



'WE DO NOT CONSENT'

Andre La Rosa-Rodriguez
Zoe Pierson
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Adrian Olivier
News Reporters

Toronto has confirmed it will be clearing an encampment beside a church near Kensington Market on Friday. Toronto spokesperson Russell Baker said in an email statement on Thursday the decision has been made “due to (an) ongoing immediate public safety risk at the encampment.”

But as of Friday afternoon, the camp hadn't been removed.

Residents at St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Anglican Church encampment, walked around their home for what they believed to be the last time Friday, gathering their most beloved, but meagre possessions.

Alison Falby, priest director at All Saints Church Community Centre, said the city moving to evict the remaining residents and clear the site is in poor taste.

“What does it do to just, I don't know, keep displacing people, keep traumatizing people,” she said. “It's clearly not working.”

Falby said the current housing displacement situation is like playing Whac-A-Mole, if one person gets housing, it means another will suffer.

“And playing Whac-A-Mole with people's lives is not cool,” she said.

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SEEKS TO STOP
CONSTRUCTION
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SANTIAGO HELOU QUINTERO

Maggie Helwig holding up a sign reading “we do not consent” after being evicted at Toronto’s Kensington Market on Nov. 24.

Eviction of encampment at Toronto’s Kensington Market ‘traumatizing’

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Falby is a close friend of Rev. Canon Maggie Helwig of St. Stephen, who advocated for her church and community this morning, with a sign that read ‘We do not consent.’

“We provide meals three times a week, we have first aid, crisis intervention, and we’re just friends,” Helwig said about the residents of St. Stephen.

Helwig said when the residents of St. Stephens encampment are evicted, they will have no choice but to move from park to park, through the upcoming winter months, as many will not accept moving to a shelter.

A resident of the encampment, Arturo Garcia, also known as ‘The Pirate,’ said this small piece of land has been his home for two years.

If evicted, Garcia said he would “just stay awake” in Kensington market so that he wouldn’t get robbed again.

With a cigarette in hand, Garcia said he had been one of the earliest residents in the encampment, and is now known as a peacemaker in the small community.

The move to evict the residents comes after the Ontario Superior Court of Justice denied an “urgent injunction” on Nov. 20 after the city presented “evidence” the site

poses “fire and life safety” concerns.

The injunction was led by Helwig of the St. Stephen-In-The-Fields Anglican Church to prevent an eviction. She said on X that she does not consent to displacing the encampment’s residents beside her church.

“I wish that the city would understand that this has been a source of stability and security for some people who have experienced very little of that in their lives for many years,” Helwig said.

She said people began placing tents in the yard beside the church during spring last year as other encampments near the area were cleared. The number of residents began to grow throughout that summer. Helwig said they have been offering support by providing meals three days a week, having first aid available, and crisis interventions.

She said their support is more like “friendship” and that they are there for them to talk if needed.

“It is, in a way, an informal relationship and I think that’s part of what people have found sustaining about it. There’s been a sense that we care about them because we do,” Helwig said.

“Our position as a church has always been that if there are people coming to us who are in need of

support then we will offer the support that people want and need and ask from us,” she said.

Helwig said Toronto’s decision to remove the encampment is in part because there has been an “escalating level” of complaints from a private school “a few doors away” and criticized Ward 11 University-Rosedale Councillor Dianne Saxe for being “unsympathetic.”

“There are probably some who would welcome an eviction, but probably a much larger group who are very supportive of the church and of the encampment residents,” she said.

Just a few doors down from the encampment, Patty Zulver, a teacher at Westside Montessori School, said St. Stephen residents are not safe living on the lot.

“Most importantly, I want the people who are there to be in a safe place,” she said. “Two women were sexually assaulted. Two deaths, two fires, a person got stabbed a couple of weeks ago. It’s not safe for the people living there.”

Baker said in an email statement about eight people are currently on the site and that they have been offered shelter spaces.

The statement highlighted Streets to Homes staff made 260 visits to the site this year, facilitating referrals to shelters, and assisting with access to healthcare, mental

services, and other supports.

The email said there have been three fires in the encampment in the last 10 months. The most recent incident happened earlier this month.

“Through regular visits by Toronto Fire Services, it has been determined that the encampment poses a significant fire risk due to a number of factors including the dense accumulation of combustible material and an excess of hoarded materials,” Baker said.

He said this is a “tool of last resort” after unsuccessful outreach efforts.

Andrew Neelands, a volunteer at St. Stephens, said the residents support each other in ways that shelters can’t as they offer mental health support rather than just addiction support.

“They understand each other in a way that nobody else does. It functions,” he said. “It just goes. Which is kind of amazing.”

Falby said there still may be hope for the future of encampment sites, believing other cities have found ways of supporting encampment residents.

“I think it’s really heartening to read examples of what other cities do,” she said.

“Because it shows us that this is, you know, that there are more compassionate approaches.”

ETC •

Humber Et Cetera is the Humber College journalism program laboratory newspaper.

It is created by journalism students in the Advanced Diploma and Post Graduate Certificate programs. 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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Humber Et Cetera is a publication of the Faculty of Media and Creative Arts at Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning
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SANTIAGO HELOU QUINTERO



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Scenes from the eviction at St. Stephen-In-The-Field

Clockwise from top, a Toronto pickup truck arrives on scene on College Street, a crowd outside the church, man holds sign protesting planned ouster, resident facing eviction, Arturo Garcia smoking a cigarette.

'Not enough done': Humber trans community

Asher Klaver
Politics Reporter

Humber College commemorated Transgender Day of Remembrance for the first time in person since the pandemic on Monday.

The day was part of a week-long series of events aimed at highlighting and commemorating the losses within the transgender community. It was founded in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith to honour and memorialize Rita Hester, a Black trans woman who was killed.

On Monday, Humber paid remembrance to the transgender lives lost to violence throughout the year with a tree dedication ceremony in the Humber Arboretum. The event was attended by just a handful of people and lasted about 15 minutes.

Riley, a non-binary student at Humber College whose last name is being withheld as they are only out to their closest friends, said Transgender Day of Remembrance is important but Humber needs to be doing more for LGBTQ+ students.

"I feel like there's not enough being done outside of the LGBTQ+ Resource Centre to make people



ASHER KLAVER

Plaques propped up in Humber's North Campus E Concourse displaying the names of transgender people who passed in the past year.

feel comfortable," they said. "I've noticed a lot of instructors don't even ask for pronouns."

Riley has not seen anyone talk about the Transgender Day of Remembrance events outside of the LGBTQ+ Resource Centre and social media, despite its importance.

The school also hosted "Transgressions," a peer-led program for transgender, two-spirit, non-binary, gender non-conforming and

those questioning their gender identity on Nov. 15. The event was held at both the Lakeshore and North campuses.

Other events included a lantern-lighting ceremony to memorialize transgender lives on Wednesday and a screening of the queer voguing film "Paris is Burning" on Thursday.

Outside of Humber College, other post-secondary students have noticed a similar trend of a

lack of promotion around Transgender Day of Remembrance.

University of Toronto student Val Vergara, a transmasculine arts student who has documented their gender transition on social media said that he finds events surrounding LGBTQ+ issues often do not attract students outside of the community.

"I know many clubs posted about it and there are a few gatherings happening for it," Vergara said. "I

don't think many people really care outside of the queer community."

Vergara said that although it can be sad thinking about transgender lives lost to violence, Transgender Day of Remembrance can also be a moment of pride.

"It's a hard moment for a lot of people like my partner and I because we reflect on the people of our community who died this year," he said. "But it's also a moment to take pride in yourself."

Toronto accepts Ottawa's refugee shelter offer

Andre La Rosa-Rodriguez
News Reporter

Toronto has accepted Ottawa's offer to use the Better Living Centre at Exhibition Place as an emergency shelter.

The deal also includes \$5 million in operational costs.

The offer comes after Toronto sent a letter to Ottawa on Nov. 8 signed by Mayor Olivia Chow and city councillors requesting that federal armouries be opened, set up a reception centre near Pearson Airport, and make long-term investments.

On Wednesday, Chow released the official letter on X in response to the federal government's offer.

"It is the responsibility of the federal government to support people who have been forced to flee their homes and have arrived in Canada looking to build a new life," she said in the letter.

Toronto has been asking the federal government to fund and support the rise in asylum claimants that have nowhere to go with more pressure coming as temperatures continue to drop.

Chow said in the letter the number of daily shelter needs

over the last two years has grown from 6,000 to over 9,000. She highlighted that refugees make up 40 per cent of users.

She has criticized the federal government's offer and is calling for more to be done.

Chow said on X that the city was already planning to open the Better Living Centre as part of their Winter Services Plan.

The city is already working to open the Better Living Centre. 200+ spaces is not a solution.

We need more space and resources for this crisis, including the armouries, a reception centre and real funding to support the 5,100 - and growing - refugees the

City is supporting," she said in the tweet.

Chow said that the city's shelter system was designed to respond to "local homelessness" and called the situation a "humanitarian crisis."

Former nurse and activist Cathy Crowe thinks that the offer made by the federal government is "viable" but that Toronto "has the right" to negotiate for a better deal.

However, she said that Toronto and the surrounding municipalities need to also "step up."

She highlighted that the asylum claimants who are primarily struggling to find shelter are Black

refugees.

Crowe said Black-led churches have stepped up to help provide spaces.

Spaces for the people left waiting outside the Central Intake facility on Peter Street last month.

"We watched a herculean effort by not-for-profit groups to do what the city should have been doing and now it's almost December," she said.

Crowe criticized Chow and Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown for not opening "potential municipal facilities" and said, "Enough is enough."

A refugee asylum seeker died in an encampment outside a former

shelter last week.

Brown called on the federal government to act, saying the situation was a "humanitarian crisis."

Immigration Minister Marc Miller confirmed on Thursday that Peel Region Council ratified a deal to open a reception centre at Pearson Airport.

Brown said on X that the agreement will "save lives."

"I thank Minister Miller for his hands-on approach to the asylum claimant crisis."

"I was hard on the federal government on this file (last week in particular) but credit where credit is due. They stepped up," he said.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/TJANA MARTIN

People gathered around the stage at Revivaltime Tabernacle Church, where refugees and asylum seekers received emergency shelter.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/JUSTIN TANG

UBI provides support as policies fail: experts

Annicca Albano
Social-Justice Reporter

The Canadian Senate is reviewing a prospective universal basic income program to address advocates' calls surrounding the rising cost of living. While most recipients would be middle-class Canadians, experts say the money will significantly change the lives of those often left behind.

Public health researcher and food studies professor Elaine Power said that the government needs to do more to aid ordinary, working Canadians.

"I grew up thinking governments were representing the people, like a democratic government which represents ordinary people," said Power. "I don't think it's unreasonable."

Power cited the story of award-winning photographer Jessie Golem as an example. In a video by UBI Works, her current workplace, Golem said she was working four jobs to fund her dream of having a photography business before being selected for the Ontario Basic Income Pilot project in 2017.

In 2018, Golem produced a photo series called Humans of Basic Income that amplifies the stories of the pilot program recipients, which was cut about a year under the Doug Ford government.

Power said opportunities like this are about more than just money, they are about dignity.

"[People] want to thrive as human beings, not just as workers or corporate machines, [and] be able to participate in society like anybody else does," Power said.

Instead, one in 10 people in Toronto now rely on food banks, according to the Daily Bread Food Banks' Who's Hungry report.

"If you're lining up at soup kitchens in order to get your lunch and get your dinner and sleeping in shelters at night, when do you have time to go and complete [job] application forms," said Evelyn Forget, a Canadian health economist and professor at the University of Manitoba.

Worsening food insecurity also translates to massive health-care costs, according to the latest PROOF report.

"You end up in the hospital treating things that could have

been treated with much less cost or might not have happened at all if you actually had the money to take care of yourself and live adequately," Forget said.

Forget analyzed the 1970s Manitoba poverty experiment that examined the impact of a guaranteed annual income. In *The Town with No Poverty* paper, she said hospitalizations for accidents and injuries and physician claims for mental health diagnoses declined for subjects relative to comparison groups.

"A simplification of those kinds of programs ends up saving [the government] quite a lot of money while making it easier for people to actually get the benefits they're entitled to receive," said Forget.

She cited a basic income launch in Newfoundland and Labrador, which would slash the social assistance programs from 30 to six.

"We can afford it," said Forget, adding, that defining who's eligible is also a way which could further shrink the cost to the government. "A basic income does not require an increase in marginal tax rates, and I think that's the most important thing."

Prince Edward Island also released a report on a proposed basic income model that considers benefit delivery, services for beneficiaries, compliance and verification activities.

Marginalized people may not know how to access existing social assistance or do not ask for help due to their temporary status in the country, said clinical psychologist Dr. Taslim Alani-Verjee.

Doctors may also not be equipped to assess invisible disabilities applications for the benefit typically don't get approved the first time, Alani-Verjee explained.

"[People] don't have the fight in them to appeal an application," she said.

Some have had poor wages or job positions, and denied housing and affordable rent because of skin colour or where they come from, Alani-Verjee said.

A UBI would provide safety and security for those living in stressful environments so they can improve their lives and future, she said.

For instance, a new experiment in British Columbia that gave 50 unhoused people a one-time

cash transfer of \$7,500 found that people spent fewer days homeless, saved more and spent no less than usual on "temptation goods," such as alcohol, drugs or cigarettes.

Incentivizing laziness is another public worry that Forget said, "may be unfounded."

Of the Ontario pilot program recipients, nearly 17 per cent became unemployed — 40.6 per cent of which pursued further education or training, according to UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab. In addition, among those who continued to work, 37 per cent reported improvements in their rate of pay, 31 per cent in their working conditions and 27 per cent in their job security.

A LEAF report stressed that affordable and accessible public care services, recognition and compensation of caregiving and gendered work, and shift in workplace norms must accompany a basic income. Still, advocates say it is a step in the right direction.

"We ordinary Canadians think of ourselves as kind of a compassionate and caring society," Power said. "We would have to (have) governments that actually care."

Ontario's Basic Income pilot project 'changed lives'

Emma Posca
News Reporter

Alana Baltzer finally had enough money to apply to college. And she could get the dental work done that she has always needed. She could even afford to see a therapist.

"I was shocked" that she was able to "actually live (that) month," she said.

Baltzer was part of the Ontario government's poverty-reduction pilot project in 2017 called "Southern Ontario's Basic Income Experience."

The program supplemented thousands of low-income residents who earned less than \$34,000 annually with about \$17,000 divided into monthly payments. People who qualified for Ontario Disability Support received an additional \$500 a month.

The \$150 million pilot project was expected to run for three years in Hamilton, Thunder Bay and Lindsay. A team of researchers and experts was to evaluate participants throughout that time.

But despite promises to keep the program going, it was scrapped a year early after Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives were elected in 2019.

"It brought me down, but it didn't destroy me," Baltzer said.

The additional income made Baltzer feel she was becoming a "better version" of herself. She bought healthier food like fruits,



UNSPASH/PIGGY BANK

The Basic Income project in Ontario, scrapped by Ford in 2019, helped lift people out of poverty.

vegetables and vitamins rather than resorting to junk food because of its cheaper cost.

Although she felt depressed after the cancellation of the program, she took the experience she gained and put it toward finding new job opportunities.

Tom McDowell, who holds a doctorate in public policy, was part of a group of researchers who studied the program's effects. They didn't want information collected by the program to go to waste, as the pilot project was then the largest in the world, and the team created the report by talking to 217 people in the Hamilton area.

As a result, McDowell said the benefits were "integral" and went beyond participants having better long-term financial security.

"We found all kinds of people who were able to leave jobs in

which they were being underpaid and poorly treated, to find new work or to simply take time off work to look for other opportunities that were consistent with their needs," he said.

Participants reported having better mental and physical health, better social relationships and more housing security.

"Something as simple as giving people a little bit more money and income security enables them to do these kinds of things in their lives that many people probably take for granted," McDowell said.

Kendal David, a PhD candidate at Carleton University who was also part of Hamilton's research team, highlighted participants reported more social solidarity. They felt a better "sense of trust" in others, she said.

David said people felt like they

had more time and empathy for the people around them.

She said that before the program's cancellation, people generally showed a greater sense of trust in democratic institutions and government.

"People who were on social assistance before the pilot and then basic income talked about how relieving it was to not have to bring their bank statements to a case worker every month," she said.

To receive social assistance in Ontario, applicants are required to attend regular interviews with a caseworker to monitor their search for employment and financial information. They need to keep any receipts related to expenses and income.

However, this was not required in the basic income program.

David said participants were

treated differently when they didn't have to show their social assistance insurance to pay for things.

"Our existing systems aren't working effectively," she said. "I think basic income is an alternative way of providing the care and support that people need with fewer restrictions and greater dignity."

Tom Cooper, the director of Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, said since the program was the largest of its kind, he had several different organizations calling from around the world to ask about the framework of the pilot project.

Other provinces are now taking the lead on implementing a basic income. Newfoundland and Labrador recently launched its program this month for people aged 60 to 64. Prince Edward Island has had one in place since 2021 that assists more than 600 people.

Canada's first basic income pilot project took place in Manitoba in 1974 and set the original framework for Hamilton's pilot.

"Having extra income allowed participants to dream about a new life for themselves," Cooper said.

For participants like Baltzer, it made her believe that when people have adequate incomes, they can succeed to their full potential.

She said Canada should stop flirting with the idea of basic income and make it a reality.

"We can be a world leader in helping eradicate poverty," she said.

Brampton Food Bank bans international students

Upkar Singh
Politics Editor

Ste. Louis Outreach Centre of Peel based in Brampton, Ont., is banning international students.

A passerby, Darshan Maharaja saw the sign outside the food bank that said "No International Students." He shared the picture on X which drew attention to the issue.

"We have to be rational about this, instead of being emotional, because someone being denied food affects us on an emotional level," Maharaja said.

Maharaja said many students are abusing food banks as many international students on YouTube are making videos to do so.

International students in Canada have to prove they meet a minimum income requirement of \$10,000 (\$833 a month), according to a federal website.

Maharaja said this is a separate issue because this amount of



DARSHAN MAHARAJA

Sign outside Brampton food bank says "No International Students."

income is not sufficient in today's environment as everything is very expensive.

He said the limit of the minimum income requirement has to increase.

"There are so many cases where the funds are not actually there," he said. "It's just a short-term loan from India and once the student

arrives here, they have to send it back".

Humber News tried reaching out to Catherine Rivera, the board president of Ste. Louis Food Bank, but would only provide a statement through email.

Rivera said in a statement that volunteers at Ste. Louis have been helping out there for more than 20

years. She said they had not seen anything like this in its 41 years of service in the Brampton community.

She said a person in need will provide papers with identification but the international students want food but are not ready to provide paperwork.

Food Banks have been facing difficulty in keeping up with the demand for food due to the cost of living crisis.

According to a new Ipsos poll, 23 per cent of Canadians are accessing charitable services to meet needs such as food, clothing, or clothing.

Neil Hetherington, CEO of Daily Bread Food Bank, said Ste. Louis Food Bank is not accredited or part of any network.

"I'm disappointed in their decision but since they are an independent food bank, they are free to make that type of decision," he said.

Hetherington said the funds the

international students are required to bring are not enough.

"I think that the federal government needs to have an honest conversation about international student visas," he said.

He said he hopes there would be some decisions taken by government to tackle this problem.

"Nobody chooses to be food insecure but we have chosen policies, which are resulting in more and more people in the country being food insecure," Hetherington said.

Harman Singh, a first-year Police Foundations student at Sheridan College, said he is saddened by the food bank banning students.

Singh came to Canada in August and said he is still looking for a job.

He said it is impossible to survive on the funds he brought from India.

"We didn't choose to be in this position and if we will be banned from the food banks where would we go for help?" he asked.

Ontario Place For All wants to stop development

Ayesha Barakzai
Mikulas Horvath
News Reporters

Ontario Place for All filed a legal injunction with the Ontario Divisional Court on Tuesday in an effort to persuade the Ontario government to stop the redevelopment of Ontario Place.

The group claims that the current redevelopment plan will destroy 850 trees and the ecosystem of Ontario Place.

In a press release from Tuesday, Co-Chair of Ontario Place for All, Norm Di Pasquel said that it is necessary to hold the Ontario government accountable over their actions, especially when laws are being broken.

“Ontario Place for All is committed to using all possible avenues to hold the provincial government accountable for their actions at Ontario Place and ensuring that they follow the proper process which would involve public consultation on the West Island redevelopment.”

“This filing is one of those avenues. We just want the government to follow its own laws,” Pasquel said.

In an exclusive Q&A with Humber News, Norm Di Pasquel discusses the recent Injunction and Ontario Place for All’s (OP4A) plans.

Humber News: Now that you have



THE CANADIAN PRESS/CHRIS YOUNG

Ontario Place for All has filed for a legal injunction against the Ontario government over the redevelopment of Ontario Place.

filed an injunction, how do you expect the government of Ontario to react?

Pasquel: I think the government did issue some sort of statement that they’re moving ahead with the Ontario Place development.

But yeah, I mean, I hope that this gives them pause and makes them realize, maybe we should follow our own laws. The proposed luxury developments like these, those laws are in there for a reason they’re there to protect Ontarians from environmental disaster. Proceeding with clear-cutting 850 50-year-old

trees and eliminating everything on West Island should have an environmental assessment. That’s why we have those sorts of rules to protect our planet, to protect Ontarians, and they need to follow those rules.

Humber News: What will the process of the injunction look like? How long will people have to wait for its approval?

Pasquel: Yeah, so this is going to move into the speed of the courts. So as we all know, the courts are fairly busy-backed up, so it could be, you know, the first or second

quarter of next year before it gets heard, possibly sooner.

Humber News: The redevelopment plan was proposed in 2019, why did you choose to file it now?

Pasquel: So, the redevelopment proposal started in 2019. November 2022, was the first time we sort of became aware of some of the truly horrific aspects of this redevelopment plan. And you know, you always have to try advocacy. You know, we’ve had meetings with the government to try to have them reconsider, we requested the federal government have a look at

this sort of environmental destruction of Ontario Place. I think honestly, you have to try to exhaust all avenues before you go to the court.

Humber News: A lot of people are against the spa being built. What should be done with Ontario Place instead?

Pasquel: We put together a proposal called ‘The Better Idea.’ It would cost a fraction of what they’re going to spend on this luxury mega spa place. This is what cities around the world are doing and once you build with 21st century public space and center public in the terms, commercial uses will sort of fit inside that context. Is there room for Ontario Place-based restaurants? Absolutely. We should celebrate and reflect Ontario at Ontario Place.

Humber News: What are the plans for now while you are waiting for the injunction to be approved any plans for the future as well?

Pasquel: So we continue our advocacy. We’re hosting a fundraising telethon on Dec. 3 with West End Phoenix that’s going to feature Sarah Harmor. Then we are going to City Hall on Dec. 5 because City Hall has come up with a proposal to move the mega spa to Exhibition Place. We support any alternative to Ontario Place because the minute you move it from Ontario Place you save taxpayers half a billion dollars.

Toronto opens winter warming centres

Zainab Raza
News Reporter

It’s been six months since Toronto’s city council declared a homelessness emergency, and now with temperatures expected to drop below -5 C, the city has opened three warming centres meant to alleviate the pressure on the shelter system.

The warming centres are located downtown at 75 Elizabeth St., in North York at Willow Baptist Church at 15 Olive Ave., and in Scarborough at St. John the Divine Anglican Church at 885 Scarborough Golf Club Rd.

MPP Lisa Gretzky, the NDP poverty and homelessness reduction critic, said it’s encouraging to see people volunteering to help the homeless community.

“It is great when people step up and if the independent community steps up and they want to fill a gap when they see the need is there, that people need housing or people need access to meals and bathroom



FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Huddled under blankets, a person without shelter sleeps on a Bay Street sidewalk beside a vent.

and showers and access to taking care of their hygiene,” Gretzky said.

The warming centres are part of a broader Winter Services plan aimed at providing resources

and services for homeless people during the winter.

According to the City of Toronto, the plan includes 180 spaces in the shelter system, a 24-hour respite

center with capacity for about 40 people, street outreach and additional surge spaces for when temperatures reach -15 C. The plan also includes 275 housing oppor-

tunities through new supportive homes and available social housing units.

In a statement emailed to Humber News, a Toronto spokesperson said future changes can be made to the Winter Services plan as needed.

“The Winter Services plan may evolve as we monitor demand for warming centres and continue to search for approved locations to add capacity.”

The Toronto shelter system currently turns away about 273 people each night, according to data collected from the city’s central intake line.

While Gretzky said the Winter Services plan is a step in the right direction, she also said more needs to be done.

“But at the end of the day the government needs to do more than just support all of these people, and the municipality and the agency that are creating these shelter places that are grossly underfunded too,” Gretzky said.

EDITORIAL

Toronto proposes new strategy for substance use, mental health

The City of Toronto unveiled a new initiative titled “Our Health, Our City” to combat the harmful effects of substance use and promote mental health.

“Our Health, Our City is a bold plan to make our city safer and more caring by promoting better mental health and well-being for all,” Mayor Olivia Chow said.

“Implementing this strategy will be an enormous team effort, requiring collaboration across City divisions, community organizations, health care partners, and other government partners,” she said.

However, like any initiative, there are encouraging aspects and dangers that require careful consideration.

It is admirable that Toronto is taking a proactive approach to substance usage and mental health. The strategy document states that one in five Torontonians face mental health issues each year.

A troubling trend of declining mental health is being observed

in Toronto as well. Compared to 71 per cent in 2017, 55 per cent of adults in 2021 assessed their mental health as “very good” or “excellent.” In 2019, just 44 per cent of Toronto students (Grades 7–12) said they had “very good” or “excellent” mental health.

Numerous social and health injustices, such as a lack of affordable housing, poverty, traumatic experiences, chronic pain, and barriers to accessing health care contribute to the exacerbation of this issue.

Nearly 2,900 people have died in the city as a result of opioid-related poisoning since 2015. These trends worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city hopes to significantly lessen the load on people and the healthcare system by addressing the underlying causes and developing a more comprehensive support system.

A positive aspect is the commitment to increased funding. The strategy proposes an increased



PEXELS/INZMAM KHAN

Toronto is files a new plan that deals with mental health addictions.

investment in mental health and substance use services, affordable housing, and a “provincial coordination protocol that enhances support for the seamless transfer of individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use crises to hospital emergency departments.”

This financial commitment has the potential to build a more

robust and encouraging mental health infrastructure when combined with an emphasis on early intervention, prevention, and community involvement.

While this plan does seem promising, some issues warrant careful consideration.

This initiative requires a significant substantial investment, and given the current state of

the economy, concerns are raised regarding the strategy’s long-term viability. The task of budgetary balance without sacrificing the quality and accessibility of mental health care would be quite difficult.

Despite this, Toronto’s recommended approach to substance abuse and mental health is a great attempt to address widespread problems that affect our community. The city wants to make its citizens live in a more resilient and encouraging community, therefore it is tackling these issues head-on.

But this initiative needs to be implemented well, have long-term funding, and take a comprehensive strategy to tackle the root causes, rather than just treating symptoms.

As Torontonians, we should applaud this comprehensive strategy while being watchful to make sure it keeps its word to establish a city that prioritizes mental health and reduces the harmful effects of substance use.

Our collective well-being demands nothing less.

EDITORIAL

Bill S-5 offers Canadians clean environment

In June of this year, the first amendments in 20 years were made to the Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA). For the first time, Canadians have a federally recognized right to a healthy environment.

It is an unfortunate coincidence the government promised this months before a federal court overturned a ban on single-use plastics, including bags, straws and cutlery, just this month.

According to a statement by Climate Change Minister Steven Guilbeault and Arif Virani, the minister of justice and attorney general of Canada, plastic pollution is “choking our wildlife, clogging our waterways and degrading our natural environment.”

According to Ontario Nature, only nine per cent of plastic in Canada is recycled. The rest ends up on our land or in our waters. As it slowly decomposes, it releases toxic chemicals that harm wildlife and people.

It seems like the federal Conservatives do not care one bit. Pierre Poilievre has claimed plastic is safe and the government wants to ban all plastics, which is just not true.

While Bill S-5 is a giant step forward, the legislation on its own is

not perfect. There are good aspects of the bill.

A key component of the amendments is their commitment to environmental justice. Part of this is reducing impacts on vulnerable people that happen to them more often than others, which the Act explicitly stipulates the government do.

Vulnerable people are defined in the Act as more likely to experience environment-related negative health impacts, such as pregnant people, children, unhealthy people, and people living in areas with high pollution.

According to a December 2020 study by the University of British Columbia, the low-income residents of Toronto experience more impacts of air pollution.

There are regulations targeting people in specified areas to help high-risk communities from pollution sources. The government amended subsection 2(1) of the Act by stipulating avoiding negative effects that affect vulnerable people more than others.

Part of the Act also mandates Ministers from Environment and Climate Change Canada, and ministers of health, to conduct risk assessments of vulnerable people and environments. This

will include biomonitoring surveys to find connections between toxic substances in the environment and health issues.

The Act is precautionary. It dismisses the argument that there is no certain scientific evidence that something is dangerous to the environment means there should not be affordable measures taken to prevent potentially undoable harm.

In light of this, there must be a “Watch List” looked after by the

Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

This identifies potentially hazardous substances and would discourage economic stakeholders, consumers, manufacturers, and importers, from choosing the wrong ones if a change is made.

This would stop something such as a business replacing one harmful chemical with one that turned out to be harmful as well.

If they are concerned, any Canadians can request Environment

and Climate Change Canada to assess a chemical, and the ministers must at least respond.

The government must also come up with risk management measures if a substance is considered to be potentially dangerous.

The Act also takes into account intergenerational equity, which means we must meet our own needs while not risking the needs of future generations.

Leave the world in a better state than you found it.



PEXELS/MAGDA EHLERSWW

Nine per cent of plastic pollution is recycled in Canada. The rest ends up in our land and water.

OPINION

Humber athletes need better support, recognition



Nicholas Prencipe
Sports Writer

The Humber Hawks sports teams and athletes are consistently ranked very high in their categorized standings, but the support for these teams is extremely low.

From attending and reporting on a few games this season, the crowd and atmosphere were quite lacklustre.

In the men's and women's back-to-back soccer games, I saw more fans for the opposing teams than for Humber.

And these were home games.

Humber's Sports Information and Marketing Coordinator Brian

Lepp says he's noticing a lack of supporters.

"If you come to a basketball game, there is a lot of [promotion] there," Lepp said. "It's loud, fun, and the environment is great, but outside of that, there's not a lot."

Humber's gym at maximum capacity is about 1,400 people, yet most games aren't even half full.

This underwhelming turnout of home support is not an uncommon experience in sports.

However, it rarely occurs for teams who are extremely talented and headed in the right direction for a championship, like our teams are every single season.

Humber Athletics won more national championships than any other Canadian college, a record eight gold medals, along with twenty-three CCAA Academic all-Canadian student-athletes.

Sporting Director Ray Chateau even won the 2023 OCAA Administrator of the Year.

The turnout for many Humber teams is way below the level of talent they possess.

This is likely due to the promotion of each team, or rather the lack thereof.

A walk through the school will reveal that, aside from the athletics section, there are no other places on campus with Humber sports advertisements.

Even including the athletics department, there's less than a handful of promotional pieces for Humber's home games.

One of the promotional pieces is on the bottom of the second set of doors entering the athletics building, which has the home schedule for men's and women's soccer, baseball, softball, and rugby.

With the quality Humber athletes possess, it seems like a serious error to not focus more on promoting

their games to attract new fans.

Even though not everyone is a sports fan, you will never find so many different groups of people supporting the same team anywhere else.

Promoting the teams the way they deserve and support from fans will follow the upward direction.



NICHOLAS REGO

Empty seats at a Nov. 22 home game between Humber women's basketball against Conestoga Condors.

OPINION

Encampment evictions are violent colonial displacement



Santiago Helou Quintero
Editor-in-Chief

As the season's first snowflakes drifted down today on a cold November morning, the City of Toronto prepared to evict the residents of the St. Stephen-in-the-Fields church encampment. Never mind that Toronto shelters are turning down over 300 during the warm months. Or that most evicted residents end up back on the streets, often in new encampments.

"We all know there's not enough shelter spaces," said Alison Falby, the Priest-Director at All Saints

Church-Community Centre. "If the city just gets this group of people shelter spaces, that means other people won't get them." Alison describes it as a cruel game of wack-a-mole, where the city chases encampment residents from park to park.

These evictions are violent and traumatic experiences that rip apart these small communities, which provide a sense of security that residents say they lack in shelters.

The City has been waging a war on encampments since 2021, with several high-profile evictions occurring at Lamport Stadium, Trinity-Bellwoods Park and Alexandra Park.

During the Lamport Stadium eviction, Toronto Police violently beat protestors who were standing arm-in-arm to protect tents with their bodies. Several were arrested, which led to a protest outside TPS Division 14, where police indiscriminately doused protestors in pepper spray.

Earlier this summer, 25 trespass tickets were withdrawn and six absolute discharges were given to protestors who were facing charges.



SANTIAGO HELOU QUINTERO

Community members gathered as witnesses to the eviction of the St. Stephen-In-The-Fields church encampment.

Obviously, encampments are not a solution to homelessness, but neither are shelters. The actual solution is housing for all, guaranteed as a human right.

Both the United Nations and the Ontario Human Rights Commission agree.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights clearly states, "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment,

sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

All three tiers of government are failing miserably. Blame is passed around in a petty game of partisan bickering while the consequence of their inaction is felt in the streets.

Olivia Chow has been a particular disappointment as many progressives believed her victory meant the days of violent displacement were in the past.

To add insult to injury, Indigenous people represent 15 per cent of the unhoused population in Toronto, even though they only make up 2.5 per cent of the pop-

ulation. This is another chapter in the long history of colonial violence against indigenous communities in Canada. The great irony is that ending homelessness entirely would cost less than continuing the status quo.

In other words, homelessness is a policy choice. Just look at Finland, whose Housing First Strategy has seen homelessness fall drastically while the rest of the European Union sees numbers rise.

We can and must solve this crisis. As the oft-quoted saying goes, "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."



CARLO CANTISANI

Toronto's music community including metal band Bluff believe they are at risk as musicians and venues battle closures, post-pandemic recovery, and high costs.

City's music scene has issues booking venues

Carlo Cantisani
Culture Reporter

Toronto musician and artist management consultant Vince Anastasi has a clear idea about the decline in local venues where musicians like him can perform their music.

"It's tough, it's difficult. I think there's a demand, but the main problem is the cost of living," Anastasi said.

"I think it's hard for a lot of people to justify running and opening up a bar. So I think that's what's leading to the decline because we don't have a lack of musicians," he said.

Musicians in Toronto are becoming more concerned about the community value of the local music scene as all the stakeholders involved, fans, artists, and venue owners, are dealing with inflation, post-pandemic recovery, reduced number of places to perform, and a decline in people attending shows.

"It just seems to be like a lack of rehearsal spaces and small-cap venues," Anastasi said.

A steady rise in ticket prices, acquisitions from big companies like Live Nation of beloved venues like the Opera House last summer, and permanent closings of places like The Orbit Room and The Beaver during the pandemic added fear for the precarious condition of the local music scene.

Local musician Johnny Darko, active in the Toronto metal scene

with his band Dawn Vally, said it is getting harder for artists to book places to perform their music.

"There's definitely a large decline in the venue scene in general like the Opera House being bought by Live Nation and now being a little bit more of a prestigious venue that doesn't allow so many local events to go on, and just closing down of places in general," Darko said.

He said the number of people attending shows has decreased due to inflation and the high cost of living.

"Everybody is struggling now, like almost everybody," Darko said. "It's so much harder to have money to go out and spend on shows or merch or support local bands, and the music scene in general is struggling because of it."

Chris Blanchard, owner of Tail of the Junction, a venue on Dundas Street West and Runnymede Road, said his small venue, which has been open since 2018, has seen a decline in people attending shows since the pandemic.

"In between the shutdowns, when they allowed us back open, it was really good, but when they shut us down again, there's been probably about 60 per cent decline in live music," Blanchard said.

He said he received some support initially, but after the venues were allowed to open again, but that support was short-lived.

According to the study, Reimagining Music Venues, local music

venues have faced more closings than openings, a decrease in live shows, and soaring ticket prices even before COVID-19. The study also revealed that the pandemic has worsened, causing local venues to close at an alarming 13 per cent.

The study also found 75 per cent of survey respondents consider local music venues to be endangered or threatened.

In the face of inflation, declining shows, and available venues, local musicians are turning to each other to revive the sense of community that allows the music scene to grow and be relevant.

For Mark Shustov, sound technician and musician with his group Vice Garden, the do-it-yourself philosophy is still a way to go for

those bands that want a place for themselves in the local scene.

"You go to a bar, you go to a decent venue, and you negotiate a deal—that's progress. That's how change happens. That's the only way that a community of people would actually grow" Shustov said.

Darko said it's all about community work and networking.

"Ultimately, it's just the community atmosphere that you can put into it. Everybody has to put in more work. It can't just be left to the promoters or the producers," he said.

"It's about how many people you know, how friendly you are, how willing you are to help back, and on what good terms you are with people so you can get on other

shows," Darko said.

"For example, you get the group chats on Facebook, and you share around what venues are available, different promoters you can work with and things like that. It's the only real way to push it forward as a new band," he said.

Being humble and helping each other are key factors for creating a supporting music scene rather than prioritizing a more international audience in the first place, Anastasi said. Now that the pandemic is over, he is hopeful more people will support local musicians.

"I think people are coming around," he said. "Things are starting to go back to normal, hopefully, and maybe more people will come and enjoy live music again."



CARLO CANTISANI

Fans enjoying Bluff at the Tail of the Junction, a local music venue in Toronto, on Nov. 18, 2023.

Humber's bake sale for United Way

Eleanor Kate Iglesia
Culture Reporter

Humber College's fitness and health promotion program held a bake sale on Thursday to raise money for United Way Greater Toronto.

The student-run event was held at Humber College North campus in the E-concourse, across from Gourmet Cafe, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It was filled with games, prizes, baked goods, and cheering.

The event served two purposes, raising money for charity and promoting Humber's fitness and health promotion program.

Alyssar Taychouri, a marketing member for the event and an instructor participating in the cycling component, said all proceeds will go towards the United Way.



ELEANOR KATE IGLESIA

Samantha Smith (left) and Samantha Cea competed against each other in exercise course.

"Essentially, our goal is to run an event to raise money for a charitable organization, and we chose United Way Greater Toronto," Taychouri said. "Our overall goal for the pre-event and main event is \$3,000 for United Way."

With many students in the

fitness and health promotion program, everyone has different roles to encourage people to support the charity.

Samantha Cea, a second-year student in the fitness and health promotion program, said this is a fun event to take part in, and it allows inclusivity.

"I'm having a lot of fun gathering people, getting people to play the games, [and] come to the bake sale," Cea said.

Cea participated in the course that included cycling, kicking the soccer ball into a net and shooting one point into the basketball net.

The course was breathtaking and fun, she said.

Samantha Smith, a student visiting the event, said the exercise course was good and got in a sweat.

"It felt good. It got my heart rate up and my blood pressure going," Smith said.

After winning the course, a sweet treat is well-deserved, she says

With the pre-event bake sale attracting many students, the organizers are working hard for the main event.

The main event, on Dec. 1, will include a three-hour cycling ride, prizes and a raffle, Taychouri said.

Groups of five students or faculty can participate. However, its prices differ, \$125 per bike for students and \$250 per bike for faculty.

If participants don't want to do the three-hour ride, Cea said there is a one-minute ride for one dollar.

The cycling event will take place in the Learning Resources Commons (LRC) on the North campus from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.



ELEANOR KATE IGLESIA

Humber hosts it's annual Last Call for Fall event

Eleanor Kate Iglesia
Zainab Raza
Culture Reporters

Just three weeks before the end of the semester, students who are feeling the pressure of final exams and assignments can look forward to some stress relief as Humber College's Student Learning Services hosted its Last Call for Fall event.

All three campuses included various stress relief activities for students, which began on Nov. 21, including information booths for their academic progress, games and snacks and refreshments.

Marlyn Ramjeet-Samad, the event organizer, told Humber News that this event happens twice a year, during the fall and winter semesters.

"Students usually come for those stress busters, that includes doing an activity at the table," Ramjeet-Samad said.

Ramjeet-Samad said the tutoring zone is great if students are looking for support but don't want to be seen through a crowd.

As students push through their

last weeks of the semester, the Last Call for Fall event can make it easier for them to take a break.

This year's stress relief activities include keychain making, a positive message board, canvas pouch painting, button making, gratitude journal prompts, a pop-up wellness library, board games and even a furry friend, which they called a therapy dog.

Rupal Choudhary, a first-year student in the practical nursing program, said the program can be overwhelming, but the stress is all part of college life.

"I definitely love the services, [but] I, myself, haven't gotten the time to actually take advantage, but it's good to know that when I want to, I can," she said.

Choudhary said the snacks provided, stress relief activities, and information stations along with the dog were a great experience.

Student Learning Services promoted the free academic services available at Humber as part of the Last Call for Fall event.

The services include peer tutoring, learning skill workshops, math and English help, note-

taking assistance, and group study sessions.

Ariana Ramkishur, a final-year student in the Business Administration-Accounting program, said the services are easily accessible and helpful for all students.

"I know that Humber cares about us, and I know that other schools don't offer much support for students mental health and academic journey," Ramkishur said.

Ramkishur is one of the many students who take advantage of Humber's academic services.

As some students use the services to help with their studies, other students tutor.

Kat Munar, a final-year student and tutor for the cosmetics management program, said it's a great feeling to provide support to peers or any student in need.

"I really like it when I get to talk to them and know what their goals are and help them through it [because] sometimes all they need is a little push," Munar said.

The event ended on Thursday. However, students can expect its return in winter next year, nearing the end of the school term.



ELEANOR KATE IGLESIA

Students at Humber's Fitness and Health Promotion program bake sale.



ELEANOR KATE IGLESIA

Students at the Last Call for Fall event can be seen petting the Humber College therapy dog Percy.



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WE ARE
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Hawks men's hockey team wins tournament

Fernando Bossoes
Skedline Reporter

A wild comeback in the second period boosted the Humber Hawks extramural men's hockey team to victory over the Fanshawe Falcons in a home tournament last Friday, Nov. 17, at the Westwood Arena.

The Hawks' first game of the tournament was against a tough opponent, the UTM Eagles. Humber and University of Toronto Mississauga fans in the crowd were tense as the score read 2-2 in a contested clash in the second period.

As the clock neared zero, the Hawks still had enough gas in the tank to make a late push. Humber scored twice to take a commanding lead before the buzzer sounded. In the third, the Eagles trimmed the lead down to one, but Humber would score again to capture the team's first win in a hectic 5-3 game.

Looking to keep their momentum, the Hawks dominated the second game against the Laurier Brantford Golden Hawks, notching a commanding 5-2 win. Humber would later clutch its third-consecutive victory, rolling over the La Cité Coyotes 3-0 in a



KYLE GILMOR

Humber Hawks men's hockey team champion's picture in the tournament hosted by Humber College.

wild match.

The Hawks would soar into the final with the round-robin wins.

"Starting with a win is huge, I think that just builds confidence going into the next game. We came off a win last tournament, which was really nice, gave us confidence coming in here," Humber Hawks left wing Evan Spencer said.

The game between the Hawks and the Fanshawe Falcons, set to battle for the top spot on the podium after winning in all their preliminary games, had an intense start with fast-paced offensive

attacks and locked-in defences from both sides until the Falcons scored in the waning minutes of the first.

Hawks coach Dave Eccleston said his approach after the first period was to make the players believe in themselves.

"We talked at the intermission and I made them realize that we're a good team," he said. "I think a lot of the game is mental, you bring the guys in and make them realize we are okay."

The Hawks returned to the second period hot and pushing

hard on offence, but the Falcons seemed to be able to cool off whatever heat Humber gave.

Fanshawe led for most of the period, but the Hawks found their game in the last minute. Defenceman Derek Moorhouse commanded the ice with an impressive individual play and scored for Humber. Michael McCullough, who plays centre, would score the goal that would give the Hawks a slim 2-1 lead.

The Falcons fought hard until the end, but the Hawks controlled the match and took gold with the

win.

"I think the biggest thing for us is just staying tight the entire game. We fell asleep for about two minutes and that's what kind of did us at the end," Fanshawe Falcons captain Ronan McQueenie said.

The Hawks captured back-to-back wins in tournaments hosted in the fall semester and remain undefeated this season.

Eccleston said his coaching culture is about managing his players by emphasizing they are on the same level, they work together and, when there are mistakes, rely on discussion and correction rather than annihilating the players.

"I think that's the key to teaching anything. If your coach believes in you, then you start to believe it. That's been my success," Eccleston said.

Humber men's hockey returns on Jan. 25 for the winter semester tournament hosted at Fanshawe College in London, Ont.

"We are just going to keep practicing hard," Eccleston said.

"Usually, in January, we have an outdoor practice, so if any of the students want, it's a great opportunity, it's close to the college. They can swing by and actually see us practice outdoors, and the guys really love that"

Hawks men's basketball lose to Condors

Sam Belton
News Editor

Hawks' men's basketball head coach Omar Miles was speechless after a heartbreaking loss against the Conestoga Condors. He grimaced and shook his head, declining a post-game interview request.

The men's basketball team is now sporting a record of four wins and four losses after losing 106-97 in overtime to the Condors Wednesday night.

They remain in third place in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's (OCAA) west standings, and the Condors stay behind them in sixth, with a 4-5 record.

But during a half-time interview, Miles discussed the importance of improving defence. Part of the team's game plan is acknowledging many Humber players are skilled enough to get a lot of time on the court and trying to balance it out fairly.

"I can say we have a lot of talent, and we can see it," Miles said in the half-time interview. "We're spreading our minutes out. I think we can be more consistent playing defence. Because everybody

should be able to play defence."

He said that although Humber dominated the game by half-time, outscoring their opponents 55-40 in that stretch, it was a struggle to do so.

Nevertheless, Miles is proud of his team, which outperformed the Condors in three point percentage, free throw percentage, and assists.

"Absolutely. We're scoring the basket, that's not our issue. Our issue is just trying to get better," Miles said.

He said he wanted to see an improvement in reducing the number of turnovers. Ultimately, Humber was charged with 26 turnovers whereas Conestoga had 19.

"And too many missed layups, and we missed a couple foul shots as well," he said.

Hawks' point guard Jalen Menzies tied as Humber's top scorer with 18 points with 42 minutes on the court.

Humber reserve power forward Taujh Motiki-Stephens also scored 18 points with 30 minutes on the court. Motiki-Stephens, earned a double-double, recording 18 points and 11 rebounds.

He was the second-best rebounder, coming short only

to Humber reserve guard Kyle Brown-Fazekas, with 12 rebounds. Brown-Fazekas also earned a double-double with 12 points as well.

Despite a 16-point lead towards the end of the second quarter and a 12-point lead going into the fourth, there was a close, tense finish with teams competing hard. The score see-sawed between a tie and no more than a few points before the Hawks finally lost in overtime.

Conestoga shooting guard Damian De Los Santos said he is happy with his team's come from behind victory.

"I'm proud of how resilient our team's been, because we were down 15 at the half. We thought it'd be over, we always thought if we work hard, we can come back and win the game, which happened," De Los Santos said.

De Los Santos mentioned Condors guard Ladera Obang, who scored a whopping 38 points, outscoring the second-highest by 17. Obang was injured last season and recovered to play in this one.

"He did his thing, he came back from an injury. He doing his thing, he won us the game," De Los Santos said.

He said they have their season



SAM BELTON

Humber led the first half of the game but lost in overtime 106-97.

ups and downs, but this victory is the sweetest and hopes this will push them to be better.

"Humber's a big program to get a win from. We came in here, we took care of business," De Los Santos said.

He spoke on the emotional ten-

sion towards the end because of the tight score.

"We love it. Those are the types of games, fans love to watch it, we love to play," he said.

The Condors outscored the Hawks by nine points during overtime.

Chateau balances two programs, basketball

Antoni Canyameras Rojas
Senior Reporter

After a whole day of classes at the University of Toronto, Nicole Chateau makes the familiar drive to Humber College North campus to join the Humber Hawks women's basketball team in practice.

As the team's starting point guard, she has the responsibility of defending against the opponent's top player game in and game out. Off the court, she has a bigger battle.

Chateau is currently taking two programs at the same time. She's studying kinesiology at the University of Toronto and is also enrolled in the General Arts and Science program at Humber along with playing basketball with the Hawks.

On game-day, Chateau averages around 28 minutes of playing time and although she is exhausted she knows her routine doesn't allow her to go to bed just yet. She still has to spend at least 30 more minutes driving back downtown. When she gets home, she has to go through an asynchronous Humber class before she can finally collapse in her bed around 1 a.m. to wake up at 7:30 a.m.

It's a routine is definitely not made for the weak.

"It's hard, I don't even sleep the



DIEGO GUILLEN

Nicole Chateau is juggling two programs at Humber and U of T while playing basketball with the Hawks.

minimum number of hours," Chateau said.

"I don't have free days, I play games and I do assignments on weekends. If I want to hang out with friends, it has to go in the calendar weeks in advance, but I'm enjoying it and everybody is very supportive of me," she said.

Following the dominant 92-46 victory against the Conestoga Condors on Wednesday, the point

guard was exhausted but she still had the energy to joke with one of her teammates, Marley Bonnick, before heading to the locker room.

"Nicole is a really good multitasker. I couldn't do what she has been doing for two years," Bonnick said.

"She is just bubbly all the time. We just look at each other and we laugh, we have inside jokes and random moments. She brings that

to the team," the Hawks centre said.

Her father Ray Chateau, who is also director of Athletics and Recreation at Humber College, was standing up in the bleachers after seeing her daughter playing.

"I'm super proud of her," he said. "I'm very proud of how resilient he is, the fact she can juggle it all, it's a lot of mental fatigue. The biggest thing is that she is so well-organized, she plans everything out

months in advance.

"Obviously, we try our best supporting her. My wife does a pretty good job feeding her, she lives downtown, close to us," he said.

Hawks coach Ajay Sharma was impressed with the performance of Chateau against Conestoga with nine points and an outstanding defence. He said she is taking on a lot of responsibilities on the court.

"She is one of our strongest guards, very smart tactically and we are asking her to play bigger than she is for the injuries," Sharma said.

She picks up the things very fast, she wants to win, fights for lost balls, for rebounds," he said.

"But I'm very flexible. The assignments go first, so the players don't have to worry if they miss a practice," Sharma said.

Despite the responsibility and pressure, Chateau said she has never missed practice.

"It's worth it to commute every day to Humber to play with this team," she said.

Chateau said she does a little bit of meditation before going to bed to relieve the stress. But she definitely has another significant activity in her tight daily schedule.

"There is a lot of joy in the Humber team. Playing basketball is how I disconnect," she said.

Hawks women's basketball thrash Condors

Nicholas Rego
Sports Reporter

The Humber Hawks women's basketball team was looking to turn things around and break a three-game losing streak on Wednesday night with a matchup against the Conestoga Condors on home court.



NICHOLAS REGO

The Hawks team won 92-46.

Before the game, Hawks rookie guard Hope Manglal-Ian said the team is still performing well but has not gotten the results they were seeking.

"I feel like in our past couple of games we had good performances, but I feel like we have yet to show our audience and competitors who we are," Manglal-Ian said.

The Hawk's three-game losing streak all involved games that were on the road against Mohawk, St. Clair, and Lambton.

Rookie small forward Beverly Omere said the team spirit during that stretch remained high despite the disappointing losses.

"I think we all looked on the positive side knowing we only played five games so far and we still have a lot of games to go," she said.

Omere said before the game she had one thing she was looking forward to.

"I am looking forward to winning," she said.

And that's exactly what they did.

The Hawks had a great start, dominating the offensive zone

with dynamic ball movement and strong defense. Humber would go into halftime up 53-18, shooting 12-for-25 from the field in the second quarter.

That continued all game, with the Hawks playing dominantly on both sides of the ball.

The Hawks were clearly unfazed by the losing streak as they stifled every Condor opportunity and scored their own buckets.

The Hawks were firmly in control of the game and they continued to dominate until the very end. The final score was a resounding victory for the Hawks, with a score of 92-46.

Third-year guard Sarah Baptie finished the game with a double-double, earning 22 points and 11 rebounds.

The Hawks had four players scoring double-digit points, Baptie, Kia Watt, Maezell Del Mundo, and Katherine Khorovets.

Humber out-hustled Conestoga by winning the rebound battle 56-41 and grabbing 16 steals.

This is the Hawks' highest-scoring game of the season. They scored 88 points on Nov. 1



NICHOLAS REGO

Hawks ends their three-game losing streak after a win against the Condors.

against rivals Sheridan Bruins.

They are now 3-3 on the season, with three home wins and three road losses.

The Hawks hope to carry their momentum, and break the away game losing streak, into the next game as they face the Redeemer Royals on Nov. 29 in Hamilton.

Manglal-Ian said she looks at losing games as a learning oppor-

tunity.

"With every game it's not really a mistake or loss, it's either you win, or you learn," she said.

Manglal-Ian also said the team is carrying a positive mentality moving forward down the stretch.

"We have that very hungry and positive mentality to move forward and to see what we can do better as a team," she said.

Copa America spot in question for Canada

Pedro Briceno-Oros
Sports Reporter

The Canadian men's national team and supporters were left heartbroken earlier this week as Jamaica came back from a goal down to win the match 3-2.

Following a 2-1 win in Kingston, Jamaica, expectations were the Canadians would defend their advantage at BMO Field in Toronto and move on to the CONCACAF Nations League semi-finals. And why not, being undefeated in 22 straight games since September 2010.

The highly anticipated match started strong with a goal from Alphonso Davies in the first half to make it 1-0 and an Ismaël Koné header in the second half tied the game 2-2, however these efforts were not enough.

Two goals from Shamar Nicholson and a converted penalty by Bobby De Cordova-Reid in the second half saw Jamaica go through on away goals with a score of 4-4 on aggregate and secure guaranteed qualification for the Copa America.

"We were too casual," said Mauro Biello, the interim head coach for the Canada men's national team. "We lost easy balls and they took



Jamaica celebrates after defeating team Canada in the CONCACAF Nations League quarterfinal in Toronto.

some momentum, were able to score, and then we weren't able to get ourselves and get out of that."

He said he felt the team had control of the game following their first half performance.

"I thought in different moments we looked really good, we created

opportunities and they didn't really have much in the first half," Biello said.

"When you look at that part of the game and you say 'okay we're in control, we got the goal that put us ahead' and then in the second half you can make mistakes and we

made mistakes," he said.

National team captain Milan Borjan said the team needs to hold themselves accountable for the loss.

"We've got to sit down all together, look each other in the eyes and see what went wrong because this is unacceptable," he said. "This

team, to have players like that, to do something like this, it's not acceptable."

Borjan said he apologizes to fans for the result and hopes the team can recover.

"I'm very, very angry," Borjan said. "As a captain, I'm sorry to the nation that we didn't go to the semis but we have another chance in March for the Copa America and we'll try to do everything to bounce back and try to make our nation happy."

Not all hope is lost for Canada's Copa America qualification hopes, as they will face Trinidad and Tobago in one game play-off in Frisco, Texas, on March 23, 2024, for one of the last two qualification spots.

Many fans left the stadium feeling disappointed by the team's performance in the second half and some were critical of Canada's energy and decision making during the match.

"I felt like they thought the game was in the bag and they let it slip," said Mateo Rodriguez, Canada men's national team supporter. "We had everything we needed to win this game and we just couldn't do it," said Rodriguez. "I hope the team figures it out and finds their form, or we won't be ready for 2026."

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HAWKS BASKETBALL FACES OFF WITH CONDORS

Both Humber basketball teams were in action on Wednesday facing off against Conestoga. The women won 92-46, the men lost 106-97.

**MEN'S
HOCKEY TEAM
REMAINS
UNDEFEATED
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**CANADA
DROPS THE
BALL AGAINST
JAMAICA
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