

THE GRIND

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INDIGENOUS
FASHION **16**

SUMMER 2023, ISSUE 5, VOL 1

FREE

TORONTO'S NEXT MAYOR



**SUMMER EVENT
LISTINGS**



TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL

Summer ^{IN THE} city
JULY 5-16



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Canadian Heritage



HOROSCOPES

Lee Suksi

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CANCER

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COMICS

Congrats on the fourth issue (May/June). My only complaint so far: the Sudoku is way too easy.

ERIC MILLS, BY EMAIL

(Eds: We've made this issue's Sudoku more difficult. Good luck!)

Re: "New Season, New Election, New Opportunities": *The Grind* really did say it best and y'all, whoever you vote for (I mean like within reason) I seriously just wanna not end up with someone too damaging and keep working together to make things better.

BRITT CARON, @BRIKITYSPLIT ON TWITTER

Just read the May/June issue of *The Grind*. Very good—sort of like NOW is back. Hope it lasts and grows.

DAVID MCCAUGHNA, @DAVIDMCCAUGHNA ON TWITTER

I went to a comedy show at The Tranzac then read *The Grind* on the subway on the way home and it was a wonderful feeling.

DAMIEN NELSON, @5ONTHE5 ON TWITTER

I get *The Grind* at Bay Street Video!

KARON LIU, @KARONLIU ON TWITTER

Picked my copy up at Book City in the Beaches. Delighted to see it. Good work!

ILAN MUSKAT, @ILANMUSKAT ON TWITTER

BLACKOUT HOROSCOPE

First #blackouthoroscopes in 4 years thanks to *The Grind* and horoscope writer Lee Suksi (@icekrispie on Twitter)

I've been impressed with *The Grind* so far. Their local political coverage has filled many cracks the majors don't have the resources (or will) to cover. For example, did you know that Adam Vaughan works for Navigator now? I didn't until I read the Feb issue.

MATT CAHILL, @HEYMATTCAHILL ON TWITTER

Picked May/June issue up at Type Books today and they pack a lot into a thin package. Go get it!

VALERIE, @VALERIEINTO ON TWITTER

Now Magazine has been reduced to an undead shell of the venerable urban independent paper we elder millennials remember, but there's a noble successor! Check out *The Grind* on the TTC and at all the best indie bookstores.

PHIL POTHEIN, @POTHEIN ON TWITTER



ABOVE: York South-Weston Tenant Union goes on rent strike. Read more on page 12.

COVER PHOTO BY SCOTT WEBB

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ISSUE 1 VOL 1

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

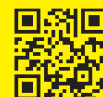
In a city that isn't working for transit users, renters, wage workers, those in and out of the shelter system, and so many more, **The Grind** reminds us that a better city is possible and worth fighting for

We need to raise \$25,000 this summer to continuing publishing and improving **The Grind**. Chip in if you're able.

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#5

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Editors' Letter — Keeping Print Alive In Toronto

The busy summer season is here, and so is the fifth issue of The Grind. In the following pages, you'll find coverage of the mayoral election (pages 6-9), arts and culture features (14-19), event listings (20), and lots more.

First, we want to give an update on how things are going at The Grind — and ask for your help.

When we launched, we weren't sure if there was an appetite in Toronto for an unabashedly political free print paper that also showcases the arts scene that exists outside the commercial mainstream.

So, we were blown away when readers like you helped us raise over \$30,000 last fall, encouraging us to continue.

In the 2020s, a paper like The Grind can't rely only on advertisers, and we don't have a big-money investor pumping in cash, looking for a payout.

As many publications have realized, reader support is essential. It's the best path toward true independence.

Since our October 2022 launch, with your help, we have distributed tens of thousands of each issue into TTC subway stations and to over 250 locations across the city. We have featured the work of over 50 writers, artists, and photographers while paying them industry-standard rates for their work.

From the historic education workers strike,

to the worsening TTC service and inadequate responses from governments, we've been there with you.

And while much of what you read is written for The Grind, we've also partnered with eight other media organizations, including The Hoser, New Feeling, and PressProgress, to put their excellent articles into print. This has included stories about the lack of Black doctors in Ontario, people resisting wage theft in Brampton, health care privatization, punk rock, and more.

Next, we want to take on in-depth investigations, and bring new writers in from across the city to do so. We also want to hire a web developer and social media manager to bridge the divide between The Grind's print and online presences.

We also need to hire staff. The publication so far has been put together through short-term contract work and volunteer labour. To really thrive, permanent staff positions are essential.

To achieve these many ambitious goals, we need to raise \$25,000 by the end of July.

You can support us by making a one-time donation, or becoming a monthly supporter. Visit www.the grindmag.ca or use the QR code.

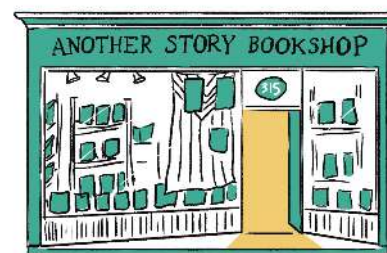
We're also launching a monthly email newsletter which will announce when the

"Thank you for an amazing first year. With your further support, we can make year two even better!"

print issue is out, and will feature recent articles. You'll get a rundown of major political stories and learn about what's happening in Toronto's vibrant arts and culture scene.

Thank you for an amazing first year. With your further support, we can make year two even better!

— FERNANDO ARCE, DAVID GRAY-DONALD,
PHILLIP DWIGHT MORGAN



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THE MAYORAL RACE

Leading up to June 26, the big question is whether anyone can catch up to Olivia Chow.

And if so, who?

BY DAVID GRAY-DONALD

Former city councillor and NDP MP Olivia Chow put her name in as a candidate for Toronto's next mayor relatively late. Since then, Chow has been polling as the frontrunner, making her the focal point for other candidates' attacks.

Though over 100 candidates registered, the reality of mayoral elections in Toronto is that the only people who are serious contenders are those who already have a big profile, who can assemble large city-wide campaign teams, and who are able to raise a lot of money. Political insiders say \$2 million per campaign is the minimum required to really compete.

That leaves a lot of people – and their ideas – out, since they aren't able to get their polling numbers high enough to be covered in major media or invited to the big debates.

Who's still in contention?

Late in the game, there are eight candidates who have polled at or above five per cent.

On the centre-left, there is frontrunner Chow, current city councillor Josh Matlow, and 2022 third-place candidate Chloe Brown, who is, again, running a low-budget campaign full of big ideas to transform the city.

In the centre and centre-right are Mitzie Hunter, who until this campaign was a provincial Liberal MPP in Scarborough, and Ana Bailão, a former city councillor who was John Tory's deputy mayor.

On the right are former police chief and unsuccessful provincial conservative candidate Mark Saunders, far-right columnist Anthony Furey, and current city councillor Brad Bradford.

Brown and Bradford are barely cracking five per cent in June. Hunter and Furey have hovered around 10. Matlow, who is mostly aligned with Chow on the issues, but doesn't have the same big-name endorsements or as much money, has been stuck under 15 per cent in the polls.

Unless someone drops out to support one of those candidates, which is unlikely, that leaves Saunders and Bailão vying for second and trying to reach Chow.

Saunders and Bailão chasing Chow

Ana Bailão has been anywhere from under 10 per cent in the polls and up to around 20 per cent or higher. She may have the largest campaign budget, attracting wealthy

donors and real estate developers who have long seen her vote in their favour at Toronto city council. Bailão briefly worked for developer Dream Unlimited before this campaign. (See page 12 for more about Dream.)

In the early stages, Bailão didn't seem able to recreate the effective campaigns of her long-time ally John Tory. On her team is Tory's former campaign manager Nick Kouvalis, a long-time conservative operative who also managed Rob Ford's successful run.

Bailão has attempted to copy Tory's style, trying to appear as a caring pragmatist. Like Tory, Bailão nods to progressive causes like housing and transit, and then in the next breath promises not to raise taxes and skirts questions about how to pay for service improvements. It was a winning strategy for Tory, and late in the campaign Toronto's corporate media is increasingly supportive of Bailão. The *Toronto Star*, for

example, plastered her photo above the fold on their front cover on Saturday, June 10, calling her "The Pragmatist."

We can expect a huge ad spend from her team in the lead-up to June 26. We wouldn't be surprised if Bradford, who has been tanking in the polls, endorses her and gives another late boost.

Saunders started off as the unofficial pick of Conservative Premier Doug Ford and has consistently polled above 15 per cent – good enough for second place most of the time.

The lack of details in his tough-on-crime platform, his tired talking points of using the police to solve every problem and his lacklustre performances in the debates seem to have failed to attract new voters.

His disastrous mismanagement of the murders of eight men by serial killer Bruce McArthur in Toronto's gay village in the 2010s has dogged him throughout the campaign, as has the worsening of 911 response



Six of the leading mayoral candidates at the TVO & Board of Trade debate, May 25, 2023. Left to right: Olivia Chow, Ana Bailão, Josh Matlow, Mitzie Hunter, Mark Saunders, Brad Bradford.

"Despite the attacks, Chow consistently polled at or above 30 per cent support as of the opening of advance polls on June 8, a substantial but not insurmountable lead."



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times during his tenure as police chief, even as the budget ballooned.

But he isn't going away.

Saunders and Bailão have repeatedly attacked Chow, claiming she will raise property taxes. Chow has not put out a costed platform (neither have Saunders or Bailão), but Toronto Star columnist Matt Elliott calculated that the tax increase necessary to pay for what Chow is promising on transit, housing, mental health, and libraries would work out to an average property tax increase per household of \$11.76 per month, or \$141.12 per year.

Despite the attacks, Chow consistently polled at or above 30 per cent support as of the opening of advanced polls on June 8, a substantial but not insurmountable lead.

Polling versus winning

In elections such as this one, likely to have low voter turnout, leading in the polls and advertising is not enough to win. Calling, flying, door-knocking and standing on busy streets to talk to people (sometimes called "mainstreeting") are key to getting people to decide on a candidate and motivating them to actually vote.

On this front, the Chow campaign appears in good shape. NDP MPP for University-Rosedale, Jessica Bell, who endorsed Chow, tells *The Grind* that "our volunteers and our riding association are working on her campaign as canvassers and organizers and helping her raise the funds she needs to run a strong campaign."

Fellow NDP MPP Chris Glover (Spadina-Fort York) spoke to *The Grind* by phone, saying he had been out "mainstreeting in Etobicoke" and getting a "very positive response."

Progress Toronto, a non-profit that organizes for progressive policy in Toronto, also endorsed Chow. Their acting executive director, Saman Tabasinejad, says she has been "pleasantly surprised" by how willing people are to volunteer to support Chow. In the Tory era (2014 to 2023), even with winnable city council seats up for grabs, it was harder to activate volunteers, Tabasinejad says. Now people are "seeing something exciting and special" in the possibility of electing Chow as mayor and "ending a decade of conservative rule."

A number of unions endorsed Chow, including the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario. "CUPE Ontario members and staff have been proud to take part in a number of neighbourhood canvasses for Olivia's campaign," CUPE Ontario president, Fred Hahn, tells *The Grind* in a statement.

If the enthusiasm and this mobilization for Chow is to be believed, it will be a hard ground game to beat.

Bailão has the federal Liberal Party establishment on her side, with endorsements from nine Toronto-area MPs. (Hunter doesn't list any endorsements from sitting Liberal politicians on her site.) And while Bailão couldn't match Chow's extensive union endorsements, she has a few, including construction union LiUNA Local 183. But whether these endorsements translate into significant volunteer mobilization is a big question.

Anything can happen late in an election campaign. Scandals break, allegiances shift, endorsements come out and people say the wrong things.

Chow might have led through most of the campaign, but that doesn't mean much until the votes are counted.

KING'S PRINTER FOR ONTARIO, 2023



Ontario Premier Doug Ford.

What's Next for the Strong Mayor Powers?

BY FERNANDO ARCE

Will Toronto's new mayor use the new "strong mayors" powers previously granted by Premier Doug Ford to former mayor John Tory? Should they? And for what?

These questions are important, but overshadowing them is Ford and his conservative government.

Powers bound to "provincial priorities"

Unlike U.S.-style "strong mayors," who are empowered to act independently of their state's governor, Toronto's mayor is bound by the legislation to use these new powers for the most part to advance "provincial priorities."

Translation: do what Ford wants, and not what he doesn't. It's like giving your kid money and forcing them to buy you something you've been saving up for.

"So it's not really making a municipal mayor stronger," says Myer Siemiatycki, professor emeritus of politics at Toronto Metropolitan University. "It's making them more able to enforce the will of the premier."

The new Bill 3 limits the use of the new powers to policies that exclusively advance "provincial priorities." Part of the other strong mayor legislation, Bill 39, grants the mayor additional power to pass bylaws of provincial priority with only one third of councillors, which amounts to eight. That's the same number of people handpicked by the mayor to serve in their executive committee.

So far, the only provincial priority tied to the strong mayor legislation is housing, but Ford could change that at any time. "I would say we are dealing with a doubly problematic formula to begin with: it's undemocratic, and it strengthens the mayor's ability to be the enforcement officer of the province," says Siemiatycki.

The mayor also has some new powers independent of the province, such as the ability to appoint senior civil servants themselves and set the municipal budget with only very minor amendments allowed from councillors.

Who would use them?

Some have dreamed of what a mayor opposed to Ford's agenda could do with the strong mayor powers, like blocking his Ontario Place privatization scheme or defunding the police and investing that money elsewhere.

But, if campaign promises are to be believed, that isn't on the horizon.

In the mayoral race, the top candidates most opposed to Ford say they wouldn't use the powers: Olivia Chow, Josh Matlow, and Mitzie Hunter. Ana Bailão, who is generally aligned with Ford, says she wouldn't overrule council but would use the other powers. Mark Saunders and Brad Bradford said they would use them.

Will Ford revoke the powers?

In February, Ford told reporters that a "left wing mayor... would be a disaster." With left-leaning Chow leading the polls in June, Ford has no doubt been planning his next move.

On the one hand, Ford could take the legislation away in a fit of rage if the mayor is using the powers to do things he doesn't like.

And if the mayor isn't using them, he might realize how embarrassing the entire situation is getting, and decide to just "let this sit and go nowhere," says Siemiatycki.

Real strong mayor powers

In the U.S., strong mayors sometimes helped spur intermunicipal collaboration, according to a 2023 study by the Institute on Municipal Finance & Governance. "A strengthened executive may allow the mayor to make credible commitments on behalf of the city in intergovernmental negotiations," says Karen Chapple, director of the School of Cities at the University of Toronto.

For years, Toronto has been pushed around by the province. The city is, after all, a creation of the province, and the province holds all the legislative power, as we saw when Ford cut the size of Toronto city council in half during the 2018 election.

If he was serious about the concept of strong mayor powers, says Siemiatycki, "he would give mayors more financial resources and he would give them more authority and control over local decision-making."

But for now, the strong mayor powers are meant to facilitate the mayor "taking orders from premier Doug Ford."



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HOW TO TAKE ON THE NEXT MAYOR

Depending on who is steering the ship, we'll need to take different approaches to see real improvements in the city

If it is...

Toronto's municipal government is like an ocean liner, a giant ship. It's a huge structure already in motion. To be mayor and run it the same as usual is very different from trying to significantly alter what the city does and who it serves. Currently, the city works best for real estate developers, big landlords and wealthy residents.

Candidates like Saunders, Bailão and Bradford wouldn't change much in the grand scheme of things. They may add a few more cops, tinker with developer fees and launch studies and pilot programs. City staff won't resist, business lobby groups won't try to make their lives hell and property-owner associations won't have a fit.

But some voters might hope that candidates like Matlow, Chow and especially Brown would significantly change the way the city government works to benefit renters, the unhoused, racialized communities and all lower-income people. Trying to make changes in this direction as mayor is much more difficult. Matlow, for example, made enemies at council and among the city staff while pushing for better park services and protections for unhoused people.

The city has been working well for a segment of the rich and powerful. Any changes that will shift benefits away from them will have to be hard fought.

No matter who is elected mayor, these power struggles will continue.

Olivia Chow

THE RISK: Too many Chow supporters will adopt a "wait and see" approach, and in the meantime Chow will be pushed by Premier Doug Ford, by city staff who have long worked for John Tory and by the business community to stick with the broken status quo. In this scenario, not much will change.

WHAT TO DO: Push hard to make gains with this rare opportunity. Don't sit back and wait.

WHY: Chow is from the NDP establishment and has its backing. This helped Chow during the campaign period. But the NDP's track record after being voted into power is full of backtracking and disappointment. We can look at the dismal environmental records of B.C. and Alberta NDP governments, or the lack of gains made – and even losses incurred – by workers during former Ontario premier Bob Rae's 1990s NDP government. Hamilton today may be even more prescient, with former Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath now in the mayor's seat, and yet very few changes supporting the working class are underway.

The problem is not limited to a lack of ambition by these leaders; it is also that very powerful forces line up against them. Business lobby groups, banks, police associations, much of the media, and city staff can together block changes and get in the way at every turn. Seeing this, it is important for a mayor like Chow, and those generally aligned with her stated vision, to develop strategies to actually win things. Sitting back and waiting for Chow to deliver would mean setting ourselves up for disappointment and not building our collective power outside of formal political channels.

Olivia Chow

Ana Bailão



Mark Saunders

THE RISK: He'll do whatever Ford wants, and will give unlimited support to the police and the rest of the city falls apart.

WHAT TO DO: Organize to build strong communities that can withstand the coming attacks on low-income people, renters, people with disabilities, the environment, transit, the unhoused, drug users, and anyone else who doesn't fit neatly into the capitalist system.

WHY: Saunders is very clearly Ford's pick, and Ford would be happy to have Saunders using the "strong mayor" powers to implement the PCs' agenda. Legislatively, there won't be much that can be done to stop him. So, it's going to take grassroots resistance to protect the places and people Saunders and Ford have in their sights to exploit for their supporters in business: Ontario Place, apartment buildings, encampments of unhoused people in parks, the proposed gas plants, and so on.

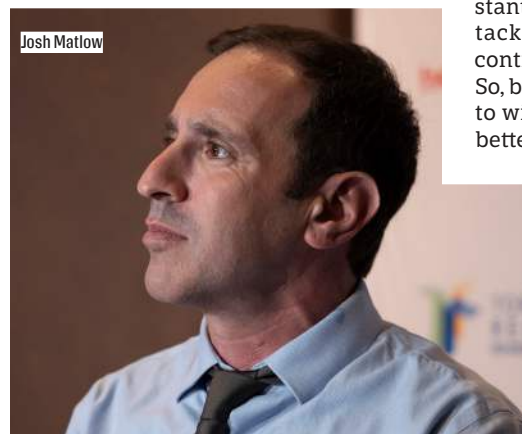
Ana Bailão

THE RISK: People may be fooled by Bailão's vague promises to improve city services and will be unprepared when the attacks on tenants and unhoused people continue as usual.

WHAT TO DO: Study the John Tory era for what worked and what didn't, play the communications game and build strong organizations.

WHY: Bailão, like Tory, is very image-conscious and wants to appear as a "progressive" leader while also maintaining the support of big business. Showing how her decisions benefit big business over working people will be essential in getting people equipped and motivated to build movements that are able to push back on her status quo agenda. Some gains can be made under Bailão, but expect mainly small changes on files such as housing. It will take major pressure from social movements to make these changes more substantial and lasting. As with Saunders, attacks on the most vulnerable will likely continue, but with a better marketing job. So, building community organizations able to withstand those attacks and demand better remains necessary.

Josh Matlow





ALL PHOTOS IAN WILLIAMS

FIRST STOP THE GREEDY, THEN CALL FOR HELP

Electoral first aid from *The Grind*

Despite the popular myth, it's not always the most qualified and trustworthy candidate with the best ideas who wins an election. At least not in Toronto. Here, a few candidates with connections to enormous political machines become the frontrunners.

Mark Saunders had the backing of Premier Doug Ford and the PC Party machine. Olivia Chow had much of the NDP onside. Bailão had Liberal Party backers, and Brad Bradford had a mix of Conservatives and Liberals with him. Both enjoyed the backing of real estate developers and other big business players. Mitzie Hunter was backed by elements of the Ontario Liberals while Josh Matlow is a long-time city councillor.

Sure, it's an unfair system, but it's the reality we're working with. And so, if you want to put your vote towards a candidate with a decent shot at winning, those are the choices.

Before discussing who is the best candidate for Toronto among the reported frontrunners, we want to look at Chloe Brown's campaign, for a couple reasons.

Bold ideas only go so far

Brown finished third in last year's mayoral race. Her platform, both then and now, proposes redistributing resources and decision-making power to community level. Her proposal for a land trust for Little Jamaica along Eglinton Ave. W. is particularly compelling.

Of the top 10 candidates, Brown's platform is the most radical departure from the status quo. We would have to look to platforms like socialist Kiri Vadivelu's, which positions itself in direct opposition to capitalism, to find another so divergent from what exists here today.

By contrast, platforms on the far right, if implemented, would take a system that already disadvantages workers and the poor, while favouring investors, and tilt it even further in that direction.

Brown has drawn inspiration from other places to show us what Toronto could look like. Her platform points to how the cooperative model of the Mondragon Corporation in Spain could expand employee-ownership of businesses. Brown also looks to Eugene, Oregon, which uses non-police teams for mental health crises, and Portugal's decriminalization of possession of all drugs (though that would need to be a Canada-wide legal change), as examples of what is possible here.

Advancing these kinds of ideas is perhaps the most powerful action an outsider candidate can take in elections like this. But the ideas themselves won't go anywhere without a sustained and coordinated push from the community post-election.

Candidates like Brown, who was excluded from major debates, and the hundred-odd candidates behind her can't compete with the well-financed frontrunners, their media engagement, advertising, canvassing, and all the other activity that goes into attracting votes.

What should we do with our votes?

At *The Grind*, we don't shame anyone for not voting. Maybe you are Indigenous and don't want to participate in the colonial system (or maybe you do!), or maybe you choose not to tacitly endorse the state with its built-in violence and injustices. That choice is yours.

And, of course, a huge number of people living here are

excluded from voting, including permanent residents.

We also understand voting for a longshot candidate to show they have support, though this has limited effectiveness.

For us, the top priority this election is stopping the most heinous candidates who will make life worse for the working class, such as Saunders and aligned candidates.

This election is also an opportunity to leave behind the John Tory era of pretending to do what's right while making the city worse for nearly everyone except the rich and powerful. That means blocking Tory's close allies: Bailão and Bradford.

Of the frontrunners, that leaves Chow, Matlow, and Brown. Unless something extraordinary happens in the final days, Chow has the best chance to beat prominent challengers like Saunders and Bailão. And although Chow's platform remains somewhat vague, she's got a track record of pushing for reforms benefiting the working class, for the most part, and she isn't a Ford crony.

If on election night the candidates who flirt with fascism have been defeated, as well as those who would continue Tory's agenda, we should all celebrate.

And then, we should organize and hit the streets again to make sure that a troubling history doesn't repeat itself.

In capitalist economies like ours, when a candidate even a little left-of-centre gets elected, the corporate class springs into gear. It happened when the NDP last came to power in Ontario, Alberta, B.C., and elsewhere. You can bet that will be happening in boardrooms all over Toronto if Chow wins, especially among real estate developers, big landlords, shopping retailers, and wealthy

land-owner associations.

On the other hand, there is often less activism and advocacy, fewer donations, and generally weaker social movements when a "progressive" leader is in power, as supporters tend to relax and wait for change to come.

In the meantime obstructions quickly go up, and various changes get blocked or watered down.

This happened in Montreal with Mayor Valérie Plante, who approved a transit privatization deal funneling money from residents to investors, and who gave enormous funding increases to the police. But because of the mayor's "progressive" marketing and the looming threat of even worse candidates, there hasn't been widespread pushback. Montreal is expanding its bike lane network, which is great, but on many other files, like the cost of rent, Montreal is getting worse under Plante's leadership.

When a "progressive" leader is in power is the best time to push harder to make gains. Mayors like Rob Ford and Tory weren't going to make big changes to benefit tenants, but people fought like hell in those years in largely defensive battles because they had to.

There will still be defensive struggles against the city with someone like Chow at the helm, because Tory's agenda is entrenched and won't simply disappear in a plume of smoke.

At the same time, we should make sure the new mayor feels the heat to hurry up and make changes that will benefit the working class while they have the power. It will require them keeping a strong backbone, and it helps a lot if we are building movements outside of formal political channels that oppose the corporate interests squeezing us at every turn.

"Obstructions go up quickly, and various changes get blocked or watered down."

Josh Matlow

Matlow can be treated about the same as Chow. There's a major risk that people will sit back and wait, and wait, and wait. He doesn't have the same NDP affiliations as Chow, though, so he may be even more willing to move outside of accepted norms when pushed.

Brad Bradford

Taking policy positions somewhere between Bailão and Saunders, Bradford used to care about maintaining a "progressive" image, but has increasingly abandoned that. Attempts to hurt his image may not work as well as with Bailão. Bradford is likely to do what Ford wants, with little resistance. As such, he should be treated more like Saunders.

Anthony Furey

Possibly even more supportive of the police and aggressive toward drug users and unhoused people than Saunders, a Furey mayoralty should be approached in much the same way. The big difference is that Furey would likely make more outlandish statements than Saunders, including by targeting immigrants. In addition to community organizing, there will be a major communications and popular education battle as Furey tries to yank Toronto's political window way to the right.



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One Dead Indian

(2006) AVAILABLE FREE ONLINE

■ This made-for-TV movie is a dramatization based on the real events of the Ipperwash Crisis, and features a strong cast of Indigenous and non-Indigenous actors. The narrative moves back and forth from the First Nation, where a number of people are occupying their land on the former military base, to the OPP and provincial lawyers, who see this as a trespassing issue and are mounting a massive operation to forcibly push the occupiers out.



Trick Or Treaty?

(2014) NATIONAL FILM BOARD

■ Two-thirds of Northern Ontario is governed by a vast agreement called Treaty 9. Canada and Ontario point to its signing in 1905-1906 to claim the territory as theirs. But according to Indigenous people and even the journals of Canadian Treaty negotiators, Indigenous signatories were lied to: what they agreed to in talks was significantly different from what was written down in English (a language most Indigenous signatories couldn't understand). Was it a treaty agreed to in good faith, or a colonial trick? Veteran Abenaki documentarian and narrator Alanis Obomsawin deftly weaves the story together. You can buy the film from the National Film Board site or watch it free on Youtube.



The Power Was With Us: Idle No More

(2020) AVAILABLE FREE ON APTN LUMI

■ This two-part documentary looks back on the charged winter of 2012 when the Idle No More movement swept across the country calling for Indigenous rights and environmental protections. Without any central leader, through round dances and hunger strikes and more, it grew rapidly, causing confusion among Canadians and the Canadian security establishment. Pulling heavily from the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) archives, the doc transports you back to the days of Idle No More, and traces its lasting legacy.



Invasion

(2019) AVAILABLE FREE ONLINE

■ "How come you guys always come and interrupt our prayers, our eating?" Freda Huson asks a group of RCMP officers as she approaches them on a bridge over the Wed Zinka (Morice River). This is the opening scene of *Invasion*, an 18-minute documentary about the Wet'suwet'en fight against resource companies pushing into their territory, especially the Coastal GasLink Pipeline. Published by Unist'ot'en Camp, the film has footage from the pipeline route, including the 2019 militarized RCMP raid, associated protests, and people interrupting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at his town hall events. It cuts off in 2019, but a full-length version of the doc including later footage is rumoured to be in the works.

These books, films, and podcasts tell powerful stories of Indigenous life, resistance, and thriving, with a focus on the land.

PODCASTS & RADIO

Media Indigena

OUT EVERY TWO WEEKS OR SO

■ Media Indigena is a current affairs podcast covering Indigenous culture and politics with a rotating cast of Indigenous commentators. The 320+ episode archive includes lively discussions on anti-Indigenous online trolls, the Doctrine of Discovery, Indigenous food politics, ecosystem protection, media analysis, and more. Winnipeg-based host Rick Harp makes sure everything is well explained for non-experts.

One Dish, One Mic

SATURDAYS 10 AM - NOON, AND ONLINE

■ It started as an Indigenous affairs podcast and it's now a Saturday morning (10 am to noon) Niagara region broadcast on iHeartRadio. Hosts Karl Dockstader and Sean Vanderkalis discuss the news of the day, bringing on big-name guests and more local personalities. Given the long history of North American talk radio's anti-Indigenous bent, One Dish One Mic is a refreshing change of pace.

Indigenous Waves

WEDNESDAYS 7 - 8 PM, AND ONLINE

■ Hosts Jenny Blackbird and Jennifer Sylvester talk about Toronto's Indigenous community and happenings, in particular around the University of Toronto. Indigenous Waves is broadcast on CIUT 89.5 FM, U of T's community station. They talk about arts, music, politics, history, and more, often with local Indigenous guests.

BOOKS

Indigenous Toronto: Stories that Carry This Place

Edited by Denise Bolduc, Mnawaate Gordon-Corbiere, Rebeka Tabobondung, and Brian Wright-McLeod
COACH HOUSE BOOKS, 2021, \$24.95

■ The Toronto region has 12,000 years of uninterrupted Indigenous presence and nationhood that continues today. *Indigenous Toronto*, a collection of dozens of short chapters by different authors, captures some of that history and individuals' stories. You're sure to learn something new about Toronto from this book - from the Toronto Purchase to local Native music radio to the beloved NishDish restaurant.



A Treaty Guide for Torontonians

Talking Treaties Collective
JUMBLIES PRESS AND TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ART METROPOLE, 2022, \$50

■ *A Treaty Guide for Torontonians* looks at the complex roots of treaty relationships in the place we now call Toronto. The book explores Indigenous treaty-making through Wampum belts, such as the Two Row Wampum and the Dish With One Spoon, and also the non-Indigenous treaty approaches, including the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Toronto Purchase (1787, 1805, 2010). The book is an extension of Jumbli's Theatre's Talking Treaties program. In that spirit, it has interactive writing prompts and theatre activities to get readers (and classrooms) exploring the modern-day embodiment of treaty relations.



Unsettling Canada: A National Wake-up Call, 2nd Edition

By Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald M. Derrickson, Foreword by Naomi Klein
BETWEEN THE LINES, 2021, \$29.95

■ Partly a fast-paced autobiography of famed Secwepemc leader Arthur Manuel, *Unsettling Canada* makes the case that Canada's claim to more than 99.8 per cent of the land here is the source of Indigenous poverty. The book includes the story of Manuel's confrontations with Canadian governments and businesses, including the fierce Secwepemc fight against the construction of the Sun Peaks ski resort. The second edition was published after Manuel's passing in 2017 and features a foreword by Naomi Klein and a chapter co-authored by law professor Nicole Schabus and Manuel's daughter, Kanahus.



Our Long Struggle for Home: The Ipperwash Story

By Aazhooenaang Enjibaaig
ON POINT PRESS (UBC PRESS), 2022, \$24.95

■ During the Ipperwash Crisis of 1995, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) killed Dudley George, an Ojibwa land defender who was part of a group reclaiming territory stolen by the Canadian military from the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. At the ensuing provincial inquiry, First Nation members were forced to testify. In *Our Long Struggle for Home*, community members tell a fuller picture on their own terms, including life in the abandoned barracks, the lead-up to the police confrontation, and the aftermath.



ATTACKS ON TRANS RIGHTS ARE ONLY THE BEGINNING

BY MATTEO L. CERILLI

I came out in 2017 or so, which makes me part of the 1-in-23 Gen Zs (born late 1990s to early 2010s) who identify as transgender, as opposed to 1-in-1000 Boomers (born 1946 to 1964). Obviously, there's a large difference in these numbers.

Some might have you believe a "woke mind virus" is turning all the children trans, but the uptick isn't too hard to explain; we've seen similar phenomena before. My grandparents would tie my left-handed aunt's hand under the table to force her to write with the right, so obviously her generation has a low rate of left-handedness. But lo and behold, when people realized we shouldn't persecute people for being different, the rates of left-handedness spiked, then leveled. Similarly, when I and other trans people began to realize that there was some tacit acceptance, even if it was just through symbolic Pride flags flown at schools, we realized we didn't want to hide our true selves.

Every trans person has a different experience with their gender, but at the end of the day, we all want one thing: the power to make our own choices. It's something I hope everyone would understand. From a six-year-old who wants a new name, to a 90-year-old who wants to be gendered properly by care staff, we're only asking the world to trust that we know our bodies and experiences.

When youth are able to access puberty blockers (hormones to delay puberty, already used to treat early-onset puberty), gender-affirming hormones, and surgery when they're old enough, their rates of suicide drop by a staggering 40 per cent. There is only a one per cent regret rate across all trans people of every age, based on studies in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

We know what we need, and it saves our lives when we get it. We're not using it to creep around public bathrooms. Like the rest of you, Toronto, I'm just trying to live my life.

Yet, right-wing politicians, pundits, 'edgy' comedians, and even the nice lady up the street peddle the idea that the scary transgender people want to confuse the children and oppress all women. Everywhere trans people turn, someone is trying to cut us out like a cancer.

In Alberta, former UCP candidate Jennifer Johnson compared trans kids in schools to putting feces into cookie batter, insinuating that the presence of trans youth will taint every other child.

In Ontario, school boards are being flooded with anti-trans candidates, like Mark Parolovos who tries to deny the existence of trans and non-binary genders.

When Fae Johnstone, an Ottawa-based trans activist, was featured on a Hershey bar wrapper, she faced months of media and personal harassment calling her everything from a woman-hater to a pedophile.

Even more terrifying, the people behind these attacks have strategies in motion to change public policy. Republican states in the U.S. are already banning books, outlawing gender-affirming healthcare, and more. Those attacks are underway in Canada, like with the People's Party of Canada recently announcing their campaign to "fight radical gender ideology."

In June, New Brunswick changed their education policies so that trans children under 16 cannot change their names and pronouns in school records without parental consent. This is a move straight out of the Republican playbook, and one that asks students to weigh their safety at home against their safety at school.

Trans kids, trans adults, drag performers, gender non-conforming gay folks, women and disabled people who

GRU



Trans rights rally outside the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, March 2023.

"WE'RE ONLY ASKING THE WORLD TO TRUST THAT WE KNOW OUR BODIES AND EXPERIENCES."

want to control their own bodies, sex workers, and Black, Indigenous, and racialized people across the gender and sexuality spectrum are all considered gender deviants by strict social conservatives who want everyone to conform to a white, Christian ideal of male dominance and female subservience. Attacks on trans people—especially those who already face other oppressions, like Black, Indigenous, or unhoused trans folks—are just a stepping stone on the way to attacking other, larger groups with stronger protections, including women and gay people.

Already in Toronto streets, fascists are attacking drag queen story hours.

To the cis gay men watching Drag Race at Glad Day in the village: do you think the fascists see the difference between you and trans people? Do you think the war on all bodies will stop after it kills a generation of trans children?

Transgender people represent the diversity, resistance, and joy of bodily freedom. We also make up less than 1% of the population, so we're an easy target. We can't fight these attacks alone. We need to stick together to stop this before

it goes even further. Remember: if anti-trans bigots are successful, they will come after you soon enough.

What is inspiring is that trans people and others are already resisting in Toronto. Students for Queer Liberation rallied for trans rights outside the U.S. Consulate in March. No Pride in Policing Coalition educates on the importance of police abolition in queer movements. Organizations like Friends of Ruby and Supporting Our Youth (SOY) and Youthline support trans youth. There are more trans resistance groups, and there are also actions we can take in our own time.

It's easy to shake our heads at book bans, but what if we started coordinated campaigns calling school boards and libraries to clearly state that we love their selection, or our elected officials to say trans healthcare needs to stay protected? What if we stood up for our trans neighbours by interrupting transphobic conversations?

And what if we started building strong communities where everyone is cared for and loved? Our fates are all tied, and we can't afford to wait to see where the tide rolls in next. We need to shore ourselves up now, together.

RENT

STRIKES

Tenants across the city are taking action to stop landlords from pushing rents even higher, using one of the most potent (and difficult) tactics

BY FERNANDO ARCE

So, your landlord wants to raise your rent for what they say are necessary repairs to the building, but you don't see any improvements. You and other tenants have done all you can to stop the increase – from organizing marches, to meeting with your elected officials, and even tried meeting with the landlord. But nothing changes, and they insist on ramming it through.

What can you do?

“At this point, we can either give up and let the landlord get away with increasing rent, or we can take the next action,” says Chiara Padovani, co-chair of the York South-Weston (YSW) Tenant Union. “At this point, the only next action left to take is a rent strike.”

Across the city, landlords are increasingly exploiting a section of the Residential Tenancies Act that allows them to apply for Above Guideline Increases (AGIs) to tenants' rents as long as they are for “eligible capital expenditures incurred.”

Among the latest landlords implementing AGIs are PSP Investments, owners of 71, 75, and 79 Thorncliffe Park Drive, and Dream Unlimited, which owns 33 King Street – a member of YSW Tenant Union.

Current mayoral candidate and former deputy mayor Ana Bailão joined Dream in January before leaving in the spring to run for mayor. Her voting record in city council includes voting against rent control measures and in favour of above guideline rent increases.

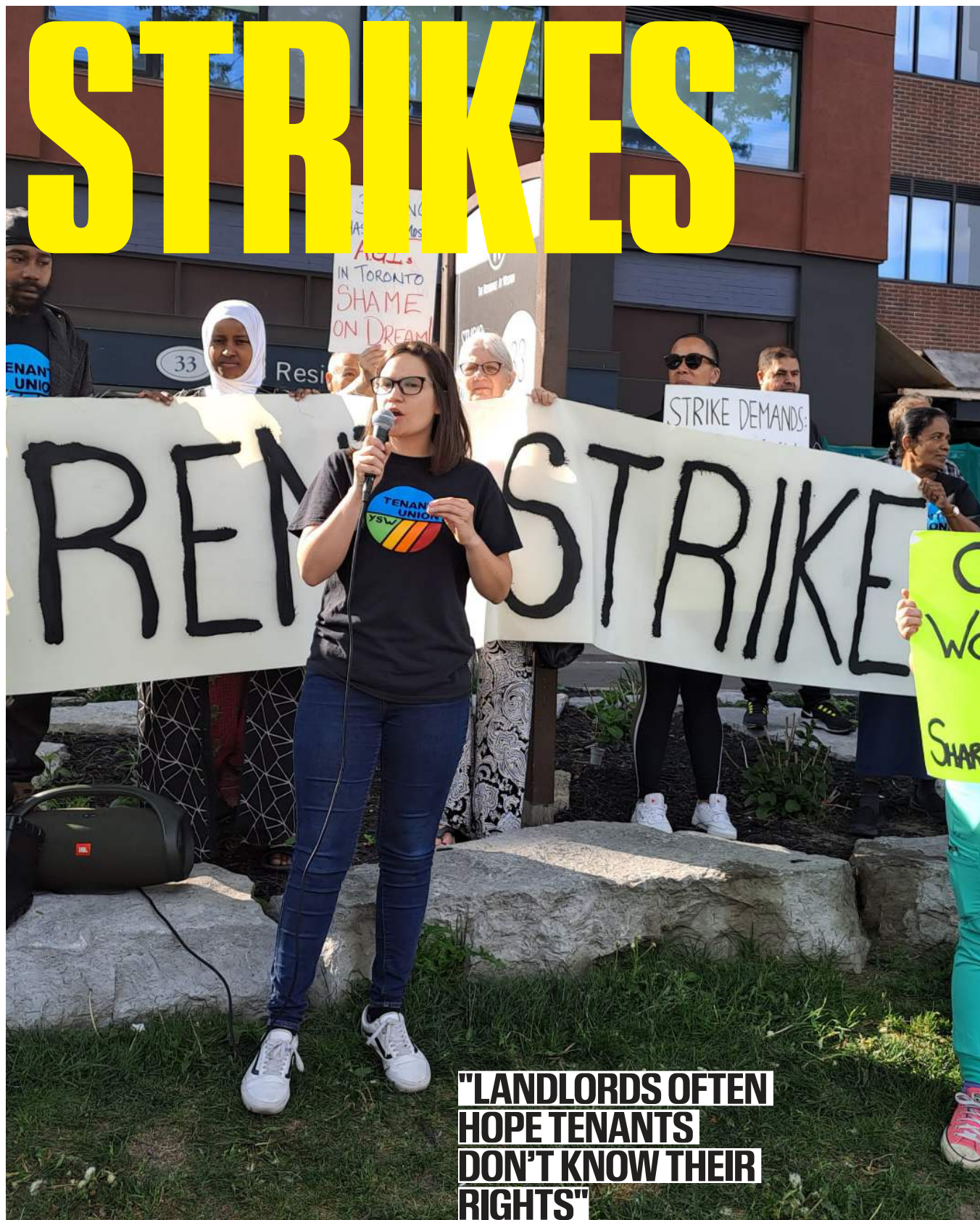
Padovani says the law allows “infrequent capital repairs,” but these landlords have been applying for them nearly every year. Tenants of 33 King St. have received six AGIs from various owners in the last 10 years – the “highest in the city,” says Padovani. There are currently two AGIs pending from 2019 and 2021, both of which Dream inherited after acquiring the building in 2021 and has chosen to pursue.

“That should absolutely raise some red flags at the [Landlord and Tenant Board], but unfortunately these applications are just rubber-stamped,” she says. “[Landlords] go to the LTB, they add up the receipts, they see how much extra money should be charged to tenants, [the LTB] rubber-stamp them, and they move on.”

But tenants are fighting back through organized rent strikes where they withhold rent from the landlord until the landlord agrees to negotiate, or to specific demands. On May 1, over 100 tenants in the three Thorncliffe buildings went on strike. By early June, there were nearly 140, says Sameer Ahmed, a Thorncliffe tenant.

Over 100 tenants at 33 King St. announced their rent strike June 1.

So, what exactly is a rent strike, when should you engage in one, and what are some of the considerations to keep in mind when doing so?



“LANDLORDS OFTEN HOPE TENANTS DON'T KNOW THEIR RIGHTS”

What is a rent strike?

A rent strike essentially means withholding rent for a time. “It is a powerful tool that tenants can use,” says Padovani. “But it is one that requires a lot of organizing.”

Ahmed spent the last year and a half knocking on doors, helping organize meetings in lobbies and church basements, putting up flyers and staging demonstrations outside the homes of PSP board members.

Tenants' strength is in their numbers, says Padovani. It can take the form of a tenant union, like at 33 King St., or a less formal title like a “group effort,” which is what Ahmed calls what they're doing at Thorncliffe. In either case, the point is to get your neighbours on board.

“Every struggle you feel as a tenant – whether it's repairs not getting done, rent eating up all your income, fear of eviction, elevators not working – whatever it is, you're not alone. And the second you start talking to your neighbours, you realize that,” she says.

“What was once scary to ask your landlord as one person, with a tenant union, it becomes an empowering thing – a collective struggle.”

When to call one

Both the Thorncliffe and 33 King St. tenants had marched, flyered, and petitioned, hoping to get the landlord to engage with them, but got nowhere.

“For us,” says Ahmed, “this is kind of the way to escalate matters. The owners are not willing to engage with us in any form of discussion or any form of consideration about this AGI. So, for us, we decided that we need to make this matter more effective, and the decision was made that we need to implement a rent strike.”

Padovani says even at that point, the decision must be made democratically. For YSW, that meant having at least 50 per cent of member support, plus “a lot of buy-in from the rest of the building.”

Ahmed calculates nearly 90 per cent of Thorncliffe tenants are against the rent increase, with about 10 per cent joining the rent strike. Still, he says, “you don't look at it as a percentage,” but as solidarity growing. In one month, they've gone from just over 100 to around 140 on strike.

Tenants of 33 King St. have three demands for the landlord: drop the existing AGIs, commit to no more AGIs, and compensate tenants for loss of service during construction on the building.

YSW TENANT UNION



Supporters at the June 3 Enough is Enough rally demand that landlords stop raising rents.

YSW TENANT UNION



On June 3, YSW Tenant Union members along with thousands of supporters rallied in the streets during the Enough is Enough campaign.

YSW TENANT UNION



Don't be scared or fooled by landlords

"The biggest fear that people have when engaging in a rent strike is fear of eviction," says Padovani. But it's important to note that withholding rent is different from free rent, she adds, because it means you are willing to pay it when the strike is over. "That's your greatest defense [in front of the LTB] against eviction for arrears or retaliation from the landlord."

That doesn't mean landlords won't retaliate. In fact, they often do. By early June, all 100+ Thorncliffe Drive tenants who had joined the strike in May had received eviction notices, says Ahmed, and those who'd joined in June were in the process of receiving them.

But that's simply "part of the process used by the landlord" as a "mere tactic to make people scared and confused," he adds. Tenants can't legally be evicted until the landlord has a hearing at the LTB, a process that can take three to four months. Landlords often hope tenants don't know their rights and will leave without having to go to the LTB.

Landlords may offer "rent relief," which can come in many forms. But "it's a joke," says Ahmed. PSP offered rent relief to Thorncliffe tenants in the form of a meeting, two hours, two times per week, to go over their financial situation to determine if they qualify for rent relief. To Ahmed's knowledge, this was first offered about a year ago and not a single tenant has yet been asked to meet with PSP.

Danny Roth, a spokesperson for Starlight Investments, which manages the Thorncliffe buildings on behalf of PSP, told *The Grind* that "to date, hundreds of residents across our portfolio have sought and received some form of rental assistance." He did not specify how many of those tenants were from Thorncliffe Dr.

If the landlords' requested AGI goes through, it may include arrears, so Ahmed recommends stashing away your deferred rent money accordingly.

Even after being established for over seven years, it took YSW about five months to organize the current strike. The Thorncliffe organizers were preparing for over a year and a half.

That doesn't mean organizers and tenants need to be everywhere all at once to organize a rent strike, says Ahmed. "Not everyone can be committed to everything we do, but we try to manage to have everyone be committed to at least some form of action."

Enough is Enough rally

YSW TENANT UNION



JOSHUA DAVIES



STOP SIGNS AS YIELD?

BY DAVID GRAY-DONALD

When I'm approaching a stop sign as a cyclist in Toronto, I know there's a chance something won't go as planned.

Sometimes a driver will get there before me, then when I stop, they'll waive me through. While a nice gesture, I then have to unexpectedly get going again after losing all my speed.

And in the meantime, another car might roll up behind me and try turning right around me while I'm just starting to get into the intersection.

This has led to some close calls where I have to shout at drivers to stop just before hitting me.

Intersections are where around 75 per cent of cycling injuries happen.

Confusion is a big factor. Not all car drivers know what to do, and some cyclists follow their own protocols.

To address this, many states in the U.S. have changed their laws for cyclists at stop signs and seen less collisions. Idaho was first in 1982, spawning the name "The Idaho Stop," which is also known as the Safe Yield Law. Ten other states have adopted it since.

Cycling advocates have been calling for Ontario to adopt it for years, to no avail.

What is the Safe Yield Law?

It is "a safe and effective way for people cycling to approach controlled intersections by treating stop signs as yield signs," advocacy and education group Cycle Toronto says in a document.

It doesn't mean cyclists get to blow through stop signs. Instead, "it provides a clear system for dictating that they may only proceed when the path is clear."

Here's what it would look like. If I cycle to a stop sign and see no vehicles at the intersection and none arriving soon, then I treat the stop sign as a yield sign. That means I slow down then keep going once I know it's safe.

But if there is a car getting to the intersection before me, for example, I'd have to stop. The car would go first, then I'd go.

"It creates some predictability when drivers come to an intersection. They wouldn't be wondering 'what's the cyclist going to do or not?' and end up feeling

frustrated," Michael Longfield, executive director of Cycle Toronto tells *The Grind*. There would instead be a better expectation on all sides if the Safe Yield Law were implemented, he says.

Some states have expanded the law so that red lights are treated by cyclists as stop signs. Cycle Toronto is open to that, but not pushing it as hard yet. "The stop [sign] as yield is the priority," says Longfield.

Benefits of the Safe Yield

- ➔ Cyclist injuries went down 14.5% in the year after implementation, according to a U.C. Berkeley study
- ➔ Clears cyclists quickly out of high-risk locations (intersections)
- ➔ Legalizes what many cyclists are already safely doing
- ➔ Faster and more efficient travel for the cyclist, as opposed to having to stop every time and pedal hard to get back up to speed
- ➔ Would make cycling more appealing
- ➔ Clarifies what is correct and incorrect behaviour (if the change is well publicized)

The path to winning a Safe Yield Law

Toronto police have been cracking down hard on cyclists for minor infractions recently, including for biking on sidewalks, going fast in High Park, and for not coming to a full stop at stop signs. It's unlikely they'll look the other way now.

So if we want the Safe Yield Law in Toronto, it's going to have to come through the province making changes to the Highway Traffic Act.

Doug Ford's PC government hasn't budged on it, though they did change the Act to make it a violation for drivers to door cyclists.

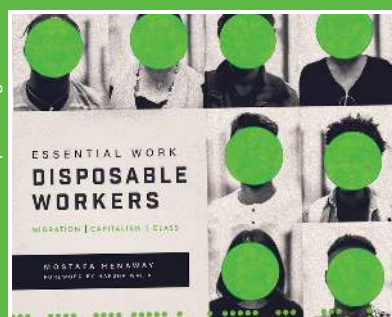
But Cycle Toronto and other groups are pushing for the Safe Yield Law.

"The more people talk about this, the more people ask about it, and write in to their elected officials, that's how change happens," Longfield says, encouraging people to connect with their local cycling group to get involved.



WE MEASURE THE EARTH WITH OUR BODIES
by Tsering Yangzom Lama (McClelland & Stewart)

AVAN: “Ama was an oracle.” – The opening line of Tsering Yangzom Lama’s debut that places us right into the spirit and intimacy animating this stunning novel. *We Measure The Earth With Our Bodies* follows sisters Lhamo and Tenkyi as their lives in Tibet are upended by war, the loss of their mother, and their homeland. Rebuilding in Nepal, Lhamo meets Samphel who brings with him The Nameless Saint, a treasured relic rumored to vanish and reappear in times of need. The sisters are separated, and years later Tenkyi is living with Lhamo’s daughter Dolma in Toronto in Parkdale (Little Tibet). Dolma in turn meets the Nameless Saint, this time in a collector’s vault. If you loved sweeping historical and intergenerational sagas like *Homegoing*, *Pachinko*, or *The Mountains Sing*, you’re sure to be captivated by *We Measure The Earth With Our Bodies*.



Essential Work, Disposable Workers
by Mostafa Henaway

foreword by Harsha Walia
How migrant workers' strategies shape radical working class politics.



HOT NEW FICTION & POETRY

Staff at Another Story Bookshop on Roncesvalles recommend some of the latest and greatest fiction and poetry.

BAD CREE by Jessica Johns (HarperCollins)

SAVI: Jessica Johns’ debut novel *Bad Cree* is a haunting thriller that highlights the strength that lies in family and kinship. After leaving her hometown in Alberta, Mackenzie begins experiencing chilling dreams after which she awakens in her Vancouver apartment grasping objects from the dreamworld. Not only do these dreams haunt her in her sleep, they follow her as crows stalk her everywhere she goes. With the help of her friend, mother, aunts, cousin, and sister, Mackenzie must uncover how her dreams are connected to both the death of her sister and her decision to distance herself from her hometown.

A SAFE GIRL TO LOVE
by Casey Plett (Arsenal Pulp Press)

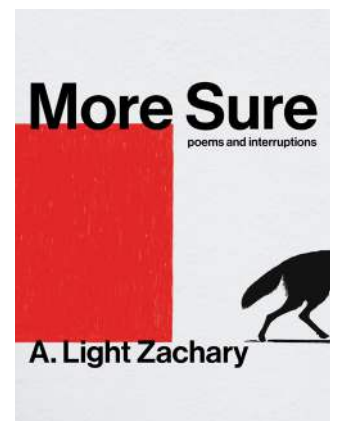
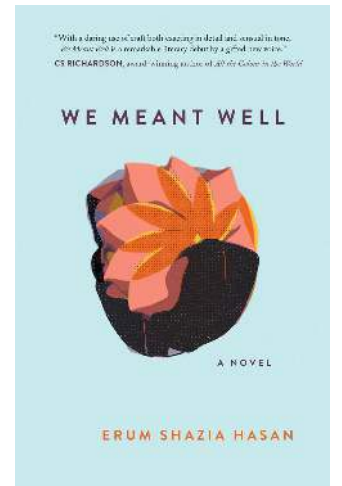
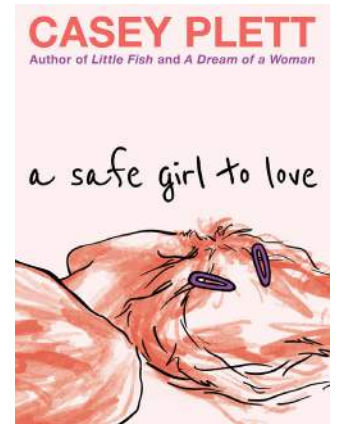
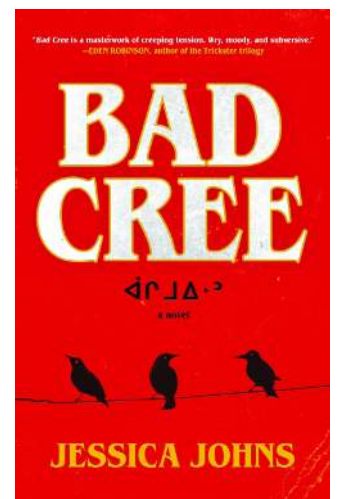
MAXWELL: It’s a very rare experience as a reader to come across a description of a specific experience that you felt was totally your own. Something so private, shameful even, that you never expected to see it described on the written page. As a trans reader, *A Safe Girl to Love* by Casey Plett manages to do this continually. This collection of short stories is one of the most affirming texts I’ve ever read. Plett is an astonishing writer. She captures the contemporary trans experience in a way that’s remarkably empathetic and accurate. Her protagonists are refreshingly nuanced, possessing a dignity in their imperfection which is absent in much of fictional trans representation. This reissue of the 2014 short story collection by Arsenal Pulp Press can’t come recommended highly enough.

WE MEANT WELL
by Erum Shazia Hasan (ECW Press)

ANJU: I thoroughly enjoyed first-time novelist Erum Shazia Hasan’s first novel. Set in the fictional town of Likanni as well as Los Angeles, Hasan tells the story of Maya. (Unhappily) married and mother to a young daughter, Maya has worked in international aid for over a decade. She is called back to Likanni after her colleague, Marc, is accused of assaulting a young woman who works in the office. Hasan weaves a complex narrative of the politics of international work, race, power, and motherhood. Whose stories are told? Who is believed?

MORE SURE
by A. Light Zachary (Arsenal Pulp Press)

SAUL: I was honoured to be an early reader of *More Sure*, A. Light Zachary’s debut collection of poems and interruptions. I am too close to this book to write a review, so consider this a warning and an invitation instead. *More Sure* is about, among other things, love and hope and better (trans, autistic, coyote, alien) forms of life. It is frightening and disruptive, as love and hope can be frightening and disruptive when we have learned to live without either. These poems are brilliant, deliberate, and beautiful. More than that, they are true.



MYST MILANO IS EVERYWHERE THIS SUMMER



Iconic producer, rapper and DJ shares their fave live acts in the Toronto Queer scene

BY RICHARD TRAPUNSKI

With their second album, *Beyond The Uncanny Valley* out on August 25 on the Halocline Trance label, Toronto producer, rapper and DJ Myst Milano is playing all sorts of parties and shows: Sapphic music festivals (early June's Lavender Wild), Toronto Pride parties on the street (June 25, Wood Street Block Party) and at Chefs Hall (June 26, Circus party), at beachside raves (July 25, Promise Cherry Beach) and at barbecues (July 29, Bastid's BBQ). When we meet for coffee in Kensington Market, they're getting ready to fly to Nicaragua for a three-hour techno set on the side of a volcano.

Myst Milano straddles punk, electronic and queer scenes like the barriers never existed. You can hear it in their music, too, where Milano's effortlessly charismatic bars glide through the pockets of adventurous beats.

"With the new album, the goal is for it to sound like one of my DJ sets," Milano tells me on the patio of Moonbeam. "There's house on it, there's electro on it, there's drum and bass, there's some R&B sounding stuff."

While their 2021 debut, *Shapeshifter*, showed off their personality and humour, it was both vulnerable and hard-edged. *Beyond The Uncanny Valley* is consciously more danceable and lighter on its feet. Named after the feeling of creepy discomfort you feel when video game characters or AI becomes extremely realistic but not quite human, they're grappling with what it means to become more easily digestible in their music.

"There were parts of [*Shapeshifter*] that felt heavy or serious, and on this album I wanted to do something that was," they look for the right word, "stupider."

That's not derogatory, but reflexive and reflective of the scenes they draw from – partying as a powerful escape.

"This is music that was created by gay Black people in the 1980s during the AIDS crisis, like right at the beginning of a sexual apartheid," Milano says. "As lofty as the music can be, it's also a shield from the real world."

Myst Milano lives every month like it's Pride month, but since it's June we decided to ask for some of their favourite artists to see live from the Toronto queer scene.



Teeno

"This is Nino Brown [of Toronto party Yes Yes Y'all] and Young Teesh. Teeno is their collaboration name. Listening to them play together, it's never a dull moment.

"What they do is true to them and really queer, but very on the pulse on its own. Teesh plays a lot of baile funk [a Brazilian subgenre of electro-funk and hip-hop], and Nino plays Jersey club stuff and all these really great remixes."

Litney

"Litney is an incredible DJ. She's Dominican, so she plays a lot of dembow [a Dominican subgenre influenced by dancehall and reggaeton] and a lot of Jersey club stuff too. We've played a bunch of shows together, which are always really fun. She's a good friend of mine."



Slash Need

"Slash Need are this really great goth/dance/punk group led by Alex Low and Dusty. They usually have dancers, too. It's always a spectacle to behold. It's out of the box and creative in a way that I haven't really seen Toronto do before.

"I went to this random all-ages goth show that they played [recently] at a community centre on the west end, and it was definitely something I would have gone to when I was 14. There were all these high school kids and younger, so excited to be there and really engaging with the show. That's so great to see.

"I think Toronto has a really bad rep for bad crowds, where people are afraid of being judged and so they'll just stand there with their arms crossed over their chests or talk really loudly during someone's set. But because of the pandemic, there's this whole generation of kids who just didn't get to experience their first couple of years at the club at all. So for a lot of them, their first party experiences were outdoor raves, and those were so unhinged. So I think it's changing, because the younger crowds are more open and present, more comfortable dancing really hard and enjoying themselves. They're coming with this new energy, which is great."

Prado Monroe

"Prado is a huge staple in the scene in Vancouver, but she's getting into the scene here too now. She's Black and Indigenous and she makes very modern trap, like sing-songy hip-hop music. She's so talented."

Quarterback

"Quarterback is a powerhouse singer. He sings some background vocals on my new album. It's very gay R&B pop music, like a mix between Shygirl and Beyoncé. He's a trained opera singer. He doesn't sing opera in his music, but he has a very powerful voice in that classic '90s way where you had to be a good singer."

OGQT

"My friend Jay is a DJ in Toronto and has toured with Phèdre. I've known him since maybe 2016 or 2017, but we got really close after I became friends with Quarterback. Now, he's my stylist.

"I have this airbrush bunny suit that I wore last year during Pride that I also wore on *CBC*. He made this corset for me and a skirt out of denim that I wore for my Boiler Room set.

"I don't look the same at most shows I play. I know how to become whatever a venue or a party needs. People who I've known for years will reintroduce themselves to me because they don't recognize me. Depending on how my hair looks and how my clothes look, I can become a different person. I can be anyone."

EMPOWERING FITS

Trend-setting Anishinaabe fashion designer Lesley Hampton talks her new line, the biz, and the importance of centring community

BY NICKITA LONGMAN

Lesley Hampton describes her love of the runway and fashion starting as a young girl who chose to watch Jeanne Beker on FashionTelevision instead of cartoons. An Anishinaabe member of the Temagami First Nation in Northern Ontario, Hampton was born in Newfoundland – a place where she has drawn inspiration from for her latest collection, Buoyant.

Buoyant pulls imagery from the pebbles of Middle Cove Beach and their softness, despite decades of erosion from the waves. The collection, much like Hampton's journey as an emerging designer, is described as a "celebration of self and to honour those connections found anew."

Hampton spent her adolescent years moving abroad to places like Australia, England, New Caledonia, and Indonesia. "Growing up in international spaces meant I had to find community no matter where I was," Hampton shares. "That transitioned into my approach to fashion [in Canada], and how I wanted to create a community here in what is typically a competitive space."

With a keen interest in self-representation and how one presents themselves, Hampton became extremely interested in wearable art. After graduating from the art program at the University of Toronto with a specialization in photography and sculpture, Hampton decided to refocus her efforts and enrolled into the Fashion Techniques and Design program at George Brown College.

"Because I was eager to make fashion more inclusive from the beginning, my brand began at the same time I started at George Brown," she says. "My college experience allowed me to make, create, and grow that manifestation of what I wanted to do in fashion."

With Buoyant, Hampton once again showcases her commitment to inclusivity in fashion, which has been a through-line in her career. "I have always casted inclusive models," she says. "I have also extended inclusivity to the photographers and other folks behind the scenes. I try to make these spaces as inclusive as possible."

Buoyant draws inspiration from the pebbles found at Middle Cove Beach in Newfoundland.

LINDSAY ANNE DELANEY

JOSHUA DAVIES

Buoyant is a celebration of self and a tribute to connections found anew.



“AS A CURVIER INDIGENOUS PERSON, TAKING UP SPACE IS A POLITICAL MOVEMENT”

Taking Up Space

As an artist, fashion designer, model, influencer and public speaker, there are many realms she occupies on a daily basis. In some cases, Hampton had to carve out her own space within the fashion community.

Taking up space didn't come easy at first, Hampton says. “In my earlier years, I had to stick to doing things that were true to my beliefs. They would become stories or headlines because it was so out of the norm and outside of what the fashion industry was doing at the time.” At times, Hampton described feeling as though she was being categorized into a box because of her Indigeneity. “It was an early hurdle for me to feel responsible for educating the media when it came to the wide variety of Indigenous fashion.”

“Indigenous people and size-diverse people struggled to be accepted into the fashion industry,” she explains. “As a curvier Indigenous person, taking up space is a political movement, as well as being able to invite collaborators, up-and-coming Indigenous talent, and diverse individuals into the shows we do.”

Her commitment to changing the scene for the better was evident during one of the moments Hampton describes as her first big break into the industry, and the moment

she felt supported and held in her work by community. During Toronto Fashion Week in 2019, Hampton was ecstatic to feature an all-Indigenous model cast from a wide range of nations. Additionally, she featured accessories made entirely by up-and-coming Indigenous artists and creators. “I truly believe that show made a shift in the industry and allowed fashion followers to see that there is a thriving Indigenous fashion scene here that they need to be paying attention to,” she says.

Other moments of success include dressing CTV's Lainey Lui for the Golden Globes with the dress going viral in 2020; dressing Devery Jacobs for the 2021 Emmy Awards; seeing Lizzo showcase Hampton's active wear in an Instagram video; and appearing on Canada's Drag Race.

Hampton feels hopeful in the current trajectory of the fashion world. “I do think society is beginning to understand where the gaps in knowledge are, and are eager to turn to tangible ways – like social media or the fashion industry – to learn and acknowledge these gaps.” She leans into this in the Buoyant collection, which encourages wearers of all sizes while rejecting the societal stereotypes that have been prevalent in the industry to the past.

JOSHUA DAVIES



Outside Looking In

Consciously building up and sharing her platform is crucial to her growth as a fashion designer. It has allowed her to create invaluable connections with both creators and the Indigenous community as a whole. One of her latest ventures invited her to be the wardrobe stylist for Outside Looking In – an Indigenous youth dance group based in Toronto. “Being able to empower 250 youth through clothing was a really exciting opportunity,” she says.

In late May, Hampton was honoured to attend the premiere of TV series Little Bird as a guest and stylist to both director Elle-Máíja Tailfeathers and lead actress Darla Condois. Once again, Hampton shared the moment with Indigenous accessory designers Inuk360, Christine Gautreau, and one of the largest Indigenous-owned department stores currently carrying 35 Indigenous brands, Aaniin Retail Inc. The Toronto event was also one of the first red carpet moments in her home territory to showcase some pieces from the Buoyant collection.

“Being able to partner with new artists and retailers like Aaniin Retail Inc., and being able to share the knowledge that I've gained in this industry, has been really exciting,” she says.

Aaniin Retail Inc. also partnered with Hampton for the soft launch of Buoyant. Described as “reconnecting with self,” the collection gives a nod to the community that Hampton has built over the years, and owes another aspect of its influence to “the clarity and strength to rise above and have optimism, to have the support systems in place to take on any challenge.”

“We were lucky enough to bring the collection to Milan Fashion Week,” Hampton says. “We were able to present it to buyers and media, and it was really exciting to be a part of a collective of six other Indigenous artists.”

Buoyant is a collection of evening wear, occasion wear, and knitwear. “It is inspired by that feeling of floating,” Hampton says. “The colours are inspired by water, specifically from a beach from my childhood in Newfoundland. It's a core memory for me.”

Conceptually, Hampton hopes the new line will empower wearers to feel light, airy, and as if they were floating on water.

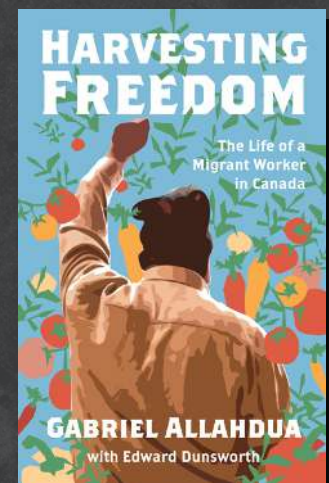
Buoyant will officially launch this month and is available online and in retail stores. As for other future plans, Hampton says there are big things in store later this year.

Follow Lesley Hampton on her journey on Instagram at @lesley_hampton.

JOSHUA DAVIES



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—Harsha Walia



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CONNECTIVE

HOW PUNK ARCHIVISTS IN CALGARY PRESERVE THE FABRIC OF MUSIC FROM THE PAST

BY REINA COWAN

Decay is the natural process of destruction. It will happen to your teeth, your body, and plant matter. Eventually, your physical possessions—including art and music—will decay, too.

The average shelf life of cassette tapes is around 30 years. For vinyl, that number ranges between two and 100 years, depending on the level of meticulous and loving care. But regardless, most analog formats break down easily either naturally, through time and wear, or through human negligence: getting knocked around in moving vans or broken by friends you lend your belongings to.

Taking conscious steps to prevent breakdown is a habitual process. Every day, we take care to maintain our bodies, lives, and relationships. Ben Lines extends this same effort to preserving music. When he's not studying or working part-time, the 21-year-old Calgary resident is running CanadianWasteland.

At its core, CanadianWasteland is a love letter to the zeitgeist of hardcore scenes past, though Lines founded the archive as an ode to Calgary hardcore after spending a summer immersed in record stores, poring over used punk records from the early- to mid-'90s and feeling the continued resonance of the creativity and political ideals expressed by the obscure bands he uncovered.

Across CanadianWasteland's Blogspot, YouTube, and Instagram pages, Lines' archiving habit has generated a treasure trove of lovingly ripped FLAC files, strange vinyl covers, album insert scribbles, and 1990s zine remnants. Over time, the project has become more comprehensive, highlighting some American and French music, but Lines remains focused on Calgary and Western Canadian hardcore punk.

In 1990s Calgary, Lines notes, the hardcore punk scene was largely do-it-yourself. Accessibility to the albums that he uncovered and resonated with was very limited.

Many albums Lines discovered risked being lost to time. The vinyl began showing its age, warping on the surface. On top of that, he says, no one seemed to be holding onto the weirdest of the weird records—the ones he thought were truly cool and emblematic of the DIY ethos of building your own scenes, staging shows, and distributing punk music through zines and word of mouth.

Hardcore as a genre is born of political struggle. "There are so many good informational booklets in some of these releases that talk about issues that are still prevalent today," says Lines. His archiving efforts give new generations an opportunity to discover the political takes expressed by these hardcore obscurities.

"There are so many good informational booklets in some of these releases that talk about issues that are still prevalent today," says Lines. "There are so many good, refreshing takes on it."

So, how do you archive a record, anyway?

"It's a process," Lines says.

An initial transposition from analog to digital poses the challenge of how to make a new format feel like home to someone with an attuned ear. It's a labour of love.



"Your record's an analog format," says Lines. "When your turntable plays your record and breaks down the signal, it's completely different from what you'd listen to on your phone, listening to a digital track."

"But it just feels really fulfilling to me. Even if not a lot of people look at my blog posts or anything, I just know that this artist, this record that I was looking for for the longest time, that I listened to every day—it's out there in good quality and people can appreciate it the way I do."

Lines includes a web disclaimer that any band's materials can be taken offline at their request. But generally, the bands Lines features are so obscure that copyright isn't an issue.

In fact, the response to CanadianWasteland has been overwhelmingly positive. Lines' passion has led him to connecting with the people behind the music.

Post-hardcore outfit Joule, who were part of the Calgary scene from the late '90s to early aughts, is one group that took notice.

"They put out a lot of cool stuff that basically was wiped from the internet," Lines says. "I was kind of the first person to bring [them] back."

Joule's vocalist, Devin Van Buuren, reached out to Lines about his work.

"He was just kind of blown away that I even cared about it. He was really excited about it. They have some unreleased material that I might help them put out in the near future," Lines says.

Archiving, at least within the hardcore and alternative scenes, can be a way to fight against the stagnancy of music that is doled out on modern algorithm-based platforms like TikTok and Spotify. You're able to uncover things that are still unique to your region, or to a specific scene.

The Calgary Cassette Preservation Society is another organization dedicated to conserving old, unique, and funky projects. Helmed by Arif Ansari, the society is now formally registered as a non-profit with the government of Alberta.

Ansari's musical obsession came from working in radio.

TISSUE

food not bombs comp.
kids, franklin, railed, current,
a summer, starkweather and 6 more)
guyver—one "obsessed with..."

3 for seven's and \$6 for twelve's
frica and \$5 and \$10 rest of world
to g. bateman, cash or m.o.'s best
stamp for c

Archived cassettes of punk, new wave, rock,
and pop bands from the Calgary region.

contact: incl
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stay tuned



"...THESE OLD RECORDS REPRESENT SOMEONE'S ART. THEY REPRESENT SOMEONE'S TIME AND EFFORT AND PASSION, AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP THAT PRESERVED."

Arif Ansari, founder of the Calgary Cassette Preservation Society

He cut his teeth at Calgary's CJSW campus radio station and also played in a few bands in the 1990s. His work naturally expanded into tape-collecting. Since hard-copy tapes were out of vogue, Ansari decided to start putting them up on the internet in digital form. What first started out as a lark became serious once others latched onto the value of Ansari's work.

"At some point, friends of mine—or people I kind of knew—started contacting me and saying, 'Hey, I've got some more tapes for you,' and it pretty quickly snowballed into this large community project where it wasn't just about me putting out the tapes," Ansari says. "That's when it started pivoting from me not really taking it seriously to me saying, 'Oh, wait—this is something that people value.'"

For Ansari, the music of the '90s was just a starting point. His collection now spans back as far as the 1950s.

What's unique about Calgary as a music city, he notes, is its relative distance from other major cities. In Eastern Canada, Ottawa, Toronto, and Montréal are all within six hours'

drive of one another. Calgary's next closest big city is Edmonton, three hours away and smaller than Calgary itself. "There's an interesting commingling in Calgary, being as isolated as we are," Ansari says.

That lets Calgary artists develop unique scenes and sounds less influenced by other regions. "You get this interesting dynamic here. It's maybe not as connected to other cities as it could be," says Ansari. This is especially notable in the growing "Nashville North" label for Calgary as a country-music city, but the unique regional sounds extend beyond that tag. "There's a strong history of folk music because of the folk clubs that have been in the city for decades. And then there's the punk and metal. There's all that stuff."

Both archivists' work centres around quantity over quality. Since many of the projects they revive weren't recorded using high-tech equipment or ever properly mastered, sometimes making an old record or cassette sound great, by today's standards, is impossible. Holding on to the memory,

or capturing the spirit of an era, for Ben and Arif, is the more important element.

"As much as those tapes might be unplayable, they're important artifacts that need to be collected somewhere," Ansari notes.

In Ansari's vision of the future, his collection sits in the National Library and Archives of Canada—in a space where the public can admire and learn about the music's history.

"There's a physical archive that I need to figure out what to do with as well. I have all these tapes and records and posters, all sorts of stuff that I need to one day find a home for," Ansari says.

"As goofy as they are, these old records represent someone's art. They represent someone's time and effort and passion, and it's important to keep that preserved."

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

LITERARY

Art Bar Poetry Series Mondays 7:00 PM, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St, free

RISE Open Mic Mondays June 19, 6:00 - 9:30 PM, CEE Centre For Young Black Professionals, 75 Theros Rd, \$5 or PWYC

Write On! Write Now! Tuesdays Bampton Bohemian House Of Tea And Board Games, 201 Harbord St, 18+

Isolated Incident & Under Siege: En-Counters with Islamophobia June 16, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, free

Earth To Tables Launch June 17, 4:00 - 8:00 PM, Carrot Common Green Roof, 348 Danforth, free

Book Signing with Audley Coley June 17, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, A Different Booklist, 779 Bathurst Street, free

Poetry Open Mic June 18, 5:00 PM, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander, free/PWYC

From Vita to Tilda: Orlando's cinematic transformations June 20, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, Toronto Public Library (TPL) Runnymede Branch, 2178 Bloor St W, free

Book Launch: Soldiers, Hunters, Not Cowboys by Aaron Tucker June 20, 7:00 - 10:00 PM, Tranzac, 292 Brunswick Ave, free

How to Play a Book: Adaptations of Literary Classics as Computer Games June 21, 2:00 - 3:30 PM, TPL Barbara Frum Branch, 20 Covington Road, free

Home is in the Body: 2SLGBTQIA+ FilipinX Femme North of the 49th Parallel June 23, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, free

How to be resilient in your career: facing up to barriers at work June 24, 1:00 - 3:00 PM, A Different Booklist, 779 Bathurst Street, free

Heartbroken: Field Notes on a Constant Condition by Laura Pratt June 22, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, TPL Victoria Village Branch, 184 Sloane Avenue, free

We Have always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir by Samra Habib June 22, 7:00 - 8:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St, free

Home of Her Heart: A Novel About Finding Family and a Place to Call Home June 22, 1:00 - 2:30 PM, TPL Brentwood Branch, 36 Brentwood Rd N, free

Balderdash Reading Series June 22 & July 24, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles, free

Poetry Writing Workshop June 23, 4:00 - 5:00 PM, TPL Sanderson Branch, 327 Bathurst St, free

Round & Round the Garden June 24, 10:30 - 11:30 AM, TPL Richview Branch, 1806 Islington Avenue, free

Toronto Lit Up: Blinded by the Brass Ring by Patricia Scarlett June 24, 6:00 PM, TPL Fairview Branch, 35 Fairview Mall Dr, free

Max Wallace: After the Miracle June 27, 7:00 - 8:00 PM, online, free

Create Your Own Comics with Clayton 'CTON' Hammer June 28, 4:00 - 5:00 PM, TPL Fort York Branch, 190 Fort York Boulevard, free

Book Launch: The Eternal City by Maria Pasquale June 29, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, Flying Books, 784 College St, free

Book Launch: Not Anywhere, Just Not by Ken Sparling June 29, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Coach House Books, 80 bpNichol Lane, free

RISE Open Mic Mondays July 10 & Aug 14, 6:00 - 9:30 PM, CEE Centre For Young Black Professionals, 75 Theros Road, \$5 or PWYC

Toronto Lit Up: Where Waters Meet by Zhang Ling Aug 12, 2:00 PM, Toronto Metropolitan University, TRSM 1-148 & 1-150 TRSM Commons, 55 Dundas St W, free



FILM

Toronto Japanese Film Festival 2023 June 8 - June 23, various showings, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court, ~\$15 - \$20 General, \$110 - \$140 for 10-film pass

Beau is Afraid June 18, 12:00 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$14 General Admission; \$11 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

My Neighbor Totoro June 18, 1:00 PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W, \$14; Free for members

Adipurush June 18, 3:20 PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W, \$14

The Wiz June 18, 4:00 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$14

Adipurush June 18, 7:00 PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W, \$14

Disco Godfather June 18, 7:00 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$14

The Shining June 18, 7:00 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15 General Admission; \$12 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

Imagining the Indian: The Fight Against Native American Mascoting June 19, 4:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$14

Foxes June 19, 6:30 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$14

nipawistamāšowin: We Will Stand Up June 19, 6:30 PM, TPL Malvern Branch, 30 Sewells Rd, free

Eyes of Laura Mars June 19, 9:00 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$14

Beau is Afraid June 19, 9:30 PM & June 20, 3:00 PM & June 21, 3:30 PM & June 24, 9:15 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$14 General Admission; \$11 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

Loved it: Mattea Roach on But I'm a Cheerleader June 20, 7:00 PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W, \$17

Chocolate Babies with Stephen Winter June 21, 6:00 PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W, \$14; Free for members

Birth of a Family June 21, 6:30 PM, TPL Pape/Danforth Branch, 701 Pape Ave, free,

Raging Bull June 21, 7:30 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15 General Admission; \$12 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

Black Gold presents Drylongso June 22, 8:00 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$17

Night Raiders June 22, ~9:00 PM, Fort York, 250 Fort York Blvd

Paris is Burning June 23, 2:00 PM, TPL Sanderson Branch, 327 Bathurst St, free

Movie Night at College Park June 23, 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM, College Park, 444 Yonge St., free

Waves June 23, 7:00 PM, Cinecycle, behind 129 Spadina Ave, free

DOUBLE FEATURE: I Know What You Did Last Summer / I STILL Know What You Did Last Summer June 23, 8:00 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$20 General Admission; \$17 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

Everything Everywhere All at Once (outdoor screening) June 23, ~9:00 PM, Fort York, 250 Fort York Blvd, free

Thank God It's Friday June 23, 8:30 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$14

Fashion Reimagined June 24, 11:30 AM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$14

Someone Lives Here June 24, 2:15 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$14

Midsommar June 24, 5:30 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15 General Admission; \$12 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

Music for Black Pigeons June 24, 5:45 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$14

Jurassic Park June 24, ~9:00 PM, Fort York, 250 Fort York Blvd, free

Exhibition on Screen: Tokyo Stories June 25, 11:00 AM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$14

Plan 75 June 25, 6:30 PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W, \$14

Polarized June 25, 7:00 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15 General Admission; \$12 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

Pan's Labyrinth June 25, ~9:00 PM, Fort York, 250 Fort York Blvd, free

Toronto's Golden Age: The Glittering City of the 1960s and 70s June 26, 1:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$14

Velvet Goldmine (outdoor screening) June 26, ~9:00 PM, Fort York, 250 Fort York Blvd, free

Polarized June 26, 9:30 PM & June 27, 6:45 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15 General Admission; \$12 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

Carlito's Way June 27, 9:15 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15 General Admission; \$12 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

Beau is Afraid June 28, 5:30 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$14 General Admission; \$11 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

Searching For Sugar Man June 29, 6:00 PM, TTPL North York Central Branch, 5120 Yonge St, free

Coma June 29, 6:30 PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W, \$14

Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope June 29, 7:30 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$15 General Admission; \$12 Bronze/ Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Silver members \$11; Free for Individual/Family Members

MUBI + Queer Cinema Club present Bad Education June 30, 8:00 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$20

Blackberry July 1, 1:00 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$14 General Admission; \$11 Loyalty Members, Students & Seniors; Free for Individual/Family Members

The Melt Goes On Forever: The Art & Times of David Hammons July 1, 1:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$14

Music for Black Pigeons July 1, 4:00 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$14

Making Time July 2, 11:00 AM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, \$14

Family Movie: Puss in Boots: Last Wish July 6, 1:00 PM, TPL Weston Branch, 2 King St, free

MUBI + Queer Cinema Club present All About My Mother July 6, 8:00 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$20

Paris is Burning (outdoor screening) July 6, 7:30 PM Performance, ~9:00 PM Screening, Corktown Commons, 155 Bayview Ave, free

This Place July 7, 6:30 PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W, \$14

The Midnight Revue: Blue Velvet (1986) July 7, 11:59 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, \$16

Fantastic Mr. Fox (outdoor screening) July 6, ~9:00 PM, Christie Pits Park, 750 Bloor St W, free

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (outdoor screening) July 13, ~9:00 PM Screening, Corktown Commons, 155 Bayview Ave, free

Road Trip presents Breakdown July 16, 7:00 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006 Bloor St W, \$17

Viking (outdoor screening) July 16, ~9:00 PM, Christie Pits Park, 750 Bloor St W, free

The Matrix July 20, ~9:00 PM, Corktown Commons, 155 Bayview Ave, free

Interstellar 5555 (outdoor screening) July 23, ~9:00 PM, Christie Pits Park, 750 Bloor St W, free

Amélie (outdoor screening) July 27, ~8:45 PM Screening, Corktown Common, 155 Bayview Ave, free

Progress Pride flag and Non-binary Pride flag on display during the Field of Dreamers Cooperative Softball Association's annual Pride game.



BASEBALL IS FOR EVERYBODY

Field of Dreamers shows Torontonians a better way of doing sports

BY CRAIG FORTIER

Baseball is for everybody. That was the refrain that both Anthony Bass and the Toronto Blue Jays management repeated at the end of May, after the relief pitcher shared an Instagram story promoting boycotts of Target and Bud Light because of their Pride-themed marketing.

These campaigns, machinations of the far right to promote further violence and criminalization of LGBTQ+ communities, are rapidly producing hostile and unsafe living conditions for queer, trans, and non-binary people.

In the GTA, the most recent example of the effect of these campaigns is the York Catholic District School Board's decision to ban the flying of the Pride flag at their schools, among other regressive policies aimed at LGBTQ+ students and staff.

When we founded our league, the Field of Dreamers Cooperative Softball Association, in 2017, we did so with the experience and understanding that despite the rhetoric, baseball is currently not for everyone.

After nearly a decade of playing previously as one of the only teams with a roster filled with trans and non-binary people in various corporate-run "co-ed" recreational softball leagues in Toronto, we felt that it was time to create a league of our own, precisely because we had been made to feel unwelcome. The casual misogyny, homophobia, gender policing, and toxic masculinity that we experienced in rec sports leagues is also still present in the grandstands at professional sporting events, in the sports media, and as we know all too well in Toronto, among players in the clubhouse and on the field.

Here we are again. The Blue Jays organization committed to addressing anti-LGBTQ+ behaviours in 2012 after Yunel Escobar actively wore a slur scrawled on his eye-black and in 2017 after Kevin Pillar was caught on video yelling a homophobic slur. Yet there has been no sustained action taken by the team to create an environment where baseball is for everyone.

While Pride days and rainbow flags were instituted under Jays President Mark Shapiro, it is in the

moments, like the one produced by Bass' sharing of far-right reactionary videos against queer, trans, and non-binary communities, where the organization should have shown their mettle.

Other Toronto sports teams, like the Raptors, have been actively engaged with the LGBTQ+ community and have pushed for concrete and actionable steps to make basketball a game for everyone, and yet the Blue Jays have been conspicuously absent on that front.

Calls for the Blue Jays to dump Bass from the team have seemingly been answered, as Bass was designated for assignment (DFA) on June 9. While we can't presume that the Jays management DFA'd Bass because of his post and his multiple non-apologies or if this was a move to remove from their roster a struggling replacement level pitcher (according to Fangraph's Wins Above Replacement [WAR] measure), we do believe it's time for the organization to be more active and aggressive in trying to make baseball for everyone in Toronto and Canada more broadly.

That means using their extensive Rogers Telecom resources to support LGBTQ+ organizations. That means actively engaging in relationship-building with LGBTQ+ communities beyond Pride Toronto. And that means creating the conditions in which queer, non-binary, and trans* people might actively aspire to play in an MLB clubhouse and have their rights as human beings respected. That's something that we can't say would happen today.

Field of Dreamers has committed to creating the conditions for recreational softball spaces that allow folks who might otherwise be pushed out of recreational sports because of their gender identity, sexuality, body-type, or skill level, and re-imagine how the game can be played in ways that affirm all people on the field. We're trying to do our part.

We also commend the active engagement by players like Alek Manoah for resisting body-shaming and fatphobia on social media, and we call on the Blue Jays management to follow suit and become active advocates for LGBTQ+ rights at a time when queer people's lives, particularly queer Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, are growing increasingly at risk.

York United defender Jonathan Grant (left) may play for Guyana



7 CANADIAN PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYERS ON PRELIMINARY GOLD CUP ROSTERS

BY JOHN JACQUES

The 2023 Gold Cup is happening June 16 to July 16, with both Canada and the United States hosting. The soccer competition is open to teams from North America and the Caribbean.

Provisional rosters are now out and they feature several players currently active in the Canadian Premier League.

Jonathan Grant (York United FC)

GUAYANA York United FC's Jonathan Grant looks likely to return to the Guyanese team after making his debut against Bermuda recently and subsequently featuring in a scoreless draw against Montserrat.

Having shaken off an injury at Toronto's York United, the 29-year-old has now featured in all three of his new club's consecutive wins, coming up big in their recent derby win over his former side.

If that form carries over into international duty, Guyana will have quite a boost in their must-win preliminary qualifier against Grenada on June 17.

Marcus Simmons (Vancouver FC)

GUAYANA The 22-year-old Vancouver FC left-back was set to test himself at Guyana's Jamaica-based camp. While he's only featured once for coach Afshin Ghotbi's Vancouver side, Simmons made 24 appearances for FC Edmonton last year after impressing at the U SPORTS level with both the York University Lions and MacEwan University.

Andrew Jean-Baptiste (Valour FC)

HAITI The sidelined centre-back at Valour FC in Winnipeg has once again been called up by Haiti. He appeared in two international Concacaf Nations League wins over Guyana in 2022, but has yet to return to the pitch this calendar year. Jean-Baptiste's talent is clearly there, but his road to recovery is long.



Marcus Simmons (right)

Garven Metusala (Forge FC)

HAITI After making his international debut last year in a friendly match against Guatemala, Metusala missed a Concacaf match in order to help Hamilton's Forge FC in their belated Canadian Championship Final.

Twenty-three-year-old Metusala has played for Forge in seven of eleven matches this year, as either a centre-back or right-back.

Andre Rampersad (Halifax Wanderers FC)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO The Halifax Wanderers Captain is back to international play after kickstarting his international career with two straight starts earlier this year, recording a win and a draw against the Bahamas and Nicaragua, respectively.

The stalwart Halifax midfielder has had mixed results under coach Gheisar's new system, but he's expected to be a key focal point for The Soca Warriors as they face Guadeloupe in a play-in match.

Luke Singh (Atlético Ottawa FC)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO The big centre-back attended camps with both Canada and Trinidad and Tobago back in 2021, but hasn't made an international appearance for either. Now getting almost every possible minute with Atlético Ottawa, the former Toronto FC and FC Edmonton defender is an intriguing addition The Soca Warriors have long pursued.

Malcolm Shaw (Atlético Ottawa)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO It's a first-time call-up for Malcolm Shaw, who's found the back of the net 18 times for Ottawa since 2020, albeit just once this season. The 27-year-old offers a physical, sturdy presence up top for The Soca Warriors, where he'll resume a familiar connection with former Ottawa striker Ryan Telfer.

Former CPL players on preliminary Canadian team roster:

Lukas MacNaughton
Joel Waterman
Sean Rea
Jonathan Sirois
Victor Loturi
Dominick Zator

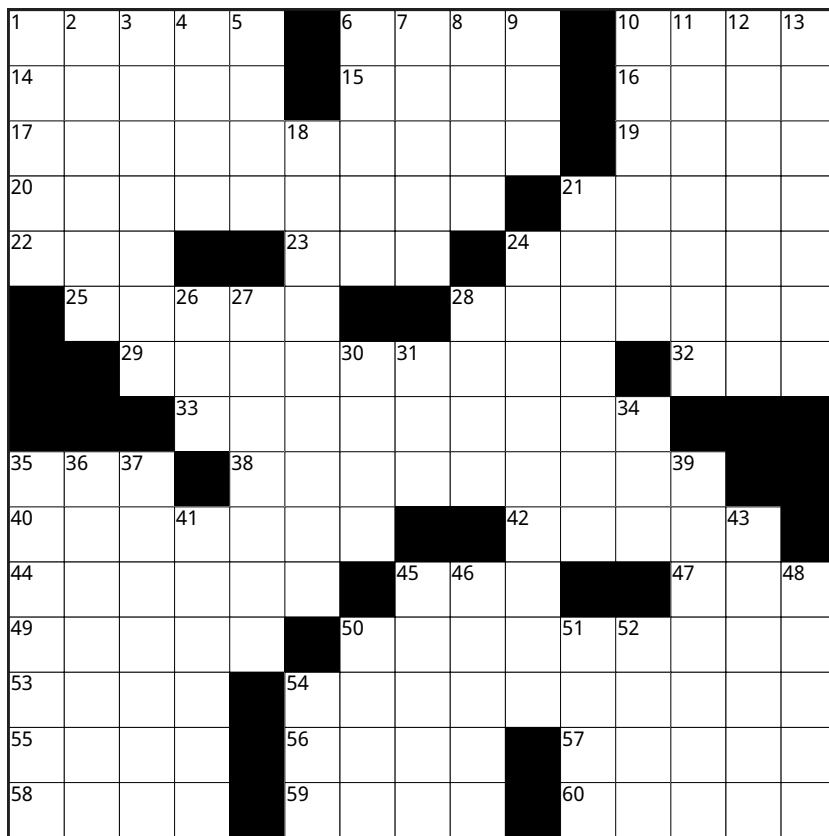
A longer version of this article originally appeared on Northern Tribune at northerntribune.ca.

ACROSS

- 1 Influential 1981 tech debut that ran DOS
- 6 Human rights lawyer Clooney
- 10 Sloop or yacht
- 14 Panache
- 15 Christmas drinks
- 16 Sweden's first winner of the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974
- 17 Pixar film set in Toronto
- 19 Semester
- 20 Places to get gesso and gouache
- 21 Take it all off
- 22 Slugger's stat
- 23 Olive ___
- 24 "Good enough, I guess"
- 25 Eat quickly or greedily
- 28 Seattle professional women's soccer team featuring Olympic champion Megan Rapinoe
- 29 Indescribable
- 32 Super ___: game console
- 33 Conquers
- 35 Lady loves, in brief
- 38 Vehicle for a solo trip, perhaps
- 40 Sudden urge
- 42 Category of painkillers that includes ibuprofen (abbr.)
- 44 Novelist Charlotte or Emily
- 45 "I've got it!"
- 47 Piece of advice
- 49 Hits the tarmac
- 50 Lady Gaga or The Weeknd
- 53 102.1 The ___
- 54 Potential home offices
- 55 Rank
- 56 Fix with medicine
- 57 White heron
- 58 Covers some ground?
- 59 Goo Goo Dolls song on the "City of Angels" soundtrack
- 60 Flies through the sky, like Link in "The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom"

DOWN

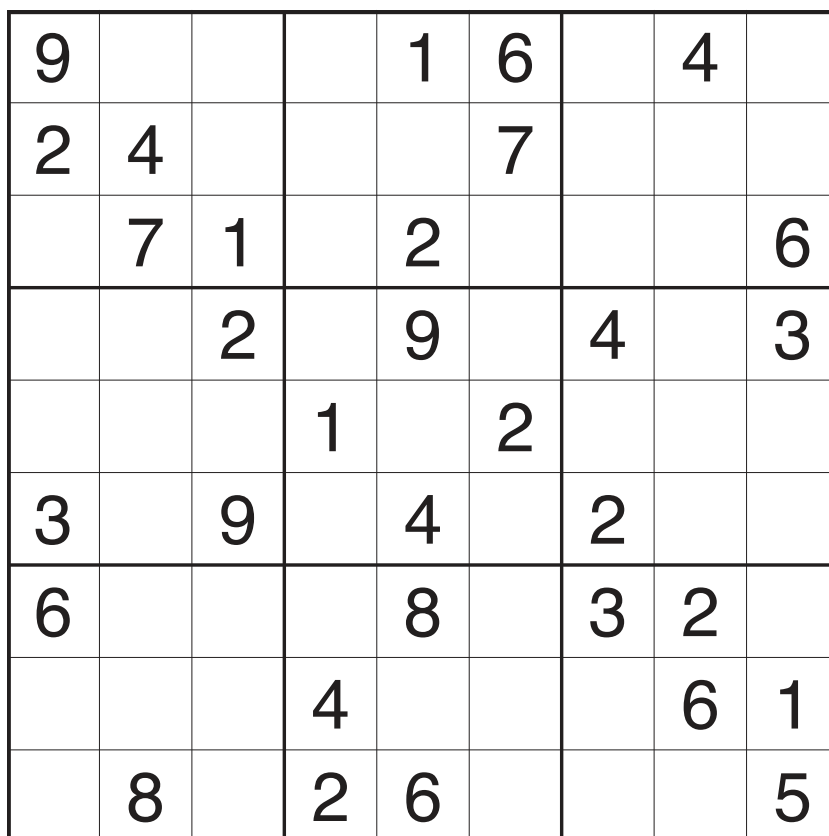
- 1 Meal that breaks the Ramadan fast
- 2 Jacket materials?
- 3 James Bond's drink of choice
- 4 Enamel accessories
- 5 Review, for short
- 6 Furious
- 7 Mushroom you may find after a forest fire
- 8 Grows older
- 9 You can trip on it
- 10 Combat
- 11 Ohio liberal arts college that Lena Dunham and Alison Biedel attended
- 12 Condense a text
- 13 Menstrual products that get inserted
- 18 Phrase said before or after something rude or insulting
- 21 "Step Up 2: The ___"
- 24 "Don't worry about me"
- 26 365 dias
- 27 Rises up against an oppressor
- 28 Reed instrument
- 30 ___ as in beer
- 31 Rm. coolers
- 34 "___ of Tranquility" (Emily St. John Mandel novel)
- 35 Organs you should remove before roasting a turkey
- 36 Where you can find KiSS 92.5, CHUM, or Indie88
- 37 Freeloaded (off someone)
- 39 English singer and actress who played Christian Grey's sister Mia in the "Fifty Shades of Grey" movies
- 41 Double-___ (speedy skipping movements)
- 43 Adjustable light switch
- 45 Early video gaming giant
- 46 Long-eared lagomorphs
- 48 Ants or cockroaches
- 50 ___-of-the-moment
- 51 "You are," in Spanish
- 52 Aborted plan
- 54 ___-fi



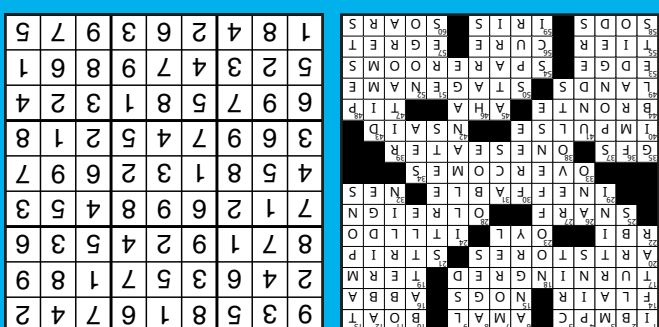
CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

CROSSWORD PUZZLE
BY EMMA LAWSON

SUDOKU PUZZLE
BY WEBSUDOKU.COM



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



HOROSCOPES

BY LEE SUKSI

CANCER

(JUNE 22 – JULY 22)

Your sign can be very realistic. You measure time, resources, and other peoples' desires to find the best outcome. As your birthday approaches, try to explore fantasy beyond human measurement. What are your most unrealistic plans, the far-reaching wishes that could never happen? In fantasy, you surprise yourself. This year, how can you bring what's impossibly beautiful to what is beautifully possible? Write down one impossibility per week.

LEO

(JULY 23 – AUGUST 22)

Leos tend to understand the power of birthdays. It's beautiful to celebrate one person at a time when everyone gets a turn! Here is a possible ritual to sustain that spirit of celebration: for the following year, at the end of each day or the next morning, name the prior day based on its events. The Day of the Spilled Blueberries. The Day of the Yellow Dog. The Day of the Aunt's Visit. Each of our limited days are precious and deserving of commemoration, if not also celebration.

VIRGO

(AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22)

Most of us have more loss in our lives than we would like. Obviously, much of our grief is sorrow and care and longing for what we miss. But some of it is fear, about our own fragility and our own inevitable deaths. Tend to your life and your aliveness in your grief. Having fun is part of the process of mourning.

LIBRA

(SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 23)

You're self-aware, very proud of one of your personal qualities. You know what needs work too. How can your weakness learn from your strength? For instance, can you use your creativity to find solutions for your messiness? If you're particularly kind, can you find a kind way to assert yourself?

SCORPIO

(OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 22)

If you had the power of time travel, which summer of your life would you go to? You do have the power of time travel. Remember that summer, and try to recreate some element of it today.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOVEMBER 23 – DECEMBER 22)

What are your staples? Peanut butter? Rice? Lemons? Leafy greens? Try an acan't do without. Savour the ordinary by taking stock of what you rarely notice. Stay home on a day off, and get to know the contours of your quarters.

CAPRICORN

(DECEMBER 23 – JANUARY 20)

This summer, find a mentee. Even if you feel unprepared (and especially if you don't), there is someone who can benefit from your experience, your knowledge, your skills. What would happen if you believe that passing those down will be its own reward?

AQUARIUS

(JANUARY 21 – FEBRUARY 20)

Who or what do you enjoy saying yes to? Your lover? Your dog? Your boss? Imagine you enjoyed saying yes to yourself this much. Remember the pleasure of your yes when your selfish desires or ideas come.

PISCES

(FEBRUARY 21 – MARCH 20)

Be a toddler at the ocean. Look at the city with that closeness and awe. Can you see the beach on the sidewalk or the tide in the traffic? You are someone who can also see the hard stuff: the abandoned shells, fossils and sea glass, the layers of garbage, death and history. Your wonder is important there too.

ARIES

(MARCH 20 – APRIL 20)

Fear breeds hatred, but if you were fearless, you might be sociopathic. What are the gifts of fear? What empathy, what self-knowledge, what welcome privacy does fear bring? Bring awareness to your fear. It can nourish, rather than destroy.

TAURUS

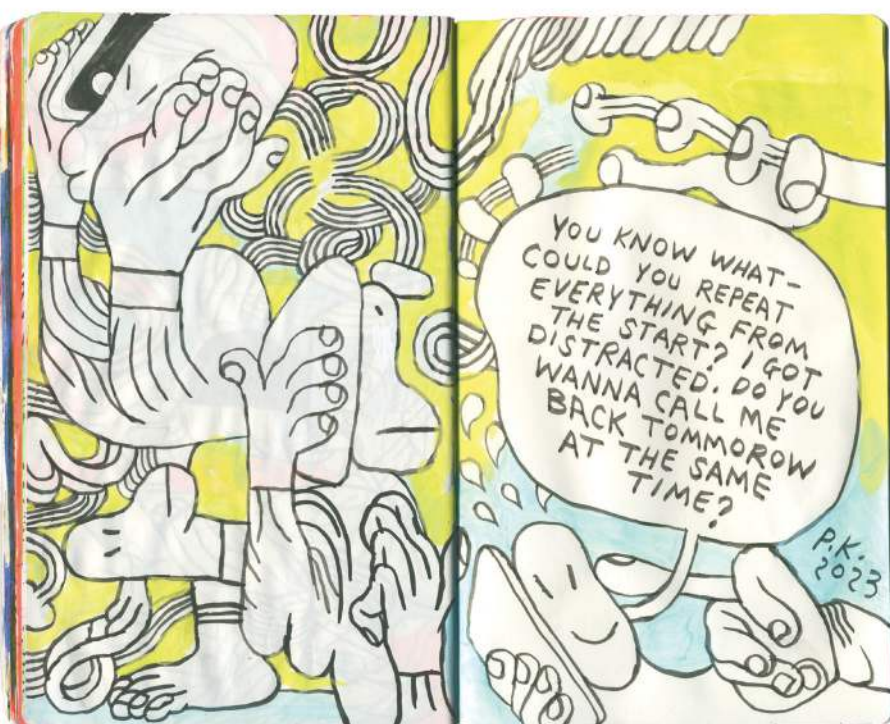
(APRIL 21 – MAY 21)

Summer brings the ease of warmth on our skin, sweet smells and sights, outdoor swimming, and fresh produce. Bask in sensuality, yes, but also use this cushion of ease to face a particular challenge, internal or external, that you've been avoiding.

GEMINI

(MAY 22 – JUNE 21)

This may be a season of overstimulation, of having more ideas than you're able to easily express. Never forget to enjoy your intellect, even as you embark on the task or organize it. Shaping an idea is an act of pleasure!



Q: How can you afford living in Toronto?



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