



# 'CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE MORE'

INDIA'S FOOD PRICING LAWS THREATENS TO JEOPARDIZE COUNTRY'S FARMS

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HONOURING VICTIMS OF  
MONTREAL MASSACRE

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# Humber holds candlelight vigil for victims of gender-based violence

**Jennifer Kozak**

NEWS REPORTER

This week marked 31 years since 14 young women were murdered at l'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. The anniversary of the massacre was commemorated as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Students and faculty of Humber College held a virtual candlelight vigil on Dec. 10 to honour those who lost their lives to gender-based violence.

"Today, we remember and honour survivors and victims of gender-based violence. We remember those that have been stolen and forgotten, and we are here to take action to create a future without violence against women, trans and non-binary

people," Aaron Brown, co-ordinator for sexual violence prevention and education at Humber College, said.

A gunman entered an engineering classroom at the school on Dec. 6, 1989, and murdered 14 female students, injuring another 10 women and four men. The victims were targeted because of their gender and the gunman's hate for feminists.

Until a shooting rampage in Portapique, N.S., earlier this year, the Montreal massacre was the deadliest shooting in Canadian history.

The candlelight vigil was led by Humber College's Consent Peer Education Program (CPEP) and keynote speaker Silvia D'Addario, manager of Global Citizenship, Equity and Inclu-

sion at Centennial College and a survivor of sexual violence.

D'Addario, who holds a doctorate in intersectionality, said men also need to be included in this conversation because they are prominently committing these violent acts.

"Far too long we've been making this a women's issue," D'Addario said. "Women go out and march so they won't die at the hands of men. But we need to be asking why are men hurting women? Why are men hurting other men?"

"As a survivor of sexual violence, I refuse to accept that it is my fault," she said.

"As little girls, we're often told to put on more clothes or not to act certain ways around older male family members. Instead



JENNIFER KOZAK

Candles were lit to remember to victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

of exposing family pedophiles, we are telling little girls their behaviour or clothing is the problem," she said. "Eventually, when they become women, why would they ever believe that they aren't at fault when an act of sexual violence is committed against them."

The virtual vigil attracted about 50 viewers and was followed by a candlelight vigil to victims and survivors of gender-based violence honour.

The group also discussed how Humber students, staff and faculty could commit to taking action, informed by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Brown said Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing in Canada than other women in Canada.

"There are currently 4,000 Indigenous women who are missing, and families who've waited years for answers," he said. "I believe our government needs to do better in providing answers

and a solution to this genocide."

The last five minutes of the virtual vigil was silent in memory of those killed by gender-based violence. Humber faculty and participants were encouraged to light a candle and leave it burning for the remainder of the day to honour all the women who lost their lives to gender-based violence.

Below are the 14 women murdered on Dec. 6, 1989:

Geneviève Bergeron  
Hélène Colgan  
Nathalie Croteau  
Barbara Daigneault  
Anne-Marie Edward  
Maud Haviernick  
Maryse Laganière  
Maryse Leclair  
Anne-Marie Lemay  
Sonia Pelletier  
Michèle Richard  
Annie St-Arneault  
Annie Turcotte  
Barbara Klucznik-  
Widajewicz



JENNIFER KOZAK

The Red Dress campaign, originally created by artist Jamie Black in 2010, honours missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) in Canada. Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or go missing than other women.

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**FRONT PAGE PHOTO:**

REUTERS/Anushree Fadnavis

# Post-secondary performance funding plan widely criticized

**Eli Ridder**  
NEWS REPORTER

The Ontario government plans to apply a performance-based funding model to colleges and universities within two years, a proposal that has alarmed student groups, teachers' unions and opposition leaders.

"Our government believes in making institutions accountable for student success," Ross Romano, minister of colleges and universities, said in a news release Nov. 26.

The ministry argued under the current funding model students are unable to find jobs after graduation. Under the new plan, funding will depend on 10 metrics that consider the employment success of graduates.

Romano said it will force institutions to be "more efficient and specialized," tying 60 per cent of all college and university funding to the new metrics.

"The new agreements will also encourage transparency and accountability by ensuring that the spending of public dollars results in positive economic outcomes for Ontario," he said.

Romano did not respond to an

Et Cetera request for an interview.

Gyllian Phillips, an associate professor of English at Nipissing University in North Bay, called the government's proposal "absolutely misguided" and said research shows post-secondary education does, in fact, prepare students for the workplace.

Colleges Ontario said in its last report on graduation rates that 86 per cent of college graduates in the province find employment within six months.

Phillips said the metric which bases funding on graduation employment includes "factors that are completely outside of university control."

For example, institutions in stronger job markets such as Toronto could see higher success rates while a college elsewhere in Ontario may have lower-income graduates resulting in the campus receiving less cash.

"Ontario has been underfunding its universities for over a decade now, and consequently, they're already really strapped," Phillips added.

The Canadian Federation of Students called the plan reckless.

"As the pandemic leaves students facing an unrecognizable job market, it is more reckless than ever to move towards a plan that ties post-secondary to indicators like post-graduation employment," Kayla Weiler, the federation's Ontario representative, said.

The CFS cited a recent survey from the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations that found a majority of faculty and students believe the shift to online learning prompted by the coronavirus pandemic has caused a decline in education quality.

CFS argued in a Nov. 30 statement that more funding from the province would provide a buffer for students struggling during the pandemic, but performance-based funding "continues to weaken a system that is already hurting students."

The government said the performance-based system would not come into effect for two years due to challenges brought on by COVID-19.

Experimental learning outcomes, skills and competencies, institutional focus and graduation rates will join employment

success under the six-piece "skills and job outcomes" category.

Research funding and capacity, industry-funded research, local community impact of the institution and the economic impact of a given college or university will also be at play in the four metrics classified as "economic and community impact."

New Democratic Party post-secondary critic Chris Glover said the government's plan is "a way for politicians to control what and how universities teach, and dramatically slash the funding of schools that resist Ford's directives."

The reputation of Ontario institutions will suffer on the international stage as students bear the consequences, he said.

Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner was also unimpressed.

"Emerging new careers makes it hard to predict future job markets and Ford's plan will likely hurt our economy by discouraging post-secondary innovation," the Guelph MPP said in a statement sent from his office to Et Cetera.

"The premier is trying to impose guaranteed outcomes



FLICKR/MICHAEL\_SWAN  
Chris Glover fears tying graduation rates to funding might affect the curriculum.

in an area that is increasingly unpredictable," Schreiner said. "At the same time, we may see less importance being given to degrees in the humanities and arts.

"That would be a terrible loss for our province," he said.

## Takeout not enough to support Port Credit restaurants in lockdown

**Markos Soares**  
NEWS REPORTER

The second lockdown of the COVID-19 pandemic has small businesses preparing for the worst, including all of the businesses in Port Credit.

Lockdown restrictions in the village anchored at Hurontario Street and Lakeshore Road in Mississauga allow some businesses to remain open for curbside pickup and takeout.

But for people like Ryan Long, owner of Spice Lounge and Tapas, that's not enough.

"The idea of 'only takeout' is that liquor sales go way down and a venue that is open until 2 a.m., seven days a week is dependent on those sales," Long said. "Only to-go food is more geared toward staple places of food chains and pizza. That is not what we do,"

This is the time of year when

most small businesses usually see their highest revenues, but for the holidays of 2020 many are focused on making ends meet while facing evictions.

According to an October report by PricewaterhouseCoopers, consumer holiday spending has dropped 30.7 per cent from 2019 due to the pandemic.

Harula Fraggoulis, co-owner of Raw Aura Organic Cuisine, said the times are difficult, even more so with the cold weather and the lockdown in Peel forcing the closure of their patio.

"Even though our regulars have been loyal, it is completely different not being able to be open to the public," she said. "People walk by on the strip all the time and look at us as a healthy alternative and come in to try us out, but since that is no longer an option, it has been challenging."

At the Colossus Greek Tav-



FLICKR/CARIBB  
The normally bustling streets in and around Port Credit have sat relatively empty this year, having a major impact on the businesses and restaurants in the area.

erna, which has existed for more than 30 years, owner Manny Tsouvallas said it was important to remain positive.

"We always had a strong foothold on takeout, we always believed in it," he said. "After the

first lockdown we stayed, we persevered.

"At first, we had no idea what to expect and the unknown can be a scary thought, but this time around we know what to expect and we are prepared," Tsou-

vallas said.

Some customers are opting to take their business elsewhere to regions such as Halton where businesses can remain open for dine-in.

"The longer commute is worth it if I am able to sit down and enjoy my food," 26-year-old Jay Patel said. "I'm so tired of ordering takeout almost every day."

The Port Credit Business Improvement Association has stepped in to help support businesses, survival depends on support from locals.

"We have a group chat called PC Hospitalities and business owners from all over the strip are involved in this conversation," Long said.

"That's what local is all about. If it's about Port Credit, it's by definition a village. In a pandemic, small businesses need to support each other," he said.

## INTERNATIONAL



REUTERS/ADNAN ABIDI

Farmers listen to a speaker during a protest against the newly passed farm bills at Singhu border near Delhi, India. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was scolded for supporting the protesters.

## Indian farmers' protest draws Trudeau into international spat

**Manan Nijhawan**

NEWS REPORTER

NEW DELHI — Thousands of angry farmers have massed on the outskirts of the Indian capital in recent weeks, sleeping outdoors and braving cold temperatures to protest against government agricultural reforms.

At stake is a Minimum Support Price (MSP) set by the government at the start of every season that the Food Corporation of India buys farm produce. It is an income floor that farmers fear might vanish as a result of three agricultural reform bills passed by the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September.

“We want safety on our crops and guarantee from the authorities that the bills are not a way to remove the Minimum Support Price,” Subhash Singh, a farmer from Bathinda in the state of Punjab, said.

Diljit Singh Kaur, also from Bhatinda, said if the government does not plan to eliminate the MSP, “why can’t they put it in writing and pass another bill guaranteeing it for the farmers.”

The new legislation is touted

by the government as liberation for farmers, enabling them to sell not just in a regulated market but to individuals and corporations. Kaur and protesting farmers fear big companies will maneuver to drive down prices.

“We don’t trust these big corporates,” Kaur said.

The farmers, many accompanied by their children, said younger generations will not remain in the already stressed agricultural sector if their futures are made even more precarious.

“Our rozi-roti (livelihood) depends on the government buying our crops on MSP,” Singh said. “COVID-19 has taken away a lot from us in the past months we cannot afford to lose more now.”

The protests — primarily mounted from India’s farming heartland in Punjab and Haryana — began shortly after the three bills were passed on Sept. 27, with more than 500 farm unions mounting large demonstrations to demand their withdrawal.

Over the ensuing weeks, protests against the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce Bill, the Farmers Agreement on Price and Farm Services Bill, and the

Essential Commodities Bill gathered momentum, with farmers marching on New Delhi in their thousands on Nov. 26.

Modi and his cabinet ministers have told farmers they do not intend to end government procurement policies and the MSP, but protests have only grown, gathering support not only from opposition parties in India but from farmers and political leaders around the world.

In British Columbia, which has a large population of Sikh ex-patriates hailing from Punjab, farmers hosted a car rally in a parking lot to support Indian farmers. In Winnipeg, hundreds of vehicles formed a caravan along the Perimeter Highway around the Manitoba capital, while similar rallies were held in London and the U.S.

In recent weeks, emotions have run high on the borders of New Delhi, where police have erected barb-wire barriers to prevent protesters from entering the city. Delhi’s Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was put under house arrest, as was the Samajwadi Party’s Akhilesh Yadav.

The protests also prompted a



REUTERS/ANUSHREE FADNAVIS

Farmers hold placards as they attend a protest during a nationwide strike against the newly passed farm bills at Singhu border near Delhi, India.

diplomatic uproar after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau earned a scolding from the Indian government for expressing his support of the legal protest. Afterwards, Canada’s high commissioner in New Delhi was summoned to be reprimanded over what India saw as Trudeau’s intrusion in its internal affairs.

“The situation is concerning,” said Trudeau. “Canada will always be there to support peaceful protests. We believe (in) the importance of dialogue

and that’s why we reached out in multiple means to the authorities to highlight our concerns.”

Trudeau stood by his remarks, saying Canada will always support the right to lawful dissent.

Negotiations between the Modi government and farm union leaders have to date been fruitless.

“They need to find a common ground or else these protests will only harm the country,” said Aadi Tandon, a student of Thapar University in Patiala, Punjab.

# Brampton businesses take big hit from COVID-19 lockdown

**Ayesha Raizada**

NEWS REPORTER

The pandemic has devastated small businesses, shuttering operations and inflicting economic consequences on owners and their employees alike.

Small businesses such as food services, beauty salons and barbershops account for nearly half of all private-sector jobs and provide a livelihood for countless low-wage workers. They also have suffered an especially hard blow.

Kala Narayanan, founder and owner of the travel agency EUROJETS Canada Inc., said, the travel trade “experienced the worst, with sales dropping to next to nothing.

“It has been a zero sales literally from March, we are still bringing back stranded people from all over the world,” Narayanan said.

Bookings have been cancelled for cruises and tours, she said. Most agencies are giving credit for future travel on cancellations, but not issuing refunds.

The new surge in COVID-19 cases and the Ontario govern-

ment’s decision to move Peel Region back into lockdown has sent anxiety soaring in a small-business sector.

Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown has urged his community to support small businesses that are now fighting for survival by ordering take-out, purchasing gift cards and shopping online.

“Many of these restaurants have poured their heart and soul into building a family enterprise and we can help them by sharing their incredible culinary options including your favourite options for take-out on social media,” Brown said.

To help small business owners, the federal government is offering access to loans of up to \$20,000 through the Canada Emergency Business Account, on top of \$40,000 already available for help.

Abhinav Aggarwal, chef and manager at Kailash Parbat, an Indian restaurant in Mississauga, said the pandemic has severely impacted the hospitality and food industry.

Most servers have been laid off for various periods since the lockdowns began in March and



COURTESY CPAC/YOUTUBE

Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown urged residents to support local businesses by ordering take-out and buying from small retailers.

restaurants have suffered huge losses, forcing one worker to do the jobs previously done by two or three people.

“Families are not showing up for dine-in or take-out and people are using third-party

apps like Uber-Eats or Skip-the-Dishes, which cuts into already slim profit margins,” said Raman Singh, chef at Sanjhi Rasoi restaurant in Brampton.

Kishore Mistry, owner of Exotic Indian Cuisine in Etobicoke, said

the lockdowns are also affecting supply chains of the food industry and he fears that reopening after the lockdown will be more like starting a new business than just opening the doors on an existing operation.

## High demand, low stock leads to Christmas tree shortage

**Cassandra Spurrell**

NEWS REPORTER

The coronavirus pandemic and prospects of a locked-down Christmas have sent the demand for Christmas trees soaring this year and already under-supplied sellers are having a hard time keeping up.

“There has been a shortage of certain species since 2018, so we’ve been dealing with it for a couple of years,” said Shirley Brennan, executive director of the Christmas Tree Farmers of Ontario.

Brennan said that there has been an increase in people going to tree farms this year.

“We’re seeing such an increase in people coming up to tree farms and enjoying the real trees, that we see an even bigger demand than we had before,” she said.

“The last five years we’ve seen a steady increase of about 15 per cent per year (in) demand,”

Brennan said.

The supply of trees, however, has remained constant.

“I’d say that (has) probably stayed fairly consistent over the past few years,” James Somerville, president of Christmas Tree Farmers of Ontario.

COVID-19 contributed to the rising demand for Christmas trees in Ontario, with families unable to leave the country for the holidays and seeking ways to ensure some cheer through a difficult season.

“Absolutely, no other reason,” George Kapy, owner of Fandango Tree Farms, said.

For some dealers, the problem was not so much their initial supply, but the high demand.

“Our stock was more than we had last year but we sold out faster,” said Justin Noonan, employer for Trees On a Truck Christmas Deliverycanna.

The rush of buyers came earlier than usual and tree yards were emptied much sooner.



COURTESY BOBBI JOHNSTON-FLANAGAN

Sonny’s Christmas Trees, near Bloor and Bathurst Streets in Toronto, displays part of their tree inventory. According to the Christmas Tree Farmers of Ontario, high demand for trees coupled with low supply has left many tree lots in the province sold out.

“Christmas tree farms have sold out, so they have already closed down,” Brennan said.

He said Christmas tree farms remain financially stable and took care to follow safety protocols throughout the pandemic.

“One of the things we did in

Ontario was we provided protocols for each area,” Brennan said.

“We also put in place signs, protocols and guideline signs for every farm that is a member of our association,” he said.

Planning has already begun in the event COVID-19 continues to

affect the industry next year.

“The good thing is that we already have protocols in place so we see what we had to do,” Brennan said.

“We certainly will look at what we were missing, and what we can do better.”

## EDITORIAL

# Ford gets what he wants even if he has to ignore experts, officials

**D**oug Ford will be remembered for many issues that somehow dragged on longer than it should have.

Ontarians will remember for years to come his gutting of workers' rights, his handling of unions and the muddled response on the second wave of COVID-19.

However, one issue he somehow keeps getting into is the Greenbelt. This is a fight that never needed to be fought, but somehow Ford keeps getting himself into the centre of this issue.

Ford proposed a bill in 2018 that would allow developers to have more freedom in the Greenbelt area. A lot of push-backs came with this decision and Ford backed off of the bill and hasn't touched it since.

A new omnibus bill suggests Ford wasn't done with the idea of opening up the Greenbelt to developers. He was waiting for the right moment to act. Bill 229

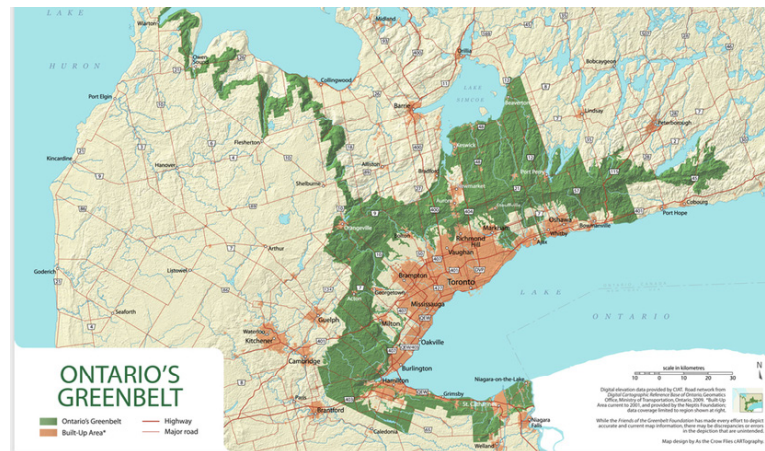
was proposed by the PC government as what they claim is a way to economically bounce back after the pandemic.

The environmentally protected area was created by legislation in 2005 by Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty that linked 1.8 million acres of wetlands, farms and other green spaces to help fight climate change and preserve the quickly vanishing natural areas between Durham and Niagara Regions, north to Lake Simcoe and even a strip to Georgian Bay.

It was also a buffer to limit development.

Ford tabled the omnibus bill last month that includes trimming power to conservation authorities have and transfer it to other authorities that can open up the Greenbelt to development.

This time, there wasn't much attention to this new bill because the world is consumed by a global pandemic, and as



the second wave hits Ontario with numbers breaking records almost daily, it isn't the most alarming issue coming out of Queen's Park.

But there has been an awakening to the potential scuttling of parts of the Greenbelt. NDP Leader Andrea Horvath said recently the developers who expressed interest in developing the Greenbelt had connections

to the PCs, and seven members of the Greenbelt Council stepped down, including the chair and still revered former mayor of Toronto, David Crombie.

Because of Crombie, who's nickname is Toronto's Tiny, Perfect Mayor and whose connections and history with the Conservative party runs deep, the Ontario population knows that the fight to protect the Greenbelt

is still ongoing. The opposition is expected to defy the bill but they don't have the numbers to stop the bill if it comes to a vote. It's still to be seen if any Conservatives are against the provisions in this bill.

Ford has never let an issue beat him no matter the cost. In his first year in office, he threatened to stoop so low as to invoke the notwithstanding clause of the Charter, but stepping back when judges agreed the city couldn't stop him from reducing the number of elected councillors in Toronto.

When he wants something done, he will get it done no matter how many experts he ignores on the way.

It would be wise if Ford rethinks this part of the omnibus bill. He should weigh any gratitude from developers with the reaction the electorate has towards losing parts of the Greenbelt.

## OPINION

# Nintendo must improve their software quality to compete



**Nathaniel Marksman**  
A&E EDITOR

sole, but the Switch hasn't seen many software updates, such as a webpage browser, apps for music and streaming services.

To add software updates might seem trivial, but it almost feels as if this console remained in the past, if not taking a step back. The Wii and Nintendo Wii U both had web browsers and streaming services such as Netflix, YouTube and Hulu Plus, along with Wii U Chat and MiiVerse and its time that Nintendo started to add some of those features to Switch.

An argument can be made that Switch is purchased or to play video games and has successfully done that with Animal Crossing: New horizons holding the second-highest number of sales (26.04 million copies) boosting console sales by 136 per-cent (noted by videogames-chronicle) in less than a year, surpassing Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, The Legend of Zelda Breath of the Wild and Pokémon Sword and Switch which have all been out for a year plus.

It was Doug Bowser, president



The Switch has sold more than 68 million units since its release in March 2017. It is the third-best selling console of the last decade.

of Nintendo America, who said in a press release,

As Bowser said, during October the Nintendo Switch recorded its highest number of sales, reaching 68 million units sold worldwide, proving that the console could stand beside its same generation competitors, the PS4 and Xbox One X, without web browsers, apps and streaming services.

However, even with Animal Crossing, and a global pandemic pushing people to buy Nintendo products because they have more free time on their hands the Switch still comes up short in comparison to Wii sales which has sold 101.6 million units sold worldwide as of 2020.

The PS5 and Xbox series X are already proving to be on a whole new level with graphics, hard-

ware and software features, and running out of stocks within the first few days of their release.

Nintendo has always found innovative ways to keep up with the competition and to keep fans enticed, but there's always room for improvement. It may be too early for a new console but adding streaming apps and a web browser could bring new life to the Switch.

## OPINION

# Disney didn't ruin Star Wars, its own fans' behaviour did

Nicholas Seles

ARTS REPORTER

George Lucas' long-running sci-fi franchise is one of the most popular in the world and yet somehow, it has some of the most toxic fans. In 1997 or so, my dad rented a VHS from Showcase Video, a store near our house and Star Wars, Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back was the first movie I saw that wasn't a cartoon. I was fascinated with the story of Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader, Han Solo and Princess Leia and the concept of The Force.

My dad took me to see The Phantom Menace in theatres in 1999 and it began a new journey with the prequel trilogy.

Despite its world-building, the prequel trilogy fell short with Lucas' inability to write a consistent dialogue ("I don't like sand. It's coarse, rough and it gets everywhere," from Episode II: Attack of the Clones, for example) and that's when the anger and frustration with fans became evident.

Jake Lloyd, the child actor who

played young Anakin in Episode I, became a target of bullying, so much so, that he chose to not pursue acting.

The appreciation and respect for the prequel trilogy didn't come until Dave Filoni brought the animated series Star Wars: The Clone Wars out in 2008. While I greatly enjoyed the series, I have never been a fan of retroactive storytelling. Material either stands on its own or it doesn't.

For the insufficient price tag of US\$4.05 billion, the Walt Disney Company acquired Star Wars from 20th Century Fox in 2012. They immediately got to work on a sequel trilogy which did not go well upon release. The Force Awakens, The Last Jedi and The Rise of Skywalker, while performing well financially, fell short with a large number of movie-goers.

Some reasons were ridiculous, like choosing Rey (Daisy Ridley) being the main character, which is a reflection of the darker parts of the internet (or incel) culture. The trilogy primarily suffered



UNSPASH/BRIAN MCGOWAN

Stormtroopers on guard at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge at Walt Disney World. The Star Wars fandom has a reputation for being toxic.

from a lack of planning and then back-peddling with sequels to try and course-correct in order to please fans.

Kelly-Marie Tran who played Rose Tico in The Last Jedi and Rise of Skywalker, received so much abuse on social media for her character that she left social media entirely.

If you asked me, those are not fans.

The Mandalorian on Disney+ has been collecting excellent reviews yet there have also been

people who hate on it solely for its varied episode runtimes, like being only 32 minutes long some weeks. On the other hand, shows that drag on for too long also gets crucified for being boring and slow.

The Mandalorian's showrunner, Jon Favreau, comes from the Marvel side of Disney where it can be argued creative freedom is more apparent, and bringing that energy to Star Wars creates a better environment.

Disney's previous CEO, Bob

Iger, did admit they rushed the sequel trilogy, and that created an environment that hurt the brand more than help it, but it doesn't excuse the actions of the fanbase.

Nothing is immune to criticism. Film and television are an art form and art is meant to be interpreted and deconstructed. What cannot be tolerated is abuse from the people claiming to support and adore it. Be passionate, be involved, be obsessed, but do not be cruel.

## TALES FROM HUMBER

# The loss of Sumi leaves hole in heart as well as the kitchen

Markos Soares

NEWS REPORTER

It's another busy night and orders are already piling up in the kitchen. I go to grab the last order for Table 80 and there, as always, is Sumi Tissera, sweating from the heat and clearly swamped. He gives me a quick smile and winks. "One last rush, kiddo. Let's kill it."

That was Sumi, the hardest-working man in the kitchen and the most precise, every plate he prepared looking as gorgeous as it tasted delicious. He was an artist at work, the Michelangelo of Mediterranean food.

"He was my partner, and he was the best," said Betim Morina, head chef at Colossus Greek Taverna.

Over his 12 years in the restaurant, it was Sumi that everyone counted on, for infectious energy, getting it done under pressure, or just knowing how to put a smile on a face when things were at their most chaotic.

It was a Friday night a few months back and I had booked off work to spend some time with my family and to later visit some friends. I was driving to my friend Julian's house when the text came in.

"Did you hear the news?" my co-worker, Katie, asked.

At first glance, I wondered what ridiculous tweet she might have seen from some outrageous celebrity. I could wish, after I got to the second sentence, that it had been something as silly and frivolous.

"Sumi passed away," it said.

My heart sunk into my stomach. I couldn't process the news. It didn't seem possible. It wasn't long since I had last seen him. I took it for granted after every shift that I'd soon be seeing him again.

Then Katie called, we talked, and there was no denying the terrible reality.

I immediately turned my car around and rushed to the

restaurant. Inside, some of my co-workers were sitting at tables, crying and hugging, trying to console each other.

Sumi really was gone. A heart attack had taken him in his sleep, after his only day off that week.

There hadn't been a chance to say goodbye. I didn't get a chance for one last laugh. I didn't get to sing S.O.B. with him one last time.

"We truly lost a brother, one of the best friends a person could ask for," said Stoycho Dimkin, manager at Colossus.

"I wish I had a chance to laugh with him one more time, to hug him, to talk about the [New England] Patriots' game one more time. He loved them so much," he said.

The next week of work felt like a year. The funeral was hard. I needed to see him one last time. We wanted to tell him we loved him, that he could never be replaced, that the hole he left behind in that kitchen, in our



INSTAGRAM/COLOSSUS GREEK TAVERNA.

hearts, could never be filled.

Now, four months later, Harold has taken on the responsibilities at Colossus that once were Sumi's. Harold had worked beside Sumi for seven years. You can see in his eyes how much it pains him to be in the position of succeeding his old friend.

When I was working and the

restaurant was loud and busy, I used to expect a laugh with Sumi every time I went up to grab food from the kitchen.

Now, with every order I pick up, I think of the friend who isn't there, the jokes that will never be told, the songs that will remain unsung.

And I remember my friend.

# Online performances help keep struggling theatres in business

Christian Collington

ARTS REPORTER

Online theatre productions gave Emily Templeman the chance to continue doing what she loved during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was definitely an adjustment," Templeman said. "At the beginning, I think a lot of us were mourning the loss of being able to do it live and in-person. But there was a lot that we still gained from it."

Templeman recently graduated from Randolph College for the Performing Arts and performed in both a play and musical produced for a virtual audience.

"We did it all pre-recorded," Templeman said.

"We played with the idea of doing it live, but because of Wi-Fi issues, or a lot of people were living with roommates who are sometimes loud,

I think that was the right choice for us." Templeman said rehearsing over Zoom calls meant that she couldn't be in the same space with other actors, but the big difference came while performing.

"We didn't have that energy exchange between the performers and the audience. People would watch and send us messages afterwards. So, it's still really nice to have that connection," Templeman said.

Ryan Galvez, a final-year Theatre Arts and Performance student at Centennial College, performed a script specifically written for a virtual performance.

"It was a lot harder actually because normally we would be in the studios, but we were restricted to using smaller spaces, either our bedrooms or living rooms," Galvez said.

Galvez recalled that there were slight hiccups during the performance of *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms*.

The main obstacle was that some people had poor Wi-Fi, so some would appear frozen on the screen or would be lagging behind the other players.

Galvez also said the cast had to improvise and make their



COURTESY EMILY TEMPLEMAN  
Emily Templeman (left) and Sarah McMillan rehearse a dance for their performance.

own costumes.

"For this show, we had to use whatever we had," Galvez said.

"I had a black t-shirt with Game of Thrones on it, I had my bathrobe that I was using because I was playing a devil."

The closure of theatre venues had Tarragon Theatre explore radio dramas, which they named Tarragon Acoustic.

**"At the beginning, I think a lot of us were mourning the loss of being able to do it live and in-person"**

Emily Templeman

PERFORMING ARTS GRADUATE

Richard Rose, artistic director of Tarragon, came up with the idea from an audience survey conducted in April.

The overall response was that patrons and subscribers wanted something to replace not being in the theatre.

"I thought, let's do audio dramas, taking some of the plays from the past and revisiting them, as well as a couple of future plays,"

Rose said. The advantage of moving to audio dramas was that audiences could listen to

the plays anytime they wanted to.

Andrea Vagianos, Tarragon's managing director, said Tarragon Acoustic is a good alternative to provide a classic retelling of plays in a contemporary way.

"It gives us the opportunity to connect with our patrons and subscribers," Vagianos said.

"The recordings also provide

gigs for the actors." Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster, assistant artistic director of Tarragon, who is directing a show slated for the next Tarragon Acoustic date, said PlayME Podcast had developed "a really good system for recording remotely."

"It definitely feels less free and less easy than a rehearsal process when you're all together, but once they start acting, that feels normal," Lancaster said.

"Seeing the lights go down and being in a dark theatre is what we want," Vagianos said.



COURTESY SHAWAYNE DUNSTAN

Shawayne Dunstan said his family gave him the courage to pursue his dream.

## Mississauga poet becomes well-versed in self-publishing

Makayla Verbruggen

NEWS REPORTER

Shawayne Dunstan went home to Jamaica four years ago after an absence of more than a decade and while there, he received some inspirational advice from his grandmother and uncle.

"You're in a place of opportunity," Dunstan's uncle told him.

"I can't necessarily tell you what to do. But, you know, just try your best to do something for you."

Dunstan, 21, a Spoken Word artist from Mississauga, Ont., and a Restaurant and Hotel Operation Management student at Humber College, took the advice very much to heart.

That year, he was in Grade 11, and he wrote his first book, *Guilty by Association*. It was only 40 pages, but it jump-started his writing career. "That's when I saw the passion," he said.

Dunstan had been introduced to poetry in 2012 in his English class. Three years later he was posting his poems and other writings to an online platform called Wattpad.

Through the process, he gained confidence and wanted to publish his work. And on that trip to Jamaica, his uncle basically told him to go for it.

Just before Christmas 2016, he published his second book, *The Undisputed Defect of an Adolescent*.

And by this year, Dunstan had published seven books, with the material for more collected on his old Wattpad account.

"They could span all the way

to 40-something poems, or just be as short as 10," he said.

One of Shawayne's personal favourite poems he wrote is called *The Death of Shaweezy*, which examines how inner thoughts can negatively affect lives. In that work,

Dunstan talks about how he comes to terms with his insecurities, and how he's portrayed in society.

He looks at how social and cultural forces can work against our dreams and ambitions, raising such questions as,

"Who do you think you are?" and "What makes you think that you can make these books that will help youth or help you make a name for yourself?"

"I've really put a lot into that series, because it's just, it's true, it's like plain-truth talks about society, talks about race, talks about finding hope, finding yourself,"

Dunstan said. And just as his family in Jamaica supported his dreams and willingness to take a chance on himself, Dunstan has the same advice for other aspiring writers.

"Realize your worth," he said. "Don't second guess your vision. Don't underestimate the editing process. It's a long process, just take your time."

"Have fun with it, be yourself," Dunstan said. And perhaps most important of all, he said, "never compare yourself to someone else, you can be inspired just do your own thing."

"After a while, you will genuinely feel the love of people who rock with you," he said.





INSTAGRAM/EMELIA DERMOTT

Emelia Dermott, a four-time national boxing champion from Oakville, Ont., said thinking of losses as experience is important for mental strength. Women's boxing is set to make its debut at the 2023 Canada Games.

## No matter how hard you punch, boxing is a sport of life lessons

**Alex Thomas**

SPORTS REPORTER

Emelia Dermott knows in boxing, as in life, the best lessons often come from the hardest moments.

Dermott, a four-time national champion and youth boxer for Team Canada who is studying human kinetics at the University of Ottawa, said learning from losses is the key to improving.

"If you can look at that as experience rather than a loss, I think that helps a lot because then you still feel like you're getting better," the 19-year-old Oakville, Ont. resident said.

It's important for boxers keen on improving to focus not just on the outcome of a bout, she said, but on the reasons for victory or defeat.

As a girl, Dermott tagged along with her father to fitness

classes. His program was structured around boxing, and when she tried it she fell in love. She started boxing for fitness and recreation. Now, she's aiming for the podium at the 2024 Olympics.

Boxing Ontario said there are more than 135 clubs in Ontario with 2,500 competitive and 12,000 recreational boxers. The organization said its mission is to develop boxers "to the height of their potential through self-discipline, confidence, fitness and sportsmanship."

Women's boxing didn't appear in the Olympics until 2012, but the sport has grown in recent years, and with the sport set to make its first ever appearance at the 2023 Canada Games, interest is expected to rise.

Some boxing analysts have said women even have physio-

logical advantages over men in the ring. Broader pelvises create a natural centre of gravity and weight distribution on the hips enhances punching power, and some think the lack of societal expectation that they should be fighters has the possibility of making them more coachable.

Richard Souce, a former top-ranked professional who now owns Stockyards Boxing and Fitness in Toronto, agrees, saying women are easier to teach because they come with an open mind and usually just want to learn how to defend themselves.

"The hardest people to teach are older guys, like guys 30 years and plus because they feel like they know everything already," he said.

John Melich, a professional trainer for more than 40 years, said the mental and emotional

aspects of boxing, including the ability to learn and control anger, can be as important as the physical.

Melich, who has owned Champion Boxing Club in Brampton since 1984 and trained 14 national champions, said in an interview emotional control is crucial for boxers and that losing composure often puts them in vulnerable positions.

"It's not one of these things, like, 'okay, watch it because that guy's mad, he's dangerous,'" Melich said. "That's not the way it works. They actually lose their might because they're not focused."

Souce, a former student of Melich, said it is easiest to train boxers who started the sport at a young age.

At its best, boxing teaches life skills along with technique, he

said.

"When you really work hard, it sets you up for other things in life," Souce said. "It just teaches you work ethic, like you got to work for things, you got to work hard."



COURTESY EMELIA DERMOTT

Emelia Dermott, 19, is training to compete in the 2024 Olympic games.