

# The Royal Gazette

Your school. Your newspaper.



**Protests Erupt in Belarus** *pg 4*

Citizens oppose the rule of President Alexander Lukashenko.



**Who Are We? Forge FC!** *pg 14*

A Q&A session with Hamilton's pro soccer team, Forge FC.

Returning to school this year will be a drastically different educational experience from what we're used to. How are Canadians responding?

*pg 11*



**Peek Inside...**

**09**

**The Election Being Watched by the World**  
Explore a dramatic week in American politics.

**23**

**Among Us, Lockdown's Hottest New Video Game**  
Quarantine has fueled the unlikely rise of a social deception game.



# This Month's Top Stories

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

By Anne Fu — Editor-in-Chief



**EXTERNALS**  
**Remembering Ruth Bader Ginsburg**  
pg 10



**ARTS & CULTURE**  
**Canadian Music During Quarantine**  
pg 22



GREATER TORONTO AREA

## 40th Terry Fox Run Breaks Records Despite Restrictions

**Above:** Runners participate in the 2019 Dundas Terry Fox Run. This year's run was held virtually, due to social distancing restrictions. *(Toronto Star Files)*

Canada's annual Terry Fox Run is bringing people together during a time of crisis. The 40th anniversary of the infamous fundraiser is this year, and although social distancing has placed limits on gatherings and events such as this one, Canadians are finding creative ways of supporting the cause while adhering to safety measures.

Here in Hamilton, Terry Fox Runs were held on September 15th in 4 different locations around the city: Waterdown, Mount Hope, Stoney Creek and Gage Park. Those who couldn't join a walk or run in person were encouraged to follow along at home or in a local park, share their experiences on social media, and donate to the Terry Fox Foundation.

"It was an opportunity to be creative and take a different approach," says Velika Kitchen-Jansen, who has been organizing the Brantford Run since 2013. Outside of purely physical activities, some of this year's fundraiser ideas included bottle drives and bake-offs in Fox's name. With quarantine in place, the Foundation encouraged people to get involved by collecting pledges and doing whatever events they could, employing the tagline "One Day, Your Way" to encourage participants to get creative

with their challenges.

The resulting event in Hamilton raised record donations, with the Gage Park Run alone raising \$28,000 between 125 participants. At Ancaster High, the event was held on October 9th, where students from the PLF4C1 class organized and collected donations for the run. Ancaster High raised \$1,369 in Terry's name.

Terry's original journey began on April 12th, 1980, on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean off Newfoundland and Labrador. The cancer activist pledged to run all the way across the country to raise awareness and money about the disease, and in doing so, raised \$1.7 million CAD (\$5 million in 2018) before his journey was cut short just outside Thunder Bay. Although Fox died after his cancer metastasized to his lungs, he left behind an indelible legacy. In the years since, the Terry Fox Foundation has raised approximately \$750 million for cancer research. His spirit and tenacity continues to remind citizens today about what it truly means to be a Canadian.



Scan to check out coverage from Kingston's virtual Run



### Follow Terry's original 5,373 km long journey.

**April 12, 1980:**

Terry dips his prosthetic leg into the Atlantic and begins his run.

**May 6, 1980:**

The small town of Port-aux-Basques raises \$10,000 for the Run, the equivalent of \$1 per person. Later, this amount is increased to \$14,000.

**June 28, 1980:**

Terry enters Ontario in Hawkesbury, ON, greeted by a band of 200 people and balloons reading "WELCOME TERRY. YOU CAN DO IT."

**July 14, 1980:**

Terry arrives in Hamilton, where citizens raise \$4,500 and Canadian Marathon Champion Gord Dickson gives him his gold medal.

**August 4, 1980:**

Terry reaches and exceeds the halfway point on his planned run across Canada.

**September 1, 1980:**

Terry's run is cut short in Thunder Bay after his cancer returns.

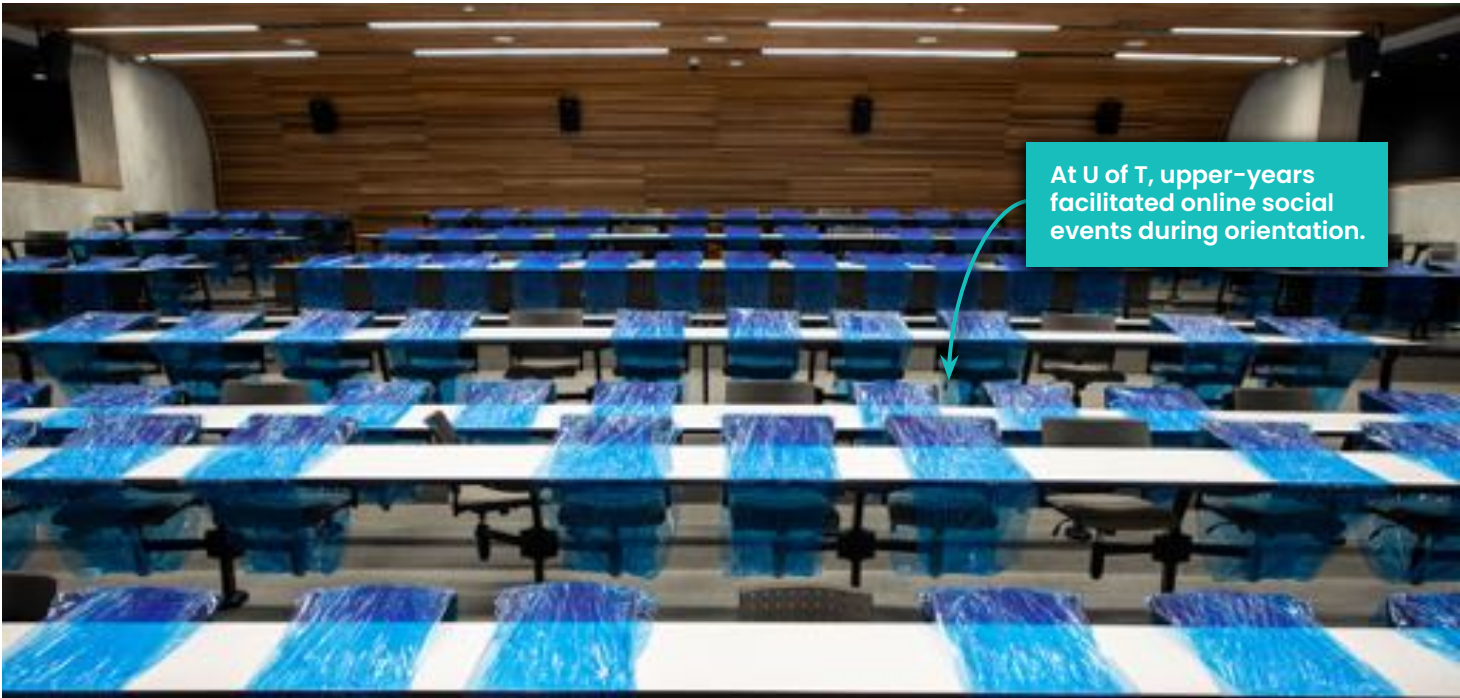
## And in Pop Culture...



A fly that landed on American Vice President Mike Pence's head during the Vice Presidential Debate on October 8 stole the show for 2 minutes.

**15**  
**INTERNALS**  
**The Pandemic and Online Learning**

**19**  
**OPINION**  
**Why We Need to Leave JK Rowling Behind**



At U of T, upper-years facilitated online social events during orientation.

CANADA

## An Unusual Entrance into University during COVID-19

**Above:** University of Toronto Mississauga's Maanjiwe Nendamowinan building with COVID-19 safety measures in place. *(Nick Iwanyszyn/University of Toronto)*

This fall, new and returning students to Canadian universities will have to contend with a disrupted curriculum and the threat of COVID-19 within their student population. Amongst some of these disturbances include protocols like infection screening, altered welcome week policies, and mandatory online courses, all of which students will have to navigate and familiarize themselves with as the school year begins anew.

The decision to hold in-person classes at all during the pandemic was a controversial one, as many public health officials spoke out about the heightened breakout risks that came with gathering so many students in one place. On the other hand, online learning is proving to be

troublesome in its own way. Despite most classes being held virtually this year, students are still required to pay full tuition, while reduced government spending means these universities will have less money than ever to support their attendees — a common target of critique this year. Such policies have caused no shortage of upheaval, as pupils have been forced to change their housing situations, opt for gap years and reduced workloads, and plan for the rest of their education with the pandemic in mind, amongst other adjustments.

Now nearly two months into the school year, students are beginning to adapt to a radically different learning environment. Most incoming first-years, for instance, arrived at university with little fanfare as frosh week and welcoming activities were moved online. In another vein, clubs and student associations have all had their scheduling modified to meet social distancing restrictions on in-person gatherings. Additionally, the usual chaos that surrounds each new school year has been exacerbated by the complex logistics of self-isolation, asynchronous online learning, communication delays, and more. Students and instructors are especially concerned about the psyc-

hological and academic impact of social distancing, as this lack of face-to-face contact may mean fewer opportunities to get involved in campus life or truly absorb each lesson. Factors like Internet access, income and employment, and household-specific circumstances may also interfere with learning, as the quality of instruction will be greatly influenced by the environment students are learning in and the availability of technology.

"It is impossible to know each student's living, learning or health conditions during this crisis. Considering many students may be isolated socially and physically and feeling anxious, how ready will they be to learn online?" asks Kyungmee Lee, a lecturer at Lancaster University, in a column for *The Conversation*.

Despite all the challenges that come with quarantine-centred learning, campuses are making valiant attempts at preserving normalcy. From video games styled around orientation week at Laurier to virtual grilled cheese-making competitions at the University of Alberta, students are finding increasingly innovative ways to bring remote learning to life in these trying times.

**...You get used to it really quickly! Everyone is going through the same thing, so the key is to find some great online friends in your classes and use the resources given to you by the university.**

**Ayaet Rakem**, AHS grad and first-year at Western University



DID YOU KNOW?

28 Canadians have won a Nobel Prize before.



A Canadian Achievement...

University of Waterloo professor Donna Strickland won the 2018 Physics Prize for her work on chirped-pulse amplification. This year, she is joined by fellow Canadian Michael Houghton from the University of Alberta, who won the 2020 Medicine Prize.



WORLD

2020 Nobel Prizes Honour Activists, Researchers, Artists

Above: Ulf Danielsson of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences speaks about black hole discoveries after the announcement of the winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics in Stockholm. (Fredrik Sandberg/AP)

From combatting bloodborne viruses to fighting off world hunger, the 2020 Nobel Prize winners this year come from a diverse spectrum of specialties and achievements. Beginning with the announcement of the Medicine/Physiology Prize winners on October 6th, the awards progressed through the sciences, the Literature and Peace Prize, and the Economics Prize on the 12th, rounding out a week of recognition for some of the most important minds of our time.

This year, the Medicine Prize went jointly to researchers Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton, and Charles M. Rice. Their discovery of the Hepatitis C virus during the 1970s and 80s helped elucidate methods of its treatment in later years, which has led to the disease's near-eradication today. Ellie Barnes, a professor of immunology at the University of Oxford, hopes that the prestigious award will shed some light on the epidemic of Hepatitis C around the world.

"We still have people infected and dying of hepatitis C. From that point of view, the story's not over," she says. She, along with other scientists, hope that the Prize will draw attention and funding back to developing a vaccine for the virus, thus allowing scientists to eliminate it completely.

The Physics Prize was awarded to the trio of Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel, and Andrea Ghez for their work on black holes — one of cosmolo-

We still have people infected and dying of hepatitis C. From that point of view, the story's not over.

Dr. Ellie Barnes, Professor of Immunology at the University of Oxford

gy's most elusive phenomena. Penrose received half of the prize for illustrating that Einstein's general theory of relativity provided theoretical evidence for the existence of black holes, and Genzel and Ghez received the other half for discovering the supermassive black hole at the center of our galaxy. This award comes hot on the heels of a major scientific breakthrough from last year: the first-ever photograph of a black hole, as captured by researchers at the Event Horizon Telescope.

The Chemistry Prize this year was jointly awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna for their discovery of CRISPR-Cas9 in 2012, a method that allows researchers to edit genes with laser-sharp accuracy by making precise cuts in DNA chains. According to Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, their innovation has "revolutionized basic science" and opened up the field of genetic engineering to a whole new world of possibility. Charpentier and Doudna are the first all-female duo to have been awarded a Nobel Prize in the sciences.

American poet Louise Glück received the Literature Prize this year, for what the committee calls "her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal." As the only Nobel awarded to an entire lifetime body of work rather than a single discovery or invention, it is often regarded as one of the highest achievements in literature. Her uncontroversial selection as this year's laureate comes as no surprise for some, as the award has been widely steeped in contention in the past 2 years.

The 2020 Nobel Peace Prize went to the United Nations' World Food Program, whose goal is eradicating hunger worldwide. Since the organization's establishment in 1964, it has played an integral role in providing food and resources to nations and people in crisis. With the threat of COVID-19 exacerbating existing food shortages in countries like Lebanon today, the \$1.1 million CAD endowment the Prize offers to its winners will surely be essential in the coming months.

Lastly, the Economics Prize was awarded to the American duo of Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson for their work in auction theory, which has allowed auctioneers to sell unusual products such as radio frequencies or airport landing spots through the auction format. Their award concludes this year's ceremonies, and with it, the ushering of a new collection of luminaries into the history books.

External News

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



EXTERNALS  
Wildfires Devastate the US West Coast  
pg 07



EXTERNALS

Protests Erupt in Belarus, "Europe's Last Dictatorship"

Above: Demonstrators attend a rally in solidarity with Belarusian opposition supporters, who hold protests to reject the presidential election results. (Valentyn Ogirenko/Reuters)

By Joe McDermott  
Staff Writer

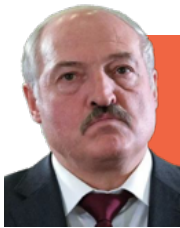
Thousands amass in city streets across Belarus, marching and shouting as they rally for freedom. Since 1994, Alexander Lukashenko has held office as the European nation's first president, exercising tremendous authority over the citizens and, as revealed back in early August, the very elections which determine leadership. After official results credited Lukashenko with 80% of the vote and declared his victory, the people of Belarus retaliated in over a month's worth of protests, demanding their leader's resignation.

Belarus's president has frequently been labeled "Europe's last dictator". Perhaps no one adheres more to this belief than Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the primary opposition candidate to Lukashenko in the disputed election. She ran in an effort to unseat Lukashenko after the arrest of her husband, a former candidate. She claims to have won 60-70% of the vote and has issued several accusations of authoritarianism against her rival. Many of those gathering at the protests supported Tsikhanouskaya and continue to recognize her as the true leader of their nation despite her decision to flee with her children into neighboring Lithuania, due to the fear

of arrest. After she addressed the world in a video on August 14th, the situation in Belarus gained global attention. Tsikhanouskaya stressed the significance of employing non-violent methods in toppling the regime and requested that Lukashenko accept a peaceful transfer of power.

However, much to Tsikhanouskaya's dismay, the authorities have forcefully opposed her supporters since the protests began. Each day hundreds have been detained and openly brutalized in the streets of major cities, namely Minsk and Brest. Police have used pepper spray, water cannons, tear gas, rubber bullets and physical force on even the most peaceful of demonstrators. In recent weeks Belarusian women have assumed prominent roles in many of the protests, parading the former white-and-red flag of Belarus and proving their strength to a government which has long belittled them.

The Belarusian government organized an unannounced, "secret" inauguration ceremony on September 23rd in Minsk where Lukashenko was sworn in as president for his sixth consecutive term. The move was met with increased demonstrations and international condemnation of the Belarusian state. Many countries — among them the EU, United States and Canada — denounced Lukashenko's win; most then imposed sanctions on



Lukashenko's rule is being challenged by the EU and the public for the first time in 26 years.

the country, although the United States has yet to do so. However, a selection of other countries have professed support for Lukashenko, namely Russia with President Putin going so far as extending a \$1.5 billion USD loan to Belarus for security official salaries in an effort to preserve loyalty to the state.

As for the future of the embattled European state, much is shrouded in uncertainty as violence and global tensions only seem to escalate. Military intervention from Russia remains a possibility and many are fearing that a situation similar to what occurred in Ukraine and Georgia — two former Soviet republics like Belarus — will happen again.. Though as the world watches and waits, one cannot help but notice the parallels between the suppression of dissent in Belarus and the police response to protests in the United States. Some have even likened Donald Trump to Lukashenko, a comparison jarring to some but an indisputable truth to others. Anxiety mounts as the election nears, and one can only speculate as to whether the American president will emulate Europe's last dictator.



How did the Speech Fare Amongst MPs?

177  
YE

The Liberals and NDP voted in favour of the speech.

152  
NAY

The Conservatives, Bloc Quebecois and Green Party voted against.



EXTERNALS

Liberal Party Delivers 43rd Throne Speech

Above: Gov. Gen. Julie Payette stands with Chief of Defence Staff Jonathan Vance, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Senator Marc Gold, and RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki during the throne speech. (Adrian Wyld/The Canadian Press)

By John Kerr  
Staff Writer & Editor

On 23 September, 2020, Governor General Julie Payette delivered the Liberal government's Throne Speech in the Senate chambers, officially opening the second session of the 43rd Parliament with 10 key goals for Canada's future.

The 6,800 word, 1 hour long text penned by the Prime Minister's Office also included four principal foundations that will be used to face down the many crises facing the country:

- Fighting the pandemic and saving lives;
- Supporting people and businesses through the emergency "as long as it lasts, whatever it takes";
- "Building back better" by creating jobs and strengthening the middle class;
- Standing up for Canadian values, including progress on reconciliation, gender equality, and systemic racism.

"This is our generation's crossroads. Do we move Canada forward, or let people be left behind? Do we come out of this stronger, or paper over the cracks that the crisis has exposed? This is the time to remember who we are as Canadians," Payette said.

The speech outlined key issues

fundamental to the Liberals with concessions made for other party ideals. From ways to curb the COVID-19 pandemic through increased testing to addressing Canada's climate goals for 2030, the ten goals for Canada's future are:

- "The Government is pursuing every technology and every option for faster tests;"
- "The Government will launch a campaign to create over one million jobs;"
- "The Government will help businesses adapt for the future and thrive;"
- "Canada needs an EI system for the 21st century;"
- "The Government will make a significant, long term, sustained investment to create a Canada-wide early learning and childcare system;"
- "The Government will... identify additional ways to tax extreme wealth inequality;"
- "The Government will work with Parliament on Criminal Code amendments to explicitly penalize those who neglect seniors under their care;"
- "The Government remains committed to a national, universal pharmacare system;"
- "The Government will immediately bring forward a plan to exceed Canada's 2030 climate goal;"
- "There is work still to be done, including on the road of reconciliation, and in addressing

systemic racism."

While the speech gave Canadians a basic view of the Liberal government's plan for the coming years, it lacked the detail anticipated by the media and political analysts in these unprecedented times. And for those expecting a national financial review will have to wait as the speech made no mention of the national debt due to the pandemic.

A professor for policy studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Kathy Brock, commented that the speech contained too many promises that could never reasonably be completed.

"It was a speech of promises as opposed to a speech that leads to action," she said. "It looks to me like it's preparing the way for an election."

The federal Liberals do hold a minority government this term and a Conservative push for a vote of no-confidence may be imminent in the next month meaning in order to secure their parliament, Prime Minister Trudeau must put aside some of his ideals for cooperation with at least one other major party. The Throne Speech was part one, the upcoming financial review will be part one as the Liberals and the Governor General herself, sinking in controversy after controversy, try to hold onto the support of Canadians during a pandemic that has brought the globe to its knees.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,000,000

Over 1 million people have died as of September 28.

10%

An estimated 10% of the world (760 million people) have been infected as of October 5.



EXTERNALS

COVID-19 on the International Stage

Above: People wearing protective masks wait in line to board a bus amidst the spread of COVID-19 in Mumbai, India. (Francis Mascarenhas/Reuters)

By Gavin Liu  
Staff Writer & Editor

One million. That is the number of lives taken by the virus that has rocked the globe. With cases continuing to rise and second waves emerging, the fight against COVID-19 continues around the world, while a race for the vaccine ensues. Responses to the virus are incredibly varied, so here are five nations from around the world and their current situation.

United States of America

While many different countries have entered a second wave, some were never able to curb the infections in the first place. The most obvious example that comes to mind is the United States. With 7.5 million cases and over 200,000 deaths, they lead in both coronavirus infections and deaths, while California, Texas, and Florida lead as the most affected states. The virus has also become a point of contention here, which leads to many protesting or not abiding by quarantine measures. This is also in part due to its politicization in the States, leading it to be a hotly debated issue when looking at the upcoming presidential election. Cases are steadily growing in the United States and without serious changes will continue to climb.

Brazil

With the third highest global case count, and the second most deaths, Brazil's trajectory may be going back up. Brazil never went into full lockdown, with some restrictions in p-

lace, but many ignored social distancing practices. Unexpectedly, there was a down tick in the number of cases there, and many experts thought this was due to the development of herd immunity and that the virus could not find new people to infect. Sadly, this has been proven to be untrue as there has been a resurgence of cases in some of Brazil's former epicenters, like the capital, Manaus. Much like the USA, their president, Bolsonaro, has also questioned the severity of the virus, even though he himself was infected.

India

India has only been beaten by the US in terms of case count, but is third when looking at deaths. They just recently surpassed 6 million cases, and are almost at 200 days in quarantine. However, India is rightfully fearful of a second wave, and is working to increase restrictions and to specifically lower the mortality rate in the country. There is also significant concern around asymptomatic patients, and are pushing for more fines and punishments for those not abiding by the new norms and not social distancing. A second wave could lead to another lockdown, causing even more economic hardship.

China

While the epicenter of the coronavirus started in the province of Wuhan in China, they have successfully combated the COVID-19 outbreak, allegedly reducing their number of cases to as low as single digit numbers. They implemented incredibly severe restrictions and quarantines to prevent

the spread of the virus, and in the end, this may have worked quite effectively as the Chinese are now returning to life before the coronavirus.

South Korea

South Korea never implemented an actual lockdown procedure, and instead had incredibly powerful testing and contact tracing measures in place. They also completely isolated and treated patients of the virus. With large scale testing centers, a centralized government system to distribute PPE and a contact tracing app, South Korea was successfully able to flatten their curb without shutting down their economy.

The Vaccine

One of the most pressing questions people around the world are asking is when a vaccine will be available. Many different countries are involved in the process, with billions of dollars being poured into research and testing. The prospective vaccines have also been politicized, as there is currently a race between different nations of the world to have the first COVID-19 vaccine. It also has been painted as arriving quite quickly, and as an be-all-end-all solution to the pandemic. However, this is far from the truth, as experts believe the vaccine will arrive in 2021, and when it does, it most likely will not be available to the entire population immediately. Instead, it will most likely be given to frontline workers and those more at risk, such as the elderly or immunocompromised. The reasons it will take this long is due to the many different clinical trials the test must go through to ensure it is both safe and effective.

The AMA believes that it is critical that vaccine decisions... are made based on science and evidence and not on politics.

Dr. Laura Beauchamp,  
Infectious Disease Specialist

Government agencies around the world have had different responses to the coronavirus and as such, varying success rates. Some countries have been able return to normal life while others have the virus roaming free. The vaccine is also a possibility, but will not likely be given to the general public for at least another year. Coronavirus is definitely not going away any time soon, but the response to the virus is global. We can learn from other countries what works and what does not, so that we can better streamline our recovery. The news may look incredibly bleak right now, but by looking at international response, we have been given hope. Now, the best we can do is to do our part and stay safe.



By Anne Fu  
Editor-in-Chief

**Wildfires across the Western** United States have set over 4 million acres of land alight and displaced over half a million people, in what has now become the most severe wildfire season in recorded Californian history. This year's blazes were driven by an unusually strong dry season in January and February, followed by record temperatures in the summer. Health officials warn that the resulting reduced air quality will exacerbate respiratory problems associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of September 14th, the death toll has grown to at least 37 people, while evacuation orders have been issued to large portions of Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and California. In response, some 16,600 firefighters in California alone have been mobilized to battle the blazes. On the ground, the firefighting and relief effort is composed of a wide variety of agencies, including state departments, inmates in "conservation camp" programs, the National Forest Service, out-of-state agencies, and volunteer crews.

The largest of these blazes, the August Complex fire, has claimed 979,386 acres of land in just 53 days, setting a new record for the largest wildfire ever recorded in the state of California. Despite its unprecedented size, it has killed only one firefighter and no civilians as of yet due to its remoteness; instead, this year's deadliest fire has been the North Complex fire, whose proximity to San Francisco and other urban areas makes it a greater danger to locals.

Although most wildfires are sparked by circumstances out of human control, such as fluke lightning strikes, intentional and unintentional firesetting can also have devastating consequences. The El Dorado fire in San Bernardino county, for instance, was accidentally started by a "pyrotechnic device used during a gender reveal party." The incident stirred up significant controversy in online circles, with some drawing attention to the risk that hosting a party involving smoke bombs during wildfire season posed. Elsewhere on the Internet, police departments and the FBI have also had to contend with rumours of political extremists starting fires on purpose, from those looking to slander certain groups and ideologies in the midst of heightened political tensions.

At the center of the political conversation around the wildfires however, is the issue of global warming. Climate change has compounded the frequency and intensity of these fires in recent years, as rising average global temperatures create turbulent weather conditions that make it easier for wildfires to sta-

IN DEPTH: WHAT ARE CONSERVATION CAMPS?

In order to battle the state's yearly blazes, California employs inmates in firefighter programs called "conservation camps", paying them \$1 an hour. After prisoners are released, they can find jobs as professional firefighters, although some criticize the initiative for its usage of prison labour.



EXTERNALS

Historic Wildfires Devastate the USA

Above: Firefighters clear roads to cut a fire line during the El Dorado Fire in Angelus Oaks, California. (Eric Thayer/The New York Times)

rt. Indeed, the NOAA predicted in March that 2020 would be one of the hottest years of all time, and several recent high-profile wildfires — such as those in the Amazon Rainforest in 2019 and in Australia in early 2020 — are strong evidence of a larger pattern in shifting climates.



Governor Gavin Newsom calls for climate action to prevent future fires.

Faced with these circumstances, officials have called for increased efforts towards combating global warming. "We're in the midst of a climate crisis. We are experiencing weather conditions the likes of which we've never experienced in our lifetime. We are experiencing what so many people predicted decades and decades ago, but all of that now is reality," said California Governor Gavin Newsom. "The data is self-evident, the experience that we have in the state of California just underscoring the reality of the ravages of climate change."

Airborne smoke and ash from the fires poses an additional health risk to Americans, as smoke particles can be carried upwind for thousands of miles and cause severe respiratory distress in those who inhale them. Citizens in major cities along the West

Coast experienced some of the most polluted air on the planet this week, with Vancouver hit especially hard on September 12 as the city's air quality index approached 201 — a level considered "very unhealthy" by the EPA. A shortage of medical supplies caused by the COVID-19 pandemic meant that respirators and emergency personnel were stretched thinner than ever as well.

Although masks have become a familiar accessory during the lockdown, many health officials warn that cloth and surgical masks are insufficient against wildfire smoke. N95 or P100 masks with heavy-duty filters will work, but these are mostly reserved for healthcare professionals who need them when fighting COVID-19 on the frontlines. Instead, citizens are advised to stay indoors, use portable air filters, and only open their windows when the air outside is clear, all while following social distancing protocols the best they can.

Across social media platforms, millions mobilized to respond to the crisis in their own ways. On Twitter and Reddit, users shared viral images of Oregon shadowed by an apocalyptic red sky, provided vital updates and warnings on the situation, or raised awareness and money for victims of the disaster — all part of a larger trend in digital activism this year.



Historical Precedent...

In 2017, a wildfire was started in Arizona after a US Border Patrol agent shot a rifle at a gender reveal party. The resulting blaze consumed over 47,000 acres of land.

22,744

The El Dorado Fire is estimated to have consumed over 22,744 acres of land and killed one firefighter.



EXTERNALS

Gender Reveal Party Sparks A Wildfire and a Conversation

Above: Arroyo Grande Hot Shot firefighter Shelby Robinette takes a break as crew members fight off the El Dorado Fire, which was triggered by a pyrotechnic from a gender reveal party. (Wally Skalij / Los Angeles Times)

By Vita Rao  
Staff Writer & Editor

**The age of social media and the** internet has produced several trends, most with the intent to gain views and subscribers. The epitome of this concept is prenatal gender reveals, with the practice being as significant as traditional celebrations, like baby showers. In fact, over 171,000,000 results appear when the phrase "gender reveal video" is searched on Google. The popularization of the practice created the desire to make gender reveals more elaborate, as it's an opportunity to gain views. However, the issues with gender reveals are that they perpetuate gender stereotypes — blue for a boy, pink for a girl — and the celebrations are getting more elaborate and unsafe. Recently, the use of a smoke-generating pyrotechnic device to reveal the gender of a Californian couple's unborn child sparked a fire — one that burned over 20,000 acres. The chaos began when the pyrotechnic device was ignited and began to inflame. The family attempted to put out the fire using water bottles, eventually calling authorities for help.

While the aftermath is devastating, the event sparked a conversation: how essential are gender-reveal parties and do they align with modern social standards?

This was not the first instance of a gender reveal party taking a negative turn. Since the popularization of these celebrations, there have been several injuries, deaths, and often property damage. The once-lighthearted celebrations have received immense scrutiny from many critics because of the perpetuation of harmful stereotypes and behaviour. Some people believe that such celebrations fail to address the distinction between sex and gender: the appropriate term for prenatal celebrations would be "sex reveal parties", as gender is unrelated to biology. However, many continue to use gender to label their celebrations and use the results as an opportunity to purchase gender-normative objects.

Although some believe the parties are harmful, they still remain a mainstay in Western society. Therefore, while they are fun and admittedly entertaining to watch, they must remain safe and respectful.

**It really is a tragedy, it's sad. They were hoping to remember the day in a different way... You need to be extra cautious because you could be liable.**

**Capt. Bennet Millroy**, CalFire Investigations Director, on whether or not the firestarters will be penalized

HEAR THE DISCUSSION

What do different groups have to say about gender reveal parties?

Who cares what gender the baby is? I did at the time because we didn't live in 2019 and didn't know what we know now — that assigning focus on gender at birth leaves out so much of their potential and talents that have nothing to do with what's between their legs.

**Jenna Karvunidis**, blogger and inventor of the gender reveal party

Maybe some people just want to get likes... but I don't really care what the motivation is, as long as they have fun with it. That's nice.

**Bushra**, mother and contributor to an *Elle* article on gender reveals



Road to the Election

After over a year of campaigns, unrest, and upheaval, the US election finally comes home next month on November 3.

October 22:  
Third Presidential Debate

November 3:  
Election Day 2020

January 20:  
Inauguration Day

EXTERNALS

An Unusual Week in US Politics, from the Debate to COVID-19

**Above:** President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden participate in their first 2020 presidential campaign debate on September 29. (Jonathan Ernst/Reuters)

By Jocelyn Mattka  
Staff Writer & Editor

2020 has been quite the year. A global health catastrophe, civil unrest, locust swarms in Africa, volcanic eruptions in the Philippines, earthquakes, helicopter crashes, the massive firework factory explosion in Beirut; it's been a handful! Except, 2020 isn't over yet. Before we can all close the door on 2020, it only seems fitting to squeeze in a US presidential election. Why not?

With only weeks until election day, things are keying up for our southern neighbours. Just last Tuesday, September 29, the Republican candidate, President Trump, and the Democrats' former Vice President Biden, met for their first debate. To say it was a heated night would be to put it very mildly.

Throughout the debate, both men spent plenty of time calling each other out on any statements they felt were untrue, making it difficult for viewers to follow the answers that were being given. From Biden's "shut up, man"s to Trump's "you made that up"s, it is easy to imagine the American people sitting at home and shaking their heads at the utter immaturity of both of their present options.


One controversial point from that night was on the subject of racial sensitivity training. While Biden seem-

ed to embrace it, Trump was asked why he has been dismantling it. His response was that "horrible" things were being taught in the training and that it was teaching Americans to hate their country and its "core values". In terms of the recent racial riots, Biden pointed out that they have been occurring not just in Democratic-lead cities, but Republican ones as well.

Another point of contention following the debate was Biden's use of the term "inshallah". According to Meriam Masmoudi, a political activist, it was upsetting to see that the best Biden could do for the Muslim community was a "completely inappropriately applied 'inshallah' in the debate".

One final piece of interest was the two candidates' opinions on COVID-19 response. While Trump was quick to lay blame back on China, Biden was just as fast to pin the 200 000 US COVID-19 deaths onto Trump. At this point in time, Trump held a very firm stance that people should not be panicked and that the economy should be kept intact. He argued that if Biden were to become President, he would "shut the country down". Biden, on the other hand, called for more enforcement of PPE and funding to businesses to help slow the spread of the virus while keeping schools and businesses open.

It is difficult to say if Trump's opinions will stay consistent though,



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

Tonight, @FLOTUS and I tested positive for COVID-19. We will begin our quarantine and recovery process immediately. We will get through this TOGETHER!

after COVID-19 reared its ugly head once again, just shortly after the debate. On October 2, President Trump was confirmed positive for the illness and was taken from the White House to Walter Reed, a military hospital, inciting a variety of strong emotions across the country. In many ways, Trump's illness has damaged his campaign, suggesting it is a much greater cause for panic than he would like people to believe. Doctors expected that despite the dips in Trump's blood-oxygen levels, he could be returning to the White House as early as Monday, October 5. In reality, he returned to the campaign trail on October 12.

If one thing is for certain, the excitement surrounding the US election is far from over. As November 3 continues to approach, the American people will have to come to a decision on which of their candidates is fit to assume this position of immense responsibility and leadership: the next President of the United States.

## What Did They Once Say?

“...I'm sometimes asked, “when will there be enough [women on the Supreme Court]?” and I say “when there are nine”, people are shocked. But there'd been nine men, and nobody's ever raised a question about that.”



EXTERNALS

Remembering Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**Above:** Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaks onstage at the Fourth Annual Berggruen Prize Gala. (Eugene Gologursky/Getty Images)

By Zonna Mir  
Staff Writer & Editor

Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away on September 18, 2020. She was the second woman to be appointed as an U.S. Supreme Court justice. Ginsburg was best known for her contributions and dedication to the fight for women's rights.

### The Life Of Ruth

Ginsburg — nicknamed RBG after a comparison to the rapper Notorious B.I.G — was born in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in a working class neighborhood. Ginsburg valued her independence and right to an education from a young age because of the values instilled in her by her mother, Celia Bader. Celia did not attend college, but worked to allow her brother to go to college, which taught Ruth a lot. Sadly, Celia had been diagnosed with cancer, and passed the day before she graduated from high school.

After high school, Ginsburg went to Cornell University and got her bachelor's degree in government in 1954. She had also met her future husband, Martin, during these years, and they married the same year. Ginsburg's first child, Jane, was born shortly after Ginsburg's husband was drafted into the military. After he returned, the couple went to Harvard. In Harvard, Ginsburg struggled to gain respect in a male-dominated field, as she was only one of eight females in a room of 500. Women were considered

to be taking the places of men, a view so common, even the law school's dean was more than happy to discuss it with the women. However, Ginsburg continued to work hard, and eventually was the first female member of the Harvard Law Review.

In 1956, Ginsburg's husband was diagnosed with testicular cancer, and Ginsburg began taking his classes as well as her own, while still raising their daughter. Martin recovered and got a job in New York. This led to Ginsburg transferring to Columbia University, and graduating at the top of her class in 1959. Despite her academic success, discrimination in the workforce was rampant. She clerked for the U.S. District Judge Edmund Palimieri before going on to teach at Rutgers University Law School, and then becoming the first female tenured professor at Columbia in 1972. In the 1970's, Ginsburg was also the director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, on which she argued six cases on gender equality in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, one of which fought against a section of the Social Security Act, which granted benefits to widows and not widowers.

In 1980, Ginsburg was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia by President Jimmy Carter, where she served until 1993. President Bill Clinton had selected Ginsburg to fill the seat once filled by Justice Byron White. She won over the Senate, 96-3. As a judge,

Ginsburg was cautious and vocal about her support for gender equality, workers' rights, and secularism. In 1999, Ginsburg was awarded the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award for her contributions to equality.

Ginsburg passed away at age 87 in her home in Washington D.C. from complications of pancreatic cancer. She left a legacy filled with triumph over the patriarchy, and bettering the lives of women in the United States. She will always be remembered as the woman who overcame all obstacles that stood in her way, spoke her mind, and made history. She will be remembered.

### What Next?

With Ginsburg's seat now open, the Trump Administration is looking to fill the seat as soon as possible. Donald Trump has announced his nomination, and on October 12th, Amy Conet Barrett's confirmation hearings will begin. The decision to quickly replace Ruth Bader Ginsburg has caused backlash, especially after Clara Spera, Ginsburg's granddaughter, said that she had told her just a few days before passing away, "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed." The elections will take place on November 3rd.

So as we carry on with our lives, let us carry the words of Ginsburg with us; "Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time."



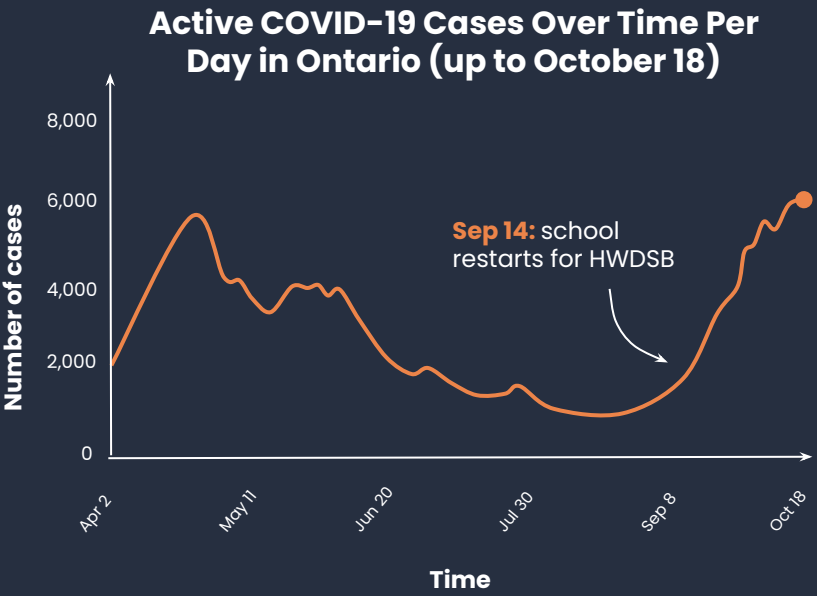


Illustration by Anne fu

By Rose He and Anika Kanagaratnam  
Staff Writers & Editors

Returning to school this year will be a drastically different educational experience from what we're used to. How are Canadians responding?

As 2020 begins to settle into autumn, students may wonder what their school year schedule will look like as COVID-19 continues. School boards will need to think creatively to ensure all students can learn effectively while following COVID-19 precautions. Although reopenings for Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) schools have started to run smoothly, citizens need to realize that Hamilton is inevitably exposed to COVID-19. Continue reading to learn about the effect of COVID-19 on Ancaster High School, Hamilton, Ontario, and Canada!

**Ancaster High's COVID-19 Procedures**

Aside from the remote learning that occurs in the afternoon, Ancaster High School's in-person learning program has ideas that are being implemented such as staying in a colour zone to help with contact tracing, using specific doors to enter and exit from, and physical distancing within the building. Classes have been divided into cohorts A and B to limit the amount of students in the classroom per day, and desks are arranged to allow for social distancing and accessibility. Different cohorts allow students to have in-person learning every other day and alternating Fridays. There is a full outline of the steps taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools provided by HWDSB, but is it really enough?

The board has been more cautious and is trying to set rules into place, but once the bell rings indicating the end of class, students roam around as they please, most of them with their masks off. Though there are signs around the entire school as a reminder of the protocols, social distancing seems to be overlooked and forgotten about, and students group up and chat on the school grounds.

If people want schools like Ancaster High to stay open, more rules may need to be put in place. For example, the board would need to figure out a plan for what students should do once school ends. Also, they need to think of a way to avoid the lineups at the entrance doors that do not allow for any physical distancing.

If Ancaster High students are not cautious, they could risk acquiring COVID-19 and unknowingly spread it to other students and staff members. This could put parents, guardians, grandparents, or any relatives at risk too, and it would lead to a potential school closure.

**COVID-19 In Hamilton**

HWDSB stated that the two goals for going back to school in this new environment is to make sure staff and students are safe, and to have new routines while still having a community-like feel within the school. The school board has taken many precautions to try limiting the spread of COVID-19 while also being able to teach students in class.

As of October 8, there are 11 schools in Hamilton that are confirmed to have had a COVID-19 case. The schools are:

- Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School
- Guardian Angels Catholic School
- Hillfield Strathallan College
- McMaster University
- Mohawk College's Stoney Creek campus
- R. L. Hyslop Elementary School
- St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Elementary School
- Templemead Elementary School, (before and after school program)
- Frank Panabaker Elementary School
- Huntington Park Elementary School
- St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Elementary School
- (Potentially) Sir Allan MacNab Secondary School

The first confirmed COVID-19 case in one of Hamilton's schools was at Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School. The Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) is working with public health officials to prevent the spread. They will be contacting anyone who may have come in contact with the two students and are disinfecting any areas the students may have been.

The first positive COVID-19 case in a HWDSB school was reported on September 17th. A staff member at a before-and-after school program was infected in Templemead Elementary School.

A closely associated elementary school where many Ancaster High students have studied is Frank Panabaker Elementary School (previously known as Fessenden and Ancaster Senior). Alarminglly, it is one of the schools listed above. There is a staff member working there in the north campus who has COVID-19.

This is concerning to us because Panabaker is close in proximity to Ancaster High, and many Ancaster High students have siblings that attend Panabaker. This brings up thoughts about how Ancaster High students could have COVID-19 and not notice it. Students and parents/guardians could be carrying COVID-19 and they could bring it home, which is something to consider.

Principal Jenny Seto-Vanderlip's letter to families stated that the staff member was last in the building on October 2.

"As part of the contact tracing process, HPHS is in contact with individuals who may have been exposed. Students and/or staff who may have been exposed have been made aware. As a precautionary measure, the students and staff associated with this case have received instruction from HPHS," her message said.

At Huntington Park Elementary

School, a student was tested positive for COVID-19. A letter was sent to families from Principal Pat Petruccelli, saying the student was last in the building on October 1.

At St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Elementary School, a staff member tested positive for COVID-19. Luckily, HWCDSB says the staff member was not in contact with anyone at the school and public health officials state that there is no risk to the school community.

With the three new positive cases stated, there's also a probable student case of COVID-19 at Sir Allan MacNab Secondary School. As the test results are pending, Principal Gregory Clark comments out of caution that they're treating this probable case in a similar manner as if it was a positive case.

**COVID-19 In Ontario**

Throughout Ontario, there are already 306 schools that have had 447 COVID-19 cases. The number of cases in Hamilton and Ontario are increasing at a rapid speed. A second wave is coming our way, and it could very well be worse than what we've already seen. Some restrictions could be put in place, and there is a possibility that the province will start shutting down again. COVID-19 cases were following a downward trend until September.

As Ontario cases are predicted to rise as the following autumn season comes, it is speculated that more people are not following the protocols Doug Ford has set in stone. Doug Ford is unhappy with Ontarians' actions and spoke upfront to them on September 21.

"I just don't get it. If we weren't so backlogged on MRI's I'd send you to the MRI to get your brain scanned because I just - I don't think there's anything in there," he says.

Though people were ignoring his message due to the rumours of Ford bypassing his own protocols, it is still an important message to keep in mind.

**COVID-19 In Canada**

Looking at the amount of COVID-19 cases in Canada, there was a large increase in April, followed by a steady decrease from June to August. However, looking past August, cases started to increase again. This is mostly due to the fact that restrictions are being lifted, people are going to work, and students are going to school. The government may have to reevaluate their decisions based on the data shown.

For everyone's safety, don't ignore protocols and restrictions! Wearing a mask is a great way to prevent the spread of any sickness, but we need to acknowledge that it does not make you immune to COVID-19. Ensuring that everyone wears a mask and practices distancing will prevent any transmission of COVID-19 and other illnesses.



# Internal News

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



**INTERNALS**  
**Student Opinions on Online Learning**  
*pg 15*



INTERNALS

## Who Are We? Forge FC!

**Above:** Forge FC plays against Edmonton FC in 2020 during the Canadian Championship Island Games. **(Forge FC/Twitter)**

By Julia Alexander  
**Staff Writer & Photographer**

“Who are we? Forge FC!” This is the responsive chant that is yelled by fans after the Hamilton Forge Football Club scores a goal. Forge FC is one of eight professional soccer clubs that play in Canada’s top national league called the Canadian Premier League (CPL). In 2019, the CPL’s inaugural season, Forge FC won the Northstar Shield championship. The CPL recently concluded its truncated second season played in a tournament format in Prince Edward Island, dubbed as the “Island Games”, under a COVID-19 bubble. In the Island Games, Forge FC proved victorious and won their second championship title.

Soccer fans living in Ancaster should be proud of Forge FC and the CPL as a whole. Our hometown professional soccer club has produced many highlight reel plays, amazing goals, clutch wins, and two titles. They played in the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Champions League tournament last year, making it to the second round. This year, they kick off their Champions League run against C.D. Municipal Limeño from El Salvador on October 22nd. For the non-soccer fans, there is still much to be proud of with Forge FC. The CPL motto of “We are Many, We are One” resonates stro-

ngly with many today, especially in light of the social injustices that are on the forefront of recent news. Second, the club promotes itself as being “forged” from Hamilton – a nod to the steel industry that has played a huge part in Hamilton’s economy and culture. Lastly and most importantly, Forge FC’s culture is that of inclusiveness and diversity. You can see and feel it at the games from the fans, and from the largest and most vocal group of supporters, the Barton Street Battalion.

I recently had the opportunity to chat with James Hutton, sales manager of Forge FC. Here is my Q&A interview with him:

**Q:** How important do you think high school-level soccer is?  
**A:** Pretty important. It bridges the gap to seeing if kids are serious about playing soccer for CPL.  
**Q:** As high school students, COVID-19 has deeply affected the way we do things at school. Can you tell us about the effects that COVID-19 had on the Forge in practices and playing this year in the Island Games?  
**A:** Yeah. It really ensures players are safe and follow guidelines (not just Forge, but every club follows the guidelines that the government gave them) including: temperature checks, closed-off access to the stadium, isolating the players, and players in the stadium who are practicing.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Forge FC have been CPL champions for all 2 years the league has existed.

**Q:** Speaking of the Island Games, congratulations on winning the championship and the second championship in a row for CPL! What did this win mean to the organization?  
**A:** It really solidified the fact that Forge is the best team in the CPL. More sales for merchandise and viewership on OneSoccer meant more access to the game.  
**Q:** What challenges does the Forge foresee in the next competitions coming up for CONCACAF and Voyageurs Cup?  
**A:** The unknowns are the challenges. CONCACAF played with El Salvador (who haven’t played on TV, hard to plan the plays). The Voyageur Cup hasn’t had a date set yet, which helps with figuring out plays against TFC.

**Q:** Does the Forge have any plans to increase fan engagement in the future? Talks at local high schools, scrimmages, etc?  
**A:** You can never do enough of these, no matter how much you’re already doing. If high school students are soccer fans, they would have gone to TFC games already and having some place closer to go to is better. School visits in elementary schools help with kids being active and healthy, and reminds them to come and visit us.

**Q:** How can we as a community better support the Forge?  
**A:** They can get people to come to a game, or they come to them and it will continue to grow naturally, since this is all so new.

**Q:** To all the young adults out there who would love to be involved in the CPL, what’s the best advice you can give to them?  
**A:** Not creating jobs for just players, it’s a whole industry to make sure to stick to soccer (referees, media/tv, advertising, sales, etc.). Staying close to the sport will help people to become higher up. It is really easy to get a job from where you know and are familiar with.  
**Q:** What would be the best way to inform a high school student who doesn’t know about the Forge?  
**A:** Just get them in the stadium once, bring them out once and make sure they have a good time. Being ingrained in the community will help the information come across and connect at different angles.



**INTERNALS**  
**What Halloween Will Look Like During the Pandemic**  
*pg 15*

**What’s Been Cancelled This Year**

- Supercrawl
- Great Pumpkin Stroll
- Stories in the Stones Tours



INTERNALS

## Local Fall Events Adapt to Pandemic Conditions

**Above:** Angie Crichton and her daughter Aliah Kingswood pick strawberries for the Next Door Kitchen, a community based kitchen operated by Crichton in Aldershot. **(Cathie Coward/The Hamilton Spectator)**

By Brooke Vesentin  
**Club Advisor**

Fall is officially here, and who doesn’t love fall? It’s a season full of pumpkin spice, comfy clothes, cool weather, fun holidays, and most of all fun events. Fall fairs, apple orchards, pumpkin patches, farms, and parades are just a few of the fall events that are held in Hamilton around this time. However, due to the unfortunate outbreak of COVID-19 this year, many of these events had to be canceled. Many were devastated to hear that so many of my favourite annual events were called off this year.

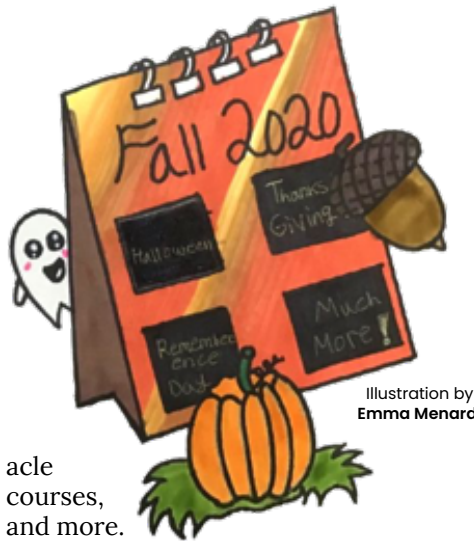
One of the biggest and most beloved fall fairs that were canceled was the Ancaster Fair. The fair usually takes place on the third weekend after Labour Day. To those who do not know, the Ancaster Fair is an annual fall fair that is held on the Ancaster fairgrounds. It includes various attractions such as rides, food trucks, contests, events, and animals. The fair has been around for 170 years, and has only been canceled one other time in its long-running history: back in 1937 due to an outbreak of polio. The decision to cancel the fair was made on June 8th, 2020 by the Ancaster Agricultural Society due to the growing number of COVID-19 cases that Ontario was experiencing at the time.

Another fall fair that many Ancaster residents love is the Rockton Fair, held in Rockton, Ontario. It has

also been canceled this year, and is not set to return until fall 2021. Vince Brennan, manager with the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS), stated that as of April 29th, 34 of the 214 fairs that are members of the OAAS have officially canceled their events for the year due to COVID-19.

However, fall is not only about fairs. Many families also enjoy visiting farms, and luckily, more farms are set to be open this year. A very popular farm in Dundas is Dymont’s Farm, which includes pumpkin patches, hayrides, and other fun fall activities. Visitors must buy their admission tickets in advance online, and due to COVID-19 restrictions, the experience may look a little different from previous years. Another farm that is open is the local Lindley’s Farm, which is located here in Ancaster. Lindley’s Farm has loads of local produce like pumpkins, but even though it is still open, there have been some major changes to ensure the safety of the customers and the staff. No cash is accepted, you must drive in your own vehicle to the pumpkin patch, masks are required when entering and exiting the field, and there are no hayrides or corn mazes available this year.

Another family-favourite farm in Hamilton is Merry Farms, which is also open this year. However, like many farms they have some new rules and have made many changes to ensure the public’s safety. Some activities that are still available are the corn maze, kiddie roller coasters, interactions with farm animals, the tire climb, obst-



acle courses, and more. Canceled events include activities such as horse riding, farmer foosball, pumpkin tic tac toe, corn toss, and wagon rides. They also require attendees to buy tickets online ahead of time to monitor the number of people who are at the farm, maintain a 2 meter distance from other families at all times, and continuously use provided hand sanitizer stations to prevent the spread of germs.

Overall, whether your favourite fall events were canceled or modified, it’s for the best. We need to continue to stop the spread of COVID-19, and if it takes canceling a few fairs, that is a price most of us are all willing to pay. Hopefully, everything will be back to normal next year, but all we can do now is wait it out and hope for the best. Remember, the sooner we are all responsible and stop the spread, the sooner we can have our beloved fall activities once more.





Illustration by Rose He

By Sam Oman  
Staff Writer

Due to COVID-19, this school year is looking very different. One new thing this year is online school. In the beginning, the schedule seemed very complicated, with some people doing a mixture of online and in person/others only doing online, but as the year goes on, it is becoming easier to understand. This article is to inform others on the pros and cons of online school. This year phys-ed seemed confusing and complicated all thanks to COVID guidelines. We would have to have phys-ed online as well, which seemed very confusing.

This may not apply to every-



By Caitlin Adams-Nequia  
Staff Writer

How is Halloween going to work this year? Well, policies depend on what region you live in. Although doctors confirmed last week that the children in some provinces like British Columbia can still have Halloween, they suggest for it to be done differently. This includes handing out candy at the end of the driveway or restricting children from rummaging for certain treats within your candy bowl. In Quebec, Dr. Horacio Arruda assembled a scientific committee to determine if it's safe to go trick or treating, although it ended up being banned. As for masks and social distancing, you can incorporate a mask into any costume. For example, for a black cat you can use an all black mask and draw the nose and whiskers with a fabric marker.

BY THE NUMBERS

50%

Canadian home internet usage is up 50% since the start of quarantine.

40%

Overall traffic grew by 40% from February to April.

42%

of Americans are watching more broadcast TV.

67%

of the world is watching more news.

INTERNALS

The Pros and Cons of Online Learning

ne, thanks to all the different teachers in our school, but my remote gym classes mostly involve handing in vlogs of being active and weekly eating charts. Some pros about online school would be being able to sleep in, not being exposed to the virus, and learning more about technology. A few cons would be the risk of sleeping through class, harder to pay attention when at home, and the internet or wifi is not always a guarantee, leading to missed classes and not being able to hear what your teacher is saying.

With a mixture of online and in person school, it may seem better because we can get out of the house. However, this schedule has messed up my circadian rhythm, as I feel the need to sleep until I have to log into classes.

On the other hand, when I do have in person school, I get up hours earlier to get dressed. This schedule is also confusing as we are doing rotating classes. Doing an on and off schedule messes up our sense of time because the schedule cuts itself off on Fridays.

I asked some friends what they think of online school, and while many have said that it is better to go to school while they still give us options, a lot of others have said that going to school for only one class is not worth putting yourself and your family at risk especially if you are going to be forced to do online school anyways. As some believe, it is probably not the wisest to still have schools open.



Illustration by Rose He

This virus will keep Melanie Vicente, a Toronto mom with two kids, inside this Halloween, but she's determined to keep the Halloween spirit alive. Though we can't trick or treat, Melanie's family will still decorate their yard with a fake cemetery and smoke machine, dress up and of course eat some candy. Sadly, her soon-to-be four year old won't get her usual Halloween-themed birthday party, and even their extended family won't be coming over on the 31st.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson's Halloween is canceled mostly because of COVID, but also because the party attracts 5,000 to 6,000 people every year and Jim doesn't believe they can properly socially distance.

No matter what, it's clear that this year's Halloween will be unlike any other we've ever had.



INTERNALS

Student Opinions on Online Learning

Above: Desks are separated according to social distancing measures in the Ancaster High Red Zone in the East Wing Library. (Ms. Bentham/The Royal Gazette)

By Emma Menard  
Staff Writer & Illustrator

Due to COVID-19, the 2020/2021 school year has started off very differently compared to past years at Ancaster High. In September 2020, students were assigned to either cohort A or cohort B. These cohorts are to determine what day each student is attending their in-person classes, which are about 2 hours and 30 minutes for each in-person period 1 class. Then, starting at 12:15 PM in the afternoon, there are three 40-minute periods. Those three periods are all online. Depending on the teacher, students are either learning through Microsoft Teams, through the Hub, or a little bit of both. Learning online definitely looks a little bit different for everyone and lots of people will have different opinions. Here are a few opinions on what some students think about online learning. Each student was asked the same question: "What are your opinions on your online/virtual classes?"

Let us start with a grade 11 student's opinion. This student's response to the question was, "They're not so bad. I wish the start times were pushed back though, because 2.5 hours of class time is too much. Also, I feel that staring at the screen has started to give me migraines, but I still enjoy being able to learn online more than I thought I would at first."

Two grade 12 students also responded to the question. The first student's response was, "I prefer in-person, but learning at home is really comfortable for me (e.g. more sleep!)", while the second student commented on some of the pros and cons of online learning. "The pros are that you can easily ask questions while on the chat. It is direct. Some of the cons are that 40 mins can be too short to learn, and of course there would be technical issues. For the most part it has been good. On some days online classes help me keep more on track," they said.

So, for the most part, it seems as if there are both pros and cons to learning online. It is predictable that someone would mention technical issues, because when everyone's learning, online servers can get overloaded. A good tip while learning online, whether it be through a class, at school, or any virtual appointment, activity, or class, is to keep your camera off. It will help keep your internet running smoothly.

I still enjoy being able to learn online more than I thought I would at first.

Anonymous grade 11 student, on the online learning experience

@ahsroyalgazette  
Follow us for more updates!

TIPS FOR ONLINE LEARNING



- Keep track of all your deadlines with a calendar on paper or on your phone, since it might be harder to remember due dates without a physical learning space.
- Practice going to bed and waking up at the same time you normally would during a school year, even if you've got spares in the morning or online classes.
- Exercise regularly and set aside some "screen free" time for every single day.
- Keep in touch with your peers and your teacher through email or text messaging.



INTERNALS

Troubleshooting on MS Teams

By Jocelyn Mattka  
Staff Writer & Editor

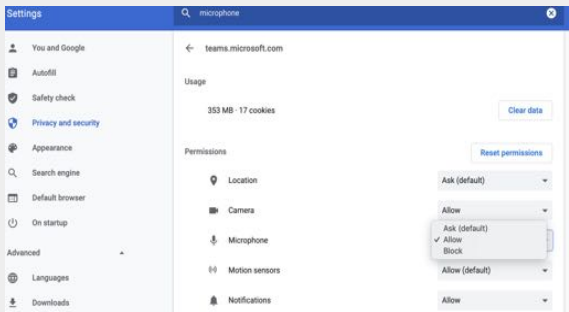
Audio Issues

One common issue on Teams is dealing with audio. If you are muted, the first thing to do is to ensure that your microphone in the meeting isn't on mute. This seems fairly obvious, but it happens. After you've ruled that out, there are several other things you should check. First, make sure your device itself isn't muted. On some devices, a switch or button on your keyboard can be used to mute your microphone and will make it so that you're unable to speak on any type of meeting, Teams or otherwise. If that's not it either, check your browser settings. You may have to manually allow microphone access, especially if you blocked it in the past.

Your next step from here is to check the security and privacy settings on your device itself. If none of this works, try switching from the Teams app to the internet, or vice versa. If you are still experiencing issues, close Teams and try restarting the device.

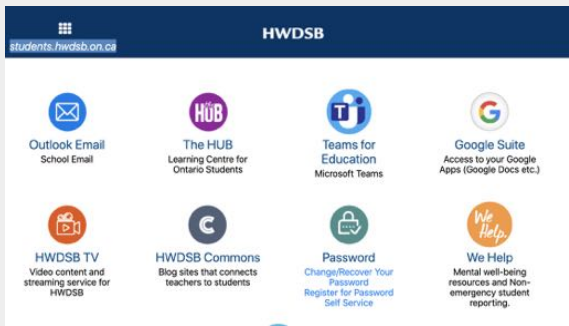
This school year, students and teachers all across Ontario have been asked to adapt their learning and teaching styles to accommodate remote learning. As many of you may have already discovered, online learning can be challenging enough without having to deal with technical issues. Next time you find yourself running into trouble on Teams, here are some strategies you can use to get your meeting back on track.

I hope that you find these suggestions helpful next time you are struggling with Teams. Feel free to contact me, [jmattka7612@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:jmattka7612@hwdsb.on.ca), if you are having any further issues and I will do my best to continue looking for solutions! The more we work together and support each other, the easier this unique learning experience will be.



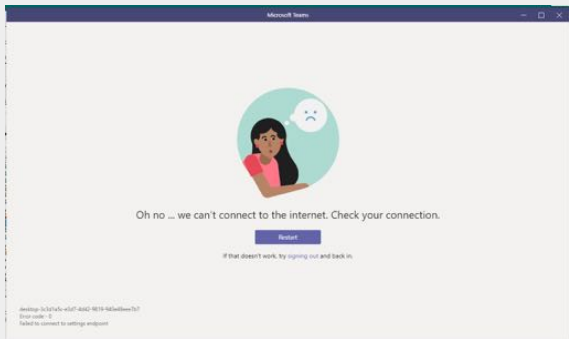
Chat Visibility

Another typical Teams issue is with the visibility and accessibility of the chat feature. In the case that you are unable to see the chat at all, make sure you have been added to the Team and are not attending as a guest. If you are attending the meeting as a guest you won't be able to type in, or see the chat. If you are a member and the chat still isn't working, try restarting Teams. If your session has timed out on Teams (which it does after a day or so) and you haven't logged back in, Teams will not only hide the chat from you, but also mark you as absent. To avoid this, make sure you are logging back in regularly. You can do this by going to [students.hwdsb.on.ca](https://students.hwdsb.on.ca) and selecting Microsoft Teams, or by opening Teams through your classes' Hub page after you have fully closed Teams.



Random Kicks

Finally, if your issue is getting randomly kicked off of meetings, there are a couple of things you can try. First, make sure you close any applications running in other tabs. If you have another application open and it times out, it can cause Teams to freeze or kick you out of a meeting. Aside from this, check your internet connection. If it is unstable, you may get automatically disconnected from the call. If you suspect you are not being kicked out by Teams, but by another student, you may want to inform your teacher so they can check the roles of the team members. If teachers make all students "attendees", they will not have the ability to kick each other out of meetings.



INTERNALS

Teacher Insider: Mrs. Baker

Above: Ms. Baker, one of Ancaster High's Learning Resource teachers since 2012. (Ms. Baker/The Royal Gazette)

By Thea Fein  
Staff Writer & Photographer

Mrs. Baker is one of Ancaster High School's Learning Resource teachers. Her role at Ancaster High is vast as she takes on many responsibilities even if they aren't in her job description.

Mrs. Baker started working at Ancaster High in June of 2012 and before beginning her career at Ancaster High, she worked at Highland Secondary School, which has now been called Dundas Valley for many years.

When asked the question, "when and how did you decide to become a teacher?" this was her response:

"I always loved working with kids and young people. I taught lessons and coached swimming throughout high school and university. Members of my extended family are teachers

and I always thought that teaching Phys.Ed. would be a great job. I was considering it as an option before I went to University. Lots of experiences in high school (summer camp etc.) gave me an idea of what teaching might be like."

Mrs. Baker grew up in Hamilton and attended Westdale Secondary School as a child.

We asked Mrs. Baker if she had ever considered pursuing a career in something other than teaching and her answer was quite fascinating.

"In university, I studied psychology and neuroscience along with kinesiology. I almost decided to pursue clinical psychology, but chose to complete my B. Ed. Instead. I still love learning about how our brain works. I'm able to use this information to help students as a Learning Resource teacher."

An interesting fact Mrs. Baker would like to share is that when she

was in high school, she went on a student exchange to France for three months.

She says, "It was a great experience and is part of why I love to travel."

Mrs. Baker also coaches the school swim team and has coached other teams as well including but not limited to: track, field hockey, volleyball, tennis etc.


Not only is Mrs. Baker an incredible teacher, she is always there for her students and supporting them in every way possible.




# Student Voices

By Ashley Smith  
Staff Writer

If you're an avid reader, enjoy Harry Potter immensely, or simply keep up with the news, you may know about the latest J.K. Rowling controversy. To break it down, on June 6th Rowling took to Twitter, responding to an opinion article titled "Creating a more equal post-COVID-19 world for people who menstruate".



**J.K. Rowling**  
@jk\_rowling



'People who menstruate.' I'm sure there used to be a word for those people. Someone help me out. Wumben? Wimpund? Woomud?

Opinion: Creating a more equal post-COVID-19 world for people who menstruate

This tweet very obviously invalidates the identities of trans women and men; Rowling received a lot of backlash from people who were saying the tweet was transphobic. In response, she posted a thread of tweets explaining her views in more detail. To no surprise, they had transphobic undertones hidden underneath a wall of "feminism". This isn't the only time Rowling has demonstrated transphobic tendencies either. She has previously liked tweets that invalidate trans identities, criticized and spread misinformation about transitional hormones, and published a piece entitled "TERF Wars" on her personal website, further displaying transphobic opinions and spreading misinformation.

In addition to all of this, Rowling is writing a new book where the main character is a cisgendered murderer who dresses as a woman. It has been described by The Telegraph as "[a] book whose moral seems to be: never trust a man in a dress". The book's plot has huge potential of being incredibly damaging to the trans community. The kicker is, this isn't the first book she's written that has transphobic undertones. In another crime book, Rowling depicts a trans woman as an unstable and violent murderer, the trope being that trans women are incapable of overcoming their masculinity and therefore are more aggressive by nature, which is an extremely damaging point of view.

Rowling's transphobia may come as a shock, but it fits perfectly alongside her problematic past.

Ancaster High and the Gazette staff weigh in on what they believe matters with **essays, opinions, and advice.**



**VOICES**  
**Major Transitions in High School**  
*pg 21*



## VOICES Why We Don't Talk About "She Who Must Not Be Named"

**Above:** J.K. Rowling (Ben A. Pruchnie/GettyImages)

We can talk about her racism and lack of diversity in the Harry Potter universe. In a magical world where anything is possible, where all sorts of creatures exist, only nine of her characters are canonically people of colour. None of them are main characters, just briefly mentioned a handful of times. One of the two East-Asian characters is named Cho Chang (two Korean last names) and was sorted into the "smart house", hitting on a few racist Asian stereotypes. One of the black characters is named Kingsley Shacklebolt (do the racist connotations even need to be explained?). The only other East-Asian character in her series is Nagini, an Asian woman trapped in the body of a snake, who perpetuates the harmful "dragon lady" stereotype. Then, there's the racism in her *History of Magic in North America* (HOMINA) section on Pottermore, where Native wizards practiced magic without wands until they were taught by Euro-wizards more "civilized" methods of magic (she wrote Native wizards as inferior beings). In addition, HOMINA objectifies a multitude of historical Native beliefs and beings (skinwalkers, medicine men, wampuses, horned serpents, etc), grouping different tribal values all together and erasing not only the uniqueness that comes with each tribal nation, but also erasing the very real people, practices, and histories behind the stolen information.

We can also talk about her queerbaiting. Queerbaiting is marketing tactic to draw

in LGBTQ+ fans through hinting at the possibility of LGBTQ+ characters when in reality, there isn't any attempt to develop a queer plotline. We see this through Remus Lupin and Nymphadora Tonks; the two were both considered queer throughout the fanbase, Tonks also considered genderfluid because of her ability to change her appearance at will. But they were married seemingly out of nowhere, with no chemistry between the two, to start a heteronormative family. We also see this through Albus Dumbledore who Rowling claims is gay, attracted to a man named Grindelwald in his youth, yet makes no attempt to expand on their relationship throughout her numerous books and movies.

Overall, J.K. Rowling is a problematic author, and many fans have claimed that her actions and words have ruined the Harry Potter Universe for them. Though we don't talk about She-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named anymore, Daniel Radcliffe put it perfectly when he addressed the Harry Potter fanbase: "[t]o all the people who now feel that their experience of [Harry Potter] has been tarnished or diminished[:] I am deeply sorry for the pain these comments have caused you", he said.

"I really hope that you don't entirely lose what was valuable in these stories to you[, a]nd in my opinion, nobody can touch that".

VOICES

## Intro To The Royal Gazette!

By Brooke Vesentin & Hannah Breiding  
Club Advisors

## Get To Know Your New Gazette Leaders!

Hey Royals! My name is Brooke Vesentin and I am, along with my friend Hannah Breiding, your new Royal Gazette club leader. Last year, when Hannah and I both were in grade nine and were new to Ancaster High, everyone was always telling us about the importance of joining clubs in high school. We knew that we wanted to join a club, but we were unsure of which one to join, we couldn't find one that was right for us. That is until we found out about the Royal Gazette. I myself love writing, it has always been one of my passions, however I had never considered journalism as a form of writing I would be interested in, that is until I joined the gazette.



As for Hannah, she has always loved photography, and in joining the Gazette she was able to pursue that interest and get some of her photography work out there and seen by all of our readers. We realized that they were right about the importance of joining clubs, it makes you feel like you are a part of something and is a great way to feel more connected with the school. It is also a great way to pursue your passions and to make new friends and connections with other teachers and staff. Not only does it benefit you in school, but also later in life as joining clubs can teach you many new skills which can possibly open you up to various career opportunities.



However, Hannah and I could not do this alone, we also have our amazing editor in chief Anne Fu, along with our wonderful teacher advisor Ms. Bentham. They are really making everything come together and we couldn't have done any of this without them! We also have our amazing team of writers, editors, photographers and designers, some of which are students who have rejoined the Gazette and some of them are brand new to it. We are so happy with the turn out this year of people signing up for the Gazette and we already know that we have a strong team this year that is filled with students with amazing ideas and a passion for the Gazette.

## What's Next For The Gazette?

This year Hannah and I plan to make the Gazette bigger and better than it ever has been. We are so excited to be running it and we have so many ideas in the works. We want to gain more readers and build both our team, along with our presence at the school and we want to make this club and our paper an overall great experience for everyone involved.



COVID-19 has definitely changed how things run here at the Gazette, but we made sure that we can still have our club up and running this year via online. It is one of the only clubs that is currently running and for that we are immensely grateful. We cannot wait to get started, and if anyone who has not joined would like to join the gazette, let us know! You will always be welcomed here with open arms at the Royal Gazette!

YOUR VERY OWN



Illustration by  
Noor Menhel

ROYAL  
GAZETTE



VOICES

# How To Deal With Transition Periods In High School

By Iris Elik  
Staff Writer

Transitions in high school are inevitable. In the span of four years, the person you were at the beginning and the person you become are vastly different. And that's normal. Periods of transition in high school can be very challenging, especially when everything goes by so fast. In the blink of an eye, you're wearing a graduation cap and walking the stage. I personally found two transitions difficult, the first of which was, middle school to grade nine. The workload drastically increases, and if you don't have older siblings or friends, high school is pretty much a foreign concept. It did not help that all my grade eight teachers used to say, "High school is so much harder, you'll have teachers who are way stricter." Which, by the way, isn't really true. The second transition is currently grade eleven to grade twelve. The idea of having to apply to university is terrifying. As a senior, I've taken it upon myself to provide advice that I wish I had when I first started high school, as well as advice on how to perform your best academically.

## Suicide Prevention Hotline

833-456-4566

## National Depression Hotline

1-800-273-8255

The first piece of advice: do not procrastinate. No, seriously. I always left everything until the last minute, and although I didn't do terribly, I definitely could've done better. I completely regret not taking my time studying for tests, assignments, even exams. Using an organization tool like a notebook, reminder apps, or putting post-its on places you would see when you first wake up, all of it helps. Keeping your work organized boosts motivation, which then leads to a better work ethic, which then leads you to the end goal: doing your best.

The second piece of advice: get a binder. Trust me. Knowing where everything is, and being able to store all your homework in one place is crucial. It saves so much unnecessary stress.

The third piece of advice, take time for yourself. Mental health is genuinely so important. I cannot emphasize this enough. Mental health first, school second. Practice deep breathing, write down what you're grateful for, surround yourself with those who appreciate you, and be kind to yourself. I know it's frustrating to make mistakes, but it's not the end of the world. I bet this sounded super soppy. At the end of this article, I will leave below phone numbers to call if you are ever in a dark place.

The last piece of advice I have for you is this: be on good terms with your teachers. I don't mean in a "teacher's pet" way. Being on time, having the materials you need for class, participating (even if not frequently), and saying thank you after class will take you a long way. If your teachers know you're a good student, life will be much easier. Teachers will most likely be more lenient if you miss homework, if you need an extension, or if you need a reference because they themselves have seen you apply effort in class.

As scary as high school is, it's an important period of your adolescence. Figuring out who you are, understanding how to build relationships, learning about your interests, etc. These are all helpful when you graduate. Hopefully, this article provides you with some new information or reiterates the importance of what you already know.



# Arts & Culture

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



ARTS & CULTURE  
Among Us: Lockdown's Viral Video Game  
pg 23



ARTS & CULTURE

## Canadian Music During Quarantine

Above: Toronto rapper Drake stars in the music video for "When to Say When" and "Chicago Freestyle". (Drake/Youtube)

By Simran Matharu  
Staff Writer

It is evident this year has been far from average. We spent about six months at home with essentially nothing to do. However, if you are a fan of music, quarantine may have been slightly easier to muddle through. 2020 has been arguably one of the best years for music, and Canadian artists have truly made an appearance in the music industry in the past few months.

Back in January, "Yummy" by Justin Bieber sparked some buzz in the pop community. This song did incredibly well, peaking at number two on the Billboard Hot 100. A week later, Drake and Future released their hit single, "Life Is Good". This, along with songs from Tory Lanez, Roy Woods, and Pressa, rocked the hip-hop world.

As we entered the second month of 2020, we got an album from Justin Bieber, *Changes*, debuting atop the Billboard 200 Chart and selling a first-week sales total of 231,000 album-equivalent units. February ended with two unexpected drops from Drake, "When To Say When" and "Chicago Freestyle".

March was a huge month for R&B fans, with projects from The Weeknd, PARTYNEXTDOOR, and Jessie Reyez. The Weeknd dropped his highly anticipated album, *After Hours*, on the 20th, and broke records. This Toronto-born singer became the most

-streamed artist on Spotify, and "Blinding Lights" spent a record 28 weeks in the top five of the Billboard Hot 100. A week later, PARTYNEXTDOOR released his album, *PARTYMOBILE*, debuting at number eight on the Billboard 200 Chart. Features from Drake, Rihanna, and Bad Bunny helped put this Mississauga-born artist's album on the map. March ended with a studio album from Jessie Reyez, named *Before Love Came To Kill Us*, which earned a spot on the shortlist for the 2020 Polaris Music Prize.

Drake released yet another hit single in April, "Toosie Slide". This song gained much publicity on TikTok after Drake released its music video featuring a dance to go with it. Unsurprisingly, the song was number one on both the Billboard Hot 100 and the Rolling Stone Top 100. April also saw another track from Tory Lanez, with his release of *Who Needs Love*. Canadian R&B duo, Dvsn, released their album, *A Muse In Her Feelings*, with features from fellow Canadian artists PARTYNEXTDOOR and Jessie Reyez.

It seemed Drake had not had enough of releasing music, as May started off with a 14-song mixtape from this Torontonian. Despite the success of this project, called *Dark Lane Demo Tapes*, it was considered just a "warm-up" to Drake's upcoming sixth studio album release. Canadian hip-hop in May does not end here, though, because Toronto rapper Nav

also released an album, *Good Intentions*, a week later. This project, featuring numerous mainstream artists, debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 Chart, earning 135,000 album-equivalent units in its first week. Songs from Tory Lanez, KILLY, Pressa, and Roy Woods added to the hip-hop lineup this month, as well as a song that gained an abundance of popularity on TikTok: *Excitement* featuring PARTYNEXTDOOR. In addition, Justin Bieber released a song with Ariana Grande, "Stuck With U", which debuted at an impressive number one on the Billboard Hot 100.

June came with a project from hip-hop duo 88Glam, *New Mania*. This 18-track mixtape received a great deal of positive feedback and boosted this debatably underrated duo's fanbase. June also featured the 2020 Juno Awards, commemorating the immense amount of talent in Canadian music this year.

Yet again, fans were blessed in July with two singles featuring Drake, "Popstar" and "Greece". "Popstar" debuted at number three on the Billboard Hot 100 and "Greece" at number eight. The hip-hop community were also gifted with tracks from KILLY, Pressa, Clairmont the Second, and late rapper Houdini.

Just when one would think Drake has plateaued, he releases another single, "Laugh Now Cry Later", with rapper Lil Durk on August 14 - which debuted at number two on the Billboard Hot 100 - and features on a song with PARTYNEXTDOOR, "Twist & Turn". August also saw two singles featuring The Weeknd, one being a posthumous release by Juice Wrld, "Smile", and the other with Calvin Harris on "Over Now". "Smile" peaked at number eight on the Billboard Hot 100, and Over Now at number thirty-eight. Ruth B. released her single, "Dirty Nikes", this month as well.

September came with a single from Justin Bieber, *Holy*, featuring Chance the Rapper. This song debuted at number three on the Billboard Hot 100. Additionally, The Weeknd was featured on another song this year, "Rambo (Last Blood)", by Bryson Tiller.

Clearly, Canadian artists have ardently flaunted their mind-blowing artistry in 2020, and these were only a portion of the Canadian projects that were released this year. From hip-hop to R&B to pop, these artists have dominated the charts all across the globe. However, 2020 is not over just yet, and there has been talk for new Canadian music in the next few months. Who knows what these talented Canadian artists have in store for us in the near future?



THE UNLIKELY RISE OF *AMONG US*



I thought about a way to bring [Mafia] to a mobile party game setting and pitched it to the others. We were all excited about that idea and our other game idea was kind of struggling, so we went where the excitement was!

Marcus Bromander, artist of *Among Us*

Despite having existed since 2018, *Among Us* only gained traction this year after several prominent streamers and YouTubers like Ninja and PewDiePie brought traffic to the game.



ARTS & CULTURE

Among Us: Lockdown’s Viral Video Game

Above: Different customization of Among Us sprites players can choose from. (Gavin Liu/The Royal Gazette)

By Gavin Liu  
Staff Writer & Editor

As you hurtle through space, you could be faced with one of two dilemmas. Try to fix the broken ship around you while deducing who your enemies and allies are, or leave a trail of bodies behind as you kill your crewmates one by one. This is the basis of the breakout indie game, *Among Us*. Released in June of 2018 and developed by InnerSloth, this social deduction party game unexpectedly went viral in the middle of 2020. Its rise in popularity is often credited to online content creators in Brazil and South Korea and has been further popularized through different platforms such as Twitch and Youtube. Quarantine may have also helped promote the game by allowing for a way to be social whilst social distancing. Near the end of September, *Among Us* reached roughly 4 million concurrent players, leading to the servers being overloaded and unreliable, requiring the team of three developers to act quickly and fix this issue. The game is free to play on mobile, while costing \$5.69 on Steam. In-app purchases are also available, allowing for players to get special skins and hats, while the developer team recently introduced merch late this year. Finally, after the game blew up, the developers announced *Among Us 2*

would be coming sometime next year, but this was ultimately cancelled and it was announced that all new features and improvements would instead be added to the current game.

The gameplay of *Among Us* is not very convoluted, drawing inspiration from classic social deduction games like *Mafia* and *Secret Hitler*. The game supports 4-10 players, and secretly prescribes either the role of crewmate or imposter to the participants. Many different aspects of the game can be customized such as the number of imposters, the map, and how your character looks. The job of the crewmates is to go around the ship and complete different tasks varying in both length and complexity. Crewmates must also fix sabotages created by impostors, report bodies, call meetings, and try to deduce which one of the other players is thinning the numbers. Impostors know one another and are unknown to the crewmates. Their job is to kill the crewmates until the number in each parties are equal. They can also use vents to jump from room to room and have enhanced vision, but a kill cooldown prevents them from going on a kill spree. Finally, they can also sabotage, creating emergencies and hazards the crewmates must fix immediately. Once a body is reported or an emergency meeting is called, all players get a chance to try and solve who killed the

recently (or not so recently) deceased. Voting occurs next, and if a majority is reached, the accused is ejected from the ship, effectively kicking them out of the game. Once dead, you become a ghost and must still complete your tasks or help your fellow impostors in order to win.

If you haven’t heard of *Among Us*, you are probably living under a rock. This game brings such a unique experience that can be very hard to find, as it combines simplistic user interface and art, and the strategy of party games, creating an enjoyable emotional rollercoaster that can be shared online and with friends. Games are very intense, with heated discussion, chock full of heart wrenching betrayal and deception. It is easy to pick up and a great way to meet new people and network. This game has simply exploded in popularity, with memes and artwork filling all social media platforms, from Instagram to TikTok. If you have never played this addictive game, I would highly recommend finding a group of friends to play with. As the possibility of going back into quarantine looms over all of us, *Among Us* is one of the best ways to spend time online with friends and family. Just be prepared to throw each under the bus, call people sus, die in electrical and ruin some friendships.

CHANGES TO THE LIVE-ACTION FILM



Mushu was excluded from the production, due to the concerns about how Chinese citizens would interpret *Mulan*’s dragon sidekick from the 1998 film.



Shang also didn’t make an appearance, but instead had his role portrayed by two different characters: Commander Tung and Chen Honghui.



ARTS & CULTURE

Controversies and Boycotts Plague Disney’s *Mulan*

Above: Liu Yifei (*Mulan*) plays the movie’s titular character in the live-action remake of Disney’s *Mulan* released this year. Her controversial stance on the Hong Kong protests has divided some on the film. (Disney)

By Grace Wang  
Staff Writer & Editor

As many may know, the live-action version of the Disney movie *Mulan* has now been released on Disney+. While the announcement of the movie was highly anticipated by many, along with the release comes many controversies. The live-action movie has sparked up heavy discussion by individuals with different points of view. While some are discussing the change in characters and storylines from the cartoon to live action, many are protesting for a boycott of the movie.

Starting with the two main topics of the boycott: the topic of the Uyghur Muslim concentration camps in China, and the lead actress’ views on

The real facts are that *Mulan* was mainly... recorded in New Zealand. In this period drama, we filmed landscapes in 20 different locations in China. It is well known that you need permission to film in China. That permission comes from the central government.

Christina McCarthy, Disney CFO, *Mulan*’s filming in Xinjiang

Hong Kong.

Controversy on the film has been kindling ever since people found out where a scene in the movie was taken in. China’s Xinjiang region is home to over 11 million Uyghur Muslims, and around 1 million have been jailed in concentration camps where they endure daily abuse, torture, and discrimination. According to viewers who have watched the actual film, Disney thanked multiple government bodies in Xinjiang, China in the movie’s ending credits. Furthermore, since this topic has caught so much attention, Disney’s CFO has decided to respond.

“The real facts are that *Mulan* was almost entirely shot in New Zealand,” Christine McCarthy claimed, also saying that the criticism was rather pompous and only a few scenes were shot in Xinjiang while the rest were shot in other parts of China.

In addition to all this, the lead actress of the film, Liu Yifei, has commented on the Hong Kong police and the protests in Hong Kong. She has made it clear that she supports the Hong Kong police, and that Hong Kong is at shame for its protests. Mind this, she has over 65 million followers on the Chinese social media platform, Weibo. She later said in an interview that it was a difficult situation and she hopes for it to be cleared up soon.

THE ORIGINAL STORY OF MULAN



Hua Mulan is a Chinese folk hero that dates back to 386-589 AD. In the original *Ballad of Mulan*, she takes the place of her father in the army, serves for 12 years, but then turns down a prestigious military promotion to return home. When her male comrades discover she is a woman, they are shocked, but she responds: “The male hare has heavy front paws. The female hare tends to squint. But when they are running side-by-side close to the ground, who can tell me which is male or female?”



# Suicide Prevention Month

By Eden Ridpath  
Staff Writer & Editor

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:  
1-800-273-8255  
Crisis Services Canada:  
1-833-456-4566**

**September** is suicide prevention month, dedicated to help create awareness about suicide and mental health around the world. The World Health Organization says that **“Every 40 seconds someone in the world commits suicide.”** That’s about 800,000 lives lost per year. In Canada, about 10 people commit suicide per day, and it’s the second leading cause of death for people ages 15 to 24. Spreading awareness about this issue is important, as it allows people to feel less alone and more understood. Spreading awareness could mean saving lives.



Lady Éowyn of Rohan (Lord of the Rings by J.R.R Tolkien)

I have never had any experience with suicide, however I do suffer from mental health issues and find myself needing someone to look up to and help me through tough times. This person came from my favourite movie/book series, Lord of the Rings. For anyone who has never seen/read this series, it is a medieval fantasy by J.R.R Tolkien. Although it is fictional, the characters are easy to connect to because they go through similar issues like us today. The character that inspires me and has many mental health issues, including depression and suicidal thoughts, is Lady Éowyn of Rohan. So, I thought I would share a quick recap of her story in hopes of inspiring others who are going through tough times.

Éowyn is a woman living in the country of Rohan, a country gripped by war, with her Uncle, the King, as she was orphaned at just seven years old. Éowyn spent her childhood around boys. She idolized her older cousin and brother and wanted to be just like them, fighting in great battles, but because she was a woman, she could not. Soon a spy entered the court of her uncle, poisoning his mind and taking control over the country, and the reward for such a deed was her. With her brother and cousin away fighting in the war and her uncle not himself, she was left alone with the ever-growing darkness, her home turned cage. When the war was reaching its climax, she thought herself in love, and free, however her feelings were not reciprocated. After many losses she found herself alone, desperate, depressed and willing to do anything to be free from her cage. “He caught the glint of clear grey eyes, and then he shivered, for it came suddenly to him that it was the face of one without hope who goes in search of death.” She no longer held any hope, so in secret she marched to battle, seeking a glorious death. Éowyn in fact did not find what she was looking for, but she had survived after completing a glorious deed in battle. Still the war raged on, and she was left to heal her wounds while the armies marched again. She begged to go with the soldiers into battle, as she did not want to sit idle and wait for darkness to take over, like she thought it would. She no longer held hope of victory or peace. However, while healing, she learned from another that glory does not have to come from battle. She learned another way to be free from her cage, to do good in the world without killing. Éowyn learned to embrace life and found someone who would not cage her and would look at her as his equal, no matter her gender. So, she decided to become a healer to help give life and freedom to the world.

My favourite quote about her character arc is, “Then the heart of Éowyn changed, or else at last she understood it. And suddenly her winter passed, and the sun shone on her.” This goes hand and hand with the idea that it is not yourself you wish to kill, but it is something inside of you that you want killed. To me Éowyn will always be an inspiring character, not only is she a strong female, but her story has helped me through tough times. She helps me see that there is light at the end of the tunnel; it just takes some help and understanding to see it. Suicide is not the answer. You must look upon yourself and learn to understand what it is you want. Most likely you do not want death, you want change. If you ever think someone you know is having suicidal thoughts, reach out to them, because you never know what a few words can do. If you are having suicidal thoughts always remember you are not alone and your winter will pass.

## ARTS & CULTURE

# Quarantine Reads: A Book Review

By Ashley Smith  
Staff Writer

### Caraval - Stephanie Garber (Fantasy): 4/5

Caraval is a fascinating story that involves magic, mystery, adventure, and a dash of romance.

Scarlett Dragana and her younger sister Donatella are whisked away with the help of a mysterious sailor, to Caraval, the most magical, awe-inspiring, annual performance where the audience plays a part in the show. Things go awry when Tella is captured and made the prize of this year's performance. Scarlett has to solve clues to find her sister, less Caraval ends and Tella disappears forever.

The story is truly a mind spinning tale that has you guessing until the end, and even afterwards as it leads up to the next book in the trilogy. I gave the story a 4/5 because, though it's truly one of my new favourites, the system of magic can be a bit confusing and it's a little difficult to comprehend at times.

Picture Courtesy of: [Caraval Wiki](#)

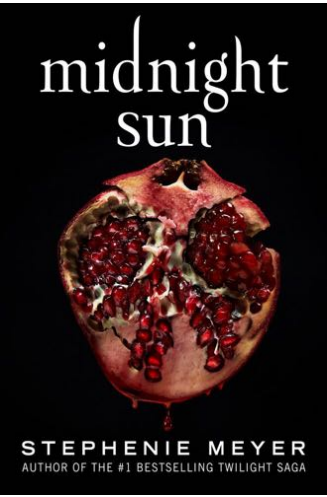
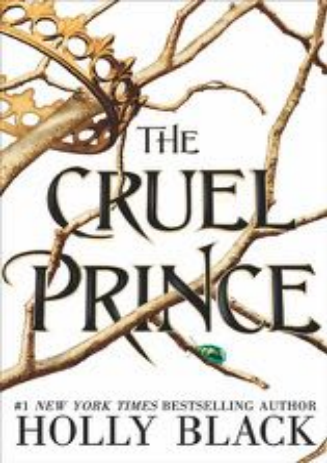
### The Cruel Prince - Holly Black (Fantasy): 4.5/5

The Cruel Prince is an exciting story of fantasy, betrayal, power, manipulation, and love.

Jude Duarte is a teenage mortal who lives in Elfame, land of faeries and an incredibly dangerous place for humans. Itching for power, Jude tries to gain a position in the High Court of Faerie any way she can, and the perfect opportunity in the form of princeling Cardan Greenbriar falls into her lap.

This story is absolutely one of my new favourites. The narrator is easy to read through, there are numerous twists and turns in concern of the plot, the characters are interesting and nicely developed, and the system of magic is intriguing. It's got enough romance, action, fantasy, and mystery to be appealing on a number of different levels.

Photo Courtesy of: [The Cruel Prince Wiki](#)



### The Testing - Joelle Charbonneau (Dystopian): 4/5

The Testing takes place in a post-apocalyptic North America and is riddled with action and adventure.

Malencia Vale, or Cia, is a teenage girl living in Five Lakes, a small and rural community sheltered away from most of society. She dreams of being chosen to participate in The Testing to have a chance to go to university. Throughout the book, Cia faces tests of intelligence, will, strength, might, trust, and friendship. She must pass every trial put in her place; failure is not an option.

The story is nail biting and climactic, leaving you worried for the characters throughout it. I gave the story a 4/5 because it's a great dystopian that keeps you invested, but can be annoying when the main character seems to be overly intelligent and flawless, always somehow knowing the answers.

Picture Courtesy of: [The Testing Wiki](#)

### Midnight Sun - Stephenie Meyer (Romance): 3/5

Midnight Sun is a rewrite of Stephenie Meyer's wildly successful Twilight, a romance/fantasy vampire novel.

Midnight Sun is a retelling of Twilight through the perspective of Edward Cullen. Through this novel, we get to learn more of Edward's personality, motives, and history as he works his way through the events of Twilight.

Now, I know this is a “cringey” read, but I couldn't help myself. I had to follow up with the story that I read years ago. It honestly was enlightening and provides a lot of lore and backstory to the series, as well as delves deeper into Edward's character. I'm rating the story 3/5 because, despite the plethora of new information it offers, it is just a retelling, and it can be very lengthy with descriptions and explanations. Plus, it encourages toxic partner behaviour and gaslighting, which isn't healthy.

Picture Courtesy of: [Midnight Sun Wiki](#)

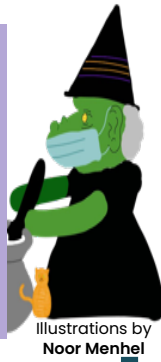


ARTS & CULTURE

DIY Halloween Themed Crafts

By Emma Menard  
Staff Writer & Illustrator

If you are looking for some simple fun, yet spooky crafts then these DIY Halloween themed crafts are for you. In this article I will share with you 3 Halloween themed DIY arts and crafts projects. Whether you are crafting for fun, looking for something to do with a younger sibling or friend, I hope you enjoy these fun and spooky crafts. Have a Spooktacular time creating!



Illustrations by  
Noor Menhel

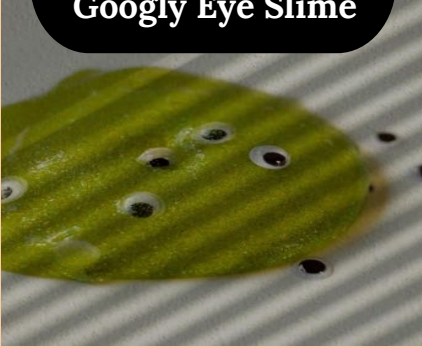
Materials

- 120 ML Clear glue
- Green food colour
- Green glitter glue
- Small googly eyes
- Borax & warm water mixed
- A bowl to mix in and something to mix with
- A container or Ziplock bag to store the slime

Directions

- Step 1:** Pour the glue into your mixing bowl
- Step 2:** Add your green glitter glue & your green food colour to your glue and mix it all together
- Step 3:** Slowly add your borax and warm water mixture a 1/2tbsp at a time until your slime is not sticking to your hands and is at your desired slime consistency
- Step 4:** Lastly, add your googly eyes to your finished slime base and mix them into the slime.

Spooky Halloween Googly Eye Slime



Spooky Rock Monsters



Materials

- Rocks or stones in different sizes
- White,Black & multiple colours of acrylic paint
- Googly eyes
- A black permanent marker
- Different sizes of paint brushes
- Hot glue gun

Directions

- Step 1:** Depending on where you found your stones you may want to wash and dry your stones before moving on to step 2.
- Step 2:** Decide what colours you want your monsters to be, then paint each rock or stone and let them dry. For a fun twist you could even try painting your rock with multiple colours to make a multi coloured monster.
- Step 3:** Once your rocks are all done drying you can go ahead and paint on your monster's mouth using white acrylic paint, then outline the mouth with black acrylic paint.
- Step 4:** Once the mouth is dry add googly eyes or use a black permanent marker to add eyes and any other decorations you desire.

Materials - Mummy

- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Googly eyes
- Black acrylic paint
- White ribbon, twine or white acrylic paint

Directions

- Step 1:** Depending on which project you have decided to make, either the mummy or the Frankenstein, then you will either paint a toilet paper or paper towel roll with black paint, or paint a tin can with green paint
- Step 2:** For the mummy, once the paint has dried you will need to take either twine, white paint or white ribbon, and either paint stripes around the toilet paper or paper towel roll to look like gauze wrapped around it, or take the ribbon or twine and some hot glue and glue the ribbon or twine around the the roll. To make the Frankenstein once the paint dries use some black craft foam and cut out some hair for your Frankenstein and glue it around the top of the tin can
- Step 3:** For the mummy all you need to do to finish up the craft is to add some googly eyes, and you're done.
- For the Frankenstein draw on or paint on two black bolts or lightning bolts and add some googly eyes and a mouth and you're done.

Materials - Frankenstein

- Tin cans
- Googly eyes
- Green acrylic paint
- Black craft foam
- Black acrylic paint or black permanent marker

Spooky Mummy and Frankenstein Decorations



HOROSCOPES



Libra



September 23 - October 22

It is your month Libra, happy birthdays to all! This is your time to shine, be yourself and continue to persevere through these tough times! Lucky numbers: 188, 113, 92

Capricorn



December 22 - January 19

As you have already succeeded Capricorn, it is time that you mentor those close to you. Everyone looks up to you but it's the close ones who mean something! Lucky numbers: 27, 72, 160

Aries



March 21 - April 19

All will be well Aries. Just go with the flow and do not try to disrupt the current. Some things are just meant to be! Lucky numbers: 4, 7, 39

Cancer



June 21 - July 22

You've been sulking a lot lately, Cancer. Take a break from it all and save time for yourself. You and others will notice a big change! Lucky numbers: 1, 45, 6

Scorpio



October 23 - November 21

You don't have to please everyone, Scorpio. You may be a popular one now but soon people will leave, only the real ones staying. Just keep that in mind. Lucky numbers: 345, 91, 23

Aquarius



January 20 - February 18

Have your hopes up Aquarius! Although times are quite tough for you now, there will be a bright turn..soon! Lucky numbers: 85, 44, 3

Taurus



April 20 - May 20

Success is almost here! Although you're not achieving what you expected, continue to work hard with your close ones and you'll see everything is worth it. Lucky numbers: 25, 12, 34

Leo



July 23 - August 22

Leo, your confidence is a little over the top. Stop for a moment and relax...sometimes others can be the star of the show too! Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 111

Sagittarius



November 22 - December 21

Your curiosity will blossom these next few weeks Sagittarius. Use that to your advantage and don't think badly of it! Lucky numbers: 55, 81, 0

Pisces



February 19 - March 20

Pisces, you are in luck. You will soon have to make a choice that you know you can't regret. Trust your gut! Lucky numbers: 56, 32, 8

Gemini



May 21 - June 20

The road you have ahead will be full of all sorts of surprises. Don't blindly jump in. Use your sense of logic, as it is your strongest ally. Lucky numbers: 98, 2, 19



Virgo

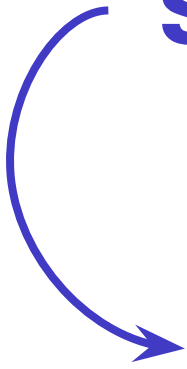
August 23 - September 22

Be nicer to those around you, Virgo. Stop taking them for granted. You never know when they won't be there! Lucky numbers: 65, 77, 33

By: Noor Menhel



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