

THE GRIND

12 TIPS TO GET BIKING
THIS SEASON



TIME FOR A
NEW MAYOR **6**

MAY/JUNE 2023, ISSUE 4, VOL 1

FREE

A SEASON FOR RENEWAL



**TORONTO'S CHANGING
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EVENT LISTINGS**

ARE YOU FED UP?



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH ENOUGH IS ENOUGH ENOUGH IS ENOUGH ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Fed up with wages that are too low, rent and bills that are too high, and the rich getting richer while the rest of us work harder for less?

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ON JUNE 3 WE'RE SAYING: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

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**ONTARIO
FEDERATION OF
LABOUR**

“Hands off Ontario Place, hands off our Healthcare, hands off our Education!”

Re “No More John Torys” (Feb/March Issue): Great encapsulation of John Tory’s time as Mayor. You wrote what many of us thought.

— JIM ROCHE @ROCHEJIM ON TWITTER

Re: “No More John Tory’s”: Well put!

— DAN MILWAY @THRILWAY ON TWITTER

The majority of Torontonians like myself are absolutely opposed to you, Doug Ford, and your attempted destruction of Ontario Place. That space belongs to the people and we use it and enjoy it. It is a green space in the city for everyone, not for profit. You have been selling off Ontario to the highest bidder since you stepped into office and are the most shameful, awful, greedy, criminal Premier this province has ever seen, which is saying something with Mike Harris on the docket. Hands off Ontario Place, hands off our Healthcare, hands off our Education! Hands off our teachers and nurses, hands off our tax dollars! Resign, resign, resign! Step down Doug Ford! You are a disgrace to politics! Shame come to you!

— JOY THOMPSON BY EMAIL

So glad to see *The Grind* at my local coffee shop Wallace Espresso. Had to take it and my coffee to go. I’m the 21st patreon supporter, click here to be the 22nd: patreon.com/thegrindto

— RAY LISTER @CITYLISTER ON TWITTER

New local indie paper *The Grind* includes footy news on page 4 & 22 plus affiliated tweets as “Letters to the Editors.” Happy to see this & appreciate one of my tweets there. Paper’s free at many TO bookstores such as Book City.

— ANNE BURBIDGE @ABURBIDGE

We cannot stress how much we love the launch of *The Grind*. Pick up your copy and support true local journalism written by professionals, your best source for what’s beyond “NextDoor” that the Star and Sun can’t tell you.

— RBR+TVBR @RBRTVBR ON TWITTER



ON THE COVER:
The Crescent Town Tenants Union Iftar, April 15, 2023, in the courtyard at 9 Crescent Pl, near Victoria Park Ave. and Danforth Ave. Iftar is the evening meal Muslims have to break their fasting during Ramadan. Read more about the Crescent Town Tenants Union in our letter from the editors on page 5.

COVER PHOTO (AND ABOVE)
BY CARLY TISDALL

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ISSUE 1 VOL 1

THE GRIND
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THE TTC
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THE GRIND IS TORONTO'S **FREE** POLITICS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

The Grind covers the issues we're facing, and it's a window into Toronto's vibrant arts and culture scene.

In a city that isn't working for transit users, renters, wage workers, those in and out of the shelter system, and so many more, **The Grind** reminds us that a better city is possible and worth fighting for

If you dig what **The Grind** is doing, please donate so we can keep going in print.

ETTRANSFER:
INFO@THEGRINDMAG.CA

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The Grind Magazine
Toronto

**PUBLISHER
& EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**
David Gray-Donald

SENIOR EDITOR
Fernando Arce

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
Phillip Dwight Morgan

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Shannon Carranco
Kevin Taghabon

COMICS EDITOR
Olea Kim

DESIGN
Daniel de Souza

PROOFREADER
Matthew DiMera

AD MANAGER
Dylan Freeman-Grist

Arts and Labour Media
720 Bathurst St
Toronto, ON M5S 2R4

ISSN 2817-1071

EMAIL
info@thegrindmag.ca

WEBSITE
thegrindmag.ca

THE GRIND

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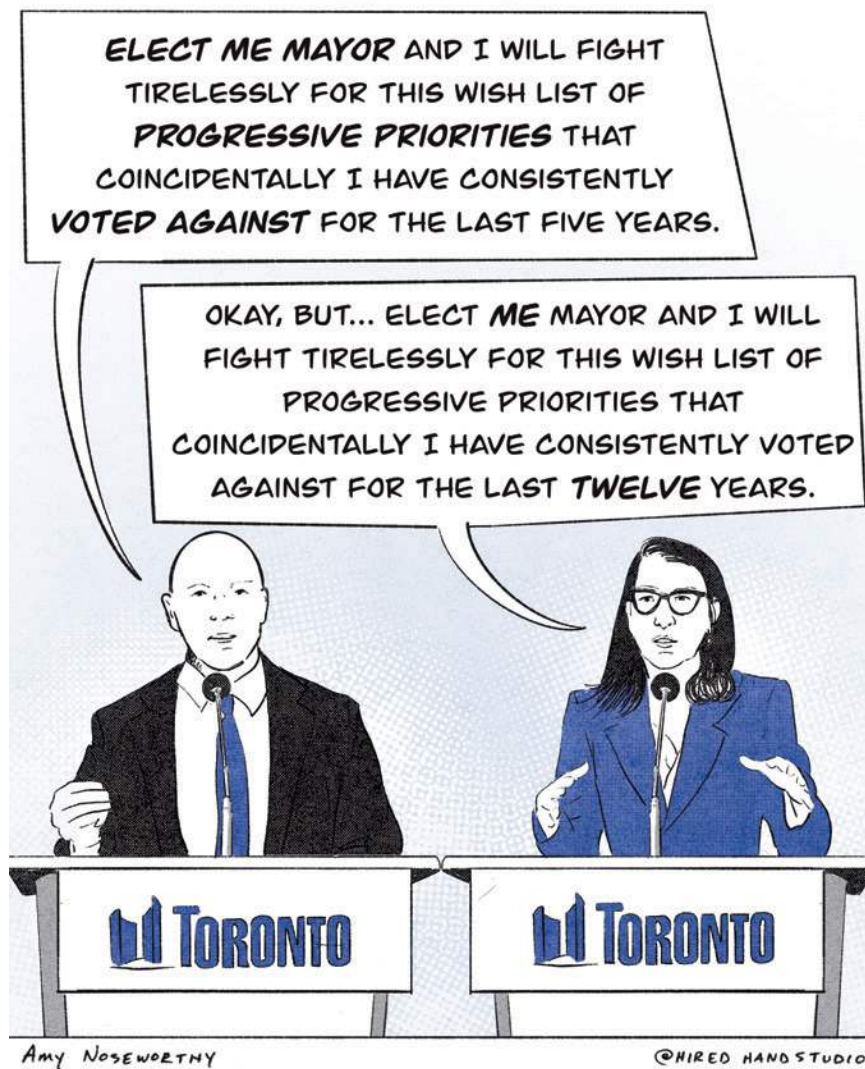
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New Season, New Election, New Opportunities

It's finally spring and, after the greyest winter in years, the sun is out again.

For many, this is a time of reconnection, especially those of us who have been limiting our indoor socializing to protect ourselves and others from covid.

This season of renewal also brings a surprise election for Toronto's next mayor.

We're often told that elections are about finding the candidate you're most aligned with, then helping propel them into office, whether by voting or supporting their campaign.

At *The Grind*, we invite you to think about this election from a different perspective. After all, with around 50 candidates vying for the mayor's seat, and with voter turnout expected to be low, this election could easily be decided by just a few thousand votes or even fewer.

What if we take this as an opportunity to talk among ourselves about the often-neglected issues we care about, shape conversations about the future of the city, and build connections that will last beyond the election? An election is, after all, a great conversation starter.

Not that communities are waiting for elections to change things.

We stopped by the Crescent Town Tenants Union Iftar in East York in April, pictured on the cover of this issue. Iftar is the evening meal Muslims have to break their fasting

during Ramadan. It is a significant event, representing shifts and new beginnings, and is a time for sharing, eating, and praying together and building community.

Early in the pandemic, Crescent Town residents talked to each other when work stopped and many got behind on their rent to landlord Pinedale Properties.

Those conversations led to a successful rent strike among people in around 300 units, where they collectively didn't pay rent or paid what they could, and managed to stay in the building.

The landlord later issued eviction notices to many of those tenants. Tenants stayed put and in 2021, the Landlord and Tenant Board, usually very favourable to landlords, ruled against Pinedale, finding that they were issuing eviction notices as a form of retaliation against tenants. Pinedale attempted to have the eviction applications heard again, but that was thrown out in April of this year.

This is a rare win amongst a sea of demoralizing evictions across Toronto (for example, read about an ongoing eviction on page 11), and in large part was due to the community coming together, sharing information about their situations, and not backing down.

Now imagine what could happen if many more of us started having conversations about the major issues in our lives here in Toronto.

More than in a typical election, candidates

will be chasing small pockets of votes this time around. In 2022, there were 1.9 million eligible voters, and around 550,000 votes cast for mayor. With the same turnout, assuming the candidate who gets just 20 per cent of the vote could reasonably win (which is what the polling is looking like), they would only need 110,000 votes, compared to the 342,000 John Tory got in 2022.

What will we tell candidates they need to do for our votes? Or, to come at it another way, what issues, proposals and policies can we talk about, and how can we take action in ways that will be impossible for candidates to ignore?

We can discuss proposals for more public and non-profit housing, either through new buildings or via expropriation of existing ones. As researcher Ricardo Tranjan points out on page 10, this kind of housing is far cheaper than the for-profit housing which dominates the market and which most candidates currently favour.

We can talk about the need for better protection for tenants, and take action to support tenants unions resisting unfair treatment by landlords.

We can get involved in TTCriders' advocacy calling for better, more affordable TTC service (see page 8), and support their outreach activities, like talking to people outside subway stations.

We can discuss and then propose ways the city can fund transit, not just by asking the provincial and federal governments, but potentially by upping taxes on the rich (so many in Toronto!), on real estate speculation, and on parking lots.

Using our collective voices, we can call for better bike safety, like bike lanes, and more effective enforcement of traffic laws to keep cyclists safe. (See our cycling spread on pages 12 and 13).

And we can make sure the conversation focuses on investing seriously in the shelter

"In other words, we don't have to wait for a candidate. In fact, waiting for a candidate is usually a recipe for not changing much and few connections being built."

system so no one is unhoused in this city.

In other words, we don't have to wait for a candidate. In fact, waiting for a candidate is usually a recipe for not changing much and few connections being built.

That's not to say there aren't some particularly bad candidates. As you'll read on pages 6 & 7, several mayoral hopefuls would keep the city going on the same bleak path it has been on. Some, like former police chief Mark Saunders, will attack the vulnerable even more, and give unlimited support to the police, a scary prospect. If you cast a ballot more to keep someone out of the mayor's chair this election rather than to enthusiastically vote someone in, we don't blame you.

Beyond just voting in this weird little mayoral election with huge consequences, let's talk to each other and build collective agendas and networks that can live on beyond the spring.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Grind*, our fourth, and this season for renewal, reflection and sun.

THIS IS THE BEST

BY RYAN KELPIN

After nine years of John Tory's rule as mayor, Toronto is preparing for an election that will essentially be a referendum on Tory and his political allies.

Toronto's social services and infrastructure continue to decline, TTC fares keep going up as quality and quantity of service get worse, and the response to inequality and homelessness has been police violence.

There are three general camps the nearly-50 mayoral candidates can be grouped in.

First, there is a large contingent of status quo candidates who aim to consolidate the Tory and Ford austerity that has dominated for years. This includes former chief of police Mark Saunders, Tory's former campaign manager Ana Bailão, and the city councillor who says he will be like John Tory but "faster," Brad Bradford.

Then there are fringe far-right candidates like former *Toronto Sun* columnist Anthony Furey.

And there are a few centrists and a few progressives, including councillor Josh Matlow, 2022 mayoral candidate Chloe Brown, and Olivia Chow, who used to be a city councillor and NDP MP. Some progressive voters worry these candidates could split the vote on the centre-left. It's not clear who of these are the most popular or strongest candidates during the early phases of the campaign.

The reality is that the business-as-usual is not working for most Torontonians. Conservatives have governed the amalgamated city for 20 of its 26 years and their response in this election is that we need to double down on what has fundamentally not worked.

What we need is fresh faces and bold ideas of a progressive nature, bolstered by a demand that Toronto should benefit all of its citizens. City Hall should invest in services and infrastructure that benefit more than just car commuters and should not treat policing as an untouchable pedestal in the budget.

The new mayor will have the strong mayor powers, which were negotiated in secret by Tory and Ford. We deserve a candidate that will not utilize these anti-democratic powers. But, recognizing that whoever is elected may use them, the stakes in this election are high.



Brad Bradford

POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES

Voted to cut TTC budget and other social services while raising the police budget

Supports the Gardiner Expressway project which will take up 44% of the city's transportation budget until 2030

Voted in favour of violently clearing homeless encampments, and against opening more warming centres

Supports Ontario Place private spa project and campaign team features a lobbyist for Therme Spa

Political ally of John Tory, described himself as being like Tory but "faster"

Strong proponent of using strong mayor powers to override council, which he deems "inefficient"

HIS TEAM

A who's who of corporate management and lobbying, including advisors from Navigator (public relations), Strategy Corp (which is lobbying to privatize Ontario Place for the Therme spa), along with former and current banking and real estate execs. His digital campaign is headed by right-winger Jeff Ballingall from Ontario Proud, which was also involved in Pierre Poilievre's Conservative leadership campaign



Ana Bailão

POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES

Repeatedly voted to cut TTC services while raising fares

Voted and advocated for raising police budgets alongside cuts to social services

Supports Gardiner Expressway project but, like Tory unsuccessfully tried already, wants to convince province to pay for it

Instrumental in passing the vacant homes tax, which taxes real estate speculators who leave units empty

Voted for violently clearing encampments

Seemingly an advocate for the use of strong mayoral powers

HER TEAM

Features multiple campaign heads of Tory's from 2014 and 2022. Campaign run by Nick Kouvalis, right-wing strategist and formerly advisor to Tory and Chief of Staff to Doug Ford

THE BOTTOM LINE

She's the former head of Tory's campaign and voted with him 92% of the time. Like Brad, running on a platform of change, but has been part of the problem and isn't proposing real changes



Mark Saunders

POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES

As former Toronto Police chief, fought to protect the racist practice of carding, and blamed the LGBTQ+ community for the poor police investigation into serial killer Bruce McArthur

Refused to debate, and sidelined the media during his 2022 provincial election campaign with the PCs

Directly responsible for ballooning police budgets

Was appointed and paid by the Ford government to push the effort to turn Ontario Place into a large private spa

Supports strong mayor powers, which is scary when combined with his personal and career links to the police

HIS TEAM

Includes former campaign advisors to conservative leaders Erin O'Toole, Stephen Harper and Doug Ford

THE BOTTOM LINE

He has been in a position of power through nearly everything that has been wrong with Toronto policing and overall municipal budget priorities. A Saunders win would mean unlimited power for the police, which Toronto does not need



Josh Matlow

POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES

Considering canceling Gardiner Expressway rebuild and moving money to other transportation needs

Though he has advocated for cutting the police budget, he now calls for holding it at its current level and not increasing it for inflation in the future

Proposes increasing property tax for the purpose of funding declining infrastructure and social services starved by decades of austerity budgeting

Outspoken advocate against the violent encampment clearings, before, during, and after

Would push to cancel Ontario Place private spa by withholding the necessary city owned land

Refuses to use strong mayor powers and was the most vocal advocate against Tory for secretly campaigning for them

HIS TEAM

Campaign advised by John Laschinger, who advised David Miller and Olivia Chow. Digital media and communications run by progressive Canadian artist Cadence Weapon (Rollie Pemberton)

THE BOTTOM LINE

Matlow opposed most of John Tory's policies that made life worse for working class Torontonians, for Tory's whole tenure

WE GOT???



Mitzie Hunter

POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES

Has been a Liberal MPP for 10 years, so views tend to reflect provincial Liberal Party

Used to be chief administrative officer of Toronto Community Housing, refers to herself as a “city builder” and voted to abolish the Ontario Municipal Board, which had allowed unelected bureaucrats to overrule Toronto’s planning policies

No clear position about the police budget, argues for greater role of social services in homelessness outreach

Was elected MPP as the self-proclaimed “Subway Champion” for Scarborough, and was major supporter of Rob and Doug Ford’s subway project over the cheaper yet more effective LRT proposal

Has vowed not to use strong mayor powers

HER TEAM

Multiple advisors from Kathleen Wynne’s Liberal administration and veteran Liberal strategist John McKenna

THE BOTTOM LINE

The centrist of the election – so far – and a popular candidate from the Scarborough suburbs. Will be interesting to see how she positions herself relative to Matlow and Bailão



Chloe Brown

POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES

Opposed the violent encampment clearings, opposes the use of police in homelessness outreach

Would potentially cancel Gardiner Expressway rebuild

Not entirely clear about cutting police budget, but would expand role of social service workers in crime prevention and outreach

Would push to cancel the Ontario Place private spa project

Mixed messaging on using strong mayor powers

HER TEAM

Her 2022 campaign was very bare bones and 2023 appears to be similar

THE BOTTOM LINE

Campaign is based around “three big ideas” rooted in “people-centred approaches,” “cooperative leadership,” and sustainability, but not entirely clear what the actual progressive policies are that institutionalize these ideas



Olivia Chow

POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES

Opposed violent encampment clearings and opposes use of police in homelessness outreach

Unclear on Gardiner Expressway rebuild project, was pro-rebuilding in 2013-2014

Not clear on cutting police budget, but has traditionally argued for a stronger role for social service workers and funding

Has advocated against Ontario Place private spa project

Was against formal strong mayor powers when running in 2014, would likely be the same now

HER TEAM

Includes established NDP and NDP-aligned voices

THE BOTTOM LINE

While billed by some as the great progressive hope, she lost to both Tory and Ford in the 2014 election despite them splitting the centre and right-wing votes



Celina Caesar-Chavannes

POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES

Caesar-Chavannes was elected as the Liberal MP for Whitby in 2015. In 2019, citing anti-Black racism and tokenization on the part of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, she left the Liberals to sit as an Independent, and did not run for re-election

After her time in office she wrote the book *Can You Hear Me Now? How I Found My Voice and Learned to Live with Passion and Purpose*

Caesar-Chavannes’ election platform had not been published by press time. She has been critical of deploying more police into the TTC, and indicated she would use the strong mayor powers



Gil Penalosa

He finished second in the 2022 mayoral race and now endorses Chow

NEWS IN BRIEF

FEDERAL SERVICE WORKERS GO ON STRIKE

The Canadian government offered 155,000 federal workers lower than inflation raises (in effect wage cuts), and after negotiations broke down, the workers, who are unionized with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), started a legal strike on April 19th. Those on strike include Canada Revenue Agency employees, federal program administrators, communications workers, firefighters, tradespeople, and education and library science workers. PSAC says most of these workers make between \$40,000 to \$65,000 per year.

INDIGENOUS ALLIANCE OPPOSES RING OF FIRE MINING PLANS

“No consent, no Ring of Fire,” Chief-elect of Neskantaga First Nation Chris Moonias yelled at the Ontario legislature from the gallery, on March 29th. Neskantaga First Nation is part of the new First Nations Land Defence Alliance, which opposes mining projects on their land in Northern Ontario if it does not have their free, prior and informed consent. The members include Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Grassy Narrows First Nation and Muskrat Dam First Nation. During Premier Doug Ford’s 2018 election campaign, he said, “If I have to hop on a bulldozer myself, we’re going to start building roads to the Ring of Fire.” His Minister of Indigenous Affairs Greg Rickford said in March that the government is focused on consent, a claim Moonias rejected.

COMMUTING DOESN'T NEED TO BE A GRIND



Join Toronto's voice for transit riders



@ttcriders

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a voice for transit riders

LAST ORCA AT MARINELAND PASSES AWAY

Kiska, who was captured in 1979, spent the last decade not performing and living in a solo pool at Marineland, in the city of Niagara Falls. She died in March. The owners of Marineland are looking to sell the facility or possibly shut down.

ONTARIO LANDLORD AND TENANT BOARD FAVOURS LANDLORDS

A number of recent articles have described troubling trends at Ontario's Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB), the official venue for resolving disputes between tenants and landlords in the province.

A *Briarpatch* investigation describes how the hearings, which used to be in-person before the pandemic, are now only online, with no plans to go back to in-person. This is especially difficult for tenants less familiar with digital tools like Zoom, and whose first language is not English. The in-person hearings had a number of supports available to tenants, who now find themselves more isolated and at a greater disadvantage compared to highly-resourced landlords.

Meanwhile, *The Local* found that tenants have to wait twice as long as landlords at the LTB to have their cases heard. For example, LTB data accessed by *The Local* revealed that when tenants had a complaint against a landlord for allegedly violating their rights, those cases took, on average, 344 days to be heard as of the end of 2021. When landlords brought forward complaints wanting to evict tenants for alleged non-payment of rent, those cases were heard in 113 days, on average.

REGULARIZATION FOR MIGRANTS WHEN?

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government has gestured towards putting forward a policy that would regularize undocumented migrants in Canada, granting rights to those who already live here. Approximately 500,000 people live in Canada undocumented, doing essential jobs that few others are willing to take, including in health care, food service, and many other sectors. But they don't have legal rights, such as the ability to access health care and many social services. Despite their promises, the Trudeau Liberals have not introduced regularization legislation, which would be life-changing to so many people here. With the House of Commons breaking for the summer in June, and a minority government in power, migrant rights advocates are keeping the pressure on for regularization.



Rally calling for status for all.

MIGRANT RIGHTS CANADA



Line 3 in Scarborough is shutting down this fall.

NITHURSAN ELAMUHLAN

WHAT SCARBOROUGH TRANSIT USERS NEED FROM TORONTO'S NEXT MAYOR

TTC service has been in decline, especially in Scarborough. Zain Khurram lays out the situation, how to fix problems, and what the next mayor of Toronto can do

BY ZAIN KHURRAM

Transit in Scarborough has been severely neglected for decades, though this upcoming mayoral election on June 26 presents a golden opportunity to turn the TTC around.

Ridership has not yet rebounded from pandemic lockdowns. As of early April, ridership was still around 70 per cent of pre-pandemic levels. Instead of increasing investment in public transit to win more riders back, former mayor John Tory's 2023 city budget cut TTC service and hiked up fares.

These cuts could be just the beginning of a downward spiral: the TTC has a budget gap of \$366 million, and provincial and federal 2023 budgets did not include emergency transit operations funding, which they provided to cities during the height of the pandemic.

Service cuts are impacting all areas of the city. But in Scarborough, we're facing a double-whammy because Line 3, also known as the Scarborough RT (Rapid Transit), is closing this fall. Line 3 connects the Line 2 subway at Kennedy Station to Scarborough Town Centre.

Conversations about replacing Line 3's aging infrastructure picked up in 2006 under mayor David Miller. Plans were

set out to replace the aging technology with a conventional light rapid transit (LRT) line that would extend further north-east to Malvern.

Elected in 2010, mayor Rob Ford scrapped the "Transit City" plan and played up the inaccurate perception that LRT systems are lesser than subways. He fed into a valid narrative of Scarborough being underserved, all while delaying replacement options.

While elected officials and candidates scored political points promising different versions of the subway extension, including some current mayoral candidates, years passed without action and the state of Line 3 continued to degrade to a point of no return.

Only in 2021 did ground finally break for the three-stop Scarborough Subway Extension, which will open in 2030 at the earliest and replace the connection between Kennedy Station and Scarborough Town Centre, with additional stations at Lawrence East and Sheppard.

Once Line 3 closes, Scarborough transit riders will be forced onto congested shuttle buses for at least seven years until the subway opens. This came to the surprise of many residents, especially since politicians promised Line 3 could keep operating until the opening of the subway extension.

Scarborough transit riders feel betrayed by the very

politicians who promised to improve their commutes. In reality, political mismanagement hindered transit expansion in Scarborough for the past two decades. Commutes will become 15 to 30 minutes longer in each direction, adding to the already lengthy trips of those coming in and out of Scarborough.

Now is the time to learn from past mistakes. Scarborough doesn't end at McCowan Road (the eastern terminus of the Scarborough Subway Extension), so the next mayor of Toronto must champion the Eglinton East LRT project. That line would go from Kennedy Station east and north to Malvern Town Centre, via the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus.

Instead of gifting lucrative 30-year contracts to private consortiums, like Metrolinx is doing with the Eglinton Cross-town LRT, the Eglinton East line should be publicly built, operated, and maintained by the City of Toronto.

Let's install more red bus lanes across the city in a matter of months, not years, like the ones that were fast-tracked on Eglinton East, Kingston, and Morningside during the

“Candidates have said they will reverse service cuts without any indication of where the funding will come from.”

pandemic. When the Scarborough RT closes, bus lanes will be essential so that replacement shuttle buses don't get stuck in traffic. The TTC Board has approved a plan to convert the SRT corridor into a busway so shuttles can travel even faster, but funding has not yet been secured.

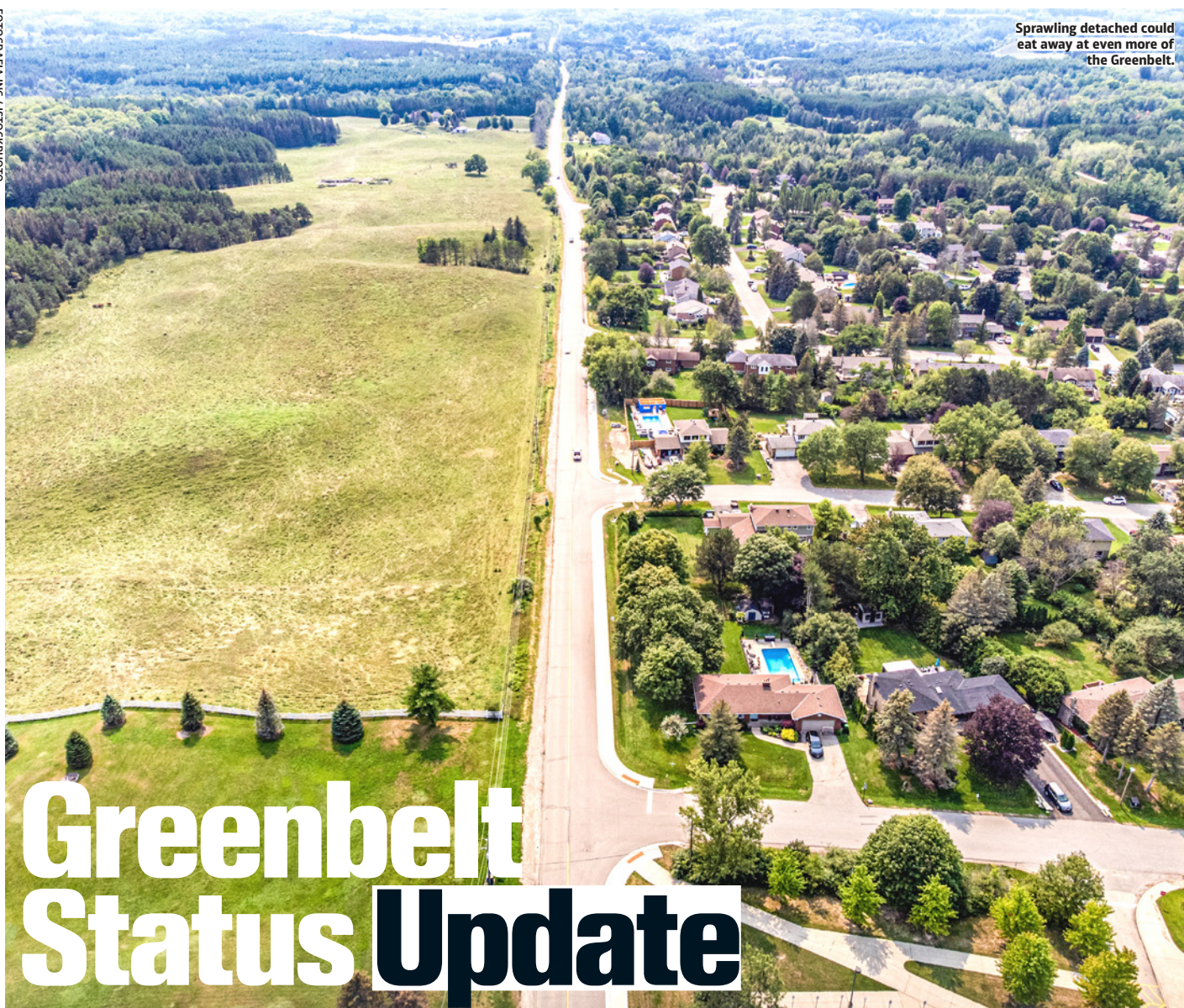
This mayoral election is more important than ever, as not just Scarborough but the entirety of Toronto needs a transit champion: a person who truly understands the hardships which suburbanites face during their transit commutes, and who will commit to building accessible and affordable transit while properly funding transit operations without getting caught up in the politicization of the TTC.

The disconnect is everywhere. Candidates have said they will reverse service cuts without any indication of where the funding will come from. Candidates have said they will continue to increase police presence on the TTC for 'safety', while cutting service and increasing isolation at night. TTCriders will be asking all candidates if they will introduce a commercial parking levy on big malls and commercial landlords, which could raise hundreds of millions of dollars each year for climate and transit. Fixing the transit funding model so it relies less on the pockets of riders and more on governments is the key to boosting service and lowering fares.

We need a transit champion for the mayor who is pragmatic and real about the challenges facing our transit system in the future.

Zain Khurram is the TTCriders spokesperson and Transit Lead for the Toronto Youth Cabinet

PHOTOGRAPH BY ISTOCKPHOTO



Sprawling detached could eat away at even more of the Greenbelt.

BY SHANNON CARRANCO

You may have heard Premier Doug Ford's PC government is dismantling the Greenbelt, opening it up to real estate developers.

Here we look at what the Greenbelt is, why it's so important, and what's happening now.

Ecological Powerhouse

The Greenbelt stretches across 325 km of Ontario in a horseshoe shape from the Niagara River on the south side of Lake Ontario, to around Hamilton in the west, and all the way to Cobourg and Peterborough in the east.

It's one of the most biologically rich areas in Canada, and includes the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. The Greenbelt is integral to filtering and replenishing the groundwater that we rely on. It also has some of the oldest forest ecosystems and trees in this part of North America.

The Greenbelt helps offset 71 million tonnes of carbon in the atmosphere every year. Its tree cover and vegetation keep temperatures down and protect some of the largest populations in Canada from warming caused by climate change.

There are over 4,700 farms and 750,000 acres of Ontario's best farmland in the Greenbelt. The rich soils grow an enormous amount of fruit, vegetables, grains and seeds that help feed over seven million people living in Ontario's Golden Horseshoe.

In 2005, the Greenbelt Plan was established by the Ontario government to permanently protect it from development and restrict urban sprawl. But Ford is intent on undoing those protections.

Ford Undoing the Greenbelt

In December 2022, the Ford government passed Bill 23, "More Homes, Built Faster," into law. The Bill removed land from 15 areas of the Greenbelt and the Oak Ridges Moraine, and got rid of protections on 2,995 hectares in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), allowing developers to buy the land and build on it.

But Ontario has more than enough land that is already designated for housing and new development outside of the Greenbelt, according to Phil Pothén, counsel and Ontario environment program manager of advocacy group Environmental Defence. Pothén calls this area the Whitebelt, as it is shown as white on the province's Growth Plan maps. There is 350 square kilometres of it, and we've only used about a third over the last 20 years, he notes.

In November, Ford's PCs ordered Hamilton to expand its urban boundary by 2,200 hectares, even though the city council had voted against it and opted instead to build in existing neighbourhoods. This move forces Hamilton to allow housing developers to build into the Greenbelt.

Then *The Narwhal* and *The Toronto Star* found that eight of the 15 areas that Bill 23 opened for development had been bought by developers since Ford came to power, but before Bill 23 was announced. One parcel, comprised of 700 acres of Greenbelt land, was bought for \$80 million just months before Bill 23 was passed.

In early April 2023, Pothén explained, Ford's government changed the Growth Program for the Golden Horseshoe, which originally had a two-pronged requirement for development: that municipalities demonstrate

that they had already done their best to densify already-existing neighbourhoods, and that at least 50 per cent of growth go to densification of existing neighbourhoods. Removing these two requirements allows developers "to leap into creating McMansions, which will produce fewer homes with the same amount of construction," Pothén says.

What's Up Now?

Despite these changes, Pothén says, "To our knowledge, construction has not begun in any areas of the Greenbelt that were previously protected, and no construction has yet been approved in these areas." Such construction may be coming soon, but "construction capacity would need to be diverted away from projects in existing built-up areas," Pothén says, and that isn't happening yet.

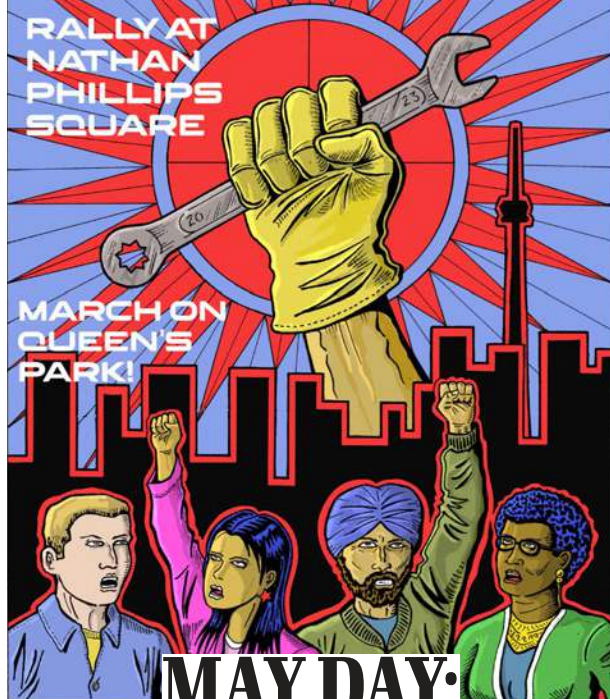
What Ontario really needs, according to Pothén, is densification. "We've built densities that are far too low because there just isn't the critical mass of people to keep all of the basic amenities going within reasonable walking distance," Pothén says. In other words, building within already existing infrastructure is the way to go for new developments.

There has been widespread outrage at Ford's plans, with rallies popping up at politicians' offices and petitions circulating. The federal Liberal government, looking to hold seats in the GTA, announced it will study parts of the opening of the Greenbelt, including Rouge Park. This will slow things down in those areas.

The bulldozers haven't come out yet, as far as we know, but the moment they do will mark a major environmental loss.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY 2023

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1PM



MAY DAY: INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY FOR OVER A CENTURY

BY S.K. HUSSAN

Prices are high and rent is unaffordable. We keep working harder, but we never seem to get ahead. Most of us are a few paychecks or one really bad sickness away from losing everything.

Not everyone is in the same boat. In the last three years, every 30 hours both a new billionaire was created in the world and one more million people fell into extreme poverty.

The super-rich aren't getting ahead because they work harder or smarter than the rest of us. It's because they are the bosses that control wages and working conditions.

As long as there are fewer jobs than people, if one of us chooses not to work, there will be someone else willing to take our place. The fancy term for this is the "ideal rate of unemployment." In Canada, that's set at around six per cent, or 960,000 workers. That is, nearly one million people without work and looking for work is considered "ideal" for the bosses.

With unchecked powers, there's really no limit to how bad work can get.

Unless workers do something. That something is to get all employed and unemployed workers together and walk off the job.

That's what was happening 137 years ago in May in Chicago, when workers were striking for an eight-hour work day (down from 12 to 14 hours a day, six days a week). A bomb went off, and then protest organizers — workers' leaders — were hanged. Three years later, workers around the world began to rally around the first of May as Workers' Day.

Today, May 1 is a holiday in almost every country, except Canada and the U.S.

May Day isn't about the holiday, but about remembering that the whole system is set up to keep each of us apart and thinking that we are individually failing. Only when we unite together as workers do we have a chance.

The eight-hour work day was won, but today, many of us can't survive with just eight hours of work. Our victory was stolen, but we can win again.

We can build a world without inequality, together.

Toronto's May Day 2023 march will start at 1 p.m. on April 30 from City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

Should housing be a place to live, or a place to make money from other people?



Don't Call It A Crisis

BY RICARDO TRANJAN

The following is adapted from *The Tenant Class*, a potent new book out May 2, by Ricardo Tranjan, senior researcher with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' Ontario office, published by Between the Lines.



The "housing crisis" has been a recurring story in Canadian news for over 70 years. Which begs the question: if it is something so persistent, does it really fit the definition of a crisis?

The word crisis suggests something that is infrequent, surprising, and widely undesirable; something that leads to dire consequences unless it is brought under control. Examples include pandemics, natural disasters and war.

In contrast, Canada's "housing crisis" is a permanent state of affairs that harms people in, or in need of, rental housing — roughly one-third of the country's households. The other two-thirds own homes whose values rise much faster than other investment options.

New homeowners may face high housing costs, but mortgage payments are accompanied by long-term growth in their personal wealth.

Landlords, real estate investment firms and developers operate in a stable and lucrative business environment. Even 2020 — the first year of the pandemic when entire sections of the economy were shut down — was a good year for the industry.

Banks and other mortgage providers create money, lend it, and charge interest on it. If that wasn't already a sweet deal, the federal government assumes a share of the risk of these mortgages so that

banks can make easy money worry-free.

A housing system that serves all but one group is not a state of crisis; it is one based on structural inequality and economic exploitation.

For some readers, "exploitation" may sound too harsh a term. Renting properties is not only legal but morally acceptable, and some people argue landlords help tenants by providing them with a place to live. In the political economy tradition that informs this book, exploitation has a specific meaning: it refers to a group or class of people appropriating an unfair share of the fruits of the labour of another class.

Unlike most services and commodities, the price tag on rental units has no real relationship with the cost of providing housing. Rents are determined by "what the market will bear," as economists say.

Even if a property has been paid for three times over (by previous tenants), landlords can charge well over the cost of maintaining that unit if that's what similar units are going for in the market. If the financial plan for a new building is to recover costs over 20 years, but the market squeezes more out of tenants that initially forecasted, the result is higher profits sooner than expected, not cheaper rents.

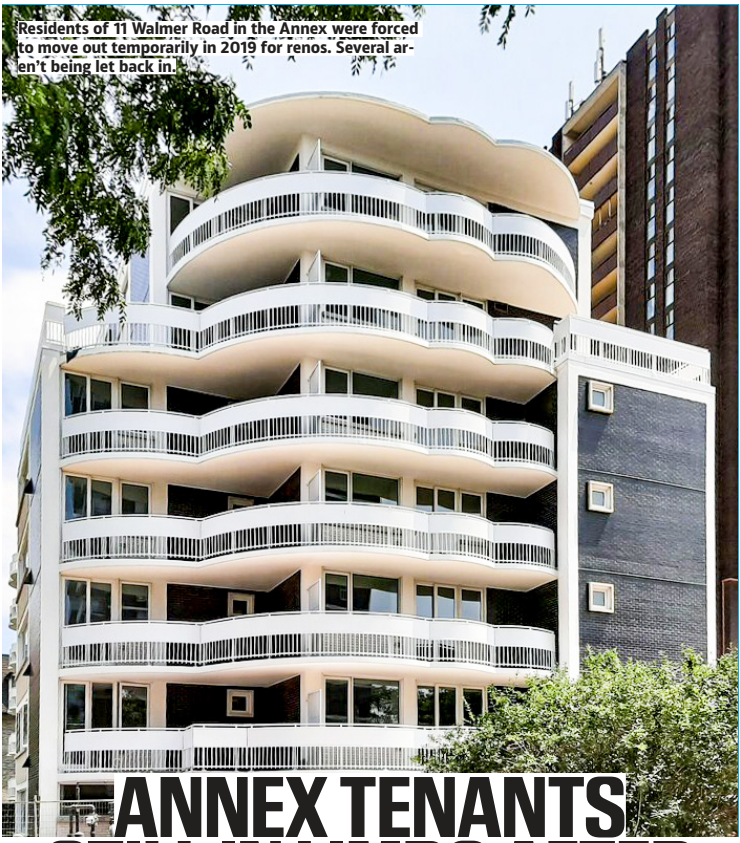
The question is never if the rental property will generate profit, but rather how much profit and how soon.

A look at non-rental housing illustrates this point. In 2018, tenants in government-owned housing paid, on average, \$460 for a one-bedroom apartment, those in co-operative and non-profit housing paid \$630, whereas tenants renting from a private company or individual paid \$970. For two-bedroom units, the respective values were \$700, \$840, and \$1,130. For three-bedroom units, the values were \$850, \$870, and \$1,350. To state the obvious, when we remove profit from rental housing, rents drop by a lot.

People concerned with housing justice should look at the the alleged housing crisis for what it really is: a poorly regulated market that extracts income from working-class people and channels it to higher-income segments of Canadian society.

The solutions are known. What is lacking is not data or ideas or sophisticated policies. An alternative, just housing system require landlords and developers to give up high profits, which they won't consent to.

It takes a struggle. And in this struggle, there are no win-win solutions. Tenants' movements already know this, but policy folks and everyone else must also pick a side.



ANNEX TENANTS STILL IN LIMBO AFTER 2019 RENOVICTION

BY GEORDIE DENT,
Executive Director of the Federation
of Metro Tenants' Associations

In 2019, tenants living at 11 Walmer Rd. were renovicted, meaning they were forced to leave their homes in the rental building in the Annex neighbourhood to allow the landlord to do major renovations.

Some of the tenants had been in the building for almost 50 years. They have had to move — which is painful at the best of times — out of their community, find a new place to live, pay much higher rent costs and wait for renovations to be completed, with no firm timelines given by the landlord.

Landlords are allowed to renovict (evict for renovations) their tenants in Ontario on one condition: that tenants are allowed back into the unit at their previous rent when the renovations are done.

The problem? The landlord, Salford Investments Ltd., and the property manager, Cromwell Management, are not allowing tenants back in.

CBC reported in January 2023 that tenants were still waiting for the landlord to offer up units, even though tenants had been told two years before that “it is expected that the construction will be complete and you will be able to move in the rental unit on November 1, 2021.”

Tenants started to fear that the landlord was breaking the law in May 2022. At that time, Cromwell Management started listing new rental units at the property at current market rates which were more than \$700 more a month (or \$8,500 more annually) than what older residents were paying.

In March, the Annex Residents Association wrote to the landlord that, “These rightful tenants have been watching new occupants move into the building for many months now, yet they still have not been notified by Cromwell that their suites are available for occupancy.”

Most of the former tenants are stuck in legal limbo, paying rents elsewhere they can't afford and waiting for someone in a position of power to do something radical: force the landlord to follow the law.

Eviction fraud has exploded across the province, happening tens of thousands of times a year, based on information provided by the Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board to the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations and other sources.

It appears that the provincial government, which oversees evictions, is going to continue to allow eviction fraud to run rampant. In early April, the Province released a batch of new tenant protections including many that focused directly on renovictions. We expect most landlords will ignore the new rules, unless tenants get together and make noise.

More Hot Air FROM BIG OIL

BY DAVID GRAY-DONALD

Canada's biggest oil sands companies, banding together as the Pathways Alliance, are getting called out for misleading advertising.

Pathways ads have aired in Canada during sporting events like the Super Bowl and FIFA World Cup, have taken up the entire front page of *The Toronto Star*, and have been all over social media and on the radio.

Their “Let’s Clear The Air” campaign wants us to believe oil sands producers are cleaning up their act and are “on a path to net-zero emissions.”

But that’s just greenwashing, says Priyanka Vital, legal counsel for Greenpeace Canada. In March, Greenpeace filed a complaint with Canada’s Competition Bureau claiming Pathways has made false and misleading claims in their advertising.

“The Pathways Alliance’s members continue to expand fossil fuel production, their net-zero plan doesn’t even consider all emissions — and it still doesn’t add up to zero,” Priyanka says in a statement.

Their plan involves the use of carbon capture, which is risky, expensive, and unproven at scale.



But even if they capture some greenhouse gas emissions that way, they won’t be capturing 80 per cent of the emissions from the lifecycle of oil and gas products, which are generated from the final use (e.g. burning) of the fossil fuels.

Meanwhile, oil sands production is at record highs, as are profits. And the companies are asking for billions more in government subsidies to pursue their schemes.

DISCLOSURE: The article author was employed until March 2023 by Environmental Defence Canada and worked on campaigns related to Pathways Alliance. He is no longer paid by EDC or other environmental advocacy organizations.



Loblaws backed out of its cage-free commitment.

Tell Canada’s biggest grocer to STOP selling eggs from hens trapped in tiny cages & keep its promise to go cage-free by 2025.

[**animaljustice.ca/cagefree**](https://animaljustice.ca/cagefree)

Photo: Jo-Anne McArthur | Animal Equality | We Animals Media



A food delivery worker avoids rubble left in the Dundas St bike lane at the end of winter.

DAVID GRAY-DONALD

BE SAFE!

BY DAVE SHELLNUTT,
The Biking Lawyer

Spring brings lovely riding conditions, and cyclists out of hibernation! As you pull your bike out of storage, here's a legal rights refresher to ensure safe and fun cycling all season long.

You should hit the streets confident that you are aware of your rights, and knowing what to do if a collision occurs.

**We encourage everyone to get a tune up, brake check, lights and bell installed, helmet fitted, etc.*

Motorists aren't looking for you, so cycle defensively

With fewer of us on the roads throughout the winter, motorists are not used to seeing so many new cyclists. This is of course not an excuse for bad driving behaviour, but be aware that some won't be looking for you and some will get panicky when you're near them.

So, ride in a defensive manner. Assume they don't see you or don't care.

I hate saying that, but if that kind of thinking helps you avoid a crash, then it's actually a positive mantra!

Some key instances to watch out for based on where our clients have been injured by motorists:

Right/left hooks: assume motorists aren't indicating or slowing down, and that they may cut you off turning in front of you.

Door zone (beside parked cars): take extra space in the lane to avoid doorings.

On trails: ring your bell for pedestrians and dog walkers.

Stops signs and red lights: I've seen a wild number of cars roll through reds and stops. Make eye contact with the driver and make sure they will stop. When in doubt, assume they will roll through.

The list goes on...

Crashes Happen. Gather Information and Know Your Rights

If a crash occurs, take the following steps:

Seek medical attention whether you think you're injured or not. Call 911. You will be in shock, so best to get a medical professional to check you out.

Gather info and take photos of their licence plate, driver's licence, and the scene including damage, your injuries, the road condition, etc.

Report the incident to police if they don't attend the scene and speak to a lawyer as soon as you've checked in on your health.

I once got hit in a painted bike lane. In shock, I left the scene only to realize I had a broken elbow and wrist later that night. I failed to collect some critical information. We don't want that to happen to you.

Changing Conditions and Road Disrepair

As snow and ice melt away, gnarly potholes appear. Keep the following in mind:

- Stay about 1 metre from the curb to avoid any debris or collapsing asphalt. This also increases your visibility.

- Carry lights to light your way. Don't get surprised by sudden road imperfections.

- Wait for the right time to change over from winter tires on your bike. Construction debris, garbage, and broken glass on the streets after winter will mean this is prime season for getting a flat tire.

- Weather can be hard to predict, so carry layers and stay warm. Being cold can be distracting and decrease your response time.

Final tips

Be sure your bell is in good working order and get used to ringing it loudly and proudly again.

Light is still an issue some mornings and evening, as well as low light days. Be sure to carry lights with you at all times, to be seen and avoid a fine.

At the Biking Lawyer LLP, we are fiercely dedicated to representing injured cyclists. Contact us at @thebikinglegal on all socials, thebikinglegal.ca, info@thebikinglegal.ca, and 1-800-725-0754.

BIKET

Now's the perfect time to get biking, whether to commute or for pleasure. Maggie Crawford from Cycle Toronto explains important rules of the road so you can stay safe and have fun, and shares recs for leisure ride routes.

BY MAGGIE CRAWFORD,
Cycle Toronto Communications Manager

LET'S TALK BIKE LANES!

Toronto has a few different varieties of bike lanes — you might have seen some with only a painted line separating cyclists from cars, and others with a more permanent concrete barrier.

Protected bike lanes or bikeways?!

Protected bike lanes are physically-separated lanes for bicycles that run next to motorized vehicle traffic. These are the safest on-street places to ride in the city, and thankfully they are becoming increasingly common. Protected bike lanes also increase the safety for pedestrians because they provide additional space from vehicular traffic. Pedal assist e-bikes are allowed in these lanes (which require the rider to pedal to activate the motor), but power assist e-bikes (which can be powered with a throttle, similar to a motorcycle) are not.

Painted bike lanes

A painted bike lane is the most common type of cycling infrastructure in Toronto, and is indicated by the bike symbol and a solid white line. These run right beside car lanes. A solid white line tells motorists that they can't cross it, while a dashed white line at an intersection indicates where a vehicle might enter the bike lane to make a turn.

Contra-flow bike lanes

Contra-flow bike lanes are often found on quiet residential streets, and are one way for motor vehicle traffic but bi-directional for bikes. They help people on bikes navigate one-way streets safely by limiting vehicular traffic. Shaw Street, Canada's first street with more bikes than cars, is a great example!

Danforth Ave bike lane heading east.



The Marting Goodman Trail stretches along 56 km of Toronto's waterfront.



The Finch Hydro Corridor Recreational Trail runs east-west in North York and connects to a number of other parks and trails.

ROUTES TO CHECK OUT

Traveling by bike is, in our opinion, the best way to explore Toronto. It's free, fun, and a great way to get some exercise! With a little planning you can design a route with safety in mind. Most route planning apps will factor in bike lanes, or you can head to the City of Toronto site and take a look at their map of the cycling network.

Take the Bloor and Danforth bike lanes to Greektown (Danforth from about Chester to Donlands).

And if you want a longer ride, head farther east on Danforth then turn south onto the Woodbine bike lane and head to the beach! The bike lane ends at Queen, which is a couple blocks from the beach.

Head north to the Finch Hydro Corridor Recreational Trail, which can be accessed from near the Finch and Finch West stations. Add to the ride by taking the trail found between Keele and Jane and go south through the ravine to Downsview Park.

Ride along the lake and take in the views on the Martin Goodman Trail, which runs along the lakeshore from the Humber River in the west to the Rouge River in the east. For a shorter ride, check out Humber Bay Park at the trail's west end. Or hop on the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail, which stretches for 3,600 km, to make a real day trip (or multi-day trip) out of it.

CYCLIST ADVOCACY

Many of the bike lanes you see around Toronto today are the result of decades of organizing and hard work by cycling advocates. And there's lots more to be done to ensure people of all ages and abilities can safely bike in every area of Toronto.

Here are some projects CycleTO is advocating for right now, and tips on how you can get involved:

- High Park Movement Strategy
- The Danforth-Kingston Road Complete Street Extension
- The Eglinton/Today Complete Street Project
- Keeping Bike Share Toronto Accessible and Affordable

Getting involved:

Sign up for Cycle Toronto's Action Alerts on our website to receive emails about public consultations and new infrastructure projects.

Follow cycling organizations like @CycleToronto, @TheBikeBrigade, @TOeastCyclists @ScarbCycles and @TheBicycleMayorTO on social media for volunteer opportunities.

Depute or write a letter to City Council on cycling infrastructure projects you feel passionate about. Sign up for our Events and Promotions mailing list to get notified when we host a Deputation Workshop!



SAFETY TIPS AND RULES OF THE ROAD

At Cycle Toronto we advocate for safer street design over putting the onus on vulnerable road users, like cyclists and pedestrians. But there are some measures we recommend you take to look after yourself while out cycling.

The great helmet debate — While helmets are not compulsory for adults over 18, they are definitely encouraged. Make sure you have a helmet that fits your head properly (doesn't slide around). And fasten it correctly!

Get lit! — The law requires you to use lights from a half hour before dusk until a half hour after dawn. Your front light should be white or amber and your rear light should be red. Make sure they're aimed slightly down at the road ahead of and behind you, and not into the eyes of fellow cyclists!

Bells — It can get busy out on Toronto's streets and trails, so make sure you have a bell so you can alert cars and other cyclists to your presence. A friendly 'ding' goes a long way in keeping everyone aware of their surroundings!

Rules of the Road

- Keep one metre between you, the curb, and cars.
- Don't be afraid to take the lane on narrower streets.
- Only children aged 13 and under are allowed to ride on the sidewalk.
- You can get a fine as a cyclist for running stop signs and red lights, and for speeding in controlled zones such as parks and recreational paths.
- If you're nervous about making a left turn, you can always hop off your bike and walk it across with pedestrians.



ADVICE FROM A BIKE MECHANIC

We asked Sanjay Patel, bike mechanic at Cyclemania on the Danforth, for tips on getting your bike ready to ride

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR BIKE AFTER IT SAT AROUND ALL WINTER

- Pump up the tires
- Make sure the handlebars are tight, give them a twist (they shouldn't be too stiff or too wobbly)
- Give the wheels a spin, make sure they are spinning freely
- Make sure the brakes are working
- If you're not sure what to do, bring it to your local bike shop

MAKE SURE YOUR CHAIN IS MOVING SMOOTHLY

- Look for stiff links
- If there are stiff links, you need to either unseize them yourself, remove those links, or replace the chain
- A little rust on the chain is fine, as long as it's moving. A bit of redness here and there will come off if you ride it. It's stiffness you're looking for.

LUBRICATE THE CHAIN SO IT MOVES WELL

- It's best to use a bike specific chain oil
- Something like WD40 can work but it doesn't last very long
- In a pinch you can also use olive oil

LOCK IT UP!

- A wire lock is only good for a very short period of time when your bike is still in view, or in addition to a u-lock, like to secure your wheels or seat. Wire locks can be cut with really simple tools and quietly.
- A u-lock will offer more protection at any given time, because people need a bigger tool to cut it. Chain locks are similar to a u-lock, they just need to be thick.
- U-locks are a bit more expensive than wire locks, but they're what you need to spend to stop the bike from getting stolen.
- A good u-lock will cost at least \$50

OTHER ESSENTIALS

- You can use pumps at some bike stores, gas stations and TTC stations. Having one at home is convenient, and a good one will cost about \$40.
- Bells are a must-have, and cost around \$10
- Stay aware: don't wear headphones or use your phone while biking

ON BUYING A BIKE FROM A STORE OR ONLINE

- Buy new or used from a store, unless you really know bikes yourself or you really trust the person
- You can see a lot of bikes listed for sale online of various price ranges and qualities, and you could be thinking you're getting a good deal whereas there's a part that needs to be replaced and that part is going to cost more than the cost of the bike. Or people might try to deceive you.
- Make sure you test ride before you buy any bike. There's no one right type of bike for you. Get something you feel comfortable on. To figure that out you need to test ride.

HOW TO CARRY STUFF ON YOUR BIKE

- First, figure out how much stuff you want to carry. That can determine whether you want a simple front basket or a more robust rear luggage rack
- If you're going to be getting a bottle of wine or a little bit of groceries, a front basket would be okay
- If you're hauling around clothes, laptop, groceries, stuff for kids, etc., then a rear luggage rack is going to offer you more options. You can get a big rear basket, or bags that are removable

A SPRING TUNE-UP AT CYCLEMANIA COSTS \$75. IT INCLUDES:

- Full inspection and adjustment
- Tightening nuts and bolts
- Readjusting the gears
- Tightening the breaks
- Balancing the wheels
- Pumping the tires
- Making sure the bike is ready to ride

If your bike isn't working properly, you risk really serious injury and damage



Sanjay Patel, bike mechanic at Cyclemania at 281 Danforth Ave

BOOK RECS



Here are four books we're reading to learn about the experiences of migrant workers in Canada, and to get equipped to fight the climate crisis.

Harvesting Freedom: The Life of a Migrant Worker in Canada is maybe the first memoir by a migrant worker living in Canada. Author Gabriel Allardua details his life growing up and living in St. Lucia, and then his decision to become a migrant farmworker in Ontario, where he worked in a massive greenhouse. Through Allardua, readers get to know many people who are working for better conditions and rights for migrant workers, and we travel through different parts of the political system – including visiting Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

For books on the climate crisis, we've got three recs.

First, journalist Geoff Dembicki digs into what the oil industry has been doing on climate for the last sixty years in **The Petroleum Papers: Inside the Far-Right Conspiracy to Cover Up Climate Change**. Dembicki weaves together scenes from the halls of Columbia University in New York, to oil sands corporate office in Calgary, to the sprawling empire of the Koch brothers (who made much of their early fortune importing oil sands products from Alberta to their refinery in Minnesota). Altogether, he shows that since 1959, big oil companies have known about climate change, known what to do about it, and have fought like hell to make sure we do the opposite.

Next, the six-author team behind **The End of This World: Climate Justice in So-Called Canada** lay out an inspiring vision for how to reduce the production and use of fossil fuels, respect Indigenous sovereignty and rights, and have an economy that works for everyone. The key, they argue, is not individual behaviour change like deciding to walk to work, but instead bigger social transformations like having excellent, affordable transit service. They call this a just transition (a term they acknowledge has been co-opted by governments to mean something much less ambitious). They end the book by discussing what we as regular people can do now in order to set ourselves up for bigger social changes in the future.

Lastly, we have to mention **Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands**, the non-fiction graphic novel by Kate Beaton which won CBC Canada Reads. The story details Beaton's actual experience working in the Alberta oil patch to pay off her student debt. She is constantly being looked at and talked to by men, as one of the few women in company camps where men outnumber women 50-to-1. These are places with rampant misogyny, loneliness and sexual violence. But life there is also punctuated by people, including migrant workers, showing small acts of kindness to one another. Ducks is a powerful reminder of the experiences of working in the oil industry, and resource industries more generally, and how it affects everyone involved.

**The End of This World* is co-authored by The Grind's publisher, David Gray-Donald



160 photographs, hand-drawn maps and critical essays by Palestinian and Canadian scholars, activists and artists

FERNWOOD PUBLISHING
CRITICAL BOOKS FOR CRITICAL THINKERS

The back patio at Bairrada Churrasqueira is a gem.



Cafe Diplomatico on College St West.



Pamenar's back patio in Kensington Market.



It's patio season! And Toronto has many spots to check out — some highly visible, and some tucked away. Here are a few of our faves.

Three Speed (1163 Bloor St W) and **Bar Neon** (1226 Bloor St W) in Bloordale have nice shaded back patios, with good drinks and food menus.

In Little Portugal, the big back patio at **Bairrada Churrasqueira** (1000 College St) is a real gem, with trees all around. Sit at the picnic tables and enjoy tasty BBQ chicken, fish, and lots more.

Cafe Diplomatico (594 College St) is a classic in the downtown Little Italy neighbourhood. Grab a coffee, drink, or food from 8 am til midnight, and til 2 am on weekends. Good view of College Street and up the residential Clinton St.

At the north end of Kensington Market, **Pamenar** (307 Augusta Ave) is a hip coffee and drinks spot. The vines and small trees around the seating in the back make it a great place to hang out, especially at night. The smaller front patio is right on the pedestrian-busy Augusta Ave. Good coffee, and over 100 gins to choose from. There is a strict "laptops away after 6 pm" policy.

Two blocks south, the **Jimmy's Coffee** (191 Baldwin St) in Kensington also has good coffee and a great back patio. Closes at 6 pm.

In Leslieville, head to **Betty's East** (1301 Queen St E) for a good beer list and quality pub food. The patio fronting onto Queen St. doesn't have the same tree shade as of the old King St. location, but still a good atmosphere.

Mexitaco (2496 Kingston Rd) in Scarborough has good tacos, drinks, and churros. All enjoyed on a relatively quiet, decent-sized patio at the back. What's not to like?

Eat delicious South Indian food at **Karakudi Chettinad** (1225 Kennedy Rd) north of Lawrence Ave in Scarborough. It's a nice outdoor eating situation, even if it's right beside the parking lot. Try the dosas, mutton dishes, biryanis, and more.

In North York, **Safari Bar & Grill** (1749 Avenue Rd) has a great patio just off the sidewalk. A big, quality menu (pizza, burgers, salads, etc.) and reasonable prices.

The patio seating right on The Danforth sidewalk at **Only Cafe & Bar** (962 Danforth Ave) is actually pretty small, but the windows at the front roll up so a lot of the inside feels like you're outside. Good coffee and cafe food on one side, decent drinks on the other, and a steady stream of live music.

A couple doors down, grab tasty Turkish food on the (also small) patio at **GALATA** (940 Danforth Ave).

There aren't many good bars with outdoor seating on Yonge in the stretch just south of Bloor, but at least there's the **Artful Dodger Pub** (10 Isabella St).

**YELLOWJACKETS (SEASON 2)**

(CRAVE) A high-intensity thriller that may have you covering your eyes at times

In this morbid thriller, a high school soccer team is stranded in a remote northern location after their team plane crashes. What ensues is a slow-burn psychological thriller and often shocking mix of high school social dynamics and survivalism (think *Lord of the Flies* meets *Mean Girls*).

If you enjoyed season 1, you'll be pleased to know that season 2 has ratcheted up the tension and horror. Be forewarned: *Yellowjackets* is not for the faint of heart. If blood and guts make you queasy, you'll probably want to pass on this one.

**SORT OF**

(CTV GEM) An unapologetically Toronto sitcom with a wonderful mix of humour, insight, empathy

Of all the gems on CBC's free streaming service, *Sort Of* is one of our top picks. This brilliant sitcom follows gender fluid millennial Sabi Mehboob (Bilal Baig) as they navigate dating, family, multiple jobs, and other ups and downs of life in downtown Toronto. The dialog is witty and compassionate without being heavy-handed and the acting is fresh and fun.

Loyal devotees will note that *CBC* released Season 2 at the end of 2022. However, with the show being renewed for season 3, we're including *Sort Of* here to give you plenty of time to watch or re-watch the first two seasons.

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

While many of our favourite TV shows came to an end last year (*Ozark* and *Killing Eve*, we miss you!) there are plenty of shows both new and ongoing that have piqued our interest. Here are some of the shows we're most excited about:

**SHELVED (SEASON 1)**

(CTV) A playful sitcom centred on a library, its staff, and its patrons

In *Shelved*, interpersonal dynamics among the staff at the 'Jameson' library set the stage for what is really a show about the importance of libraries to communities. Set in Toronto's Parkdale neighbourhood, *Shelved* speaks to the day-to-day realities of one of Toronto's most beloved public services. Outdated computers, right-wing opposition to drag story time, and a lack of diversity in publishing are just some of the issues that the staff at Jameson contend with. The creators of *Shelved* address these issues and more, all while maintaining a light and playful tone.

Viewers with a keen eye will also be pleased to find many books either set in Toronto or written by Toronto-based authors in the background at the library. If you're looking for a feel good show and perhaps, as a bonus, book recommendations for some of the latest and greatest Canadian literature, *Shelved* is a great option.

**SUCCESSION (SEASON 4)**

(CRAVE) An uneasy and, at times, cringeworthy family drama set in high-stakes corporate America

While some may find the betrayal, scheming, and manipulateness of the *Succession*'s Roy family unsettling, we'd like to propose another way of viewing the show. If you loathe capitalism but love drama, *Succession* is kind of a feel good story. In this story, a bunch of rich people consumed by greed lay bare the fact that money can't buy happiness; in fact, each merger and acquisition seems to only bring more emptiness and turmoil.

Admittedly, after three full seasons, the characters are starting to feel a bit flat and predictable. However, as *Succession* enters its final season, we anticipate plenty of surprises as the series reaches its finale.

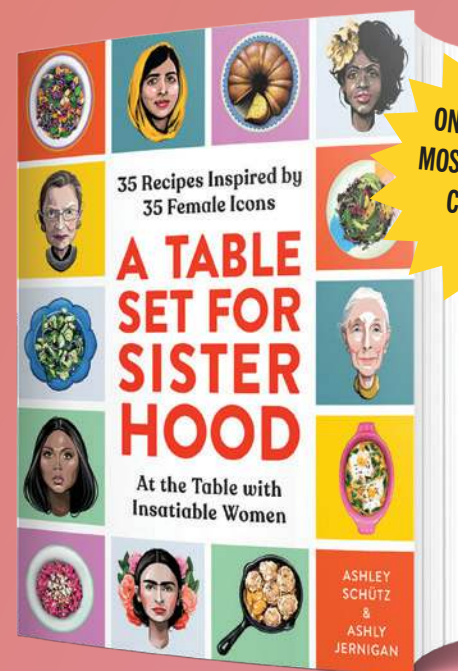
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Ordena Stephens-Thompson
& Sophia Walker in *Fairview*.

JOHN LAUENER



FIVE DRAMATIC WAYS THE TORONTO THEATRE SCENE HAS CHANGED

BY GLENN SUMI

Since starting at the old *NOW Magazine* (RIP), I've written about the Toronto theatre scene full time for just over 25 years. Most of that time I've spent seeing and reviewing shows (in excess of 250 a year, at least pre-pandemic), interviewing artists and occasionally reporting on news, trends and changes in leadership.

During all that time, I wasn't too concerned with thinking about the state of Toronto theatre, simply because I was covering it, in a micro way, every day. But when *The Grind* asked me to sum up what's currently going on in Toronto theatre, I was intrigued.

Poll any devoted Toronto theatregoer (i.e., someone who knows that the scene consists of a lot more than *Hamilton* and *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*), and they'll tell you things feel a lot different than they did even a decade ago.

But *how*? And *why*? That's what I tried to figure out. Here are five things that feel dramatically different.

1 PANDEMIC RECOVERY

The performing arts were one of the sectors most heavily affected by COVID-19, and Toronto's theatres are still recovering from it. Sure, many companies attempted digital pivots, with some lasting results (Factory Theatre's series of audio plays, available on podcast platforms, are worth checking out). But ultimately live theatre needs live people watching it.

Minuses: attendance is down, as is box office. Some audience members simply haven't returned. For some theatres, costs have also risen because now they have to hire understudies in case of illness. Also, while lots of stage actors/writers turned to TV and film, many backstage workers — technicians, stage managers — left as well.

Pluses: some theatres are offering a few "COVID conscious" performances requiring masks. Many theatres have also lowered their ticket prices, or offer a wider range of pay-what-you-can options. During the two-year pause, accessibility — both financial and social — became a big talking point. But this feels like a temporary measure to woo people, especially younger ones or people from underserved communities, to the theatre. I doubt it's sustainable.

2 CHANGING OF THE ARTISTIC GUARD

There's been a radical changing of the guard in the top artistic positions at Toronto's theatre companies. There are more women, artists of colour and LGBTQ2S+ people in those roles than ever before.

25 years ago, almost all the artistic directors at the city's theatre companies were cis white straight-identifying males. The three exceptions were at companies with specific cultural mandates: the feminist company Nightwood, the queer company Buddies in Bad Times and the Indigenous Native Earth Performing Arts.

If social media had been around then, you could have tweeted out #TorontoTheatreSoWhite with the announcement of pretty much every season.

Not any more. With Weyni Mengesha at Soulpepper, Mike Payette at Tarragon, Marjorie Chan at Theatre Passe Muraille, Mel Hague taking over from Nina Lee Aquino at Factory Theatre, Brendan Healy at Canadian Stage and Ray Hogg at Musical Stage Company, there's more diversity in theatre leadership than ever before.

Those names might not mean anything to you, but they've each got at least a decade of experience directing, dramaturging and building communities.

Add to this the invaluable contributions of companies like Cahoots Theatre Company, Obsidian, Why Not Theatre, Fu-GEN, Modern Times, Aluna and the aforementioned Nightwood, Native Earth and Buddies — the latter is currently in the midst of a leadership search — and you've got a group that better represents the diversity of the city in which we live.

3 WITH DIVERSE LEADERSHIP COMES RADICAL NEW PROGRAMMING

Take a look at any of the city's current seasons and you'll see the kind of ethnic diversity in stories and casting that simply wasn't around when I first started writing about theatre. This is clearly coming from that change in leadership.

Under Payette, for instance, Tarragon Theatre, an institution known for premiering the works of pioneering Canadian playwrights like David French, Michel Tremblay and Judith Thompson, is attempting to redefine the canon with new voices.

Chinese-Canadian Ho Ka Kei (Jeff Ho)'s challenging play *Cockroach* kicked off the Tarragon season, which has also included bold new works by Indigenous playwright Yolanda Bonnell, the Indo-Canadian Anosh Irani and the mixed-race couple Amy Lee LaVoie and Omari Newton. Their next play is by the queer Arab-Canadian writer Makram Ayache.

There was a time when, if you were watching a Black-themed play, chances were it was February (Black History Month); ditto an Asian-themed play in May (Asian Heritage Month). That's no longer the case.

And what are these plays about? Ho's *Cockroach* is equal parts Kafka and coming-of-age tale, telling a poetic, wildly original story about identity, migration and survival. Two recent plays — Irani's *Behind the Moon* at Tarragon and Kanika Ambrose's *our place* at Theatre Passe Muraille — have opened up the lives of undocumented workers at Toronto restaurants, with Ambrose's script written in a fictional Caribbean patois.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning *Fairview* just finished up a run at Canadian Stage. Among other things, it used a bold structure to explore how historically theatre itself has been created for the white gaze; what would happen, it asked in a jaw-dropping conclusion that prompted some walkouts, if that was turned around?

One of the defining moments in recent Toronto theatre happened exactly seven years ago, when Factory's former artistic director Nina Lee Aquino — then the only woman of colour in a sea of white male artistic directors (see how quickly things have changed?) — brought in Ravi Jain to direct one of the classics of Canadian drama: *Salt-Water Moon*, written by the aforementioned David French in 1984.

Jain cast the Newfoundland-set two-hander (a play with only two characters) with non-white actors: Kawa Ada and Mayko Nguyen as the couple, and Ania Soul, who sang, played the guitar and narrated stage instructions. Jain presented a stripped-down production, with the actors dispensing with props and the set consisting mostly of evocative candles placed throughout the stage. The result was to make us focus on the language and the universality of French's story. The production soon embarked on a successful Canadian tour and made every critic's year-end best list.

Chelsea Russell in *Fairview*

JOHN LAUENER

SALT-WATER MOON
featuring Kawa Ada and
Mayko Nguyen.



5 LACK OF TOURING SHOWS

Nurturing and developing local and Canadian theatre is important, of course. But I miss the glory days of the World Stage Festival (prominently sponsored by a well-known tobacco company, which brought innovative works from around the world to Toronto). Strangely enough, this was likely the first time many Torontonians got to see the work of Quebecois global superstars Robert Lepage and Gilles Maheu.

If local artists can't see what's going on elsewhere – theatre is far more expensive to export than film – how will they develop and grow? One brilliant company, Coal Mine Theatre, has tried to fill in the gap by producing international plays with local artists. But it's not quite the same as seeing the original productions.

SO WHERE ARE WE NOW?

From where I sit, it doesn't seem like a bad place. In addition to a new crop of artistic leaders making radical programming decisions, theatre companies have tried to become more inclusive in other ways, with increased sensitivity to the deaf, blind and neurodivergent communities.

A quarter century ago, I'd never experienced a "relaxed performance," in which sound and lighting levels were adjusted to be less extreme and people were free to leave and come back during a show.

Every few years the theatre scene reinvents itself. The storefront theatre trend tried to draw hipsters to Bloor West and Parkdale. For a while, immersive or site-specific theatre was a major trend, with only one company – Outside the March – emerging as a real and lasting innovator.

The pandemic gave the theatre industry a chance to assess itself honestly. The political and social landscape is as divisive as ever. And we're facing an uncertain economic future.

Hey, why not put on a play?

Read more of Glenn Sumi's writing
at goaheadsumi.com

4 WHERE ARE THE CRITICS TO WRITE ABOUT THIS ART?

Speaking of critics, one of the most pressing current issues is the lack of diversity among those of us who write about theatre. As the theatre landscape itself becomes more diverse, where are critics who reflect that same diversity?

Just before the pandemic hit, Indigenous playwright/actor/director Yolanda Bonnell made a request that shook the community: critics who weren't Indigenous, Black or people of colour weren't invited to review her play *bug*. They could still come – and many white critics eventually paid for tickets – but they wouldn't be invited.

"The lack of IBPOC voices in the media – at a time when arts coverage is shrinking – means white critics are often the gatekeepers of success," she wrote in *Vice*. "[And] there is often a tone along the lines of 'I don't understand this, therefore it's not valid or good art.'"

There are also simply egregious mistakes, such as when a certain film critic, interviewing a Black director, mistook the term "code-switching" for "coat-switching."

Bonnell made the same request when her play *My Sister's Rage* was mounted at the Tarragon last fall. And Kim Senklip Harvey put forth the same demand when her play *Kamloopa* went up at Soulpepper.

Unlike playwrighting and directing, no mentorship system exists in the criticism world. Most of the city's theatre companies have development programs, where many of today's artistic directors – those same folks I mentioned above – first got their starts.

There have been attempts to change things. Generator, the mentoring, teaching and innovation incubator, held a workshop for emerging theatre critics several years ago. More recently, the Stratford Festival and the online theatre outlet *Intermission* announced an IBPOC Critics Lab.

But where will these critics actually do their work? Back in 1997, there were about half a dozen paid, full-time theatre writers. Today there's one. The rest are freelancers and/or bloggers, like yours truly.

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Toronto Hardcore legends Fucked Up



TORONTO HARDCORE LEGENDS **FUCKED UP** BUILD ON THEIR GALVANIZING SOUND ONE DAY AT A TIME

BY TABASSUM SIDDIQUI
PHOTOS BY JEANINNE KAUFER

A longer version of this article was originally published by *New Feeling* and is available at newfeeling.ca

Toronto hardcore legends Fucked Up have always been a thoughtful group – singing and speaking up about the things they care about, but also in their approach to music itself. So when it came to writing and recording their sixth full-length album in the middle of COVID lockdowns and uncertainty, they found that trying something a bit different could be just the right creative catalyst.

Their shortest album to date (10 taut songs in 40 minutes), *One Day* was – as the title suggests – written and recorded in just one day, though with some leeway for COVID lockdown constraints and the fact that the band members often record their parts separately.

Guitarist Mike Haliachuk initially envisioned the concept in 2019 prior to the pandemic, writing and recording the music for the album's 10 tracks over three eight-hour sessions.

"I just wanted to get something out quickly. The last few records, we took several years – and when we got back from the last album tour, it felt like we had come back from

the moon or something," Haliachuk says by phone from his home in Toronto.

"Initially I was thinking of [the record] as a non-committal, chill thing. And I always like to come up with contrivances or weird, wacky ideas to start recording. Doing it in a day felt appropriate – and then other meanings for doing it that way kept coming up afterwards."

When the pandemic hit weeks later, the idea of releasing something quickly went out the window, but the rest of the band stuck to the guideline of doing their parts within the same 24-hour timespan – a challenge that proved more fruitful than limiting.

"What I liked was that I got to do what I wanted, because I was alone and I had time to play and redo some things on my own," says bassist Sandy Miranda during a Zoom call a few days later alongside vocalist/bellower Damian Abraham (the band also includes guitarist Josh Zucker and drummer Jonah Falco). "In the old days in our practice space, it was often more directed by Mike, and I'd be a little bit like, 'Don't tell me what

to do – do you have trust in my creative process?" she adds with a laugh.

"But even though we were separate, I felt like we were more collaborative. I'm a bit of a loner at heart, so being on my own in my comfort zone really worked for me. I felt like I had a bit more freedom with my contribution."

Abraham was initially set to record his vocals in early 2020 in Vancouver, but *One Day* was put on pause for two years while the band turned their attention to the *Year of the Horse* 12-inch. A busy father of three, Abraham eventually managed to find time to record his parts in four six-hour blocks. Having time to ruminate over the songs also saw him return to contributing lyrics for the first time since 2014's *Glass Boys*.

"When I actually had to sit down and write the lyrics within that so-called '24-hour' period, I wondered if I could do it," Abraham admits, puffing clouds of smoke from a joint. "But I had these melodies and choruses and a couple lines bouncing around in my head for a long time at that point, so it really came very easily."

Given Haliachuk's role as the de facto musical director of the band, he usually shapes the sound and concept for each new Fucked Up album before bringing his bandmates in to fully realize that creative vision. Asked how he and Abraham decide which tracks they'll each write lyrics for, Haliachuk quips that he usually lets Abraham have his way, but adds, "It's almost like doing draft picks." At first the two planned to write collaboratively, but pandemic restrictions soon scuttled that idea.

"I wonder what it's like for Mike," Abraham says with a chuckle, "because I know that when he writes the songs, he's got a particular vision in mind for how they're going to sound – and by the time I'm done with them, I'm sure they're completely unrecognizable [to him]."

"I've only now come to appreciate what a trust and sort of surrender that is as a creative person, to be able to just give things over like that. I won't even let anyone else edit my podcast, let alone write lyrics to a song that I worked on myself!"

More than two decades into their career, Fucked Up sound more vital than ever on *One Day* – which to the uninitiated might come across as far more melodic than their reputation as high-energy punks might imply. While Abraham's roar is as fierce as ever and the rhythm section still raises the listener's pulse, the melodies are relentlessly memorable and the lyrics deeply pensive.

"I think we started as a very distilled project where we were writing under the guidance of very specific punk songs. We were into '80s American DIY music and late-'70s small-batch British punk records. And as weird or obscure as some of those bands are, they're all trying to write pop songs, right? Everybody who puts a record out, they're trying to make a hit – whether they admit it or not. No one goes into the studio thinking, 'I hope no one hears this,'" Haliachuk notes.

"As time has gone on, just realizing that there are ways to incorporate other sounds into what I do has made me enjoy the challenge of trying different things," Abraham adds. "To some, it probably does not sound like a lot of diverse experimenting going on in my vocals. It's like Where's Waldo – the melody is always hiding there, but it might be under a bunch of screaming," he quips.

While they're never afraid to change things up in their sound or approach to making music, what remains constant is Fucked



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Up's place in Toronto's cultural scene – an influence that goes beyond their music. Aside from being an integral part of a groundbreaking wave of local indie music that began in the early 2000s, the band has maintained an unwavering commitment to social and artistic movements – including the Long Winter arts and music series founded by Haliechuk and Zucker; the band's longtime penchant for holding all-ages shows in offbeat venues across the city; and their fundraisers to support local causes from women's shelters to harm-reduction programs.

Those community values are reflected in songs like *One Day's* "Lords of Kensington," in which Abraham laments the gentrification of one of Toronto's beloved neighbourhoods – while candidly acknowledging his own role in that same evolution. The changes in their city and the many difficult issues that come with it – from rising homelessness and housing shortages to venue closures and artists' inability to make a living – are clearly top of mind.

"Over the last few years, even since we've

written the record, Toronto has become a very different place," Haliechuk says.

"As we were writing the album, we lost our practice space, and so many other things closed. It really does seem like in the last 10 to 15 years, the focus has really changed from Toronto being a weird, cool place to just sort of a cold, sterile assembly of condo units – which is painful for those of us that wanted something else," he adds.

"It's tough seeing the churn – there was already a shortage of spaces, and the rising rents do add a bleakness to the city," Miranda concurs. "But we're here, and we're going to keep going as long as we can – and hopefully more places will crop up to foster that same sense of community that we thrived on in the early days."

From their earliest days as chaotic provocateurs to *One Day's* decidedly adult preoccupations with time and memory, Fucked Up have managed to sustain a long career where change remains the common denominator but one thing stays the same: their dedication to the ever-evolving experiment that is Fucked Up.

"We set out to be a weird, belligerent band who never put out records or toured, so we definitely didn't achieve what we set out to do," Haliechuk jokes. "There's a lot of stressful things that go into being a band like this, but we really like making music – that's the constant. So that's really where we ended up."

Abraham echoes his bandmate's thoughts, but goes a step further: "I don't know who I would be as a person without Fucked Up – I got to grow with these people, and they became my family. To be able to do this every day – as a kid, this is all I would have ever wanted in my wildest dreams."

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Invisible Beauty is playing on May 2, 4, & 7 as part of the Hot Docs 30th Anniversary festival.

EVENTS

LITERARY

Canadian Independent Bookstore Day Celebration Apr 29, your local bookstore, special events 10:00AM–6:00PM at Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, Free. anotherstory.ca/events

Festival of Literary Diversity April 30–May 7, Various Events, The Rose Theatre (Brampton), 1 Theatre Ln, Virtual Pass \$20; Virtual + In-Person Pass \$45. thefoldcanada.org

Mass Capture: Chinese Head Tax and the Making of Non-citizens May 08, 7:00PM–8:00PM, Toronto Reference Library (Beeton Hall), 789 Yonge St, Free. www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

Rebecca Makkai: I Have Some Questions for You May 24, 7:00PM–8:00PM, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St, Free (registration req'd). www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?R=EVT476010

Griffin Poetry Prize Readings Jun 7, 7:30PM, Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St W, \$25. www.rcmusic.com/events-and-performances/2023-griffin-poetry-prize-readings

Celebrating the Launch of Trinity Street By **Jen Currin, Xanax Cowboy** by Hannah Green, **Passengers** by Michael Crummey April 27, 7:00PM–10:00PM, Museum of Contemporary Art, 158 Sterling Rd #100, Free (registration req'd). www.instagram.com/p/Cqa1EOVAI9g/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

Poetry Reading at Another Story Bookshop feat. **Jacob McArthur Mooney, Jake Byrne, & Hollay Ghadery** April 26, 7:00PM–8:00PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, Free. anotherstory.ca/events

Bryan Robinson “Chained to the Desk in a Hybrid World” May 4, 7:00PM–8:00PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, Free. anotherstory.ca/events

Steady Easton “Why Tammy Wynette Matters” May 23, 7:00PM–9:00PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, Free. anotherstory.ca/events

The End of this World: Climate Justice in So-Called Canada May 18, 7:00PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, Free. anotherstory.ca/events

Malaika, Carnival Queen May 6, 2:00PM, Blackhurst Cultural Centre, 779 Bathurst St, Free

Word on The Street May 27-28, Queen’s Park Crescent, Free. toronto.thewordonthestreet.ca/

Art Bar Poetry Series Mondays, 7:00PM, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St., Free. www.artbarpoetryseries.com/post/upcoming-events

Suite as Sugar by Camille Hernández-Ramdwar April 25, A Different Booklist, 738 Bathurst St, #810, Free. www.dundurn.com/events_/t43196/p159471-suite-as-sugar-launch-at-a-different-booklist

Brockton Writers Series presents Douglas Davey, Sahar Golshan, Dwayne Morgan, and Andrew F Sullivan May 10, 6:30PM, In-person & online, PWYC (\$3–5 suggested). brocktonwritersseries.wordpress.com/next-event/

Junction Reads with Brooke Lockyer “Burr” June 4, 5:00PM, Online, PWYC

Junction Reads with Patricia Westerhof June 11, 5:00PM, Online, PWYC

FILM

How To Blow Up a Pipeline April 26, 9:15PM, Fox Theatre, 2236 Queen St E, \$13. www.foxtheatre.ca/movies/how-to-blow-up-a-pipeline/

Twice Colonized April 27, 6:30PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$19–\$26 (package deals available)

Food and Country April 28, 6:00PM Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$23

A Wall is a Screen April 29, 8:30PM Ontario Place (West Commons), 955 Lake Shore Blvd W, Free

Invisible Beauty May 2, 6:30PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$23

We are Guardians May 3, 6:15PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W, \$20. hotdocs.ca/whats-on/hot-docs-festival/films/2023/we-are-guardians

Black Barbie: A documentary May 6, 4:45PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W, \$19–\$26 (package deals available). hotdocs.ca/whats-on/hot-docs-festival/films/2023/black-barbie

Terror Beneath the Sea May 12, 9:30PM, Cinecycle, behind 129 Spadina Ave, \$10. www.super8porter.ca/CineCycle.htm

Mulholland Drive June 2, 9:30PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15

Atlantis North May 4, 7:00PM and 9:00PM, Cinecycle, behind 129 Spadina Ave, \$5 suggested. www.super8porter.ca/CineCycle.htm

Star Wars: The Last Jedi - In Concert May 11–13, 7:30PM, Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St, \$90–\$160. www.tso.ca/concerts-and-events/events/star-wars-the-last-jedi-in-concert/

EVIL WOMEN presents **The Bad Seed** May 28, 7:00PM, Paradise Cinema, 1006 Bloor St West, \$17

Morgan! June 9, 9:30PM, Cinecycle, behind 129 Spadina Ave, \$10. www.super8porter.ca/CineCycle.htm

THEATRE

Sizwe Banzi Is Dead May 25–June 18, various showings, Soulpepper Theatre, 50 Tank House Lane, \$25–\$65

The Seagull April 6–30, various showings, Young Centre, 50 Tank House Lane, \$25–\$65. www.soulpepper.ca/performances/the-seagull

The Hooves Belonged to the Deer April 4–23, various showings, Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave, Regular \$65, Arts Worker \$25, Student \$15

Vierge April 8–30, various showings, Mainspace Theatre, 125 Bathurst St, \$15–\$60 (+ limited \$0 tix). www.factorytheatre.ca/shows/vierge/

Paint Me this House of Love April 11–May 7, various showings, Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave, Regular \$55, Arts Worker \$25, Student \$15. www.tarragontheatre.com/plays/paint-me-this-house-of-love/

Maanomaa, My Brother April 11–30, various showings, Berkeley Street Theatre, 26 Berkeley St, \$20–\$29. www.canadianstage.com/show/maanomaa

Body So Fluorescent April 13–23, various showings, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 142 George St, \$10–\$70

TRUE CRIME May 1–May 7, Guloien Theatre, 345 Carlaw Ave, \$45–\$65. www.crowstheatre.com/whats-on/view-all/true-crime-2023

She’s Not Special May 24–28, various showings, Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave, Regular \$30, Arts Worker \$25, Student \$15. www.nightwoodtheatre.net/shes-not-special/

Armadillos June 3–24, various showings, Mainspace Theatre, 125 Bathurst St, \$15–\$60 (+ limited \$0 tix). www.factorytheatre.ca/shows/armadillos/

DANCE

The Encore April 29, 7:30PM, Hart House Theatre, 7 Hart House Cir, Adult \$28, Senior \$18, Student \$22. harthouse.ca/theatre/show/the-encore

X (DIX) Jun 14–18, Guloien Theatre, 345 Carlaw Ave, \$45–\$65. www.crowstheatre.com/whats-on/view-all/xdix

COMEDY

Crimson Wave Sundays, 9:30PM, Comedy Bar, 945 Bloor St W, \$15 Online, \$20 at door. comedybar.ca/shows/crimson-wave-comedy

Steve Patterson Live April 29, 4:00PM and 8:00PM, Paradise Cinema, 1006 Bloor St West, from \$23, 16+. www.eventbrite.com/cc/steve-patterson-live-at-the-paradise-1856559

Comedy Kolors feat. **Tobi, Curry Bradshaw, Derek Kalala, Sagal Ali, Chris Sarpong, JJ Marsh, Denzil Wray & Cliff Knight**, 8:00PM Doors, 9:00PM Show, Kolors Barbershop and Lounge, 1612 Queen St W, \$20. www.eventbrite.ca/e/comedy-kolors-tickets-619385267007

Jordan Thewlis May 18, 8:00PM, Backroom Comedy Club, 814 Bloor St W, \$37. www.eventbrite.ca/e/jordan-thewlis-backroom-comedy-club-2nd-show-added-tickets-615384590877?aff=erelxpm



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MUSIC

Kerala Dust April 25, 7:00PM, 19+
The Velvet Underground, 508 Queen St W, \$22

Red Baraat April 27, 8:00PM-10:00PM,
The Rose Theatre (Brampton), 1 Theatre Ln, \$15-\$29.
smallworldmusic.com/shows/red-baraat/

Candlelight: 100 Years of Warner Bros. April 28,
6:30PM, Paradise Cinema, 1006 Bloor St West,
\$30-60. paradiseonbloor.com/films-and-events/
candlelight-100-years-warner-bros

**Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra 49th Season
Finale** April 29, 3:00PM, Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Sim-
coe St, \$22-34. www.tso.ca/concerts-and-events/
events/tsyo-49th-season-finale/

Vox Rea with Duane Forrest May 6, 6:30PM, Dakota
Tavern, 249 Ossington Ave, \$10 Adv, \$15 Door

Medusa May 11, 8:00PM-11:00PM,
Small World Centre, 180 Shaw St, \$25
Adv, \$35 Door. www.eventbrite.ca/cc/
small-world-music-series-2023-1672689

ILAM May 13, 8:00PM, Spadina Theatre,
24 Spadina Road, \$18. alliance-francaise.ca

Mariza May 13, 9:00PM-11:00PM, Universal Event
Space, 6250 Hwy 7, Vaughan, \$100-\$150.
smallworldmusic.com/shows/mariza-in-concert/

Bailen May 16, 7:00PM, Drake Underground,
1150 Queen St W, \$16.50, 19+

Lulaworld 2023: Kar33m + Sikh Knowledge
May 18, 9:00PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, \$16

Devonté Hynes May 18, 8:00PM, Roy Thomson
Hall, 60 Simcoe St, \$51-\$122. www.tso.ca/
concerts-and-events/events/devonte-hynes/

MICKEY DARLING May 19, 7:00PM, Drake Under-
ground, 1150 Queen St W, \$23, 19+

**Lulaworld 2023: Cuban Friday with Yani Borrell
and Rojas** May 19, 7:00PM, Lula Lounge,
1585 Dundas St W, \$28, 19+

Fareed Ayaz & Abu Muhammad Qawwali
May 20, 7:00PM-10:00PM, St. Andrew's
Church, \$40. www.eventbrite.ca/cc/
small-world-music-series-2023-1672689

Kyohei Sorita May 24, 7:30PM-9:30PM, Japanese
Canadian Cultural Centre (Kobayashi Hall),
6 Garamond Court, \$60 General admission,
\$50 JCCC Members and Bravo Niagara! Members,
\$25 Student. jccc.on.ca

**Cuban Friday with Cafe Cubano + DJ Suave +
Afro-Latino Dance!** May 26, 7:00PM, Lula Lounge,
1585 Dundas St W, \$28, 19+. www.lula.ca/calendar

Hart House Orchestra May 28, 3:00PM-4:00PM,
Hart House (Great Hall -1022), 7 Hart House Cir,
Free. harthouse.ca/events/
hart-house-orchestra-may-concert-2023/

Ted Park Jun 2, 7:00PM, Drake Underground,
1150 Queen St W, \$24, 19+

Virtuosi by Leleu Brothers June 1, 8:00PM, Spadina
Theatre, 24 Spadina Road, \$18. alliance-francaise.ca

Sampa The Great June 9, 7:00PM, Axis Club,
722 College St, \$33, 19+. www.ticketweb.ca/event/
sampa-the-great-the-axis-club-tickets/12974245

Akeem Oh June 21, 8:00PM, Spadina Theatre, 24
Spadina Road, \$18. alliance-francaise.ca

Toronto International Jazz Festival June 23-July 2,
Various, Various Locations, \$32 - \$150.
torontojazz.com/

ADG7: Korean Shamanic Folk-Pop June 28, 7:00PM;
Doors at 6:00PM, Lula Lounge,
1585 Dundas St W, \$32, 19+. www.lula.ca/calendar



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THAT’S A RAP

Major questions surround the Toronto Raptors this offseason after they were eliminated from playoff contention by the Chicago Bulls. During the play-in game of the 9th and 10th seed teams, the Raps gave up a 20 point lead, shot a dismal 50 per cent from the free throw line, and were outscored 37-24 in the fourth quarter. The season-ending loss was a bitter finale to a season marked by poor bench performances, a struggling halfcourt offense, and a lack of team chemistry. Raptors guard Fred VanVleet has the option to sever the final year of his contract, Jakob Poetl is a free agent, and trade rumours surround OG Anunoby and Pascal Siakam. Additionally, many NBA insiders believe head coach Nick Nurse’s days with the team are over. Raps fans now join Raptors President Masai Ujiri and GM Bobby Webster in asking “where do we go from here?”



Grab your peanuts and binoculars, it’s Blue Jay Season

After losing their opening series to the Cardinals, the Jays have gone on to take series from the Royals, Angels and Tigers. These results, paired with the outstanding play of newly-acquired third baseman Matt Chapman, have given fans cause for cautious optimism. While the consistency of the bullpen will be something to keep an eye on, the early-season Jays have shown us they have the potential to be one of the top teams in the AL East.



The Great Barrier Leaf

After a Game 1 thrashing from the Tampa Bay Lightning, Leafs fans are facing that all-too-familiar sinking feeling. Lightning left winger Pierre-Edouard Bellemare found the back of the net one minute and 19 seconds into the first period and things only got worse from there. Tampa stunned fans at Scotiabank arena with two more goals in the first period to take a commanding 3-0 lead en route to a 7-3 victory.

While the Leafs entered the series as series favourites, buoyed by Mitch Marner’s 99-point regular season performance and Ilya Samsonov’s .919 save percentage, their Game 1 loss reminded us just how fleeting hope can be.

Will 2023 be the season where the Leafs break the first-round curse and make a serious push for the Stanley Cup? We’re not throwing the towel in yet but, after Game 1, we’re all feeling a bit less optimistic.

Women’s Soccer Funding

The good news is that after almost going on strike, the Canadian women’s soccer team reached an interim funding agreement with Canada Soccer in March, and players will be paid about the same as men’s team players. The bad news is the players keep being disrespected. Canada Soccer went public with details about the private bargaining process on the day that several women’s team players spoke at a House of Commons committee, adding tension to the ongoing negotiations. The women’s team lost 2-1 to France in a friendly match April 11th, and will play in late July in the group stage of the Women’s World Cup, taking place in Australia and New Zealand.

Corrections
(February / March 2023)

We strive to publish correct information on every page. Sometimes we don’t catch errors before printing. In the February / March 2023 Issue there were several errors.

ON THE COVER, the bottom lines should read: “EX-MAYOR’S BUDGET CUTS TTC SERVICE, GIVES \$48M MORE TO COPS”. The printed version incorrectly reads that only “\$48” more went to cops.

ON PAGE 7, P7 TTC cuts article wrong author “TTC Cuts Increase Fares and Create Longer Wait Times” is written by Jacob Pesarak. The printed version incorrectly lists Fernando Arce as the author.

ON PAGE 13, the photos of an event hosted by Another Toronto on January 14, 2023, have the wrong captions. The top photo should have the caption that appears on the bottom photo, “With her family behind her, Claudette Beals-Clayton speaks out about her daughter Regis Korchinski-Paquet’s death at the hands of Toronto Police. Photo by Laura Proctor.” The bottom photo should be captioned, “Vanessa Fareau, accompanied by her daughter, recites poetry and speaks about her negative experiences with police as a victim of domestic violence, at Church of the Holy Trinity in Toronto on January 14, 2023. Photo by Laura Proctor.”

ON PAGE 15, in the text of the “No More John Torys” article, the second paragraph begins “BeaBorn,” when it should instead begin “Born”.

THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 16 AND 17, “Building Fun in a Notoriously Unfun City,” was originally published online by The Local. The printed version unfortunately omits this acknowledgement.

ON PAGE 23, both crosswords should be attributed to Emma Lawson. The top crossword was incorrectly attributed to Crosswordsite, and the bottom crossword was incorrectly not attributed.

ON PAGE 24, the “Leo” and “Virgo” horoscopes are identical. This is a misprint. The Leo horoscope should read, “Usually, maybe, probably: familiarize yourself with these words. When you’re wondering about an uncertain outcome, cautious optimism is better than mantras. The best of life is never guaranteed.”

The Grind’s editors regret these errors.

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DANU

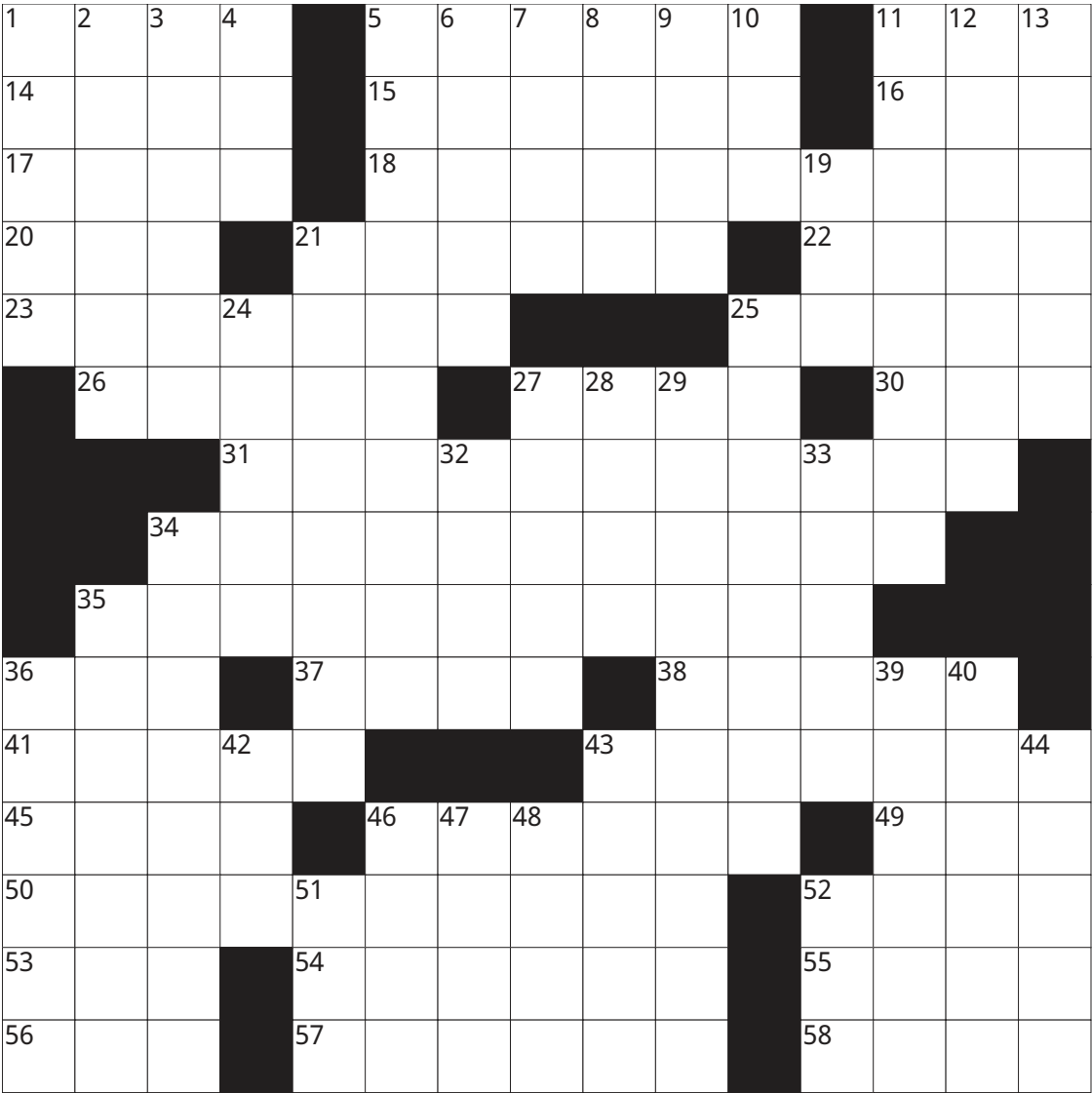
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ACROSS

- 1 ____-bitty
5 Developer of "Street Fighter" and "Resident Evil" video game series
11 Flying mammal
14 Must have
15 How some ground balls are fielded
16 Dig it!
17 Makes a mistake
18 Toronto author of "Accidentally Engaged" and "Kamila Knows Best"
20 The "P" in "PMS"
21 "Should that be the case..."
22 Gunk
23 Herbal infusions
25 Like Modrobes or JNCO jeans
26 "That's not true!"
27 Incantation opening
30 Married
31 Red carpet list
34 Jeremy Strong, for one
35 "Do another!" at karaoke
36 Unlock, in verse
- 37 Mimic
38 "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from ____": Arthur C. Clarke
41 Alter, as pants
43 Television award nomination, colloquially
45 Gold medals, in Mexico
46 Crème ____ (dessert)
49 Genetic material 50 2016 Park Chan-wook psychological thriller, with "The"
52 Tolkien trilogy, in brief
53 Evil spirit in Japanese folklore
54 Tree nut that's not a true nut
55 Toronto university with a Keele campus
56 Taiwanese electronics company known for Android phones and the Vive virtual reality headset
57 Perceived to be
58 Notable time periods

DOWN

- 1 Clumsy
2 "That's fab!" 3 Mother ____
4 NFL units
5 Second Cup or FIKA Cafe
6 Diarist Nin
7 Millennials like it on the side
8 Spiced Indian drink
9 ____ and ahhs
10 Dashboard no. in the U.S.
11 Person using their library card
12 Excited
13 Watched over
19 Green prefix
21 Atlas feature
24 "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" playwright
25 What citations are usually alphabetized by
27 Venomous snake
28 Items burned at a Miss America protest in 1968
29 Suggests a book, say
32 Ripped
33 Overly wet, like cereal left in milk too long
- 34 HOMES, e.g.
35 ____ conditioning (behaviour modification through reward or punishment)
36 "Pick me! Pick me!"
39 Type of dining shut down in 2020
40 Against
42 Amer. money
43 "My Brilliant Friend" novelist Ferrante
44 Certain laundry load
46 Bundle of hay 47 Frost
48 Thick Japanese noodle
51 Taco Bell slogan "Live ____"
52 Soap ingredient

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS BELOW!

4	1	3	8	5	6	7	2	9
9	5	2	3	7	9	1	4	8
9	7	8	2	1	4	5	9	3
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1	9	7	6	4	5	3	8	2
7	2	6	4	9	3	8	5	1
3	8	1	5	2	7	4	9	6
5	4	6	1	9	8	2	3	7

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D	O	N	Y	M	M	E	P	A	P	E
C	I	G	M	A	G	R	P	A	P	E
G	N	O	S	O	R	E	O	M	E	N
R	O	C	T	A	C	D	H	T	E	M
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E	S	O	L	S	E	S	N	A	S	I
D	U	C	S	I	T	I	F	I	E	R
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B	A	T	M	C	O	C	A	C	Y	T

CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

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			5		9	7		1
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			4			8		6
				7	3	2		
6		7	9		8		1	

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BY EMMA LAWSON

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HOROSCOPES

BY LEE SUKSI

ARIES

(MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)

In order to surf a wave, you have to paddle awkwardly into the water like a kid on their stomach on a wheelie board. This month, embrace any awkwardness and discomfort with your body. The truth there may lead you to unexpected feats of grace and power.

TAURUS

(APRIL 21 — MAY 20)

It's typical to concentrate more on beginnings than endings, especially in the digital era, especially in spring. How can you make your endings as meaningful as beginnings? How can you celebrate, mourn and acknowledge what has passed as you transition into a new existence?

GEMINI

(MAY 21 — JUNE 21)

Love will come into your life this month like little rainbows refracting through water on a windshield. Allow it to refresh and hydrate you. It's okay, even pleasant, if it comes over you like a fine mist, rather than a downpour.

CANCER

(JUNE 21 — JULY 23)

If you argue with someone close to you, afterwards walk away and consider their feelings as you would consider your own. Walking away is the most important part of doing this. If you can, walk somewhere beautiful. You may be surprised to find how much they consider you too.

LEO

(JULY 23 — AUGUST 22)

The value of chaos is in what is revealed in our response to it. Consider the unknown strengths strong winds unearth as they break things down — the relief experienced in the buildings that remain standing. Imagine a quality you don't feel you possess, and how it might emerge as you're tested by what you can't control. Allow that hope to help you weather current or coming storms.

VIRGO

(AUGUST 23 — SEPTEMBER 22)

You are a gifted friend. Others have to practise friendship, especially since it isn't regarded as essential in our culture. Be patient as your friends develop what you are already good at and be proud of your talents as a friend. You have a lot to teach there. Do it gently.

LIBRA

(SEPTEMBER 23 — OCTOBER 22)

When you space out, you tune into silence. If you listen closely to the silence, you may hear a hum. Make a space for that silence, physical or otherwise, and see what revelations are there.

SCORPIO

(OCTOBER 23 — NOVEMBER 21)

Your sign is often called intense. Remember that cooking is considered a peaceful and generous act, yet involves competency with fire and knives. Think of a delicious curry, where the chiles are mellowed by time and complementary spices. Likewise, know that your intensity is an important means of caring, and refine it.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOVEMBER 22 — DECEMBER 21)

You are very interested in tangible space, the tangible reality of the world. However, the material reality of your surroundings is constantly changing, for better and sometimes for much worse. What could you commit to that will outlast what might happen to any of it? Are there relationships, values, sensations that will always be true for you? What is always true?

CAPRICORN

(DECEMBER 22 — JANUARY 19)

You may feel a profound scarcity of generosity in the world at large right now. You yourself may find it hard to be open as you doubt that your gifts will be received. This is the right season to watch animals care for their young, in real time or on screen. A bit of faith in the nature of things may inspire you to intentional acts of kindness.

AQUARIUS

(JANUARY 20 — FEBRUARY 18)

We all have compulsions we would like to change. From habit to addiction to avoidance, the best way to intentionally change an unconscious behaviour is to be present to the world as it is, not worry about how or when you will succumb to your impulses. More breathing and observing, less promising and analyzing.

PISCES

(FEBRUARY 19 — MARCH 20)

You've been dreaming about something. It's time to begin. And how do you begin? By forgetting about how long it will take you to finish. It doesn't matter whether it helps or stalls you to remember that when you're finished, there will always be more for you to do. It is true.