition. Furthermore, prosecutors claim that with the amount of people using their search engines, Google now has an overwhelmingly greater pool of data to develop their search-based advertising.

This case will most likely take a very long time, and may not amount to much. Google is a multi-billion dollar business, and has access to the best lawyers and legal services around. This case will most likely last multiple years, and there is not guarantee that anything will change or happen to Google. In the Obama administration, an investigation that went nowhere was conducted by the Federal Trade Commission. This case also has many similarities to the Microsoft case that

[Google] has maintained its power through exclusionary practices that are harmful to competition.

Jeffrey A. Rosen, US Deputy Attorney General

happened 22 years ago in 1998. Microsoft was originally to be split into two companies but after the decision was appealed, they were instead given a set of guidelines and rules to follow. Jeffrey A. Rosen, the deputy attorney general, has took over for the head of the antitrust division at the DOJ due to Google being a legal client in the past. Rosen has stated that there is no rush in this case, as he, like everyone else, is very aware that Google is going to use everything they have to fight this case.

With the government pursuing this latest case, it continues to build up the narrative of both institutions and people holding large tech and social media companies accountable for their actions. Two major examples come to mind. The ground-breaking documentary, *The Social Dilemma*, and the tech giant summit held earlier this year in July.

Firstly, Netflix's new documentary has quite a clear message, bringing to light the AI used to manipulate you, specifically through personalized ads. This comes from both current and past tech company workers. This documentary is clearly trying to tell you how and why you are getting influenced, and why you need to put your technology away. This documentary is trying to tell viewers to think about what this giant companies are doing, and how protect yourself from their influence. Furthermore, as a lot of the information is from past and current tech company workers, it shows the detrimental effects of social

media on an even greater scale.

Secondly, the government is trying to get involved. This meeting in July was conducted by The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust. The CEOs of Amazon, Google, Facebook, and Apple were called by this committee to answer questions and testify as a group. This meeting was the complete opposite of the 2018 fiasco with Zuckerberg, where Capitol Hill looked like a fool while trying to question the Facebook CEO. The subcommittee, chaired by David Cicilline, a Rhode Island Democrat, asked scathing questions with incredibly detailed examples of the anti-competitive behaviour of these tech giants. Zuckerberg, Bezos, Pichai, and Cook were grilled on the behaviour their companies and the committee came very well prepared, delivering devastating blows and revealing incredible revelations and paper trails. This was one of the major instances of how the government is trying to stop the monopolistic behaviour of modern tech giants, and has lead to the recent Google antitrust lawsuit.

So the government is trying to hold monopolistic tech companies accountable. What now? These companies and their tech hold so much power over the industry and over consumers. They have resources to fight back and continue operating in the status quo. Even if this Google lawsuit is to amount to anything, it will require multiple to produce any desired result. *The Social Dilemma* also tries to illuminate the predatory behaviour of social media companies. The general public can try to reduce usage, but how effective has this narrative actually been, and is this even possible in this day and age? All we can really do is sit and watch, as these titans of tech battle it out on Capitol Hill.



# Internal News

News on what matters immediately to you, from **Ancaster High School, Hamilton, and the GTA.**

By Lindsay Liu and Sanya Patel  
**Staff Editors & Writers**

Recently, HWDSB launched the initiative *Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild.*, which is primarily focused on student mental health, wellbeing, and creating an inclusive community within the schools. On August 27, principals and vice principals all across the board received an introductory training on this initiative. Just this fall, HWDSB constructed the School of Mental Health Ontario and launched the Mental Health Literacy course which provided educators with information, strategies, and resources to understand and enhance student mental health and well being in school.

*Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild.* is an initiative which is divided into four modules: mental and physical health and wellness, understanding identity and intersectionality, exploring human rights and anti-racism, and empowering action and allyship. This initiative has received a lot of attention on numerous social media platforms primarily twitter. On Twitter, the HWDSB community of educators have used the hashtag #LearnDisruptRebuild to share what they are doing in their schools and classrooms to address the modules within their lesson plan. #LearnDisruptRebuild gives an opportunity to staff and students to address important issues such as racism and mental health.

This initiative was launched for a variety of reasons, including bringing awareness to mental health issues, understanding identity, combating racism, and empowering allyship. Most notably, however, the initiative was launched in response to an issue within HWDSB regarding student trustees and the racism within the board. In August of 2020, Ahona Mehdi, a previous student trustee within HWDSB spoke out regarding the racism within the board, calling it “disgustingly racist.” Mehdi shared her experience on Twitter and gave examples of racism within the board, outlining its “oppressive nature.” Some of her negative experiences included witnessing a white trustee referencing Serena Williams using the n-word, white trustee saying that there was “too much Black leadership,” and white trustee saying that Arabs and Muslims are evil, among many other allegations. Mehdi concluded by saying that the above experiences didn’t “even begin to scratch the surface” of the HWDSB and Ontario boards. Many people on Twitter have responded to Mehdi thanking her for her bravery and for



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# Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild.

#LearnDisruptRebuild

**INTERNALS**

## HWDSB Campaign Targets Board Racism

**Above:** The *Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild.* campaign seeks to curb systemic racism and mental health issues prevalent in HWDSB schools. (Illustration by Rose He/The Royal Gazette)

speaking up, along with several students sharing their similar experiences and thoughts. The HWDSB board has since launched a third-party investigation, with board chair Alex Johnston’s tweeting that they would address these “serious concerns.”



**Ahona Mehdi**  
@AhonaMehdi

Today marks the end of my term as a 2019–2020 @HWDSB Student Trustee.

No, I'm not grateful to have been in this role. In all honesty, it was the most patronizing experience of my life.

I'm beyond grateful to no longer serve as the board's token for student voice & diversity.

As for the HWDSB’s response to this issue and the relation to the current *Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild.* initiative, Mr. Powles, Ancaster High’s

co-head of the humanitarian department was interviewed to find out some more details.

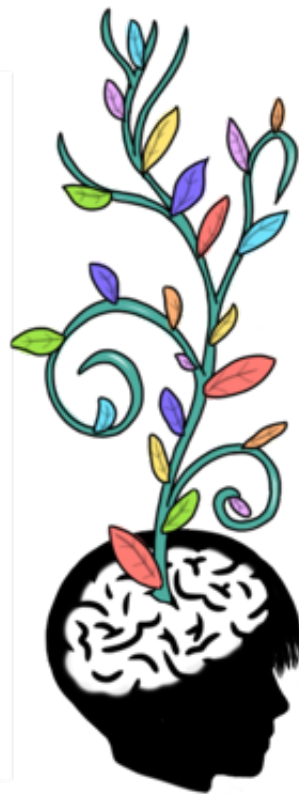
**What do you feel were the main reasons this initiative was launched?**

“I think we’re in the midst of considerable socio-cultural shifts that are forcing a reckoning with many systems that have been in place for a long time, and which require a rethinking of “the way things are”. The *Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild.* initiative is branded well to demonstrate its intent – this is a moment to grow and to do better.”

**What is your opinion on the student trustee issue that may have impacted the board’s decision to do so?**

“I think it always takes considerable courage for young people to stand up to people in positions of authority and to call truth to power. The work has to begin somewhere, so sparking the conversations was a vital moment.”

**What actions have you taken in your classroom/have seen in sc-**



## WHAT DOES IT ENTAIL?

The *Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild.* program provides educational modules and posters for teachers and students, which emphasize the continual process of anti-racist allyship and awareness.

**How do you think the school should bring more attention to this initiative?**

“I am fairly comfortable with, and try to be persistently aware of much of the thinking needed to ensure that my courses are delivered in a way that is inclusive and equitable. Part of this is because of the reading that I do into topics in social justice and equity as well as trying to remain current about topics covered in my classes. For example, in the field of anthropology right now, there are many conversations about “un-colonizing” the discipline, and I have made sure to think about how I present my lessons through that lens.

In the school, a group of teachers and administrators has been meeting every week to discuss issues and topics relevant to, and a part of the Board’s initiative. These conversations have been honest, meaningful, and fruitful.”

**How have your students responded to this initiative? How**

**do you think the school should bring more attention to it?**

“I think that young people in general have a better innate sense of social justice than the generation which precedes them, but oftentimes might not be aware of the deeper socio-cultural or socio-political implications or history of their sensibilities. In my experience, students are very receptive to those conversations, and are eager to learn more.”

**What steps do you think should be taken next in the classroom, school, and board, and do you think other school boards should do something similar?**

“I hope that the need to push for the kinds of changes that the *Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild.* initiative asks for no longer exists in the future. I can only speak for myself here, but my own promise for my classroom is to avoid being performative in my own action.

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**What Happened to Student Council?**

For me, it’s not about checking a box, and I welcome the challenge of examining my own practice in order to try to get things right. I would also ask the student body as a whole to engage similarly and to challenge their own understanding. We are all in this together, and we will learn and grow together.”

As of now with regard to next steps, there is no clear plan, but HWDSB seems to be continuing with the initiative within classrooms and across the board.

To conclude, HWDSB’s recent initiative *Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild.* focuses on the mental health and wellbeing of all students. During the pandemic this is a resource needed more than ever before due to the drastic change in the education system and students’ daily lives. This initiative is on the path to hopefully making a positive impact on students, classrooms, and the community and it will continue to support staff and students during this difficult time.

By Caitlin Nequia  
**Staff Writer**

**INTERNALS**

## Daylight Savings Ends on November 1



**Above:** Daylight savings time is an annual practice where clocks in the northern hemisphere are set forward an hour in spring, and back an hour in fall. (Illustration by Noor Menhel/The Royal Gazette)

**Daylight savings first started** in Germany in 1915, with Britain, much of Europe, and Canada quickly adopted it. Though first enacted in 1915, the idea of daylight savings was thought about for more than a century. Benjamin Franklin suggested the idea more than once while he was a French emissary in the 1770s, but nobody took it seriously. During the Second World War Britain reinstated a different type of daylight saving, where the clocks were two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time during the summer. The time shift doesn’t end in summer because clocks would be rolled back to one hour ahead of GMT in winter.

In Canada, each province must decide if they want to use daylight time, so some, but not all, authorities in Canada and the USA move their clocks ahead one hour in March and back one hour in November. In 2007, the US legislation changed the start of daylight time to three weeks earlier in spring and regular time a week later in fall. This change was to save energy, since people didn’t need to have their lights on for so long. Doing this cut down carbon emissions by 10.8 million tonnes. Canada followed suit shortly after, saying “it was essential to coordinate with the U.S,” or else it would have been too much of a headache to trade and/or travel. Most of Saskatchewan hasn’t seen daylight time since 1966.



BY THE NUMBERS

154 COVID-19 cases in Hamilton schools as of November 23rd

703 school-related COVID-19 cases in all Ontario schools as of November 24th

337 total active cases in Hamilton as of November 24th



**Above:** A grid of socially distanced desks in the East Wing Cafeteria, which also functions as the red quarantine zone's study hall room. (Ms. Bentham/The Royal Gazette)

By Rose He  
Graphic Designer & Writer

On November 4th, Hamilton Public Health Services (HPHS) informed HWDSB that at Ancaster High School, a fellow Royal has tested positive for COVID-19.

Principal Beth Woof distributed a letter for Ancaster High families to discuss how the HPHS has assessed that this student did not have any close contact with other students or staff. They stated that the student was not in the building when there could have been a risk of exposure. Due to the low risk to others, Principal Woof comments that students can still continue to attend school unless directed otherwise by the HPHS. This is why the student's colour zone was not stated, as it was deemed unnecessary.

On November 5th and 7th, two other fellow Royals were tested positive for COVID-19. Unlike the first case, the school administrators notified all impacted families, staff members, and students associated with the confirmed case that they will have to self-isolate for 14 days. The HPHS has determined that there is no epidemiological link between all of the said cases, so an outbreak will not be declared.

With HWDSB's thorough cleaning and disinfecting protocol, additional measures may be taken due

to Ancaster High's first case. To confirm, any students or staff will only be allowed into the school environment once these measures are complete and when it is completely safe.

To prevent any future exposure of COVID-19 cases within Ancaster High, students with any symptoms related to COVID-19 (even if they are symptoms of common sicknesses), are required to stay home. Informing an absence and the student's symptoms on Safe Arrival (found on the Parent Portal website) is the safest way to do so.

Woof summarized her message to everyone about health priorities and safety:

"Our shared priority is the health and safety of the children and staff in our school community. As we continue to navigate through this pandemic, it will always be our intention to provide you with information that assures you of our preparedness, procedural precautions, and of our ability to provide a safe setting for both children, their families, and educators."

Ancaster High will strive to be as safe as possible and continue to be aware of those around us. 2020 is a dark period for everyone as COVID-19 continues to impact our school lives. On behalf of Ancaster High, we wish our students good health and a quick recovery for anyone who tests positive

for COVID-19. Everyone should take care of themselves and spread positivity; we will get through this together.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

If you're concerned by COVID-19, you're not alone. Seek help:

For mental health and well-being supports, please contact your school or explore the resources at [www.hwdsb.on.ca/mentalhealth](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/mentalhealth)

To book a COVID-19 test (Not recommended for anyone who is not showing symptoms that could be related to COVID-19): [www.HamiltonCovidTest.ca](http://www.HamiltonCovidTest.ca).

Hamilton Public Health COVID-19 hotline: 905-974-9848 or [phscovid19@hamilton.ca](mailto:phscovid19@hamilton.ca)

HWDSB Helps app: <https://bit.ly/2DhmURJ>

Learn about COVID-19 in Hamilton: <https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus>

Learn about HWDSB's school reopening precautions: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/covid19/>



See more coverage on the state of national hockey during COVID-19 on pg 8.

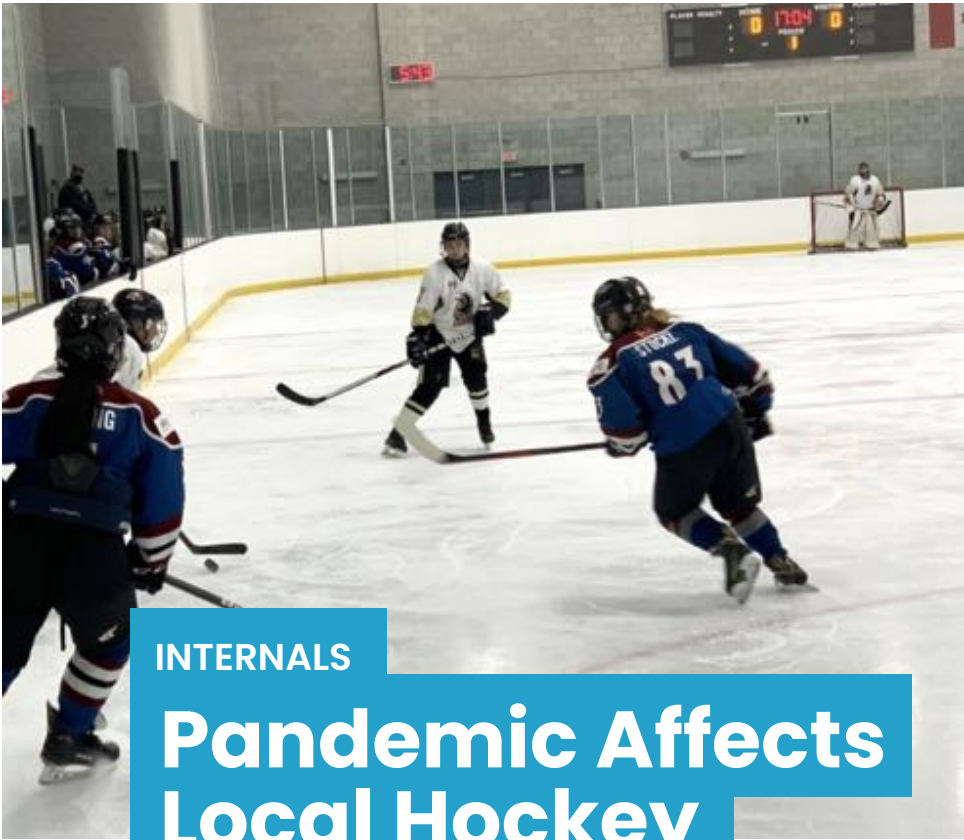
By Joely Stockl  
Staff Writer

2020 has been one crazy, unpredictable year, and it has changed our lives in so many different ways. The coronavirus pandemic has made it hard for us to do some of the things we usually love to do as high school students, and one of the biggest losses has been sports. Most sports in Ancaster were cancelled back in March, and this left a lot of athletes with no sources of physical activity, and decreased a lot of socialization that we would usually get from playing sports. The off-season for some sports in 2020 was about 6 months, which is way longer than any typical season. Since schools have returned, more and more sports have been brought back, albeit safely of course. Sports must be adjusted to fit the rules and provincial laws regarding COVID-19, but for students, it is remarkable just to have them back at all.

One of the sports that has returned gradually in the Ancaster community is ice hockey. Specifically, the Ancaster Avalanche Girls' Hockey Organization has created a plan that has been in motion since late September to accommodate the rules of the global pandemic. As of November, 3 vs 3 and 4 vs 4 player games are being played at arenas that have allowed play to resume, including Morgan Firestone Arena. Some rules that are being enforced this hockey season include wearing a mask into the arena until you get onto the ice, coming to the arena fully dressed in equipment with the exception of helmet, skates, and gloves; only one spectator per player; sitting 6 feet apart on the bench; and tying skates before going on the ice. Lastly, players are not allowed into the arena until 15 minutes before they go on the ice.

For hockey players like myself, it was a little tough to get adjusted to these new requirements. It was strange going to the arena and not getting to talk with your teammates in the dressing room before a game, or having to wear a mask right up until you walk onto the ice. However, along with everything else this pandemic has caused us to modify in our lives, we adapted to it. On the more positive side of things, it is refreshing to be able to play the sport that myself and so many people love to play once again. We may not be able to go out and watch hockey games like we used to, but it is a great start to have players back out on the ice once more.

...it is refreshing to be able to play the sport that myself and so many people love to play once again.



**Above:** The Ancaster Avalanche team plays against the Flamborough Falcons. (Joely Stockl/The Royal Gazette)

INTERVIEWS WITH CURRENT PLAYERS

Joey Olechno is a 12th grade student at SITE. Eva McCurlie is a 11th grade student at Westdale. Both play for the Ancaster Avalanche Girls' hockey team and talked about how COVID-19 has changed their experiences.

**Q:** How did it feel to get back on the ice again after roughly 6 months?

**JOEY:** Physically, I was very sore the next day, mentally I was very happy to be back.

**EVA:** It felt relieving. To be back on the ice meant hope towards this whole pandemic and the stressful problems we've had to face.

**Q:** Do you think that hockey during the pandemic is as social as it was last season?

**JOEY:** I think a huge aspect of playing and bonding as a team is being in the change room and talking beforehand and we no longer have that.

**EVA:** No, I do not. We have limited time to be in the arena and out. It doesn't allow us to really talk to our teammates and interact with the families. I also think that without the same rules, it limits us from talking to others.

**Q:** Was it hard to get adjusted to the new COVID-19 rules and restrictions in hockey?

**JOEY:** It's definitely an adjustment

that isn't ideal and I'd rather play 3 v 3 than not play at all, but it has been a lot harder to keep up with the pace.

**EVA:** Not not really. From having experience from 3 on 3 before, it was easier to adjust to. I'd say the hardest part is getting enough energy to play the whole game.

**Q:** Do you like playing 3v3 and 4v4?

**JOEY:** It's fun. I've played it before in the summer but I prefer playing 5 on 5.

**EVA:** I like playing 3v3 because it's more intense and quicker paced. I'd rather play 5v5 though.

**Q:** Do you think the new rules and restrictions are too strict? Too laid back? Or do you think they are accurate?

**JOEY:** I think that they're doing a great job at keeping us safe but I think there's a few things they could change in terms of spectators and change rooms.

**EVA:** I think they're doing a good job with the on ice rules but other than that I think that having more than one person from each family should be different.



“ *Isolated. Impersonal. Adventurous. Challenging. Incongruent. Continuous.* ”

When asked to describe the online learning experience in one word, educators had a wide array of answers.



INTERNALS

## Teachers' Perspectives on Online Learning

**Above:** Ms. Bentham works at her desk during socially distanced learning. (Ms. Bentham/The Royal Gazette)

By Vita Rao & Zonna Mir  
Staff Editors & Writers

**Online instruction: waking up** to the seemingly incessant noise of one's alarm blaring, hearing the sweet sound of Microsoft Teams malfunctioning, and time feeling like a changeless loop. That may be an exaggeration, but teaching online, especially during a deadly pandemic, is undeniably strenuous. Teachers have had to make numerous re-adjustments that could both help or hinder the effectiveness of their courses. How are the teachers feeling? What adjustments have they had to make? To answer these questions properly, eight teachers from different departments were interviewed.

Firstly, the teachers were asked what changes they have had to make while teaching their courses. Although the types of changes are mixed, there is one constant: teachers have had to adjust a lot. Whether it's the order of material or the removal of some interactive activities, courses are being taught in very unconventional and unusual ways. As teachers, a vital portion of the class is seeing students; looking at their expressions, creating a community, making their classroom atmosphere feel safe and inviting. With most of their teaching being online, it's harder to form this bond and give their students that same experience. On the other hand, a lot of teachers are learning things about their own courses and the modifications that they can make, allowing them to focus on the most important aspects of their courses.

The second question we asked

teachers was if they found online teaching to be easier or more difficult versus regular classes. We got a pretty mixed response. Some teachers said that although it wasn't harder, it was definitely an adjustment and presented its own challenges. These teachers said they had some more experience using the technology so the transition was much more smooth for them, but technical issues can always occur, no matter how technologically advanced they may be.

Others said it was more difficult since the change from online to in-person was so sudden various things important to teaching became more difficult. Figuring out how to work (and fix) various programs delayed some classes, marking became much more difficult, and most teachers said that the lack of face-to-face communication definitely makes teaching more difficult, since they use students' facial expressions to determine if they are understanding the material, but while looking at student icons on Microsoft Teams, those small clues are gone. In tech classes specifically, Ms. Sanders talked about how students in her classes were losing learning experiences that would have typically been a part of her courses, like group work. Ms. Piccioni describes Phys. Ed courses as "80% participation-based, hands-on learning", which is why it is difficult to emulate that environment online.

With all said, it seems teachers can definitely agree that school during COVID-19 poses unique challenges that they must overcome.

Our final question asked teachers to describe teaching in these

circumstances in one word. Several teachers used the word "challenging" and others used words like "isolated" and "impersonal". These circumstances have challenged teachers in new ways and forced them to adapt to online learning, which is a very new concept for a lot of them. The lack of contact makes it harder for teachers to see whether or not their students are understanding what they are saying, and sitting alone in an empty classroom can feel quite lonely at times.

Another teacher used the word "incongruent". They elaborated, saying that forcing all students and teachers to use this format of learning is incongruent with the complexities of the personalities of students and teachers, and is also incongruent with how teachers have been taught to teach.

However, some teachers described these events as an "adventure" or "continuous". There are many different parts of teaching a course that is continuously changing and developing at a fast rate. Each day, teachers face new problems, find new solutions, and think of new ideas.

Overall, many teachers have faced challenges and are still learning ways to adapt to a new online world. There is still a lot of learning to go, as this is a fairly new process, and teachers are dealing with the obstacles presented to them with diligence and determination. As students, we should remember to be patient and understanding of the nuances that come with such a transition, and support teachers as they do for us.

Psst! Don't forget to follow the Gazette on Instagram to subscribe, read back issues, and catch up on important announcements for the paper. →

@ahsroyalgazette



INTERNALS

## Teacher Insider: Mr. Powles

**Above:** Mr. Powles stands in a library holding a plague doctor mask. (Mr. Powles/The Royal Gazette)

By Zonna Mir  
Staff Writer & Editor

**Mr. Powles is a brand new** Royal who joined the AHS staff this year after several years of working at Orchard Park. He teaches the HSP3U course, better known as SAP, both online and in-person. He also teaches Grade 10 history and has taught the philosophy course as well as the social justice course. To get to know the newest member of the AHS teaching staff, I asked a few questions.

**Why did you decide to become a teacher?**

Mr. Powles actually was considering a job in law after completing university, but began rethinking his plan in his third year. He tells us, "I was dating a girl whose mother was a teacher and thought I would be a good teacher myself. Until then, I really hadn't given it much consideration." This inspired him to apply to Teacher's College. He applied only to Brock University, specifically the Hamilton campus, and also applied to grad school. He decided that whichever school granted him admission first would be the one he would attend. Seeing as he is a teacher now, we are very lucky Brock University accepted him first!

**What is your favourite part about teaching?**

When I asked Mr. Powles abo-

ut his favourite part of teaching, he talked about a specific "thing". He says this "thing" happens when every student is engaged in his lessons, offering discussions and posing questions. Students are not distracted and are focused on the content he is covering. He goes on to say, "Whenever I feel like students are excited by what we're doing in class, I feel like they're going to get more out of it."

**What has been your favourite part of being at AHS so far?**

Due to COVID-19, there have been some restrictions that Mr. Powles says has made this a particularly difficult year to begin teaching at new school. Some notable changes are how many students he sees a day and a lack of club and sports teams. Nonetheless, he calls the students at AHS polite, and continues saying, "...like, at the end of lessons, I get THANKED every day. That's new." He also talks about the strong connections he has made with fellow staff members in the East Wing of the building.

**If you were not a teacher, what would you be?**

Mr. Powles gave 3 careers that he believes he would love, if he were to magically become them:

- Concert promoter
- Sketch comedy writer, like for SNL
- Carpenter

**Any hobbies?**

When there isn't a global pandemic going on, Mr. Powles enjoys going to concerts. Even with a global pandemic, Mr. Powles still enjoys reading and watching movies, although he doesn't consider himself to be a "film buff" (it sounds a bit snobby). He also enjoys video games, and played a lot of Red Dead Redemption II during the pandemic.

**Mr. Powles' favourite...**

**Foods?**

He doesn't have one! Mr. Powles said he enjoys a lot of foods and is also quite willing to try new cuisines. However, he does not like mushrooms. He says, "I've been told I'm wrong for that, but can't seem to get past it."

**Musical artists?**

Mr. Powles' favourite band is Radiohead, although he says The Beatles are a close second. The bands that would make up the rest of the spots on his favourite music artist list would likely change on a day-to-day basis.

**Sport?**

Baseball! Mr. Powles says baseball is his favourite sport to play and to watch, but he is also a fan of watching hockey.

**Course to Teach?**

SAP (HSP3U) and Philosophy (H2T4U)! SAP is short for Introduction to Sociology, Anthropology, and Psychology, and is a course offered for grade 11 students. Philosophy, although not offered in person at Ancaster High, is available online for grade 12 students.

**And finally, what is something you would like to do at the school in the future? (coach a team, run a club, introduce new courses, etc.)**

At Orchard Park, Mr. Powles coached the Varsity Baseball team for 15 years, and although there is a bit of a rivalry between the two teams, if there was a chance he could coach the AHS team, his answer is maybe.

Course-wise, Mr. Powles would want to get the Equity and Social Justice course offered at AHS next year.

**Whenever I feel like students are excited by what we're doing in class, I feel like they're going to get more out of it.**

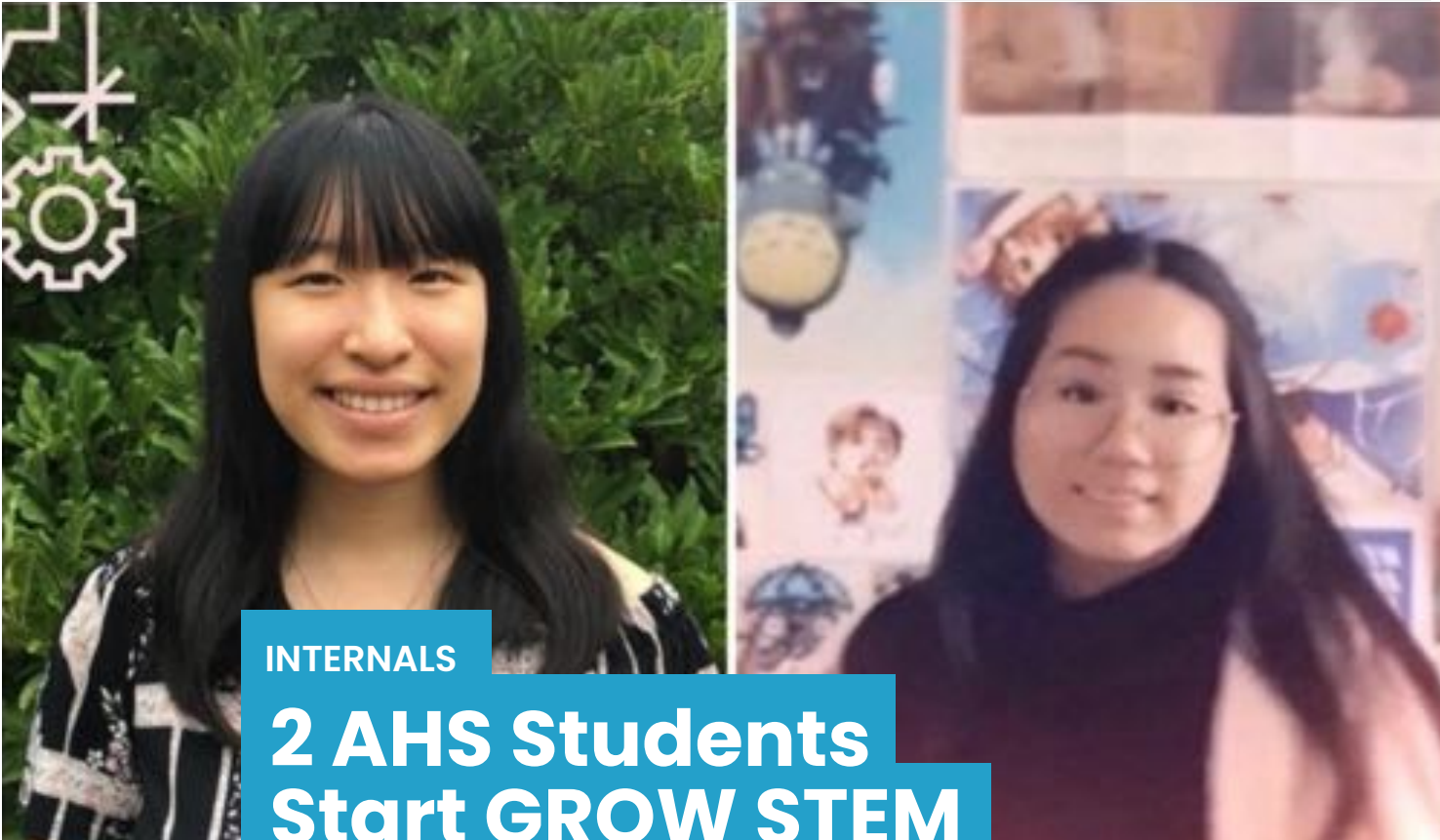
**Mr. Powles**, on what his favourite part of teaching is



**NOVEMBER 27-29** GROW STEM is a 3-day conference that runs from 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM, 5:00 PM and 2:00 PM on each night respectively.

Get more info on GROW STEM including scheduling, registration, and more! →

@growstem



INTERNALS

## 2 AHS Students Start GROW STEM

**Above:** Leanne Tran (left) and Michelle Luu (right) founded GROW STEM to help connect female and non-binary students to opportunities in science and engineering through an online conference. *(GROW STEM/Instagram)*

By Jocelyn Mattka  
Staff Writer & Editor

Are you a girl interested in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics? If you are, you're in luck! This month, after many preceding months of preparation, the GROW STEM conference is finally open for registration. The conference, organized by Ancaster High School students Leanne Tran and Michelle Luu, specifically targets high school girls interested in studying in the STEM fields. After their own personal experiences noting the predominantly male base that STEM events usually attract, Leanne and Michelle decided to start GROW STEM, which stands for Girls Rising to Opportunities Within STEM.

During a meeting with both organizers, Tran and Luu told the *Royal Gazette* what the GROW STEM conference is all about.

"We're going to have a variety of women from across the STEM field, from Ontario universities like Ontario Tech, Ryerson, Waterloo and McMaster," Luu said, detailing how the conference will run. "They're going to hold interactive workshops and student panels for participants to enjoy and ask questions."

The event will be running from November 27th to 29th and will be held all over Zoom. While an online platform

may not have been the preferred medium to deliver the conference through, it provides the benefits of inclusivity and accessibility, which falls right in line with the ideals that fuel GROW STEM.

Both girls are very excited about the possibilities this conference could have for the community. The idea of "discovering hidden talent and potential" is especially appealing to Leanne, although the idea that "Ryerson is giving [them] lego plushies" to give out as "swag," is a close second for the event's most exciting aspects!

Another inspiring part of the conference is "just being able to help out girls in [the] community to find a possible passion that they may be scared of because [STEM is] typically so male-dominated, is great to see," Michelle added.

While the conference is currently planned as a one-time event, Leanne and Michelle have been discussing the potential of a second event. "At the beginning, we contacted a lot of different schools and we can't have them all in this conference, so we hope to have another one in the spring. And because a lot of our ambassador team has taken interest in the medical field, we want to hold something related to that," Michelle explained. She refers to their "ambassador team", which is a group of youth put together to help spread the word and bring awareness to the conference.

In terms of support, they have been able to get sponsorship for the conference from Rising Youth, Taking it Global, the government of Canada and Canada Service Corps. Rising Youth is especially applicable to high school students looking to get involved in their community. The organization "provides microgrants to youth across Canada to create community service projects", Leanne explained. In addition, they have been supported by The Net, a youth empowerment group run through Ancaster Community Services, which can be contacted through the Instagram handle @thenetacs.

...because a lot of our ambassador team has taken interest in the medical field, we want to hold something related to that.

**Michelle Luu, on the possibility of a follow-up conference**

For those interested in attending, the registration form for the GROW STEM conference can be found at the Instagram handle @growstem. You can also get in touch with both Leanne and Michelle through this account. Remember, the first 30 participants to sign up are getting free swag. This is a great opportunity for girls interested in STEM to build some confidence; so come out, learn, make some new friends, and earn your swag this November 27th!

## WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR?

- Even though it's still early in the year, the Student Ambassadors Team has been hard at work making this year as engaging as ever.
- Grade 9 Night
  - Spirit Week
  - Fall Photo Contest
  - Halloween Costume Contest
- Talent Show
  - Holiday Card Art Contest
  - ...and more to come!



INTERNALS

## What Happened to Student Council?

**Above:** Members of the Grad Committee including Ms. Turner, Jocelyn Mattka and Madeline Dilabbio meet virtually. (not pictured: Anne Fu, Haya Alsami, Addison Massey) *(Anne Fu/The Royal Gazette)*

By Jocelyn Mattka  
Staff Writer & Editor

The 2020-2021 school year has brought about more changes than one person could ever keep track of. While the obvious changes are hard to ignore, other changes, such as restructurings of specific clubs and groups, are not quite as noticeable. One of the groups that has undergone a significant restructuring is Student Council. In fact, Student Council has changed so drastically that it is not even called Student Council anymore. Officially, there is no Student Council, but instead, the Student Ambassadors Team. There are a couple of major differences between the former Student Council and this new leadership team.

The single biggest difference is the actual structuring of the team. There is no president, vice president, social chair, grade reps, or any of the other usual Student Council roles. Rather than each member filling a specific position, the members rotate through positions on a weekly basis. This structure gives students the ability to share the burden of leadership more evenly during a particularly stressful year, and a more equal opportunity for all students to step into the various positions of leadership. While this change would be disappointing to anyone who was dreaming of running to be a Co-President of Student Council, it

does seem like a very reasonable shift, given the current circumstances.

A second major difference between Student Ambassadors and the former Student Council is that the members of Student Ambassadors were not elected, which, as one AHS student, Clarissa White, pointed out, means they "cannot be a council" as "council members are elected." This is a fair point, which is one of the many reasons that this group is distinct from the previously existing Student Council.

The members of Student Ambassadors are all eager student leaders who expressed interest in leadership opportunities and forming a leadership team early this school year. As of now, the Student Ambassadors meet once each week on MS Teams to discuss current and upcoming leadership projects around the school.

While there are some significant differences between Student Ambassadors and Student Council, many of its functions remain the same. A couple of examples of projects that have already been planned and executed by this team are the October spirit week, and the Halloween costume contest; exactly the kind of events usually managed by Student Council. As the winter approaches, the Student Ambassadors have many more events in the works. Not to give away all of the fun upcoming plans, but the return of the

12 Days of Christmas Challenges is on the table, as well as more spirit days, a potential spring barbeque and a virtual games night!


In addition, Student Ambassadors continues to provide opportunities for students to feel heard within the school community. The team is made up of students from all grades, with a variety of interests, who contribute unique perspectives to the group. Currently, the team is particularly concerned with finding ways to keep the student body connected and engaged during this unusual school year.

For more information about Student Ambassadors, contact Ms. Turner, who is the teacher supervisor for the group. Ms. Fletcher is also involved with the group and can offer more information about it as well. Don't hesitate to reach out with ideas, or to get involved yourself! Communication is always key, but this year more than most, and the Student Ambassadors team relies on student suggestions, thoughts, concerns and feedback to guide their actions.

Even though the Student Ambassadors team isn't entirely the same as Student Council, AHS students can take comfort in the idea that this new team has their interests at heart and is working hard to ensure that the 2020-2021 school year is filled with plenty of memorable moments, despite the curveballs that have been thrown!



Follow the AHS Instagram account to make sure you don't miss out on future contests, games and events!

 @ancasterhighroyals

#2

#3

INTERNALS

## Meet the Winners of the Fall Photo Contest!

**Above, left to right:** The first, second and third place winners of the Fall Photo Contest. (*Brooke Vesentin; Leah Norris; Anika Kanagaretnam/The Royal Gazette*)

By Anika Kanagaretnam  
Staff Editor and Writer

This month, Ancaster High School challenged its students to take part in a fall photo contest. This began on October 20th and submissions were due on the 27th. The prize for the winner was a disposable camera. After the deadline, there was a vote on Instagram (@ancasterhighroyals) which allowed Ancaster High School students to choose their favourite photo. On October 30th, it was announced that Brooke Vesentin came in first place, followed by Leah Norris in second place, and myself in third place. They were asked a few questions about their photo to allow people to find out more about their inspiration, process to get the photo, and final thoughts.

### BROOKE VESENTIN: 1ST PLACE

#### Q: What inspired you to take your photo?

A: When I first heard about the contest I knew that I wanted to enter because I love to take photos, especially during the fall time. In this photo I dressed up my younger sister in a ghost costume which consisted of a bedsheet and sunglasses. This photo was heavily inspired by the TikTok trend that was extremely popular in late September/early October where people would have photo shoots where they dressed up as ghosts and took pictures of themselves and their friends. The moment I saw this trend I knew I wanted to do something just like it! As for the dog, that was actually just a happy accident! It was someone's

dog who had been walking by and made it into the background of my photo!

#### Q: How does your photo reflect "your favourite fall things?"

A: This photo, I feel, really reflects all of my favourite aspects of fall. It includes the beautiful fall foliage as well as the beautiful nature, forests, and landmarks we have here in Ancaster. It also captures my love for Halloween with the inclusion of the ghost and the pumpkin. I really wanted to combine all of these aspects into the perfect fall photo, and I'm so happy with the way it turned out! I think I was able to put a fun and different twist on the photo prompt, which is exactly what I set out to do!

#### Q: How did you take the photo?

A: As for the production of the photo, I first had to get my props and my model (my younger sister) and we set out on a walk to a small forest near where I live. While there we took loads of photos of her doing various poses on the bridge, but I knew I had found the perfect one when I saw the dog had made it into one of the photos. How I actually took the picture was just by using my iPhone on portrait mode, which is my favourite thing to take pictures on because it seems to take the same quality of pictures that some professional cameras do!

### LEAH NORRIS: 2ND PLACE

#### Q: What inspired you to take your photo?

A: What inspired me to take this photo was the colourful trees.

#### Q: How does your photo reflect "your favourite fall things?"

A: My favourite thing about fall is how the colours on the trees change and become so vibrant.

#### Q: How did you take the photo?

A: I took this photo on my Nikon camera that was my grandfather's. He sparked my interest in photography and taught me the skills needed to get where I am today.

#### Q: Anything else you'd like to add?

A: Photography is a passion of mine and I'm so happy that I got a chance to show it.

### ANIKA KANAGARETNAM: 3RD PLACE

#### Q: What inspired you to take your photo?

A: This chipmunk was my main source of inspiration. We met in July and ever since then, he would come and take peanuts and seeds from my hand and would run around near me. He inspired me to participate in the contest. I thought of an idea to get the chipmunk on a pumpkin with fall leaves in the background, combining my favourite animal with my favourite fall things. I knew it would be unique and it has a lot of meaning to me, so it felt like the best choice. I also knew it

would be challenging to even get the chipmunk to go near the pumpkin and stay still, which added a bit of incentive because I wanted to push myself. Wildlife isn't always cooperative, but it is my favourite thing to take pictures of. It took many days to get the right picture and it only happened after taking hundreds of bad photos.

#### Q: How does your photo reflect "your favourite fall things?"

A: This reflects my favourite fall things because I love when the leaves change

colour and I find pumpkins to be very pretty in their own way. As for the chipmunk, since the colder weather was coming, I knew he would be gone soon and chipmunks need food to store for the winter, which is something they do every fall. That made me think of the chipmunk as one of my favourite fall things.

#### Q: How did you take the photo?

A: I used my Canon PowerShot camera to take this photo. The chipmunk's priority is food, so my mom helped me

by giving seeds and peanuts to the chipmunk near the pumpkin to keep him occupied so I could take the photos.

#### Q: Anything else you'd like to add?

A: I had a lot of fun participating in this contest as it pushed my abilities as a photographer and forced me to be creative. Under normal circumstances, I would never think of an idea like this. Also, this contest is what caused me to take a photo that I cherish.



INTERNALS

## Dundas Junior Civitan Hosts Trunk or Treat

**Above:** Trunk or Treat volunteers hand out candy from a decorated car trunk. (*The Dundas Star*)

By Emma Menard  
Staff Writer & Illustrator

A version of this article appeared in the Dundas Star.

On Saturday, October 31st, 2020, Dundas Junior Civitan — a group of students between the grades of 7-12 — hosted a spooktacular Halloween event entitled "Trunk or Treat". This event was a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House, and was run following COVID-19 guidelines. The event was from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and by the end of the day, over \$300 dollars was raised for the Ronald McDonald House.

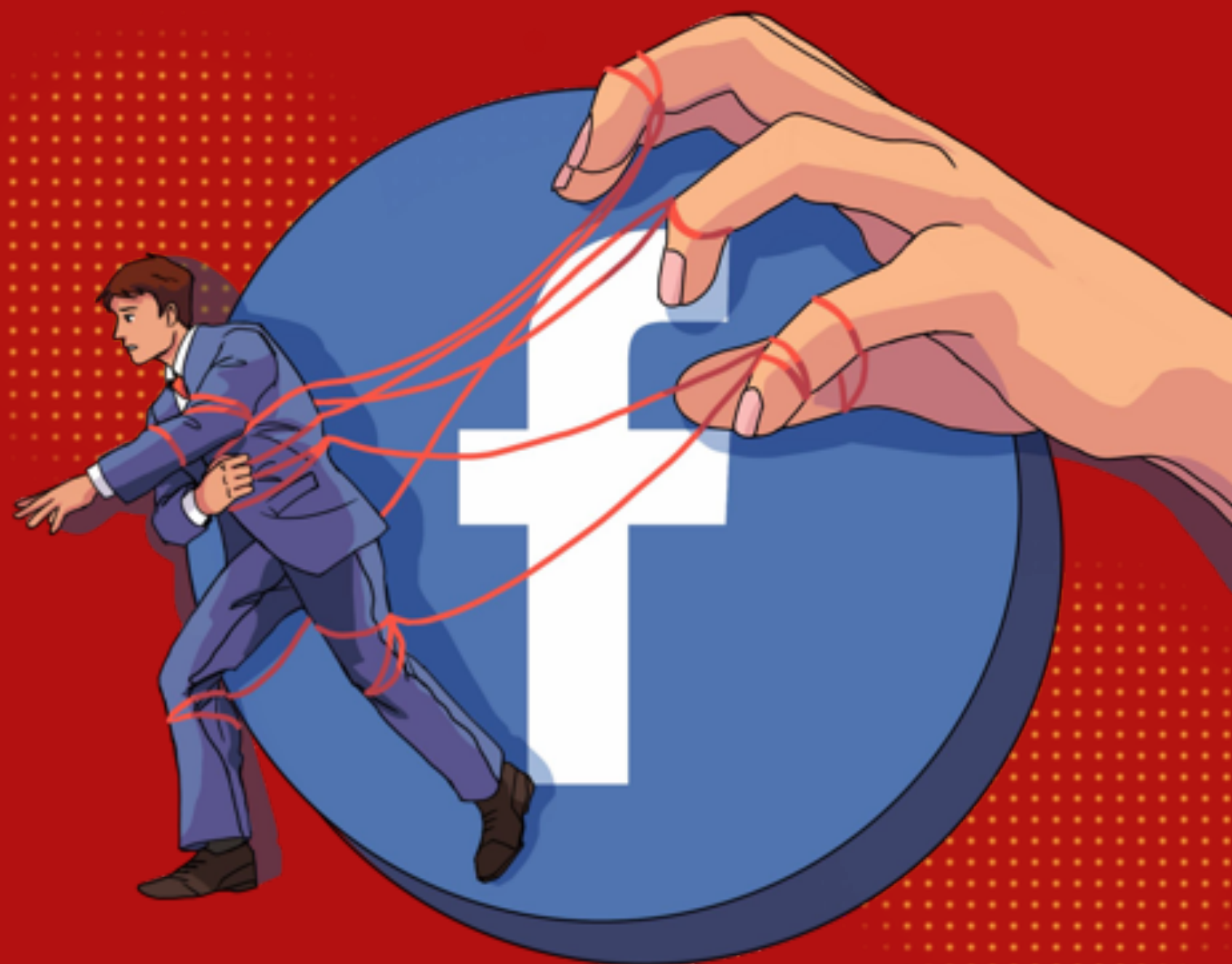
Before the event, families were asked to register online, select a time slot, and either pay online or in-person. Therefore, although the cost for each child was \$5 dollars, many families also gave extra for donations. The members of Dundas Junior Civitan also took the time to decorate all of the car trunks to display a theme! The cars were decorated with spiders and cobwebs, a Hawaiian luau theme, a Christmas theme, and many more.

Additionally, the Dundas Junior Civitan members had to get creative with how they were going to hand out their candy, with some of them using

tongs, and others deciding to just put a box out and let the kids grab the candy themselves. Each kid got the chance to trick-or-treat from car trunk-to-car trunk, collect some candy, and get the chance to participate in some games and activities. There were three games and activities for the kids to participate in for the chance to win an extra treat: an I-spy table, a photo scavenger hunt, and a Halloween word decoding game. Kids also had the chance to show off their amazing costumes, such as dragons, dead brides, superheroes, skeletons, and many more amazing costumes. Overall, the event had an amazing turnout and was such a success!



# NOTHING TO HIDE, NOTHING TO FEAR.



By Jocelyn Mattka  
Staff Writer & Editor

It didn't just start with COVID-19. Ever since the advent of the 21st century, we've been moving towards an increasingly online world. But is social media a blessing or a disaster? It might depend on what you enter into Google.

During a time when we have come to rely on technology more than ever before, tech experts have come together to produce what has quickly become one of the most-watched documentaries on Netflix. *The Social Dilemma*, directed by Jeff Orlowski, is a documentary that exposes the dark side of social media in a very clear manner. While some argue that the documentary uncovers little that wasn't already known, this information has never gained so much mainstream media attention as now.

The documentary focuses on several key issues, including addiction, mental health and media manipulation; all

of which they attribute to the rise of social media. Some may think that a documentary like this was a long time coming, but there are a few reasons why that isn't necessarily the case. In the opening minutes of *The Social Dilemma*, Tim Kendall, former president of Pinterest and former Facebook executive, highlights that social media, in many ways, appears to be a positive force for change.

"[Social media platforms] have reunited lost family members, found organ donors ... they were meaningful, systemic changes happening," he says.

In a survey of about 30 Ancaster High students, it appears that many of them feel the same way. When asked about the effects social media has had in their lives, students were quickly able to list off many reasons why they are inclined to spend so much time on the screen.

"I find new recipes to cook, I see inspiring messages, I get to keep in touch with friends (my best friend lives in a different country), I learn new information, [and] I see people's opinions on products and clothes," one student responded.

"[Social media] allows me to stay connected with others, be informed, learn about things I wouldn't be able to otherwise, [and to easily] access research and news," said another.

Even more interestingly, several students suggested social benefits, stating that "keeping in touch with friends", "being able to connect", and being "more social" were all thanks to social media.

On the surface, this might sound logical, but when social media is examined more closely, it becomes questionable how much social benefit one is truly receiving. While social media may have some, surface-level benefits, as Kendall explains, "it's that flip side of the coin" that is most concerning.

According to social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, "there has been a gigantic increase of anxiety and depression in American teenagers which began ... between 2011 and 2013." This coincides directly with the release of major social media platforms such as Instagram (released 2010) and Snapchat (released 2011), among others. Haidt proceeds to highlight some alarming statistics, such as the rise in suicide and self-harm rates among tween and teenage girls. Specifically in

the U.S., the suicide rate for girls aged 15-19 has increased by 70% since the first decade of the 2000s and 151% for girls aged 10-14. Haidt states that the "pattern points to social media", and specifically points to the shift in 2009 when social media became available on mobile devices.

75%

of students say their mental health issues started after using social media.

3-4

The average Ancaster High student uses social media for 3-4 hours a day.

Suddenly, it becomes easy to question the benefits that teenagers may think social media is providing them with. From the same pool of Ancaster High students, when asked about mental health, 75% of students reported that their struggles began after first using social media, while only 25% reported having mental health concerns beforehand. While social media isn't the only cause of mental illness, it certainly doesn't seem to have a positive influence on struggling individuals.

Another concerning statistic related to addiction is the sheer amount of time teenagers tend to spend on social media platforms each day. Based on a survey of Ancaster High students, the average student is spending between 3-4 hours on social media each day. Not only is this a period of time that could have distinct negative influences on a person, but it is also time taken away from other tasks and activities. While academic stresses are dependent on the student, there is something to be said for the fact that, of the surveyed students, the student who reported the lowest amount of social media time also reported the lowest level of academic stress.

Chamath Palihapitiya, former Facebook VP of Growth, describes another contributing factor that leads to social media addiction, which can quickly become hard to break. He describes the self-worth that becomes associated with the results and social approval gained from social media platforms and the net negative impact they have.

"We curate our lives around this perceived sense of perfection, because we get rewarded by these short-term signals," he says. "We conflate that with value and we conflate that with truth and instead what it is, is fake, brittle popularity." He goes on to explain why this is so dangerous, because this shallow, meaningless approval "leaves you more vacant and empty ... than before you [engaged in social media]. Because then it forces you into this vicious cycle of what's the next thing I need to

do now?" Unfortunately, this "vicious cycle" appears to be one that is very difficult to break.

Regarding media manipulation, the situation is more frightening than most would like to believe. Since social media is designed to maintain your interest and maximize your engagement time, the algorithms that run these systems tend to show you information through a tinted lens. For example, the documentary used the search term "climate change" to demonstrate how search results can change depending on where you live. The autofill feature automatically suggests how this phrase should end. Based upon your location and previous internet activity, this autofill could read anything from "is a hoax", to "is the greatest threat", to anything in between.

Worse than these subtle suggestions are the times when false information is allowed to not only spread, but spur people into real-world action. According to Tristan Harris, co-founder of the Centre of Humane Technology, "fake news spreads six times faster than true news", much like gossip in the school yard. The real world is boring in comparison to social media's sensationalism. These media platforms are programmed to feed users with information that supports their previous beliefs, creating an echo chamber filled with people who are only ever exposed to information that supports, but never challenges them. With information and communication available with just a few clicks, conspiracies grow, polarization becomes more and more extreme and people become very confused as to what can or cannot be trusted.

"If we can't agree on what's true, or even that there is such a thing as truth, then we're toast," is what Harris had to say on the matter. This might come across as dramatic, or overly critical, but when you consider that a large percentage of people depend on social networks such as Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok as main sources of information, one begins to wonder about the credibility of these sources.

So, if social media has so many obvious downsides, what could possibly be stopping us from banning it completely? Tristan Harris puts it well near the documentary's conclusion: "It's confusing because it's simultaneous utopia and dystopia," he says. With that, I think he hits the nail on the head. While *The Social Dilemma* predicts a horrible, worst-case scenario of societal destruction, Harris acknowledges that there are plenty of benefits that technology provides. Whether the dangers are properly balanced with the rewards, or social media has truly become a wolf in sheep's clothing is now up to society to decide. The information is out there, the potential risks are clear, so now the decision lies in the hands of the people.

Since social media is designed to maintain your interest and maximize your engagement time, the algorithms that run these systems tend to show you information through a tinted lens.



# Views & Voices

The *Gazette's* staff weigh in on what they believe matters with **essays, opinions, and advice.**



**VOICES**  
**Local Restaurants to Try Out**  
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**VOICES**

## Fighting for an End to Period Stigma

**Above:** Despite being a perfectly normal body process, periods are unduly stigmatized in our society. (*Illustration by Ashley Smith/The Royal Gazette*)

By Ashley Smith  
Staff Writer

**Buckle up your seatbelts,** because it's time to get uncomfortable. Periods are a completely natural bodily process that around half the world's population experiences. Yet those who menstruate are constantly faced with period stigma.

There are two main ideas that connect period stigma throughout the world: patriarchal society and education.

### Patriarchal Society

There is a worldwide shame and "dirtiness" that exists in regards to periods, even though they're such common occurrences. Jen Gunter, Canadian-American gynecologist, believes that this stigma is not about the blood, or even periods themselves. According to Gunter, if it was simply about the blood, then nosebleed stigma would exist, and if it was about the period itself, then those who menstruate would gain elevated social status when they entered menopause. Gunter claims that period stigma exists because of the patriarchal society that we live in today. This society is constantly oppressing women, and hence those who menstruate (because not everyone who menstruates identifies as female,

and not everyone who identifies as female menstruates), at different stages of life.

Menstruation is the form of oppression used in the reproductive stage of life, made to be a "toxic" and "dirty" process that cannot be discussed. This idea of impurity was only further fueled by religion and purity myths, as well as medicine in the early 1900's where there was false menstruation information put out by a medical population made up of mostly male doctors. The taboo of menstruation has stuck around, despite the knowledge we've gained in terms of menstrual health, because it is one more way for the patriarchy to suppress female voices.

### Education

Often, period stigma pairs with education, or a lack thereof. Because of the period taboo that has been created thanks to patriarchal standards, there is a significant absence of menstruation education. As worded by Jill Litman in the Public Health Advocate, the lack of knowledge surrounding periods further fuels the menstrual myths and stigma, which then creates an endless cycle of period stigmatization. Because there isn't sufficient education and information about periods available to the general public, people turn to those myths to explain what is happening because

there is nowhere else to look. We see examples of this lack of education fueling period ostracization in many different cultures.

In order to end period stigma, these topics need to be discussed. We need to address the patriarchal ties to menstruation, as well as work towards providing better menstrual education.

### North America

In terms of periods, North America has a less obvious period stigma, but it still exists.

Though children learn about sexual education, there is a blatant lack of education surrounding menstruation. Only a few months ago, it was a TikTok trend to film non-menstruating friends and ask them about how to use pads, tampons, etc. This was a trend because usually the answers were so atrociously wrong (ex. many thought you stick the pad

### DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 2.3 billion people around the world lack sanitation supplies, and half of all schools in the world's least developed countries have access to clean drinking water, making it difficult for girls to access proper hygiene.

directly to the vaginal lips, not the underwear).

Period censorship on social media is also part of North American culture. Three years ago, Rupri Kaur posted many pictures with menstrual themes on Instagram, but specifically one of her laying in bed with a period stain on the crotch of her pants broke the internet.

This photo was taken down for breaching community guidelines, even though there was nothing in the guidelines that deems the photo "unacceptable". As Kuar says in the caption:

"[T]he girl is fully clothed[,] the photo is [hers]. [I]t is not attacking a certain group[,] nor is it spam."

She further criticizes how Instagram allows photos of sexualized women, some of whom are underage, stay up, but suppresses harmless period storylines. This clearly displays a misogynistic, patriarchal society and mindset.

**In order to end period stigma, these topics need to be discussed. We need to address the patriarchal ties to menstruation, as well as work towards providing better menstrual education.**

### India

The stigmatization of periods in India has led to harmful and ostracizing traditions that those who menstruate have to endure monthly.

Menstruation in the culture is considered "impure" and dirty, and periods are rarely talked about. In fact, 71% of adolescent girls aren't taught about menstruation and are unaware of its existence until they get their first period. As well, this lack of education often leads people to use unsanitary



**Above:** The film *GAOKOR: A Period House* describes a 14-year-old girl spending time in a *gaokor* for the first time after receiving her first period, (*GAOKOR/Film Freeday*)

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**Addressing the Uighur Muslim Crisis**

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**VOICES**

**Review: Enola Holmes is Beyond Elementary**



**Above:** Rupri Kaur's Instagram photo was taken down by Instagram, although it did not violate community guidelines. (*Rupri Kaur/Instagram*)

items in place of pads, tampons, or cups. Only 36% of India's menstruating people use pads, the rest opting for leaves, soil/mud, old rags, ash, and husk, all items that are a danger to these people's health.

electricity, beds, plumbing, kitchen, or any basic needs. People have to rely on their family members to bring them food, and they don't get mattresses, rather one blanket they use as a cushion during the day.

### Africa

People within African countries face many of the same issues as India. While menstruating, people in South Africa are generally not allowed to touch water, cook, pray, attend religious ceremonies, or engage in communal activities. There is a lack of education and access to menstrual products, which leads people to utilize unhygienic alternative items (such as the ones seen in India).

In Ghana, 2018, a ban was enforced and people who were menstruating weren't allowed to cross the Ghana river. In Congo, people who menstruate are not allowed at communal water pumps or toilets, and many don't go to school. In Kenya, people on their periods will miss, on average, four days of school per month because of their periods. UNICEF states that one in every ten people on their periods will miss school because of menstruation annually, and in Sierra Leone that number grows to one out of five.

Finally, menarche (the first occurrence of menstruation) in many African communities is correlated with marriage. The belief is that menarche symbolizes that the person is ready for marriage, and this concept leads to child marriage, which then leads to the undermining of these young people's basic human rights.



## BY THE NUMBERS

12,123,000

Uighur Muslims currently live in China, mostly in Xinjiang.

1,000,000

An estimated 1 million are being detained.



VOICES

## Addressing the Uighur Muslim Crisis

**Above:** Uighur Muslims protest in Brussels against the Chinese government's genocidal policies. *(Francisco Seco/AP)*

By Aisha Mahmoud  
Staff Writer

**In history class, we often learn** about horrific events of the past. We learn about 9/11, the Holocaust, and Canadian residential schools. We're told stories of victims of terrorism, discrimination, and cultural genocide. We say "Never Again". We promise to learn from the past and to do better. But it is 2020, and China is wiping out the Uighur Muslim population.

This is the dark story of China's "re-education centres", where Uighur Muslims and other ethnic minorities of the Xinjiang region are detained and thrown in prison. These detainees have committed no crimes. The Chinese government states that the purpose of these camps is to battle terrorism and religious extremism. The prisoners have been forced to denounce Islam and pledge allegiance to the Chinese Communist Party. The United Nations estimates that more than a million Muslims have been forced into the camps. Detainees are beaten if they don't follow orders, and are severely threatened to follow a script when journalists or government officials come to visit. Uighurs living outside of China have lost all contact with family members they assume have been detained. Government statistics of lower birth rates and the personal accounts of many Muslim women show that the Chinese government is also forcing sterilizations and abortions on Muslim women to lower the Uighur population. Chinese men sexually assault Uighur women whose husbands have been detained. Living conditions inside the prisons are awful.

Cells are cramped and unsanitary, and women are forced to dress immodestly, which goes against their religion, and men cannot grow their beards. Leaked government documents from China tell guards to "show no mercy". An estimated 130,000 people die every month in these camps.

The world has turned a blind eye to the horrors facing Muslims in China. The Uighurs, an ethnic group resembling Central Asians and speaking a Turkic language, have always had a bad relationship with the Chinese Communist Party. Since 2016, satellite imagery has shown that the internment camps continue to grow and become more secure, with added

**In history class, we said "never again". And here it is happening again. We can either learn from the past and wake up, or we can ignore what's happening and hope future generations learn from our mistakes.**

watchtowers and barbed wire. China has denied any allegations of cultural genocide, claiming these are "vocational schools meant to prevent extremism". They say the accusations are "outright nonsense fabricated out of thin air". In addition to locking up the Uighurs, China has been demolishing mosques and destroying thousands of Muslim sites. Human rights and labour organizations are urging our government to stop importing Chinese goods made using Uighur prison labour. It is possible that

so many countries have chosen not to speak out because of China's economic power. Even countries in the Middle East have chosen to stay silent so they don't jeopardize their relations with China.

As a Muslim woman, it breaks my heart to see this be swept under the rug. The world continues to ignore blatant islamophobia; the eradication of an entire culture is happening right in front of us. I feel powerless that I can't do anything, and frustrated at the media for not bringing light to this issue early on. My people are starving in Yemen and Sudan, and they're being killed in Palestine and Kashmir. And now they're being locked up and stripped of their culture and religion in Xinjiang. The entire world has turned its back on Muslims.

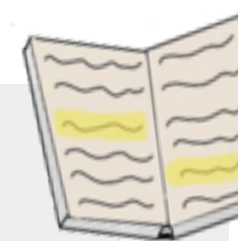
I think the biggest lesson to be learned is to be a little more sensitive and empathetic. When kids would rap sweaters around their heads, yell "Alluha akbar" and make exploding sounds, or make assumptions about me because I'm Muslim, or ask me if I have a bomb in my bag, they assume it's a harmless joke. They tell me not to get so worked up, that I'm too sensitive, that I'm a snowflake. But islamophobia, even in its mildest form, is not harmless. I try to educate myself and others, so we can at least be aware of the Uighur Muslim crisis. But we need much more than awareness to save the Uighurs. In history class, we said "never again". And here it is happening again. We can either learn from the past and wake up, or we can ignore what's happening and hope future generations learn from our mistakes.

## VOICES

Online Learning:  
6 Tips for a  
Successful Year

## #1. Figure Out Your Learning Style

You can find out your learning style by using different techniques for memory retention and learning. If you are a visual learner, this means that you learn better from looking at graphs and charts. If you are an auditory learner, this means that you learn better by verbally hearing the material. If you are a reading/writing learner, you learn better by reading slideshows, textbooks, and your own notes. If you are a kinesthetic or tactile learner, you do better by physically understanding the material. This could mean learning by flashcards, labs, and or feeling productive by being engaged in the classroom. For all of these examples, finding out what works best for you could really help elevate your learning both online and in school.



## #3. Remove All Potential Distractions

You can do this by cleaning up your workspace and the amount of stuff to distract you from doing your work. Distractions like playing Among Us, watching TikToks, scrolling mindlessly through social media, etc. Putting your phone away, helps you be more productive! You can reward yourself with a break after you finish an assignment.

## #5. Communicate with your teachers

Students and teachers are all going through the same thing schooling wise, which means that teachers will be understanding of whatever

situation you are in. If you aren't doing well in the class, talk to your teacher about it to make sure they are on the same page as you to help you stay on track. Teachers are there to help you and help you understand the course as a whole.



**Above:** Staying on top of tasks is key to online learning success. *(Illustrations by Saihaj Law/The Royal Gazette)*

By Julia Alexander  
Staff Editor and Writer

**At the start of September, students were given** the choices on how they want to learn in the form of remote or in-school/hybrid learning. Many students have decided they want to stay home and do online learning instead of their other options. I have talked with some students who are taking online learning this semester, and they all had around the same thing to say about it; they procrastinate their work. Here are some tips that I use to help me with online learning!

## #2. Organize Your Daily Tasks

What I mean by this is when you organize your thoughts and your assignments for the day, you can complete more without having to feel overwhelmed. There are studies that show if you write down what you have to do and you check it off on a list, you feel more accomplished and confident that you can finish everything. Maybe use a piece of paper to write out the things for you to do in your day!

## #4. Take Notes

Taking notes is absolutely essential to getting good grades in class. This doesn't matter if you are doing online school or in class, taking notes can help you! Whether you like using colour and making it look nice, or jotting down what you think is important; taking notes is really important. For some inspiration, you can use the Cornell Method, Outlining Method, Mapping Method, Charting Method, and Sentence Method. Depending on the subject you're taking, they can all help with memorization and learning.

## #6. Take Care of Your Mental Health

Even after all of these suggestions for doing better in school, make sure to always give yourself time for your own mental health. Some ways to help you regulate your health are to take a walk, listen to music, do your hobby, drink water, and talk to someone! These are only suggestions, but it is so important to be mentally well; especially when you are doing school. School is very stressful sometimes, so making sure that your health is good, can actually help with your learning.

Whether you're doing online school, remote learning, or in school, we are all in this together. COVID-19 has changed our lives and the world around us. The best thing that we can do right now is be understanding towards one another. Always make sure to keep your mental health in check because it is important! Make sure to talk with your teachers! Take notes! Clean your workspace for clarity of your mind! All of these suggestions are known to work for University students, if we, high schoolers can get these habits down, post-secondary school will be easier!



VOICES

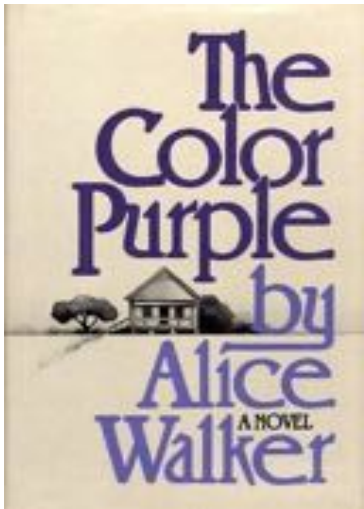
# Book Reviews

⚡ By Ashley Smith  
Staff Writer

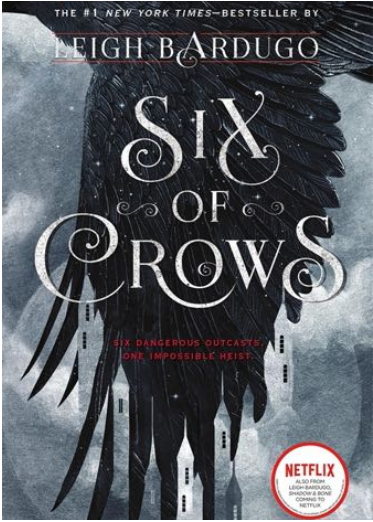
The *Colour Purple* is a novel depicting mature topics such as racism, child abuse, sexual abuse, sexism, and trauma. Ceelie's tale is told through letters to God. Her story spans over forty years, where she endures and survives incredible abuse and bigotry. We get glimpses into her life as she writes about her experiences, fears, feelings, and dreams.

## The Color Purple by Alice Walker

★★★★★ 4.5/5 stars  
— Epistolary



An absolutely incredible, but heartbreaking, read. I found it easy to read through Ceelie's narration, but it is not for the faint of heart. If you have difficulty reading about such mature topics, then this might not be for you, but it's truly well written with complex characters who demonstrate very real, human experiences on different levels. I gave .5 off because Ceelie's diction is sometimes difficult to understand because of her lack of education (the wording/phrasing may be difficult for some to grasp).



## Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo

★★★★ 4/5 stars — Fantasy

Six of Crows is a daunting tale of action, adventure, scheming, plotting, and a whole lot of violence.

Kaz is hired to stage a heist unlike any other ever seen in the rough city of Ketterdam. The risk is great, but the reward even greater. Kaz brings together a team of Ketterdam's six finest criminals to pull it off, but can they complete the deadly mission without killing each other or getting caught?

This book, though difficult to get

into, is amazing once you break through. The characters are diverse, complex, and drive the plot skillfully. The author does a great job of including characters of different races, sexualities, and disabilities, while not letting these traits define them. Interactions are unique, and there's always another twist that you don't see coming. The themes of capitalism, perseverance, and teamwork are evident and improve the story greatly. I gave it 4/5 because, even though I loved reading it, the pace of the first few chapters is rather slow.

## A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas

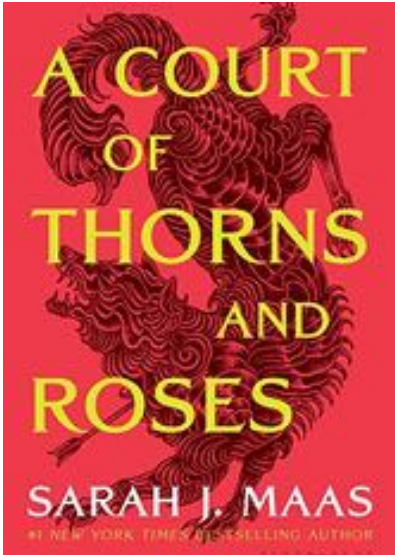
★★★★ 4/5 stars — Fantasy

A *Court of Thorns and Roses* is a retelling of Beauty and the Beast that brings a new level of passion, adventure, darkness, and violence to the "tale as old as time".

Feyre is whisked away to Prythian, home of fae, by a beastly creature as retribution for killing a wolf. Quickly Feyre discovers that her captor is Tamlin, faerie and high lord of the Spring Court. As she resides in his manor, her feelings about him and Prythian begin to change as she discovers more about this new world. But a darkness looms over

Prythian, and Feyre must discover how to stop it.

A super enjoyable read! I'm always a fan of a retelling, and this is no exception. It's a lot of fun watching Feyre's relationships to both faeries and the world develop throughout the book, and the magic system is fascinating. There is a lot of good fae lore, and the book has both high-action and casual character interaction. I rated it a 4/5 because, despite my enjoyment of the novel, it is admittedly slow at times, or focuses a tad too much on backstory.



## Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

★★★★ 4/5 stars — Fantasy

Red Queen is a rags to riches tale involving romance, magic, deception, action, and class conflict.

Mare Barrow lives in a world where her people are mistreated and abused by those who are deemed "superior". Those with common, red blood are treated as peasants while those with silver blood control the masses with their unique abilities. When Mare is unexpectedly thrown into the world of Silvers, will she be able to survive, or fail

and earn her own execution?

Truly one of my favourite series. I recently reread it and fell in love all over again. Who doesn't love a good class vs class novel that talks of social justice and human rights, while also dabbling in magic and romance? The characters are lovable, and you can't help but be swept away by this intriguing world. I gave it 4/5 because, despite my love for it, at times the pacing is slow and backstory/context is sometimes missing or confusing.

76 M  
households watched the film in its first 4 weeks.



Believe it or not, there was an Enola Holmes book before there was a movie. Actress Millie Bobby Brown describes reading the books by Nancy Springer as a child, and wanting to play the role: "I had a gut feeling I wanted to bring it to life and I was like, 'How do we get this done?' Then, my incredible dad said, 'We're going to find a way.'"

VOICES

# Enola Holmes is Beyond Elementary

**Above:** Enola Holmes, played by Millie Bobby Brown, is the spunky little sister of Sherlock Holmes (Henry Cavill) in Netflix's reboot of a nearly 100-year old story. **(Alex Bailey/Netflix)**

⚡ By Vita Rao  
Staff Writer & Editor

This review contains spoilers.

A hyper-intelligent and observant detective, with an impeccable sense of humour, and has the famous last name Holmes: Who is it? *Enola Holmes*, named after its main character, the adventures of the younger sister of the iconic Sherlock Holmes, as she navigates through the sexism of 19th century London to find her mother and help her friend. As a massive fan of all-things-Holmes, I felt as though this would be another unsuccessful attempt at capturing the charm of the original story. However, the incomparable style and direction are unlike any Holmes movie before, at least in my opinion. The casting choices were exceptional, with the film containing many familiar faces — Millie Bobby Brown, Henry Cavill, and Helena Bonham Carter. However, the most memorable and compelling performance came from Millie Bobby Brown, who played the lead character, Enola.

Enola Holmes is intelligent in many regards; she was home-schooled and learned a myriad of subjects like science, combat, and literature. Throughout her life, she maintains a close relationship with her mother, she doesn't have much of a relationship with her brothers, and her father died when she was young. Following her mother's unexpected and unexplained departure, her brothers arrive to take care of her, wanting to make her a proper, socially-acceptable lady. Conc-

erned, Enola escapes and goes in search of their mother, who has left a myriad of clues and puzzles behind. On her journey, she makes several allies and numerous enemies, but will she find her mother?

The most compelling directional choice is to have Enola break the fourth wall, meaning she talks directly to the audience. It is during these small clips that her wit and humour shine through, which also makes the film a more enjoyable and light-hearted watch.

The sole issue I had with the film is the organization of it — I felt as though the plotline was very scattered — and the lack of diversity. The film heavily focused on the problems that

The most compelling directional choice is to have Enola break the fourth wall, meaning she talks directly to the audience. It is during these small clips that her wit and humour shine through...

friend, Tewksbury, was facing. It diminished the plotline about her mother, which lessened the excitement when she finally found her. The whole plotline was rushed and very vague, making it more confusing and less enjoyable to watch. However, it could be a set-up for the sequel, which seems pretty likely, as the movie has received good reviews from critics and audiences. In terms of diversity, I think there is always room for more. There wasn't an abundance of people

of colour in the film; the cast is primarily Caucasian. I hope to see a change in this if there is a second film.

I thought the movie did an exceptional job of individualizing itself and finding its place within the Holmes legacy. The balance between issues that are prevalent in both eras increases the relatability of the film, appealing to a variety of audiences. Although I think Enola's independent nature coupled with her incomparable personality makes this film so charming and compelling. Overall, *Enola Holmes* for a comedic-mystery film, I think it's relatively good.

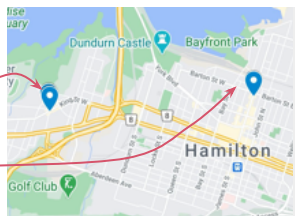


## THE PUBLIC DOMAIN DEBATE

Earlier this year, we saw the estate of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle unsuccessfully sue Netflix for using Sherlock's likeness in *Enola Holmes* over an unusual infringement — that Netflix's Sherlock was portrayed as "warmer", which encroaches on the detective's depiction in the final 10 of Conan Doyle's novels. These last 10 stories are still protected by copyright up until 2023.



Onezo & The Alley  
Saltlick Smokehouse



HOW TO GET THERE

Saltlick is located in Central Hamilton, which is just an 18-minute drive from Ancaster High. OneZo and The Alley are located 15 minutes away in Westdale.



VOICES

Saltlick Smokehouse, OneZo & The Alley: Local Restaurants to Try

Above, left to right: The exterior of Saltlick Smokehouse; students pose with drinks from OneZo and The Alley respectively. (Brad MacKinnon/Saltlick Smokehouse; Gavin Liu & Joely Stockl/The Royal Gazette)

By Gavin Liu & Joely Stockl  
Staff Writers & Editor

Saltlick Smokehouse  
282 James St N, Hamilton

If you're missing that smokey barbecue smell from the summer months, Saltlick is the place to solve your BBQ cravings. Saltlick is a small smokehouse along James Street North that has a great takeout and delivery program. Although you can usually sit inside, Covid-19 has reduced the small amount of people allowed to go in. Saltlick Smokehouse is known for their smoked meat platters and sandwiches. Unlike most restaurants, at Saltlick you can customize your platter the way you want it. You can choose from a variety of different meats including smoked BBQ pork, brisket, Nashville chicken, jerk chicken, and many more! They also have many delicious sides that come with the platters including brisket mac and cheese, southern fried cauliflower, deep fried brussel sprouts, and so many more! Saltlick's meats and sides change everyday, so you can try something new everytime you go. They are also known for a Canadian known dish that originated in Quebec, Poutine! Saltlick offers everything from basic poutines to meat covered poutines. Saltlick Smokehouse is the place to go for all your bbq related needs, and this tasty place is only about an 18 minute drive away from Ancaster High!

OneZo  
1045 King St W Unit 1, Hamilton

No other drink can match the popularity and deliciousness of bubble tea, or boba. It is almost like a cultural phenomenon, if you have not had it, you are definitely missing out. The drink often consists of different toppings, like tapioca bubbles, different fruit jellies, and pudding. Both shops are within walking distance of many other restaurants and boutiques, so after a night out, end your day with some bubble tea. Or get it delivered! Both are a little less than a twenty minute drive from Ancaster High. Located across the street from each other in Westdale, OneZo and The Alley offer diverse menus and options for boba novices and diehards alike.

For fresh, fruity, vibrant bubble tea, OneZo is an obvious choice. This small bubble tea shop prides itself in offering a variety of made in-house boba bubbles, and is a definite selling point. Not only can customize ice and sugar levels, you can choose from a selection of pearls, ranging from mango to crystal, and seasonal flavours like sesame. OneZo offers classic options, like regular milk teas, fruit teas, and brown sugar lattes, but also has many creative and innovative options like jasmine teas, specialty teas, and smoothies. Notable menu options include a Melona popsicle flavoured drink, and a Pineapple Data Berry smoothie. Along with their drink selection, they offer both warm and modern ambience, and their boba making machine proudly stands in their window front. Because of the coronavirus, OneZo does not currently offer dine in, but does do delivery and

takeout. For new bubble tea drinkers, look no further than their classic milk teas or their dirty brown sugar milk teas. For those who regularly enjoy boba, look to indulge in their multitude of seasonal variant flavours and drinks, like mojito inspired drinks and rose. No matter what you choose, you will not be disappointed!

The Alley  
1050 King St W Unit 5, Hamilton

For a plethora of different types of teas, The Alley will not disappoint. This shop offers different daily teas, including blacks and greens. The Alley has both an extensive milk tea series and a tea latte series, enriching the flavours of their teas with milk and dairy substitutes. They also offer an Aurora series, a Lulu series, and a Snow Velvet series, all with their distinct characteristics. Much like OneZo, the classics are well done, and their in-house specials are innovative and new, like the OREO Devil Slush and their Guava Lime Juice. The aesthetic of The Alley is quite different from that of OneZo, being darker and more mature in a good way, with a mixture of natural and industrial elements. They also do not offer dine in at this time due to COVID, but once again, do take out and delivery. For bubble tea beginners their Original Brewed Teas or anything from their Deerioca series. For regular bubble tea customers, perhaps try one of their specialties or a drink from the Snow Velvet series. With so many great options on their menu, rest assured that you will find a drink that makes your taste buds dance with delight!



“In isolation, my imagination has run wild and this album is the result, a collection of songs and stories that flowed like a stream of consciousness.”



VOICES

folklore Makes for a Legendary Taylor Album

Above: Taylor Swift stars in the music video for her song cardigan, a song about a love triangle. (Taylor Swift/Youtube)

By Vita Rao  
Staff Writer & Editor

This seemingly never-ending year has brought many good and bad things: a pandemic (bad), Among Us (good), and online learning (a bit of both). In a time of such change, one thing remains consistent: the incredibly well-written and catchy songs from Taylor Swift. The album, titled folklore (stylized in all lowercase), was released as a surprise on July 24, 2020. However, with the release came a slew of theories and outstanding detective-work from fans. folklore's indie-alternative-rock sound is unlike any of its predecessors, with Swift abandoning her iconic pop and pop-country style.

folklore is comprised of sixteen songs — seventeen on the deluxe album — and is a compilation of several narratives. It showcases Swift's incomparable story-telling, with each song having an individual concept, character, perspective, and sound. The themes of anguish, nostalgia, and love remain a constant, keeping the album cohesive.

The entire album feels very soothing and tranquil, which makes it captivating and compelling. For instance, the iconic trio of betty, cardigan, and august, all of which tell the story of the same three people from different perspectives. Swift manages to capture the feelings of each character and convey it in such meaningful, thoughtful ways. Although done very quickly, the album is thought-out and detailed, as per the

usual Taylor Swift fashion.

folklore, unlike many of Swift's other records, is very earthy and simplistic; it uses a lot of guitar and piano. In terms of vocals, the songs seem lower pitch-wise. Swift explored and experimented a lot with her lower register: a delightful and refreshing contrast to many of her previous albums. Swift also experiments with a variety of genres, depending on the character and sound that she is aiming for. Interestingly enough, her album doesn't have one specific genre that is associated with it, dissimilar to her other albums. An example of the contrast between each song is betty and exile. betty is very nostalgic and sounds a little folk-rock and country, mixed with indie-pop and alternative-rock. It's a very complex song with numerous layers, lyrically, instrumentally, and stylistically. On the contrary, exile is very melancholy and piano-dependent, focusing more on the voices of Taylor Swift and Justin Vernon. The haunting harmonies, simple piano, and Vernon's baritone; more indie-folk.

folklore has received recognition from numerous critics for her exploration of styles and has gotten praise for her exceptional storytelling. It is one of her highest-rated albums of all time, with critics and audience alike in their appreciation for the album! Upon its release, folklore got 44 million streams, 13 million more than the previous record that was held by thank u, next. The successful, ethereal-sounding folklore is incomparable and absolutely exceptional.

The successful, ethereal-sounding folklore is incomparable and absolutely exceptional.



TRACKLIST

1. the 1
2. cardigan
3. the last great american dynasty
4. exile (featuring bon iver)
5. my tears ricochet
6. mirrorball
7. seven
8. august
9. this is me trying
10. illicit affairs
11. invisible string
12. mad woman
13. epiphany
14. betty
15. peace
16. hoax
17. bonus track: the lakes



# Arts & Culture

The latest on what's happening in the world of entertainment, lifestyle, and pop culture.



ARTS & CULTURE  
NaNoWriMo, the Internet's Biggest Writing Challenge  
pg 32



ARTS & CULTURE

## New York Fashion Week: An Analysis

Above (left to right): Models styled by Gabriela Hearst, Proenza Schouler and Brandon Maxwell respectively, including Gigi Hadid (center) and Yasmin Wijnaldum (right). (Vogue Magazine)

By Iris Elik  
Staff Writer

Fashion Week is the week that makes or breaks designers. It's the week that determines which brands are in and which are out. The pressure on designers to work outside the box and implement new ideas is challenging, as so much has already been done. Another issue designers face is keeping their brand's uniqueness. Every brand, high fashion or not, has identifying aspects, whether that be monograms (for example the Gucci monogram vs. the Burberry monogram) or a specific style. This year New York Fashion week started September 12th. Here is a brief analysis of shows that were the most successful and some that were most disastrous.

Starting off positive, Gabriela Hearst played into the recent trend of sustainability. The designer created no waste, an impressive task for those who know just how much waste is produced as a result of high fashion. Although she worked with some bright colours, Gabriela mainly focused on neutrals (beige and brown), as well as darker colours such as black and navy. There was lots of experimentation with different textiles, which turned out very chic. Fitted suits looked fierce and powerful, while one particular nude dress was definitely a show stopper. Overall, Gabriela Hearst proved it's possible to be chic and original, all while being environmentally friendly.

Moving onto Proenza Schouler, a designer who focused on more form fitting attire this season. If this show could be described in one word, it would be sleek. The use of basic colours such as black, white, and neutrals made this collection very wearable. There was also an occasional pop of colour that added some character. A perfect example of this being the bright clementine coloured trench coat worn by Gigi Hadid. The square front shoes paired with the looks were superb. One piece of clothing that definitely has become a Fall/Winter staple this year is a pair of square front boots. The interesting inspiration for this collection came from a blanket. According to Vogue, one of the stylists on the Proenza Schouler team was gifted a blanket, which she then wore to work as a scarf. Considering how sleek and fitted this collection is, it's very ironic.

Taking a not so positive turn, Brandon Maxwell managed to create a pretty tasteless show. It wasn't necessarily bad, it's just that the majority of the looks were quite boring. It looked like a department store's fall/winter clothing shipments instead of an established high fashion brand. The one look that stood out was a tight, white, turtle neck dress, worn by Yasmin Wijnaldum. This dress was practical, yet classy. That being said, it did not deserve a whole collection runway. This collection would be better suited for a catalog or look book. The looks were nice for every day but not a runway. The goal of this show seemed to be more centered on actua-

The high fashion industry is not one that is forgiving. It's imperative that brands stand out.

Iris Elik, on New York Fashion Week

lly being wearable instead of experimenting with different textiles and styles. New York Fashion Week may not be the best choice to promote that. Brandon Maxwell grew in popularity around 2012 after working with many of the rich and famous. His recent look for Lady Gaga and her multiple dress look was incredible. If that were implemented in this collection, this review would be very different.

There are over a hundred designers that present at New York Fashion Week. The high fashion industry is not one that is forgiving. It's imperative that brands stand out. If this analysis were to look at even a tenth of the designers at New York Fashion Week, this article would take up the whole newspaper. If fashion, specifically high fashion, is an interest of yours, looking at the shows online would be beneficial. There's a large portion of amazing, creative and innovative designers that were left out. With COVID-19, there's an air of uncertainty clouding the upcoming runways. Perhaps more designers will follow in Chanel's footsteps and create a fake puppet show. Perhaps some designers will stick with lookbooks this year. However it goes, one thing is for sure: this year will be interesting.

## FAMOUS BOOKS WRITTEN DURING NANOWRIMO

- Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
- Cinder by Marissa Meyer
- The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern
- The Forest of Hands and Teeth by Carrie Ryan
- Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
- Wool by Hugh Howey
- The Beautiful Land by Alan Averill
- Side Effects May vary by Julie Murphy
- Don't Let Me Go by J. H. Trimble

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ARTS & CULTURE  
Life Hacks and Drawing Ideas



ARTS & CULTURE

## Meet The Internet's Biggest Writing Challenge

Above: Writers attend the Night of Writing Dangerously in 2017. Although the write-a-thon ended in 2019, its parent event, NaNoWriMo, lives on. (NaNoWriMo/Facebook)

STATISTICS

50,000 words  
30 days  
450,000 participants (2018)

By Brooke Vesentin  
Staff Writer

For many people, November is quite an uneventful month. It's that time period right in between Halloween and the holiday season. However, to many writers around the world, November is their favourite time of year. Why is this? Well, November is what many writers refer to as National Novel Writing Month (most commonly known by its acronym, NaNoWriMo). NaNoWriMo is an annual writing event in which each participant's goal is to complete 50,000 words of a novel in just thirty days. This event gives authors, aspiring writers and those who just like to take on challenges, an opportunity to start or complete a novel. Sometimes, the life of a writer can be a lonely one; however, events like these bring the entire writing community together.

Many people, including myself, love to write and want to write a novel; however, between school, work and other responsibilities, it can sometimes be difficult to stay motivated or find time to do so. That's why so many people are drawn to the idea of an event like this. It is designed to keep you on track, motivated and pushes you to reach that 50,000 word count goal by the end of the month. In order to reach 50,000 words in 30 days, they suggest you write 1,667 words a day.

Now, what if you are busy during November and cannot participate? No need to worry, there is another NaNoWriMo event that takes place in both April and July called Camp NaNoWriMo. However, during these events, they encourage the work of any and all creative projects (poems, essays, etc.), not just novels. They also encourage you to set your own word count goal that is easily achievable for you, which is something that a lot of people enjoy about Camp NaNoWriMo.

So, how did this worldwide event begin? Well, it started in the San Francisco Bay area when freelance writer and founder Chris Baty challenged some of his friends to write 50,000 words in one month in 1999. Since then, it has gained much popularity and has continued to grow over these past 21 years. Now, each year, starting November 1st, hundreds of thousands of writers all take on this

daunting challenge. Many now-famous books have been written during NaNo such as Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell, which is a bestseller and a favourite among many.

Another great thing about this event is that it can be done from the comfort of your own home or at an organized NaNo writing night where participating authors all get together and write, so everyone can have the perfect work environment for them. One of these writing nights is called the Night of Writing Dangerously which takes place in San Francisco and is held in an extremely fancy venue; a ball room to be exact. Writers come from all over to attend this event. There is a write-a-thon, games, prizes, drinks and food. It truly looks to be a fun event and holds a special place in many NaNoWriMo enthusiasts' hearts. On Youtube, there are countless videos of writers documenting their writing process, their prep for the event and everything in between.

November truly is the month for writers and this event is so inspiring to myself and many others. So many people truly adore this event, and each year they find new ways to improve their experience. If you have been planning the perfect story for a while now, this is your opportunity to get it written and have fun along the way! Even if you missed it this year, get ready to jump on board in April for Camp!



ARTS & CULTURE

Life Hacks & Drawing Ideas

By Faria Haque (life hacks) & Emma Menard (drawing ideas) Staff Writers

We could all use a little help getting through November. Check out these fall and winter-themed life hacks and art ideas for inspiration on what to do while you're cooped up during quarantine or during the cold season.



DIY HAND WARMER

Hands cold from the cold outdoor weather? Here's a perfect hack for you that will warm your hands up in just minutes, and you can use it as a stress ball to relieve stress!

Materials needed:

- 1 sock
  - 1 cup of rice
  - 1 rubber band
1. Put the rice in the sock to form a ball, and tie it with the rubber band.
  2. Roll the sock sideways then take the top and flip it over itself to create a ball.
  3. Put your sock ball in the microwave for 1-2 min.
  4. Finally, you have a hand warmer.



NUTELLA HOT CHOCOLATE

Don't have cocoa to make hot chocolate? Use Nutella instead.

Materials needed:

- 1 cup milk
  - ½ cup Nutella
  - 2 tbsp sugar
  - Mug
1. Warm-up milk in a mug. Then add Nutella and sugar.
  2. Finally, you've got yourself a hot cup of Nutella hot chocolate to have with your brownies.



MANDALA MAPLE LEAF

Materials needed:

- Black fine tip Sharpie
- Black ultra fine Sharpie
- Maple leaf template (draw or trace one yourself!)

For this pretty mandala maple leaf, draw out your maple leaf design, then fill it in using mandala or zentangle patterns. This is the perfect drawing idea to just focus on drawing and have fun with it, there are no bad designs!



FALL SCENERY

Materials needed:

- Black fine tip Sharpie
- Black ultra fine Sharpie
- Colourful SHarpie markers

For this fun fall scenery/landscape drawing idea, take a look outside or think of your favourite aspects of fall, and get creative and draw a fall scene. For this example, there are several colourful trees, a fence, a cat silhouette, some pumpkins, and of course some grass and the sky.



DIY HAND SCRUB

If your hands are dry from the cold weather, here is some DIY hand scrub that will moisturize your hands and remove dead skin cells in seconds.

Materials needed:

- ½ cup of sugar
  - ¼ cup of coconut oil
  - 2 tbsp of honey
  - 1 tbsp of lemon juice
  - A glass jar
1. Mix all the ingredients in the glass jar.
  2. Now you've got yourself a hand scrub.
  3. Apply it to your hands to reveal smoother hands!



WATERCOLOUR BIRCH TREES

Materials needed:

- Watercolour paint
- Watercolour paper
- Masking tape
- A piece of old card

For this colourful birch tree watercolour painting idea, it may look difficult, but honestly it is quite simple. Place ripped masking tape on the page to form the trees, then just paint your background designs and the sky, then pull off the tape, and use a piece of old card to flick on a couple spikes of brown watercolor. And have fun with it, use fall colour schemes and fall ideas to include in your version of this painting idea!

HOROSCOPES

Scorpio ♏

October 23 - November 21  
Your deception is quite obvious, Scorpio. Since it's your month, t's high time you show your true self rather than continue hiding like you are.  
Lucky numbers: 15, 24, 62

Aquarius ♒

January 20 - February 18  
Aquarius, you seem to be stressed about the way things around you have been. Take a moment and pause, allow yourself to once again be aware of the reality around you.  
Lucky numbers: 11, 29, 47

Taurus ♉

April 20 - May 20  
Taurus, you have shut some people out of your life and they want you back. Be a good one and hit that unblock.  
Lucky numbers: 17, 45, 89

Leo ♌

July 23 - August 22  
Leo, you are procrastinating too much. It's about to hit you back harder than ever. Get off your phone and do your work instead.  
Lucky numbers: 19, 43, 55

Sagittarius ♐

November 22 - December 21  
Sagittarius, something good is coming up for you and you will be expecting it. Just a little patience is all you need!  
Lucky numbers: 18, 22, 55

Pisces ♓

February 19 - March 20  
As your happiness fades away Pisces, you will have to work hard to find it rather than hope it finds you. Sometimes you must be the predator and not the prey.  
Lucky numbers: 3, 38, 60

Gemini ♊

May 21 - June 20  
Gemini, you feel you are trapped under a new reality. Allow some time for yourself, away from social media and take in what is now your world.  
Lucky numbers: 2, 12, 76

Virgo ♍

August 23 - September 22  
Virgo, stop being indirect. It is time you truly open up and let people know how you feel. Keeping in all this is not good for anyone.  
Lucky numbers: 6, 11, 21

Capricorn ♐

December 22 - January 19  
Capricorn, allow those around you to open up to others as well, not just you. Your talents are great as well but there needs to be more diversity.  
Lucky numbers: 1, 30, 73

Aries ♈

March 21 - April 19  
Although you may seem to have control Aries, you are slowly losing your mind. Try to open up more and allow yourself to relax.  
Lucky numbers: 24, 25, 86

Cancer ♋

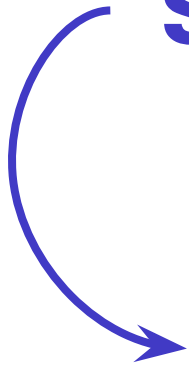
June 21 - July 22  
Although you may have seen yourself as happy, Cancer you must step away from this false delusion you have created for yourself.  
Lucky numbers: 7, 60, 94

Libra ♎

September 23 - October 22  
Libra, although things may seem hard at the time, fear not, everything will eventually work itself out and you will once again be able to relax.  
Lucky numbers: 2, 17, 38



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### Club Advisors

Hannah Breiding  
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### Supervising Teacher

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### Graphic Designers

Anne Fu  
Rose He  
Noor Menhel

### Illustrators

Anne Fu  
Rose He  
Noor Menhel

### Editors

Kaitlynn Anderson  
Anne Fu  
Anika Kanagaretnam  
John Kerr  
Gavin Liu  
Lindsay Liu  
Amy Ma  
Jasmine Marcaccio  
Jocelyn Mattka  
Zonna Mir  
Sukhleen Multani  
Macee Popowich  
Vita Rao  
Eden Ridpath  
Grace Wang

### Writers

Julia Alexander  
Iris Elik  
Anne Fu  
Faria Haque  
Rose He  
Anika Kanagaretnam  
John Kerr  
Lindsay Liu  
Gavin Liu  
Aisha Mahmoud  
Jocelyn Mattka  
Joe McDermott  
Emma Menard  
Zonna Mir  
Caitlin Nequia  
Sanya Patel  
Vita Rao  
Ashley Smith  
Joely Stockl  
Nicolas Tazzeo  
Brooke Vesentin

## Contact Us

 @ahsroyalgazette

 gazetteroyal@gmail.com

 [hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh/  
royal-gazette](http://hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh/royal-gazette)

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