

# HUMBER ET CETERA<sup>o</sup>

Humber's Student Newspaper

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JESS KERR

Ian Blackwood, left, and Sterling Hiscock, right, Cold War veterans, embrace at the Queen's Park Remembrance Day ceremony. They worry about veterans' sacrifices being forgotten.

## WE WILL REMEMBER

### Veterans worry Remembrance Day is becoming 'just another day' as they fade away

Jess Kerr  
News Reporter

Like many Canadians, Humber College student Nicole Blinoff had a special person in mind on Remembrance Day. Her late

grandfather, Herman Evertman.

"I like to personally reflect on my Grandpa, who has told me numerous stories of his experiences during World War II," said Blinoff, a first-year student in

the Funeral Director program.

"I vividly remember him telling me when he was a boy in Holland, the war was going on and he and his family and friends had to hide out in a

bomb shelter and how a bullet came through the shelter and killed his friend," she said.

Herman Evertman was born in the Netherlands and, as a child, immigrated to Canada

with his family after the war. He had spent his earliest years in a country that never forgot, and to this day honours, the role of

CONTINUED ON PG. 2

**MOTORCYCLE  
CULTURE IS  
CHANGING  
P.11**



**HAWKS  
SWEEP OCAA  
AWARDS  
P.15**





JESS KERR

A Canadian Armed Forces soldier helps Garry Pond lay a wreath for the Royal Canadian Legion at Queen's Park. Pond served for 23 years.

## Silence falls over crowd at 11 a.m.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Canadians in its liberation.

At Queen's Park, at 11 a.m. on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, silence fell over the crowd as Torontonians took a moment of silence to honour and remember the men and women who sacrificed their lives in the 20th Century's two world wars and other conflicts.

Ian Blackwood and Sterling Hiscock are infantry veterans of the 48th Highlanders who trained across the U.S., Canada and Germany during the Cold War.

Blackwood said he was disappointed at what he saw, fewer people wearing poppies and feared Remembrance Day becoming "just another regular day."

"I remember all the sacrifices that Canada has made to be the country that it is," he said. "More personally, it's a time that I gather with my friends and we remember our service together."

Hiscock said that as he ages, his view of Remembrance Day has changed.

"All my military career and service to Canada, it's means recognizing everybody who lost their lives and sacrificed in World War I and II," Hiscock said. "But lately, it's transitioned, in the sense that because I'm a veteran from the '80s, a lot of our guys are

dying.

"So more and more as I'm getting older, what remembrance means to me is remembering their honour and their sacrifice," Hiscock said.

Last year, in the heart of COVID-19 lockdowns, Remembrance Day ceremonies were held virtually and gatherings were small. This year, lifted rules allowed for in-person ceremonies.

Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister, together with Susan Crystal, U.S. Consul General and Premier Doug Ford attended ceremonies that included the Act of Remembrance, Commitment to Remember and the reading of John McCrae's *In Flanders Fields* at Queen's Park.

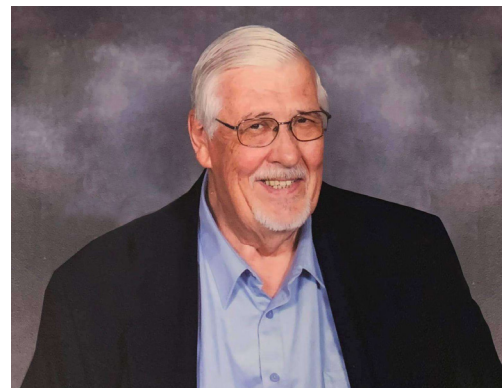
Ford paid tribute to those who served in the First and Second World Wars as well as Korea and the Gulf War.

"Remembrance Day is a time all Ontarians pay tribute and honour the memory of those who have sacrificed for us and show our gratitude to those heroes who still walk among us," Ford said.

At a ceremony in Prospect Cemetery, Mayor John Tory spoke of the gratitude owed to those who served.

"We gather here because they, men and women from this city and across Canada, did their duty," Tory said. "It is our duty to remember them, to never forget."

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Remembrance Poppy in Canada. In 1921, the Great War Veteran Association claimed the poppy as the Flower of Remembrance.



JESS KERR

Top: Herman Evertman was remembered by his granddaughter. Middle: Premier Doug Ford stands at attention in front of a soldier. Bottom: Wreaths are laid at Queen's Park.

## ETC •

Humber Et Cetera is the Humber College journalism program laboratory newspaper. It is created by second and third year journalism students. Et Cetera serves to inform the Humber community and give its readers well rounded coverage on the things that matter to them.

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SANTIAGO ARIAS OROZCO

Anthony Glaude, centre wearing a blue mask, of Plains Cree Nation, takes part in a drum circle at the fourth annual Indigenous Legacy Gathering at Nathan Philip Square. Glaude, from Northern Alberta, said he came to the event to shed light on the legacy of residential schools.

## Indigenous Legacy Gathering ‘step in the right direction’ in healing intergenerational trauma

**Santiago Arias Orozco**  
News Reporter

Lisa Odjig Mchayle held one goal in mind during her hoop-dance performance in downtown Toronto — to honour her Indigenous brothers and sisters found in unmarked graves at residential schools across Canada.

“I promise them in my prayers that I will share these dances with everyone,” Mchayle said. “I know that they would want us to keep our traditions strong and alive.”

Forming symbols of nature while dancing to the beat of the music, Mchayle, an Odawa, Ojibway Nation, featured her community’s storytelling “hoop dance” during the fourth annual Indigenous Legacy Gathering.

The gathering, organized by the Toronto Fire Native Cultural Centre, was held at Nathan Philip Square on Nov. 4 and 5. It highlighted Indigenous people’s culture, traditions and languages to honour the lives lost and changed by residential schools.

“This gathering was about bringing our community and supporters together, letting them feel welcomed, to feel lis-

tened to, and to heal,” Andrea Chrisjohn said.

Chrisjohn, Toronto Fire Native Cultural Centre board designate, said the event enabled friends and acquaintances to meet again following a 20-month lockdown.

“The gathering allowed our people to embrace their national identities through their voices, languages and practices, denied to them in these institutions,” he said.

It began with a sunrise ceremony, followed by guest speakers during the morning and afternoon performances that featured traditional dances, tribute songs, and short films.

Teepees designed by Indigenous artists dressed up the surroundings of the main stage. Inside them, Indigenous advocacy organizations gathered signatures for petitions and sold handmade crafts.

A sacred fire remained vivid during the gathering, as a focal point for prayers and offerings of tobacco.

“We used it to light our way when we pass into the spirit world,” Anthony Glaude said. “The sacred fire will be there for four days to guide us to our ancestors.”

Glaude, of Plains Cree Nation, came from Northern Alberta to shed light on the legacy of residential schools alongside his brothers and sisters.

“To walk down that healing path, we need to do it together, and that’s what I am doing here at the gathering,” Glaude said.

Gathered with nine other men, Glaude showcased his community’s tradition during a drum play intended to recreate Mother Earth’s heartbeat.

The Big Drum sound was

accompanied by chants sung by men sitting around the drum and three women standing up behind them.

“That drum gave peace in a war between two nations,” Glaude explained. “Today, we are gathered around it with the same purpose, find peace.”

This gathering also promoted the Spirit Garden installation to be built in Nathan Philips Square by 2023. Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation commission call to action, this Indigenous cultural space will be constructed to honour residential school survivors.

Mayor John Tory welcomed the gathering Thursday.

“The Indigenous Legacy Gathering celebrates and honors the resilience of residential school survivors and their families and is an important form of reconciliation,” he said.

Mchayle said she appreciated the city’s efforts.

“Indigenous communities are trying to work together with government institutions,” Mchayle said. “This gathering sets a great example, is a first step in the right direction.”

## Union, CEC ‘good faith’ bargaining continues

**Eli Ridder**  
News Editor

College faculty will keep negotiating for a new collective agreement with Ontario’s colleges, the CAAT-A union said Thursday.

“We continue to bargain in good faith, and look forward to further productive discussions,” CAAT-A’s bargaining team told union members in an update.

CAAT-A, the academic bargaining section of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, and the College Employer Council (CEC) have been negotiating back and forth for much of the week under a media blackout.

OPSEU’s CAAT-A is expected to present its latest offer to the CEC team on Monday and has proposed meeting times for next week to continue bargaining.

Talks between the union and the College Employer Council have, at times, been tumultuous.

OPSEU and the CEC entered mediated talks on Sept. 28 but it fell apart as the union was unwilling to negotiate, according to mediator Brian Keller.

Despite the bargaining team accepting OPSEU’s suggestion to nominate Keller as the mediator for the talks, CAAT-A said it was concerned over his approach.

“In particular, we believe Mediator Keller’s conclusions about the proposals were arrived at on the basis of very little direct communication with the faculty bargaining team,” the union said in a prepared statement.

The colleges and faculty are seeking to renew their collective agreement last updated in 2017.

# Battle over student fees ends as Ford government gives up

Eli Ridder  
News Editor

The Student Choice Initiative is finally dead in the water.

The provincial government doesn't intend on appealing the Ontario Court of Appeal's upholding of a lower court's ruling that the initiative was unlawful.

The SCI allowed post-secondary students to opt out of paying ancillary fees not considered essential, but could include specific student union activities, campus newspapers and advocacy groups — longstanding institutions that would suffer a major blow through the policy.

A spokesperson for the minister of colleges and universities told the Canadian Press the province will not appeal the August ruling by the Ontario Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, meaning the initiative has no chance to be reinstated in its current form.

"We're really relieved," Kayla Weiler, a national executive for one of the student advocacy organizations that sued the Ontario government, told Humber Et Cetera.

"It's really great to hear that the government's finally listened to us and has agreed or decided to stop taking students to court," said Weiler, the Ontario representative of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Premier Doug Ford introduced the SCI in January 2019 to start his first full year in office to nationwide backlash from student leaders and student publications.

Many campus organizations were forced to cut staff, services and events when the SCI came into play for the fall 2019 semester.

However, the Canadian Federation of Students' Ontario division and the York Federation of Students filed a lawsuit against the government claiming the SCI was "unlawful."

The CFS suit was successful and the SCI was first thrown out by the Ontario Divisional Court in November 2019.

The Progressive Conservative government was quick to

carry out the policy.

The Ford government's track record with student leaders and advocacy groups has been largely negative since it came to power in June 2018.

Along with cuts to colleges and universities across the province, Ontario has slashed grants for the Ontario Student Assistance Program since the PCs formed the government.

"The past four years with the current government has been really hurtful to students and harmful," Weiler said, pointing to the Ford government's widespread cuts to the Ontario loans and grants program and to post-secondary institutions across the province.

"Pretty much everyone in the post-secondary sector has been hurt by the government."

Weiler said she looks forward to voting for candidates that support students and continuing to lobby on their behalf regardless of who is in power.

Ford and the PCs will face voters in an election next June.

**"IT'S REALLY GREAT TO HEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S FINALLY LISTENED TO US AND HAS AGREED OR DECIDED TO STOP TAKING STUDENTS TO COURT"**

**Kayla Weiler**

*Ontario representative of the Canadian Federation of Students*

respond in an appeal the following month.

The Court of Appeal for Ontario dismissed the challenge in August, stating the government would have to modify the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act in order to



BELI RIDDER

Ontario's divisional court ruled the SCI as unlawful. Student leaders from the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario, led by Kayla Weiler, speaking at the podium, celebrate a win in their lawsuit against the provincial Progressive Conservative government on Nov. 22, 2019.



CASSANDRA SPURRELL

Students exit a 927 TTC bus at the Humber College Bus terminal.

## TTC's new COVID-19 vaccine policy forcing it to cut back bus service

Barbara Patrocino  
News Reporter

Humber student Ainsley Gegear dreads that her long TTC ride to school is going to take longer.

The first-year cosmetology student, along with many other Humber College students, are bracing for any service reductions as a result of the layoffs of TTC driver due to the new mandatory vaccine requirement.

"It's already practically impossible to make it to my morning period classes on time, cause 927 is simply taking forever to show up," Gegear said. "So imagine when they really reduce the service."

Like her, other students said to be already noticing a slower and sparser service on some bus routes.

Kayla George, another first-year cosmetology student, who lives in Mississauga, is concerned since service delays on Routes 927 and 123 seem to have already kicked in.

"It will be even worse for those who have to take more than one bus because sometimes, the delay of the first one makes you miss the next," Kayla said.

The TTC announced last week in a news release that its November and December schedules will include "small and temporary service reductions." The cause: labour shortages caused by employees deemed "ineligible to work" after the vaccination deadline.

The policy states all employees

who are unvaccinated or haven't declared their vaccination status by Nov. 20 will be placed on unpaid leave until they can provide proof of full vaccination.

Employees still unvaccinated by Dec. 31 will be laid off, except for those with an approved exemption under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Other measures taken by TTC to address the expected worker shortage include hiring new operators and inviting recent retirees back to work, besides temporarily deferring capital projects and cancelling weekend and early week-night subway closures.

The reduction in the available workforce will mostly affect the TTC's bus network and that has Humber students worried.

"I haven't missed any classes yet because of the delays that are already happening, but I don't know what it's going to be like in the next few days," first-year law student Rosemary Taoabuenancy said.

Lucas Wawrow, a second-year Humber engineering student, said delays sometimes add to students' stress levels, "and you can already tell that some buses are slowing down."

"My buses [504] have been really sporadic," Wawrow said.

The TTC said when it announced its new mandatory vaccination policy in mid-October, about 85 per cent of its employees had shared their vaccination status, 89 per cent among those were already fully vaccinated.

# Ontario pauses full reopening as COVID-19 cases trend upward

**Danyal Khan**  
News Reporter

Premier Doug Ford is pausing the reopening.

Based on the advice of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario halted the relaxation of capacity limits in public settings where proof of vaccination is required.

This decision was made in an effort to respond to the public health trends happening across the province, Queen's Park said.

The province's hospital and intensive care capacity rate has continued to persist in a stable and steady manner. However, there has been an increase in positivity cases this past week. There were 642 reported cases on Nov. 10 and 603 new reports on Remembrance Day, all of them involving the Delta variant.

As the weather gets colder outside, more people are moving indoors, which is a signal for an increase in COVID-19 cases even with the province easing restrictions.

In addition, the province has decided to keep the existing requirements of proof of vaccination, capacity limits and physical distancing in place.

The higher-risk settings where

these measures will remain in place include nightclubs, event spaces, strip clubs, sex clubs and bathhouses.

The decision to keep these existing measures in place will give the province a better chance to cut down on hospitalizations and ICU admissions in the near future.

"Throughout the pandemic our government has taken a cautious approach to reopen, ensuring our hospital capacity remains stable and the province continues to report one of the lowest rates of active cases in the country," Health Minister Christine Elliot said.

Ontario's approach of easing measures is becoming successful with COVID-19 case rates remaining below the national average, with ICU admission rates staying below as well.

The province continues to encourage people to follow public health and safety measures and get vaccinated.

"It is necessary to make this deliberate pause as we approach the winter holidays where more people will begin gathering indoors and where students will be returning to in-class learning in January after celebrating with friends and family," Moore said.



FRAN JACQUIER/UNSPASH

Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's chief medical officer of health, encourages people to follow public health and safety measures and get vaccinated since the weather is getting colder and more people gather indoors.



GEOGIRL/FICKR/WIKIMEDIA

The American Pit Bull terrier is one of the prohibited breeds in Ontario. The Ontario government announced it would loosen the ban on Pit Bulls but backtracked after a 13-year-old boy was attacked in Toronto.

## Ford stalls reversal of pit bull ban after attack on teenager

**Joshua Drakes**  
News Reporter

The Doug Ford government announced it was loosening pit bull regulations on Nov. 1, but has halted any further changes following an attack on the same day.

Pit bulls were banned in Ontario in 2005 after two attacks on a Toronto man.

Following years of the ban, known as breed-specific legislation, Ford had promised to rescind it.

The government was to start with releasing potential pit bulls until their breeds were confirmed. However on the same day, a 13-year-old Vaughan, Ont., boy was bitten in the face by one of the released dogs, which uprooted the province's plans.

But pit bull supporters are undeterred.

"They are really intelligent, and make great family pets," said Elissa St. John, a local foster caregiver. "Sadly, they are often abused and are subject to physical changes like clipped ears to make them look more intimidating."

Despite earlier statements by Ford suggesting further easing of restrictions, including a potential removal of the ban, the premier has changed his mind, and now says there is no im-

mediate move to further change any laws.

"Nothing is going to change right at this point," said Ford when asked about plans to repeal the ban. "Our thoughts are with the family."

American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Pit Bull Terriers, and American Pit Bull Terriers are directly named in the ban, as well as any dog that resembles them.

Among the many vocal critics are dog owners themselves.

From the beginning of the ban dog owners have voiced their opposition to a rule they believe unfairly punishes a breed of dog rather than the people that are supposed to train them.

Pit bulls have been known to be used as fighting dogs, to which supporters of the breed believe that the punishments should target the owners that abuse their dogs in this way.

St. John said that pit bulls are not any more violent than other breeds, they have been bred into it.

"Any dog can be trained to be mean, but unfortunately pit bulls were chosen," she said. "People also get them and don't train them correctly."

Vocal opposition is also found in animal rights groups and charities throughout the province. These organizations have

said that the ban unfairly targets breeds and again, not the people owning them.

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals provided a statement outlining its position.

"The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society is in favour of repealing the pit bull ban," said Melissa Kosowan, the associate communications director.

While it is unable to alter regulations, the OSPCA took steps to protect animals within the confines of the law.

"When any piece of legislation is incongruent with the mission of the charity, the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society undertakes courses of action to protect the interests of animals and animal well-being," Kosowan said.

"An example of this would include the transfer of a pit bull to a geographic area where pit bulls may be legally owned," she said.

Pit bulls have a mixed history, having been the subject of widespread breeding, and in some cases, being used as fighting dogs, but this has not always been the case.

More than 100 years ago, they were known as "nanny dogs" due to their affinity for children and family units. This is a stark contrast from the current stereotype of the breed being aggressive and dangerous is rampant.

# Remembering compassionate, selfless Humber Journalism alumna Fatima Baig

**Sarah Hurtado**  
News Reporter

Caring, talented, trustworthy, compassionate, selfless.

That was Fatima Baig, a brilliant person and journalist, who passed away Sunday at the age of 28 after complications from a colonoscopy.

Baig was a two-time liver transplant recipient and an advocate for organ donation. But her impact went beyond her illness. Her light and heart were massive, all fit in a small, four-foot-7 body.

"She put everyone else's interests above hers first," said Clement Goh, senior writer and VR editor at CGMagazine.

"She would take all the time as a friend, and as a journalist, to listen to people first, to always make sure their problems were heard first," the former classmate said.

"She would set aside a lot of her own struggles, to make sure that everyone around her was okay," Goh said, recalling the four years he spent

side-by-side with Baig, walking the Humber corridors.

"That had to be the best thing that I saw about her every day," he said. "She would always be sitting in the front row, she would always be paying attention.



COURTESY FATIMA BAIG'S FAMILY

Fatima Baig was 28 years old when she died Nov. 7. Her friend Clement Goh described her as a hard-working and passionate journalist.

"Even if there was a huge blizzard, or an optional class, or

one of those lectures you didn't really feel you had to show up, Fatima was always there, no matter what."

Baig was able to take her story of being a two-time liver transplant recipient and share her struggles in her book *Fatima's Journey*.

She also gave numerous interviews, sharing her story in hopes of inspiring people facing similar challenges.

Siobhan Moore, one of her Lakeshore Journalism professors, said Baig was quiet in class until when she wanted to make a point about an issue.

"She was passionate, or if a classmate said something she disagreed with, she spoke up right away," she said. "Fatima spoke extremely well and was straightforward with her questions.

"When she started interviewing she was fearless and tenacious and her questions were well-worded," Moore said. "She was a wonderful person and we were all so lucky to have known her."



CLEMENT GOH

Fatima Baig, who passed away last Monday, interned at Global News alongside Humber Bachelor of Journalism grad student Clement Goh.

Goh said Baig was not a person who shied away from telling her story "if that meant that someone could listen, and someone could be inspired to become an organ donor, or to live their life to the fullest, which is exactly what she told me in different ways for the past four years we spent together."

Baig also volunteered with Operation SMILE, writing stories for children with disabilities, and had recently started working at Muslim Sources.

Beatriz Balderrama Baleeiro, a recent Humber journalism graduate, said she was saddened by the news.

"My heart is broken," she said. "Fatima was an example of kindness and perseverance. She will always be in my heart."

Goh remembered Fatima advising him on the importance of finding balance in life.

"She was the only person brave enough to come up to me, and say 'How long have you been here for?' 'Eat, talk to your family, take a shower,'" he said.

"I was blown away, not just because she was the only person to come up and talk to me, but because she cared about me from the start, in a way that no one else at school had before," Goh said.

Baig's friends could always count on her for help with school work, or to cheer them up through texts and memes.

"She was loved by so many, and I feel like I lost a big part of me," Goh said.

# Bill Davis remembered as champion for education

**Joshua Drakes**  
News Reporter

William Davis, the late premier and education minister, was remembered in a memorial service as a shining example of how politics should be handled, and as a champion of education.

"Bill's goal was always to help people," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said at the memorial service for Davis held on Nov. 4. "That's why he loved politics, because he knew it was there, that he could get things done. And that's what Bill Davis was all about."

In 1959, at the age of 29, Davis was first elected into the province's Legislative Assembly, for the southern Ontario constituency of Peel.

He was a backbench supporter of the government of Leslie Frost and became the chief organizer

for Robert Macaulay's campaign to succeed him as the premier and Progressive Conservative party leader.

After Macaulay was defeated, he and Davis supported John Robarts on the final vote, who ended up winning in no small part to their support.

Davis would be appointed to the cabinet of Robarts as the Minister Of Education in 1962 and then Minister of University Affairs in two years later. It was during this time that education spending skyrocketed by nearly 450 per cent by 1971.

That same year, Davis was elected Premier, with particular achievements being the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution and medical and education sector expansions throughout his terms.

Davis would create the community colleges system during his tenure as Minister of Educa-

tion and would continue it when he was premier.

The goal was to establish accessible post-secondary institutions in local areas to serve the communities they were built in. The first of these new colleges would be Centennial College, founded in 1966. Humber followed in 1967.

In this regard, Toronto Mayor John Tory praised Davis for being ahead of his time and leading the charge in matters that would take decades for others to grasp.

"Premier Davis sensed where Ontario of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s was going," Tory said at the Davis memorial. "Understanding that one of the great equalizers, perhaps the greatest, was education, and leading the charge to establish the college system. He changed so many lives for the better."

To date, Ontario has 24 public

colleges throughout the province, offering "career-oriented, post-secondary education and training," according to the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act.

But the program has evolved far beyond its original purpose. Ontario colleges are now international hubs of learning and some now offer Bachelor's degrees.

Humber College itself has seen a lot of changes since its founding. Its original focus was skill-based training courses for Etobicoke and the Borough of York but rapidly expanded as enrolment increased.

By 1980 Humber was offering weekend programs and adaptive classes tailored to a changing job field. Humber also had begun an international outreach program.

Now, Humber is the centre of learning for nearly 20,000 full-time students studying in more

than 200 programs, a monumental change from its community-based origin.

Davis, throughout his political career, made many friendships spanning the political divides that helped ensure his success.

Among those politicians is former Ontario NDP leader and Premier Bob Rae, who said Davis always fought to improve the province and that his connections were an example of how the game should be played.

"He was a tough partisan when he needed to be," Rae said. "And yet he made a point of cultivating friendships across the divides that often make politics too bitter, and too narrow."

Davis, affectionately nicknamed Brampton Billy, set out to create accessible education for local students, but he helped create a legacy of accessible education for thousands worldwide.

# Women's rights in Afghanistan under threat once again

**Megan Rampersaud**  
News Reporter

Regime change in Afghanistan has reinstated women in the land-locked country to what are considered traditional roles. That means a return to restrictions in education, work and daily life, as it was before the NATO invasion in 2001.

Although the Taliban initially said it would rule differently than it did before in the 1990s when it quickly reclaimed the country after the Americans withdrew in August, promises concerning education and employment opportunities for women were soon broken.

The Taliban cracked down on protests by women, and removed the ability for them to be part of civil society, be journalists or involved in politics.

To Farheen Damji, a nurse at Trillium Hospital in Mississauga, nothing was surprising about the oppression of Afghan women.

"This issue has been around for a long time," Damji said. She suspects resistance will continue and grow.

"There are so many women nowadays who are advancing rights," she said. "Now they are encouraging their daughters to go out and do jobs."



AFGHAN WOMEN'S NETWORK/THE GENDER AGENCY/FLICKR  
Afghan women seek their rights and advocate for women's political participation in Afghanistan in 2015.

In September, the Taliban education minister Abdul Baqi revealed a policy to impose new restrictions on girls in sports. The policy included gender-segregated classrooms, Islamic dress codes, and other rules. Details about revising subject content taught to the separated genders are currently limited.

While the return of the Taliban put the plight of Afghan women back in the international spotlight, that kind of gender oppression is not unique to Afghanistan.

Ishara Yahampath, a student at York University, said that her country, Sri Lanka has a male-dominated society. There

are similar issues of women's rights what is expected of them, such as women are not allowed to be outside alone after midnight.

"Policies need to be changed, and change means that women should not be marginalized or oppressed in society," Yahampath said.

International Development Minister Karina Gould said on social media that Canada is "deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, including the potential collapse of financial and social systems, and the devastating impact this would have on the most vulnerable, especially women and girls."

She said Canada must "act urgently" with partners in Afghanistan and Canada to continue relocating Afghanistan women.

Gould said Ottawa committed \$50 million in humanitarian aid on top of the \$27 million provided earlier this year.

Organizations in Canada, such as the Afghan Association of Ontario and the Afghan Women's Organization, offers refugees and immigrants education, employment, mental health, and youth programs.

Although these organizations work toward the personal and societal growth of Afghan Canadians and immigrant women,

they also offer the opportunity to learn more about their countries' political situation in order to support women fighting for human rights in their countries.

Afghan Association of Ontario has a TV broadcasting program that focuses on issues like education, employment, and health in Canada, and provides the freedom for women to express their views and to grow.

Canadian women send support to women in Afghanistan, including providing emotional support and funding to the Omid-E-Mirmun Orphanage in Kabul.

"I think the programs in Canada offer a lot of support for the women, for immigrants, and for the issues that are happening back home," said Elmira Khan, an esthetician from Iraq who now lives in Richmond Hill, Ont.

Khan said that people do feel fortunate to live in a country — like Canada — that allows them to voice their concerns, have support groups and allow protests.

"In Iraq, things have gotten better, but there is still much more work that needs to be done, it's still a Middle Eastern country and an Islamic state so religion plays a huge factor that limits a lot of rights and freedoms," Khan said.

## IGNITE opposes Humber's bid to increase tuition paid by international students

**Ashima Agnihotri**  
News Reporter

Humber College and IGNITE collided as the college plans to increase tuition fees for international students starting the summer of 2022.

"I come from a middle-class family, my parents are already struggling to fund my education. I can't afford to give away the pennies I have left," said Diana Tuganova, a second-year international student from Kazakhstan in the Advertising and Graphic Design program.

Humber recently announced it will increase international students' tuition fees for the 2022-23 academic year, starting in May. IGNITE, the student union body will advocate against this increase as it "promotes affordable education and essential support."

Current fees for international students range by course from \$9,988 a year to \$30,517.50 a year.

"I pay and pay and pay. Then I pay some more," Tuganova said.

Andrew Ness, the dean of international students, was unavailable for comment.

Humber is home to about 6,000 international students. These students pay four or five times the domestic student's tuition.

"The minimum wage increased by a dollar but the living wage is much more than that. I thought I came to Canada for better living standards but the situation has become worse," Tuganova said.

The student engagement coordinators and board of directors are talking to Humber's leadership to provide international students with additional financial support and express any concerns. Their efforts have led to more than \$210,000 to be set aside for monetary assistance for international students.

"While we are disappointed in the institution's final decision, we will continue our efforts to ensure the student's voice is heard," IGNITE said in its statement.

IGNITE is calling on the Ontario government to provide tuition relief, implement a tuition freeze and increase the base operating grant fund for colleges. This will help

reduce the burden of covering operational costs on international students.

"Our wallets aren't empty yet but it seems like they soon will be," said Amina Omarov, Tuganova's mother.

Tuition costs are outlined by the ministry of colleges and universities, Humber's website says.

Humber did not reduce tuition fees during the pandemic. Although, most of the courses were delivered online, saying "tuition is not specific to location or mode of delivery. It is primarily for the instruction, assessment, and administration of program delivery, which is ongoing."

"This is going to mess with our budget and expenses," said Prashant Kumar, an international student from India who is in his second year of the Computer System Technician program. "Instead of decreasing, they are increasing our tuition? Very disappointed."

International Students Impact On The Canadian Economy reads that international students contributed almost \$20 billion to Canada's GDP in 2018.

"Humber needs to realize we are only allowed to work two days a week, with that little money we have to cover the cost of rent, transport and other bills," Kumar said.

Kumar and others alike are concerned about covering the costs of living and paying bills on time.

"I need to reconsider my priorities," he said.

Canada is the world's third-leading destination and Ontario is the largest beneficiary of foreign students. Indian and Chinese students are among the highest population of international students, comprising 34 per cent of students.

"The country is heavily dependent on international students and somehow we are not getting the treatment we deserve," Tuganova said.

At Humber, new international students are required to pay the entire amount of their first semester fees as their tuition deposit. Returning international students must pay a mandatory, non-refundable tuition deposit of \$1,000.

# Eternals draws ire of conservatives over LGBTQ+ character

**Despite positive responses from LGBTQ+ fans, Marvel's Eternals trolled by reactionaries**

**Jesse Glazer**  
Arts Reporter

Marvel Studios' *Eternals* was released last weekend to mixed reviews, but it seems most of the distaste stems from the LGBTQ+ representation in the film.

The Eternals — created by comic artist Jack Kirby — are a group of immortal beings created by the Celestials, a group of God-like creatures in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) that are responsible for life and the creation of the universe.

One of the Eternals, Phastos, played by Brian Tyree Henry, is the focus of the controversy for being the first openly gay superhero in the MCU.

Kate Ellis, president and CEO of GLAAD, said in a statement that, with the introduction of Phastos, the Eternals changed what it means to be a superhero on screen “in ways that audiences around the world will applaud.”

GLAAD monitors LGBTQ+ characters in major studio releases through its Studio Responsibility Index reports and has seen too few. On average, these characters receive fewer than three minutes of screen-time.

“But Phastos, his husband, and their son play important roles in *Eternals*, setting a new standard for LGBTQ+ representation across the genre,” Ellis said.

Joe Balfour, a Marvel fan based in London, England, tweeted after seeing the film, saying Marvel’s “representation of queer people in the MCU has been awful.”

“It meant so much to see a gay man in *Eternals* kiss his husband, show love for his family, and then actually be a [expletive] badass in the final act,” he said.

Fans of the film took to social media to share their experiences with friends and family about the film. But on apps like Facebook, such posts were almost immediately flagged for “violating community guidelines,”



MARVEL STUDIOS

Phastos (Brian Tyree Henry) is at the centre of controversy for Marvel's new film, *Eternals*. Phastos is Marvel's first on-screen LGBTQ+ character.

causing confusion and even anger for a lack of clarity.

“It’s upsetting that such a big company can get it so wrong,” Balfour said.

He said it’s disappointing criticism of the film is largely about something so positive. But he said those who choose to bash representation in *Eternals* online are but a vocal few.

“Many more people are going to see these characters and have their eyes opened and have these characters normalized,” Balfour said. “It’s going to show so many young queer people that they are amazing being themselves.”

Andrew Deman, a professor of English literature at the University of Waterloo, who specializes in comic books, said in the 1950s comics got hit hard by a censorship bureau known as the Comics Code Authority —

much like the Hays Code in film — which targeted LGBTQ+ representation.

“Comics couldn’t represent homosexuality in any form, for a very long time, though they still did it subversively through things like queer-baiting and dog-whistling,” Deman said.

**“I THINK IT’S PART OF A CALCULATED RISK-MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, IT’S TO SHOW FILMS AND PUT QUEER PEOPLE IN FILMS BUT ONLY DO SO IN WAYS THAT DOESN’T ALIENATE SOME PARTS OF THE MARKET”**

**Jonathan Petrychyn**

Postdoctoral fellow at X University

He said after some years, the authority continued to see pushback — particularly from writers like Marvel’s Stan Lee and DC’s Dennis O’Neil — and the industry realized it had the ability to tell these stories more overtly.

While Lee and O’Neil wrote

realistic stories about drug abuse in the 1970s, it wasn’t until the March 1992 issue of *Alpha Flight* 106 where gay issues were dealt with openly. In that edition, the character Northstar came out. Marvel issued a mini-series in 2003 with *The Rawhide Kid* where the lead character was gay.

Jonathan Petrychyn, a postdoctoral fellow at X University in Toronto specializing in queer film studies, said for Marvel and Disney it’s perhaps less about catching up and more

about recognizing queer people make up a significant segment of the market.

“I think it’s part of a calculated risk-management strategy, it’s to show films and put queer people in films but only do so in ways that doesn’t alienate some parts of the market but still grabs the

part that queer people make up,” he said.

As for the way Facebook has handled the issue of LGBTQ+ representation in *Eternals*, or even the film itself, Petrychyn said this is par for the course and they have aggressive anti-gay policies and algorithms in place.

“I work with an organization called the Toronto Queer Film Festival, and this is something we’ve faced,” he said. “When we try to advertise our screenings, we’re often ‘shadow-banned’ or outright banned for posting this stuff.”

“Facebook does this all the time,” Petrychyn said. “It’s a lot better today than it was yesterday and it’s going to get better tomorrow only if we keep working and only if we keep holding people accountable.”

Petrychyn hopes people in the LGBTQ+ community recognize this online backlash to the film, represent a very small, yet vocal minority.

There’s still much work to do towards queer and trans inclusion in Canada and North America, but the world has come quite far.



# Halyna Hutchins' death sparks safety discussions

**Trishelle Dotson**  
Arts Reporter

A-list actor Alec Baldwin was unaware the gun was loaded. He watched, horrified, as he pulled the trigger that killed 42-year-old Halyna Hutchins on the set of *Rust* and who now leaves behind a husband and son.

Hutchins, who was named one of American Cinematographers Rising Stars of 2019, was the director of photography on *Rust*.

With so many people on set, many wonder how something like this could happen.

Canadian filmmaker and actor Mark Pettit knows first-hand how fast things can move on set. In hectic 12-to-16-hour days, or longer, there is very little room for error.

"It's very evident that there's a lot of people that don't understand the risks and the hazards that are around them," Pettit said. "And we put trust in the professionals that work on set with us."

Pettit said people tend to live in their own bubbles, and it's worse

when shooting on location. People get wrapped up in their own heads in such a fast-moving environment and the sense of reality and focus on safety can be overlooked.

"If they're getting yelled at to bring something into set really quickly, and they're by the camera cart, they could take two steps onto a live road thinking, you know, that traffic is fully aware that we're shooting here," he said.

But amid the chaos of a set, there are safety precautions required when a gun is used. A certified gun wrangler (armourer) must always be present. Guns are checked, proofed, and everyone using a weapon is put through vigorous training.

Steve White, a veteran gun wrangler of 30 years, said participants are "told how each weapon works. They walk through the safety protocols, where the safeties are, how to fire."

"You never aim at a person, you never aim towards a camera," White said. "And there should

never be a time where the gun is left unattended."

In Canada, live rounds are prohibited on set, but White said injury from a blank round can still be very serious.

"If you took that gun and you put it to your head, and you pull the trigger, even though there's no projectile, the inertia and gases would blow a chunk of your skull in your brain," he said.

But safety isn't always the top priority with budgets and schedules at stake.

"I've been on set where I've had producers and directors tell me to do the most ridiculous things," White said. "And I'm like, that's not happening."

"They're like, this is my movie. And I'm like, these are my props," he said. "I signal my crew to pack everything up, we're leaving."

Jake Howard, head clerk at Movie Armaments Group, praised gun wranglers for their high standards and professionalism.

"If you're not gonna give us a space to make sure we could do this properly, then we're

just gonna leave," Howard said. "Because that's how seriously we take the safety of everything."

Guideline 39 for Film and Television production outlines precautions while firearms are used on set in Ontario. But legislation can only do so much, even if everyone on set is certified. Safety takes precedence over everything because while on screen, people have multiple lives, but it's a make believe world that doesn't apply to real life.



STEVE WHITE

Steve White, a veteran gun wrangler and armourer in Toronto.



GETTY IMAGES/ FRED HAYES

Cinematographer Halyna Hutchins died on the set of *Rust* on Oct 21.

# 'It Happened During The Quarantine' takes centre stage

**Antonio Clarke**  
Arts Reporter

Talent from Humber College's theatre performance program was on full display at the recent *It Happened During The Quarantine's* theatrical run.

The production itself managed to stay close to campus with the majority of the cast members being either active students or graduates, each playing their own respective roles, thus bringing more attention to the acting talent at Humber.

Henrique Santsper, the director of *It Happened During The Quarantine* and a graduate of Humber College's Theatre Performance program, saw the creative process of the play come together by talking about the actions of the global health crisis building in 2020.

"Alex Rieflin, one of the actors of the play and executive producer, he texted me that he also liked the idea, and we both just kept writing and creating things," Santsper said.

With the idea slowly building before coming to life, there was still the additional concern of the play being held in person. With that not being an option,

Santsper had to find another way to take the production to the stage with the assistance of Third Wheel Theatre Co, the theatre company under which the play was made.

*It Happened During The Quarantine*, which ran from Nov. 5 to 7 virtually, depicts the lifestyle changes many people went through in the beginning stages of the global health crisis by keying in on the storylines of several different characters,

ranging from nurses to teenagers and young adults that have identified themselves as non-binary or part of the LGBTQ+ community.

the production. The stakes for Blake are very high. They came out to their parents as non-binary during the lockdown and their parents don't accept them,"

Kooner said.

However, limited interaction, and the occasional tech issues, created an additional hurdle when it came to rehearsals for the play. Cassandra Sinnaeve, a Theatre Performance student at Humber College and one of the show's performers,

said the virtual aspect of the show made it accessible to be a part of despite the technical issues.

"Having the show online has

made some parts difficult such as being in the moment and connecting with your scene partner because of the barrier of the screens," Sinnaeve said. "But being online also made it possible for me to be a part of the wonderful play and process because I am currently in school at Humber and would not have much or any time to get to rehearsals and the shows otherwise."

Cast member Steven James played a role that represents a real person that he modelled his character after.

"I played Jordan Valens. Jordan is a senior co-working training a younger co-worker to replace him when he retires," James said.

"I play Charlie, a young guy just trying to advance himself in his company but is constantly put in the position of delivering bad news," Rieflin said.

Despite the play being written for a virtual audience, the company still has plenty more ideas in the works for in-person performances when it's safe to do so.



SHAYNA BURNS

"It Happened During The Quarantine" was a virtual performance by Humber students and grads put on by Third Wheel Theatre Company.

Simran Kooner, a second-year Theatre Performance student at Humber College, played a standout role.

"I play 16-year-old Blake in



PIXAR

PIXAR's *Lightyear* is one of Disney's 2022 releases that may see a hybrid release, similar to those of *Luca*, *Soul* and *Black Widow*.

## Disney seeks 'flexibility' with 2022 film releases, eyeing theatres and online

Jesse Glazer  
Arts Reporter

Theatres everywhere have slowly recovered as the world clawed its way out of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Disney CEO Bob Chapek won't commit to exclusive theatrical releases post-2021.

Chapek preached flexibility during an earnings call on Nov. 10 about the company's plan for theatrical releases as the new year approaches.

"We are sticking with our plan of flexibility because we are still unsure about how the marketplace is going to react," Chapek said.

The company announced in September its remaining 2021 film slate would release exclusively in theatres for 45 days — except for Disney's *Encanto*, which would release in theatres for 30 days — before heading to Disney+.

Chapek said Disney will continue to focus on what's best for its shareholders and will continue to stick with the strategy of choosing not to announce films that far in advance of expected release dates because the world is in a time of flux and change.

Jessica Bay, a doctorate candidate in Communications and Culture at York University, said Chapek is signalling to theatre owners his business strategy is changing and it's a smart move on the part of Disney.

"It allows them to acknowledge the theatre owners and their importance to the business of film distribution and exhibition, while still offering the studio the ability to send films direct to streaming for a

specific audience," she said.

"Disney's history as a provider of children's entertainment and creator of direct-to-video content will probably help them with this move," Bay continued.

This "non-committal attitude" by the Disney CEO has interesting timing. As the cool weather rolls around and more people are forced indoors, COVID-19 cases have surged in certain areas, particularly in major metropolitan cities like Toronto. The city and the province it's located in have seen its weekly average case numbers climb since the Halloween weekend.

And yet, Marvel's *Eternals* saw a \$71.3 million opening weekend domestically on its way to a \$162 million globally — despite mixed reviews.

Disney was initially motivated to commit to theatrical windows for its remaining 2021 films, certainly because of rising vaccination rates among populations key to their sales and dwindling COVID case numbers, and because of the success of *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* which is nearing US\$430 million in total revenue.

Despite Disney not committing to a strictly theatrical model, theatres are still looking to the future for the best outcome.

"Now more than ever, we are providing every guest with a great entertainment experience and are taking proactive steps to increase visitation," Ellis Jacobs, CEO of Cineplex Entertainment, said at the company's third quarter results call on Nov. 11.

"We are encouraged by the strong pipeline of upcoming film product and the signs of a return to normalcy that we are all craving," he said.

# Road to fame bittersweet says Toronto musician

Mandy Li  
Arts Reporter

For Toronto-based singer Ashavari Joshi, getting recognized in the music industry is hard, even with the power of social media.

She said a musician's success doesn't depend on the number of followers or activity. Those are just tools for exposure.

"Success isn't defined by how popular you are on social media," Joshi said. "A musician can only have a couple thousand followers and are verified because they have a real group of listeners."

Still, independent artists don't often have the resources to invest in promotion and social media is the only way for them to get out there.

"The only thing we really have is paid ads, and even then, everybody is seeing a different paid ad every day," Joshi said. "It's like you're screaming into a void."

Thomas McKercher, Humber's music business program coordinator, said he believes music promotion to be an integral part of musicians getting their music out there.

"Promoting music online is essential for a musician to succeed, there's no way around it," McKercher said. "They should get help from someone they trust if they aren't social media

savvy."

Social media serves as a launching pad for musicians, so they need to embrace using it to promote their music.

"If an artist thinks they don't need social media to promote, they shouldn't be in the music industry at all," McKercher said. "They might as well go sell shoes for a living."

However, musicians can't just upload their songs onto social media platforms hoping to get noticed.

"There are over 60,000 songs uploaded to streaming platforms daily," McKercher said. "If you upload it and don't promote it, who's going to find it and listen to it?"

Getting recognition in the industry is tough, even with promotions.

"In the past, people would hear songs on the radio, look into the artist and become a fan," Joshi said. "Now, it's like so what? You were on the radio. Did it convert any fans? No. How do people measure that? By followers?"

Andrew Scott, program coordinator of Humber's music program, notes that genre plays a big part in being successful.

"Jazz, classical, or folk music is considered more niche," he said. "You don't hear them on the radio a lot because they are only attracting a certain percentage

of sales and streaming."

More than 50 per cent of music sold and streamed in the past year was hip hop.

"It's the best-selling genre," McKercher said. "It's called popular music for a reason, it's just what's current."

Musicians shouldn't chase a trend they aren't passionate about in hopes of reaching more people.

"An artist should always ask themselves if they would listen to their own music," Joshi said. "If you hate your own music, then why would anyone else like it?"

Scott said while musicians can focus on one genre, being flexible is the key to succeeding in the industry.

"If you're set on being a classical piano player, you need the dedication and work ethic to learn the language," he said. "But at the same time, there are lots of opportunities to learn a bunch of other things. There's a richness of opportunity that comes with it."

Having a decent career in the music industry is difficult, and requires a tremendous amount of work because it's all trial and error.

"Failures are the midwives of success," Scott said. "Part of becoming successful at something is being rejected and failing."



ASHAVARI JOSHI

Ashavari Joshi, a Toronto-based musician, released her EP, *Bittersweet*. She says promoting herself is hard.



Champion Cycle, a motorcycle shop in North York. Owner Danny Haig bought his first bike at 16, when he discovered “the feeling of freedom, liberty, and exhilarating joy” it brings.

# The evolving culture of motorcycles

**Nathan Abraha**  
Life Reporter

Motorcycle culture has lost some of its glory, according to Wayne “Tattoo Tony” Doucette, owner of Heavy Duty Cycles, a motorcycle repair shop on Kingston Road in Toronto, Ont.

“Back in the day, we were all hardcore,” he said.

“We rode, we fixed our bikes and we looked out for each other,” Doucette said, “Today that mentality is pretty much gone, all the older guys, they’re either dead or they can’t hold their bikes up anymore.”

Doucette, 62, began his journey in Nova Scotia. His first ride was 47 years ago as a young man looking for adventure. Something he no longer sees today.

“The new generation coming up they’re more into the tech stuff, just push the button and go, you know,” he said. “They’re not really into it as a lifestyle.”

A black bandana over long grey hair, a tattoo latched on the left side of his face, and a scruffy goatee to complete the look, Doucette is a snapshot of the past, the biker that used to be.

“You know, I’m getting there, I got arthritis on my hands and wrists,” he said. “A lot of guys like me are just a dying breed.”

Doucette never forgot his first

bike, a Honda Hellcat 350. His first ride, a trip around Cape Breton, wasn’t for the faint-hearted.

“I rode 1,200 miles, never rode a bike before. I dropped it twice. I smashed it a couple of times. I went down on the pavement,” he said. “I really learned by the time I finished that I was a pretty good rider.”

But sometimes even bikers have to ride into the sunset.

Doucette is tired, as he paced around his shop talking to his crew. His passion is clear but the end is near for his time at the shop.

“My plans are to move up north and buy a piece of property, a little place for my grandkids,” he said.

Danny Haig, founder of Champion Cycle, located on Weston Road in Toronto, brought his first big motorcycle home at 16. His mom told him he had a choice to make, home or the bike. Haig chose his ride.

“If somebody hasn’t ridden a motorcycle, they couldn’t understand the feeling of freedom, liberty, and exhilarating joy that being on a motorcycle brings,” he said.

Haig won competitions across Canada and the United States, building a reputation as a talented drag racer before opening his shop.

“We’re not like most shops,

we don’t target one genre of rider,” Haig said. “We do racing, cruisers, Japanese sports bikes, Japanese metric bikes, we do custom ATV, we do so much custom fabrication. We don’t have one kind of genre.”

Sean Mayars doesn’t fit the outlaw image, he’s an advertiser and realtor at Century21. Mayars found himself becoming a biker in an unusual way. A client worked at Honda Canada. One thing led to another and a passion was born, a godsend during the pandemic.

“Just getting on a bike and going for a ride, my mind was completely clear,” he said. “I was riding with a smile on my face. It’s actually a very therapeutic thing to do.”

“Not only are motorcycles therapeutic,” Mayars said. “They make friends.

“Any time you’re riding around with a motorcycle, or your bike is parked, or you’re standing by it, people always stop to talk about the bike,” he said. “Some are riders, others wish they were riders, or just love the whole idea of a motorcycle.”

Then there’s the branding. “It’s a unique thing for my clients to have this real-estate agent show up with a motorcycle, leather jacket, and helmet and start showing houses,” Mayars said.



NATHAN ABRAHA

Wayne “Tattoo Tony” Doucette, owner of Heavy Duty Cycles in Toronto.



NATHAN ABRAHA

Sean Mayars, advertiser and realtor at Century21, with his motorcycle.

## EDITORIAL

# Remembrance of courage, sacrifice and heroism is a global affair

Every family has been affected by war.

As Canada is a welcoming country to people of many backgrounds, we now remember not only the Canadians impacted in war but veterans around the world.

November 11 is a day when Commonwealth countries remember the effort every fallen soldier made to end a war. The list is terribly long, including The War to End all Wars, the Second World War, Korea and the Cold War, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, and all the peacekeeping missions.

Many countries, including France and the United States, commemorate the signing of armistices that ended the First and Second World Wars.

Poland also celebrates its Independence Day on November 11. The end of the war allowed it to once again become a self-governed territory.

And though armistice and independence were the begin-



BOJAN POPOVICH/PEXELS

The red poppy flower symbolizes and honours the 60,000 Canadians who died in the First World War.

ning of this day of Remembrance, the day has now grown to remember our fallen soldiers throughout the end of the 20th

and into the 21st century. This includes hundreds of thousands of soldiers who were lost through wars and peacekeeping

missions all over the world.

More than 60,000 Canadians died in service during the First World War, and nearly 200,000

were wounded, many of whom were disabled.

Close to 1.2 million Canadians were involved in the Second World War, from which nearly 50,000 died.

War is evil. We read of heart-breaking stories from families being broken apart, lovers torn apart and children left alone.

That is why we have a moment of silence for the more than 40 million affected during the First World War and the more than 85 million by the Second World War

We might not feel the grief that families felt when receiving death notices years ago. But we can feel pain when thinking of it. A century ago, those soldiers couldn't imagine what they were actually fighting for and what they helped achieve.

Peace.

We are no longer bound to the rules of the old world. Soldiers' sacrifices were a ticket to our freedom. It allows us to bring harmony and peace to our homes, neighborhoods and cities.

## OPINION

## Adapting to Ontario as an international student is tough



**Karl Lewis**  
News Reporter

When I first arrived in Canada, I lived with my family. But the need for privacy and proximity to school grew along with my course load. For a full-time international student, the price of independence in the Greater Toronto Area can be a challenge.

My first shock came when the Canadian immigration officer told me "you are only allowed to work 20 hours per week." I went

stone cold and zoned-out after hearing that.

"How will I survive working only part-time and having to finance school and rent?" I asked myself.

Two weeks after being in Canada, I moved out of the hotel recommended to me by a family friend and into a beautiful one-bedroom basement apartment in Brampton, where I paid \$1,200 a month, including all amenities.

Undoubtedly, this was way above my monthly earnings, but I made it work since it was close to work, and I could save on transit fare and food items. Even so, my salary could not sustain my lifestyle.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the economy went into complete shutdown. I was unemployed for more than a year, and I could not pay my bills. That affected me tremendously. But I was fortunate enough to

have a family who could take me back into their house during the pandemic.

The budget for my living and school expenses now stands at \$2,500 monthly. While I'm grateful for the family support, there are other bills I have to pay on my own, and working 20 hours a week produces income far below the threshold needed to live comfortably in this province.

With Premier Doug Ford's recent announcement of increasing the province's minimum wage, I was excited. But the increase will ease the pressure only slightly. Obviously, earning \$15 an hour is better than making \$14.35. But 75 cents more an hour is not likely to change many lives. For instance, my biweekly income will rise to \$600 from \$570.

During the pandemic, many businesses went into complete lockdown, forcing their employees to apply for govern-

ment assistance or work from home. School, too, was entirely online.

To receive any available benefits, applicants had to work a certain number of hours before the pandemic and show their financial circumstances. Many students were forced to return to family homes.

Some post-secondary students petitioned their schools for assistance with their expenses. Humber College was among the schools that announced emergency relief benefits, and the college continues to support students. For this, I am grateful.

Later, the government, too, acknowledged that students, especially those from other countries, were unable to meet requirements for support and made minor changes. Even so, the benefits only covered a few months of expenses.

As the price of food, gas, and rent increases, many students

worry about their ability to sustain themselves. For some, ensuring that their mental health is in good shape has been their top priority during times of unprecedented social crisis and steady stress and anxiety.

I continue to reminisce on the life I lived in Jamaica as compared to here in Canada. I remember my grandmother saying, "one, one cocoa full basket," which translates to "do not expect to achieve success overnight."

Indeed, success does not happen overnight. As students, we must budget wisely and make sound decisions.

Living in Ontario can be expensive. For students, budgeting — like time management — is an essential skill. And taking advantage of resources available on campus through the International Centre and through IGNITE can help set you on the right path.

# Houseplants offer a positive focus in a negative world



**Sierra MacPherson**  
Art Director

Houseplants are beneficial for more than just aesthetics, and they make for a great hobby during the pandemic to boost emotional wellbeing.

In the spring of 2020, when life as we knew it seemed to pause indefinitely, my dad brought me home a succulent one day. Little did he know, a new passion of mine would start to grow right along with that plant, and I'd reap the benefits of indoor gardening that I never knew existed.

During such a negative time in the world, when my mood and mental health were at an all-time low, growing and caring for houseplants gave me something positive to focus on. I realized I

looked forward to the time of day where I would tend to my little indoor garden.

Shutting out the negativity of the outside world while focusing on watering, pruning, and propagating my plants eased my anxiety and made me feel happier.

Now, trendy succulents, trailing ivies, massive monstera-deliciosas and tropical palms take over my room, and my collection still continues to grow. The sense of pride and excitement I feel when a plant of mine flowers or grows a new leaf is more prominent than I ever expected.

My plants gave me a sense of purpose while stuck at home for months with no school or work to occupy my time and my mind. It was a way to temporarily escape the stress that came along with the pandemic.

As it turns out, I wasn't the only one who felt that way.

Studies show plants are beneficial to mental health and happiness. It has been shown to release 'happy hormones' serotonin and dopamine, and lower the stress hormone cortisol, according to a 2017 Psychology Today article by Loretta Graziano Breuning, the founder of

the Inner Mammal Institute and Professor Emerita of Management at California State University, East Bay.

An April 2021 study published in the Urban Forestry and Urban Greening journal showed indoor plants can decrease stress levels, improve moods and generally contribute to improved mental health and wellbeing. It also found people living in a house without plants were more likely to experience negative emotions during the pandemic than those with plants.

Of the 4,205 people surveyed

for the study, nearly 75 per cent reported plants positively impacted their emotional wellbeing during COVID. More than half of the participants also reported they spent more time caring for plants than they did before the pandemic.

With more people getting into plants and gardening in the past couple of years, it has also become a popular topic across social media platforms. There are currently more than 1.8 billion videos under #PlantTok on TikTok, where creators share their experiences, tips and tricks for all things

green, from which plants to purchase for different levels of experience, to how to care for them, to how to propagate them and more.

Like any hobby, it offers a sort of sense of community among others who share the interest. Having that sense of community is more important than ever, now that we've spent the better part of the past two years locked down at home with limited in-person interaction.

If you're looking for a lasting hobby that will improve your mood and ease your stress, indoor gardening might be for you.



VADIM KAPOV/UNSPLASH

Houseplants are a great addition to any indoor space because they can boost your mood, studies show.

## TALES FROM HUMBER

# In-person classes have improved my mental health



**Jess Kerr**  
News Reporter

Growing up, I was a happy, upbeat person who wanted to be friends with everyone.

Starting high school, I was excited to meet new people. But I soon learned that not everyone is going to like you.

I was bullied throughout most of high school for my appearance, my clothing and assump-

tions about my sexual orientation. I never understood why people treated me that way.

I can still remember walking down the grey-toned hallways, seeing people look at me with disdain, hearing them laugh at me, the homophobic slurs echoing down the corridor.

What shocked me almost as much as the abuse were the people who stood there in silence, who watched this happen to me and didn't say a word.

I felt like I couldn't be myself. I created a wall around me to hide my emotions. I was diagnosed with depression and anxiety.

I felt like everyone thought negatively of me, just because some kids at school didn't like who I was or how I expressed myself. I had a small, close group of friends who helped me. But even with their support, I

couldn't see my potential in life.

Once, I loved to paint, draw, write stories. But I started to fall away from my hobbies. And by the end of high school, my mental health was a mess.

I didn't want to go outside, or even leave my room. I took a year off school before college to settle down and get better. I made the decision to seek help and started seeing a therapist.

My therapist suggested I write my thoughts out in a notebook, whether it was about my problems or things I was passionate about. It felt like a release, an escape, and my mental health grew slightly better because I was able to get it out.

Through the process, I discovered I was passionate about was writing.

I decided to pursue a career in journalism. I want to be able to

write about issues I believe are important in society. And journalism would allow me to do that.

When I applied for the journalism program at Humber College, I was so excited to have a fresh start, meet new people and not be judged.

When the pandemic hit, and college programs reverted to online education, I felt like it was what I needed following my negative experiences in high school. However, I found it harder than I initially expected.

Sitting in an empty bedroom, staring at a screen, watching my professor teach, I felt like I couldn't fully grasp the course material as I would in a classroom. And I found myself missing the connections that came with being in person.

My mental health started to deteriorate and I didn't have the

work ethic I would have with in-person classes.

With this year having the majority of my classes in person, I feel much more uplifted. Although I still stress over assignments, it is just normal college student problems. And I had a routine.

Getting ready for classes and being able to sit in the classroom was something I needed. I felt so much more engaged in the learning material. I was finally able to meet my peers in person rather than seeing them through a screen.

I became close friends with people in my program who support me for being myself, as well as plenty of others at Humber. I realized these people are here for the same reason as me.

To write. Truthfully. And without fear.

# Humber women win rugby gold at OCAA against Durham

Alex Thomas  
Sports Reporter

Dale Essue, head coach of the Humber Hawks women's rugby sevens team, had a wish for how the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association final against the Durham Lords would unfold.

"Going into it, the thing you want to do as a team is score first," Essue said. "It really sets the tone, then puts the pressure on the other team."

Within the first two minutes, Dale Essue, head coach of the Hawks women's rugby team.

Essence Palmer-McCarthy outran four Durham defenders for a try, sending the Hawks on their way to a 36-14 rout of the Lords on Oct. 30 at Thompson Park, winning their third OCAA

championship.

"Setting the tone from the start and being able to put that try down for my team really gave us that confidence, that, 'okay, we're off to a great start, let's continue and build on to it,'" Palmer-McCarthy said.

Essue, the 2021 OCAA coach of the year, said the Hawks were prepared throughout the showdown with the previously undefeated Lords.

"I always ask them to do what we call a 'squad analysis,' we look at the teams and assess the strengths, the weaknesses, opportunities and their threats," Essue said.

Palmer-McCarthy, the 2021 OCAA's most valuable player, said the championship was a



HUMBER ATHLETICS

Dale Essue, head coach of the Hawks women's rugby team.

Palmer-McCarthy, the 2021 OCAA's most valuable player, said the championship was a

great way to cap her Humber career.



ANG TEK GIE PHOTOGRAPHY

Women's rugby sevens team at Thompson Rugby Park after becoming OCAA champions for the third year.

great way to cap her Humber career.

"This was my final year at Humber so I really wanted to give it my all," she said. "My goal was not to win any awards, we all had goals that we set before the season started."

Not long after Palmer-McCarthy got her try to open the scoring, Alicia Hayes recovered a turnover and passed the ball to Sarah Brothen for another score, giving Humber a 10-0 lead.

A couple of minutes into the second half, team captain Daniella Grant scored her third try of the post-season on a pass from Renee Bowen.

Grant said Humber's semifinal victory against the St. Lawrence Surge set the stage for the Durham match.

"We knew that if we could win that game we would be pumped and ready for the finals and everyone was doing their job," Grant said.

"I don't think there were any tweaks needed to be made, it was more just keeping that focus and keeping in that zone to be prepared for the finals," she said.

Essue praised assistant coaches Jason Chuck, Scott Christian Dale and the Hawk substitutes for their enthusiasm.

"The players on the sidelines, the energy they were giving players on the field really established why we were so successful," Essue said.

## While some go to the gym, others would rather workout at home

Trishelle Dotson  
Sports Reporter

It is easy to get into a mental slump as winter seems just around the corner.

It's getting darker earlier and temperatures are dropping. Soon, outdoor workouts are not going to be an option.

Premier Doug Ford recently announced the reopening of gyms because of and high vaccination rates and recent lower case counts — although they are currently on the rise again and the province has paused its complete reopening plan.

While many people are happy to hear the news, some are still hesitant to be in public gyms while the pandemic continues.

"People's mental and physical health have taken a major decline because the government felt we weren't an essential business," said Teresa Heron, co-owner of Huf Gym.

Gyms have been one of the many services that had closed due to public health concerns. People bought gym equipment for home or find online workouts and trainers that suited their personal needs.

But Heron says it's not comparable to the real thing.

"You have a sense of family, especially in a smaller gym like ours. We know everyone that comes in here and their schedule," Heron said. "You're getting much-needed social interaction."

Gyms have been open since July and require full vaccination to enter. Plus, people must always wear their mask.

While many rejoice, there is still skepticism about entering an enclosed space with multiple people breathing heavily and touching equipment.

Rudy Petrillo, a spokesperson for Planet Fitness, said there are multiple safety procedures to ensure gym-goers

and staff are protected.

"Our employees conduct a regular and thorough cleaning of all equipment, surfaces, and areas of the club and regularly complete deep cleanings," he said. "Although we cannot eliminate all risks associated with COVID-19, we've taken several additional steps to strengthen our existing cleanliness policies and procedures."

Petrillo says Planet Fitness (PF) has seen many of its members return to the gym, excited the facilities were allowed to reopen. Some of their locations were closed for over nine months in the GTA, and have seen many members return.

"Many businesses and industries have faced difficult times during COVID-19, and we, as the fitness industry, were no exception," Petrillo said. "By offering free PF workouts on our mobile app, it's helped support members through their fitness journey even while we were closed."

There was a sharp rise in home workouts online or through on-demand streaming services during the pandemic. Socacize instructor Kiara Carraby noticed an increased demand for online training and exercises.

"People needed something to keep them accountable, and many relied on working out as an outlet," Carraby said. "I find it a struggle to breathe with the mask when I am just walking down the street, let alone working out with it."

Carraby said she understands the hesitancy to return to gyms because there is no guarantee COVID-19 can't spread through the machines. There are also more people in a confined space.

Heron said home workouts may be convenient, but people need to have that interaction.

"People are getting tired of looking at screens," Heron said.

# Humber cleans up provincial awards as two legends move on



HUMBER ATHLETICS

OCAA Women's Rugby Sevens Player of the Year Daniella Grant in the 2021 championship game against the Durham Lords. The Hawks won 36-14 and brought home the gold medal for the third time in five seasons.

## Jacob Tye Sports Reporter

Hawks rugby sevens player Daniella Grant was not surprised to hear how well Humber did in winning so many OCAA Awards. She views athletics at Humber to be a tight family.

"I'm so grateful that I chose Humber when I was in high school, whether it be playing myself or watching the other teams play, just all of the support from all the teens within athletics is so amazing," Grant said. "And you might not experience that at another college, but at Humber we are all a family."

The Humber Hawks cleaned up at the OCAA Awards as a college having recipients in every sport it participated in. The biggest award recipients were Grant and baseball player Dennis Dei Banning, who both won Player of the Year in their respective sports along with softball player Alexis Ferreira who was named an All-Star as she helped the Hawks to an OCAA bronze medal.

Grant has played her heart out over her time with the Hawks and finally had her hard work validated when hearing she had won her big award.

Her farewell season saw her

become only the second Hawk — Christina Branch in 2019 — to win the rugby sevens Player of the Year award in the school's history.

"I was speechless," she said. "I couldn't believe it."

"As a Humber player we always have a target on our back. And sometimes we have to work twice as hard as the other teams. To be recognized by not just my coaches, but the other coaches in the league, it feels amazing," Grant said.

"I wouldn't be here without Christina today playing rugby and being with Humber because she's the one who got me to come to Humber. And she's the one who showed me how to be the captain I am today," she said.

Dei Banning, like Grant, played his final year with Humber and made an impact putting up historic numbers also winning the sport's highest honour.

"I broke down a little when I got home, I worked so hard for this and it's just heartwarming to see an accomplishment like that," Dei Banning told Et Cetera earlier this month.

"It's a huge deal that I can look back on for the rest of my life," he said.

Ferreira smashed the ball like Dei Banning, as she helped the

Hawks to an OCAA bronze medal and received the honour of being named an OCAA Women's Softball All-Star. She credits her team for her accomplishments and cherishes the way she found out that she had been named an All-Star.

"I was actually in an interview and my phone started blowing up from the team's softball group chat. So, after the interview I go on it and I see a bunch of pictures and screenshots and incoherent texts that you can't make out of everyone just freaking out," Ferreira said.

"It was probably the best way I could've found out because I found out from my team and that genuinely means more to me than I could ever explain," she said.

Other notable Humber athletes to win OCAA Awards were golfer Ryan McAskill who was named to the OCAA Men's All-Ontario Golf Team.

Rugby players Chris Dominey, Scott Kisiel and Richard Sheffield were all named to the OCAA Men's Rugby West Division All-Stars, and soccer players Luca Gasparotto and Karamvir Mehmi won the OCAA Men's Soccer Central Division Player of the Year award and the OCAA Men's Soccer League Scoring Champion award respectively.

# Cricket's biggest rivalry is 'always a treat to watch'

## Danyal Khan Sports Reporter

This year's cricket world cup's final pits New Zealand and Australia, but it's guaranteed when someone mentions the game, almost everyone has Pakistan and India on the top of their mind.

The rivalry began in 1952, when the teams first played each other five years after the partition of the two countries when the U.K. left the Indian subcontinent. Every time a cricket match between Pakistan and India is about to be played, fans from both nations get together and hope for their respective teams to win.

Even people who are not fond of the game understand the deeply rooted rivalry. Pakistani and Indian fans from around the globe are glued to their TV screens whenever these two nations meet on the cricket ground.

This year, the T20 Cricket World Cup is taking place in Dubai. The first match for both Pakistan and India on Oct. 24 had fans around the world gathered in the stadium and from home on their TV screens to watch the tense game. In the end, it was Pakistan that came out on top and Pakistani fans were celebrating around the world.

This victory was big for

Pakistan as they had ended India's 12-0 winning streak in World Cup matches until now. For Pakistani fans, this was a big milestone, especially in the World Cup. Pakistan had won by 10 wickets, which has been the biggest win by margin in this year's T20 World Cup.

"It was quite an interesting match, it was great to see both teams go for it, and Pakistan showed that they deserved the win at the end," said Jagjit Randhawa, manager of the Brampton Pacers Cricket Club.

"India versus Pakistan has always been a treat to watch in cricket, no matter what side comes out on top at the end, both teams never fail to put on a show for their fans," said Safi Ullah Jalali, a player for the Mississauga Dolphins cricket team.

India's star player Virat Kohli went over to the two Pakistani batsmen, Babar Azam and Muhammad Rizwan to congratulate them and show sportsmanship for the well-deserved win at the end of the match.

"With Pakistan and India being the biggest rivalry in the world of cricket, it attracts not only Pakistan and Indian fans, it attracts cricket fans from all over the world, just to see who will win this time. I think that is an amazing and powerful thing," said Saad Mir, a player for the Punjab Battalion.



PAKISTAN CRICKET

Pakistan beat India by 10 wickets in the 2021 World Cup in Dubai. This victory was monumental for Pakistan as they put an end to India's previous 12-0 winning streak in Cricket World Cup matches.