



Ford Nation bids former mayor farewell

Humber News and
Humber Et Cetera Staff

Rob Ford was laid to rest on Wednesday and thousands turned up to pay their respects.

The departed ex-mayor's funeral was held at 65 Church St. around noon but people started lining up as early as 9 a.m. with high-ranking officials including the Premier and Lieutenant Governor there to say goodbye to Ford.

Ford's casket was escorted from City Hall around 11 a.m. by the Toronto Police's mounted division as well as police, fire and paramedics' honour guards. His supporters also joined the procession wearing Ford Nation t-shirts.

As the former mayor was moved to his final resting place, droves of people were heard chanting "Mayor for life!"

Before the funeral, Ford's body was held in repose at City Hall where flags were flown half-mast from Monday until Wednesday morning for any that wanted to pay their respects and his supporters spoke of his legacy to Toronto. "He was the people's prince. He was like Diana, misunderstood," said supporter Farhat Ameeriar.

Ford won the 2010 election as an underdog against former Ontario Liberal cabinet minister George Smitherman after serving as a city councillor for Etobicoke since 2000.

He was elected on a platform of cutting reckless government spending which res-

onated with his vocal base.

He was known as a man that always picked up the phone and responded to his constituents. He even gave out his personal cell phone number. This earned him a group of die-hard followers that became known as "Ford Nation."

Ford's time as mayor was remembered by supporters and detractors alike for his championing of a subway in Scarborough rather than the light rail line funded by the Ontario government, and privatizing garbage collection in the city's west end in response to the unpopular garbage strike that occurred near the end of his predecessor's term.

His victories were not without their political costs. Council was deadlocked throughout most of Ford's tenure, with right wing and left wing councillors battling over taxation, transit and labour issues.

Ford's international notoriety began on May 16, 2013, when Gawker and the Toronto Star reported on a video of Ford smoking crack and making homophobic remarks about future Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Ford initially denied the allegations but eventually admitted that he had smoked crack after Toronto police recovered the video. He was not charged with a crime, but his friend and driver Sandro Lisi was charged with extortion in relation to his efforts to recover the tape.

Throughout his time at City Hall, Ford had been criticized



REUTERS/FRED THORNHILL

The casket carrying former Toronto Mayor Rob Ford arrives at St James Cathedral for funeral services in Toronto, March 30, 2016.

for his heavy alcohol use.

Council overwhelmingly voted to strip Ford of his mayoral powers on Nov. 18, which Ford compared to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait.

He maintained that the crack smoking was an isolated incident, but was forced to take a break from the campaign trail to enter rehab on

April 30 after the Globe and Mail uncovered then-recent photos of him smoking crack in his sister Kathy's basement.

Ford emerged from rehab on June 30, adamant in his desire to run for re-election, but it was not to be.

On Sept. 10 Ford was taken to hospital after complaining of pain in his abdomen.

Doctors discovered a tumour infected with malignant liposarcoma, a rare form of cancer that latches onto the body's soft tissues.

Ford dropped out of the mayoral race on Sept. 12. Brother Doug, who represented Rob's old Etobicoke ward on city council, ran for mayor in his place, while Rob

ran again for council.

Rob won Ward 2 handily, with almost 10,000 more votes than Luke LaRocque, who finished in second.

Ford died after succumbing to an 18-month battle with cancer at the age of 46 on Mar. 22.

Ford is survived by his wife Renata, young children Stephanie and Doug Jr.

#TDOV supports Trans Day of Visibility worldwide

Gabrielle Austin and
Jessenia Feijo

The world of social media celebrated International Transgender Day of Visibility on Thursday using #TDOV to bring the community and its agents together.

It's a day that shows visibility on social media and how many people are demonstrating their support, said Susan Gapka, a community and political organizer as well as lobbyist.

"It shows that the trans community has a lot of mo-

mentum, they are gaining public recognition and acceptance. But, we must be remembering that that's not consistent," said Gapka.

"I mean in Canada, I'd like to believe, that we've created a kinder society. Historically we've been pretty good with that and this is the reason why we did the passing of the human rights amendments," said Gapka.

"We've amended the entire human rights code to include gender identity and gender expression," said Gapka.

She said the significance of the passing of human rights amendments is they make it hard for a person to be denied services.

"Like going to the bank and being denied because 'We don't serve people like you', or going to the restaurant or applying for housing because 'We don't serve people like you', or going to the doctor and saying 'Well, we can't,' Gapka said.

The trans community, alongside other gender minorities often experience dis-

crimination, including denial of services, verbal abuse, or forced psychiatric care, said Kinnon MacKinnon, PhD student in Public Health at University of Toronto who identifies as a queer trans man.

"These barriers are of particular concern given that gender minorities have an elevated risk of experiencing eating disorders, substance use issues, depression, anxiety, and suicidal behaviours," said MacKinnon, who is a former Social Services instructor at Humber College and LGBTQ

human rights advocate.

"While trans populations require mental health supports to reduce the severity and duration of psychological distress, and to improve quality of life, psychiatric institutions and clinicians lack the capacity to serve this population," said MacKinnon.

Christopher Karas, a first year Paralegal Education student at Humber's North campus, agrees that while the country has made strides for diversity, Canada is still a place of discrimination.

"While we are queer, transgendered, et cetera, we are facing the risk when we step into our doctor's office," Karas said.

"We are asking personal questions about our health. For me personally, it is difficult for me to ask about sexually transmitted diseases," he said.

Kenny Dawkins, Event and Resource Assistant at Humber College's LGBTQ Resource Center said he experienced similar feelings when donating blood.

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Five year Humber sustainability plan aims to reduce our footprint, preserve resource

Matthew Owczarz
REPORTER

Earth has a limited amount of natural resources but people continue using non-renewable energy like there is no tomorrow, and at this rate experts believe there very well might not be.

Humber College is reducing its campus footprint with an ambitious five-year sustainability plan committed to preserving resources while reducing waste.

"Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs," said Lindsay Walker, who was hired in 2012 as Humber's first sustainability manager.

Sustainability is one of Humber's six values along with excellence, innovation, a student focus, respect and inclusion. In 2012 the college became certified with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

"They assessed our operations and engagement around sustainability, and we obtained a STARS silver rating for our efforts, which is really great," she said.

In recent years, Humber has installed new water refill stations, implemented a carpool program and constructed green buildings such as the Learning Resource Commons and the F building expansion at North cam-



MATTHEW OWCZARZ

The 2014-2019 Sustainability Plan focuses on reducing the impact of humans around campus

pus. The green buildings are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient in construction, Walker said.

"Humber just recently opened a new bus loop on North campus," she said. "We worked with the TTC and other transit authorities to work out better schedules in order to promote alternative transportation. Even taking the bus over driving helps the environment," Walker said.

The amount of waste that is reused on campus has increased to 54 per cent in 2014 from 42 per cent in 2012, according to the Humber Sustainability Report for 2014 - 2015.

"We have done a lot, but much more can be done so we

developed a plan to lead us to do more and better," Walker said.

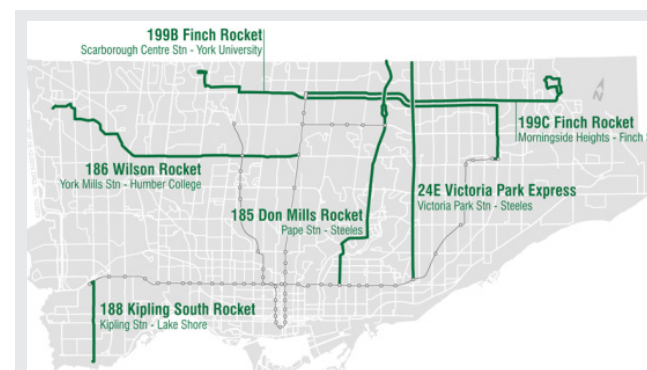
The 2014 - 2019 Sustainability Plan is the framework for Humber becoming a leading sustainable institution. The plan focuses on reducing the negative human impact around campus, educating students on energy efficiency and creating a healthy culture around sustainable campus life.

"Our future goals are really building on a lot of the things we already started, but we would really like to connect our students to the surrounding environment with outdoor events and classrooms that would help teach students sustainability concepts," Walker said.

One ongoing effort is embedding sustainable learning outcomes into teaching and learning on campus. Staff and faculty will be educated on sustainability and it will be integrated into various curriculums to raise awareness, according to Humber's sustainability plan.

"As an educational institution we are a hub for sharing, teaching and promoting sustainability to our students and our community," said Chris Whitaker, president and CEO of Humber College.

"We have made great progress on our goals so far and we continue to work towards doing more while impacting less," he said.



TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

New express TTC buses serve North, Lakeshore

Britnei Bilhete
SENIOR REPORTER

Curious commuters were brought to a standstill Thursday morning at the Kipling station bus terminal as Mayor John Tory, TTC chair Josh Colle and councillor members officially announced several new express bus services. The routes will be expanding across the city with two of them traveling directly to Humber campuses. The following are the recent additions:

188 Kipling South Rocket, Kipling to Lake Shore Boulevard (Humber Lakeshore Campus)

186 Wilson Rocket, York Mills to Humber College North Campus

199B Finch Rocket, York University to Scarborough Centre Station via Finch Station

199C Finch Rocket, Finch Station to Morningside Heights

24E Victoria Park Express, Victoria Park Station to Steeles Avenue

"We really have introduced an unprecedented level of new service" to the city, said Colle. The expansion was made possible by the purchase of new buses approved in the TTC budget by council, he said.

New express buses for the five added routes cost about \$5 million. Tory called it a 'great investment'.

"Reliable transit service is fundamental to building a stronger, more prosperous [city]," said Tory.

The new plans will also resurrect bus routes 'cut by previous administration'.

Also in an effort to get the city moving faster, parking fines will triple beginning March 31.

While some people believe the fine increase to \$150 is a city cash grab, Tory said it is key to reducing congestion and delays in Toronto.

Tory hopes "fewer people decide they're going to be selfish" by parking illegally and blocking transit routes and busy roads.

Tory's traffic plan sees more vehicles towed, fewer tickets

Phil Witmer
SENIOR REPORTER

Thanks to a focus on rush hour routes, Toronto police doubled the number of cars towed last year for parking violations.

According to reports filed to the city, more than 40,000 vehicles were towed in 2015 compared to about 20,000 in 2014.

Vehicles towed on traffic-intensive rush hour routes like King Street West made up about half of the 2015 numbers.

Brian Moniz, operations supervisor for Toronto Police Service, said that the city itself and Mayor John Tory pushed for an allocation of resources to the rush hour routes in January 2015.

However, another contrib-



FLICKR/PAYTON CHUNG)

King Street West is a key rush hour route Toronto Police focused on last year. Cars that block rush hour flow are being towed.

uting factor in the total was an equal focus on habitual offenders: drivers with three or more outstanding parking

fines.

"With those two programs, we anticipated this rise in towing, as well as this de-

cline in parking tickets," said Moniz.

Just over two million parking tickets were issued in

2015, compared to two-and-a-half million in 2014, with \$55 million collected in revenue so far.

"The efforts are being focused on where we think they will make the biggest difference with respect to gridlock and traffic flow," police spokesperson Mark Pugash told the *Toronto Star* Monday. "Our motivation is not revenue. Our position has always been that."

Moniz further said that there were no plans to expand parking enforcement efforts to new areas, instead choosing to crack down further on the rush hour routes and habitual offenders.

"We need to continue focusing on vehicles that contribute to congestions. I think we're already doing a good job [in those areas], but it can always be done better," he said.

Cleanup on campus kicks off Green Week

Daniel Caudle
REPORTER

Humber students and staff made their environment a little cleaner as Earth Week kicked off on Tuesday with a campus-wide cleanup.

The college's Office of Sustainability launched this initiative, among others, with the hopes of creating a culture of environmental awareness around Humber's campuses and surrounding communities.

Humber's Earth Week has become an ingrained part of student life, with the occasion marked at both the North and Lakeshore campuses every spring.

"This event has been going on for a few years and has become part of what Humber does," said event organizer and sustainability manager Lindsay Walker. "Every spring students know, expect and are ready for the event to happen."

Staff and students alike showed they care about our environment with 136 people participating, and over 85 bags of garbage being collected at North campus.

From 11 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. students and staff could be found walking through the campus wearing their green shirts and collecting any piece of garbage they could find.

"I'm participating to help the environment and make the school a cleaner place," said one paralegal student.

Students were given a free t-shirt, bags, gloves and a map outlining where the most garbage is on campus, and where the designated drop off locations are.

Those who participated were then given a coupon for free pizza and a drink as a thanks for their help.

"We like to give back to students after they help the campus with its spring cleaning," said Walker.

The collected garbage is hauled away to a refinery factory where the garbage is sorted into recyclables, and further refined into its designated categories, said Walker.

"The clean-up event is good, but should happen more often – about once a month," said the paralegal student. "It allows us to see who the good people are and who cares about the environment."

The week continued with a rummage sale, free coffee, carpooling suggestions, information desks, free local organic smoothies, and ended with a movie about climate change and what students can do.

Environmental film inspires Humber panel on sustainability

Corey Brehaut
SENIOR REPORTER

Humber College screened Avi Lewis' documentary *This Changes Everything* at Lakeshore campus as part of the school's Earth Week initiative.

The work by journalist and filmmaker Lewis was produced in conjunction with famed Canadian author and activist Naomi Klein's book of the same name. It examines the relationship between the deteriorating environment and humanity's attitude towards it.

The central focus is on convincing the audience that it is not human nature to destroy the environment but that the species is operating under the idea that nature has been subjugated to humanity, even though it is back with a vengeance.

Following the screening, a panel of Humber professors and a student organizer answered questions from the audience and engaged in a discussion on the environment.

Shelley McCabe, a Humber teacher specializing in communicating science to non-scientists said she agrees with the film's drive to change people's perspective on climate issues.

"Every time you do something if you stop and think 'what if seven billion (people) did the same thing,' what kind of an impact would that have?" she said.

AdCentre students produce social media campaign for fentanyl awareness in GTA

Samantha Singh
Natalia Vega
SENIOR REPORTERS

A social media campaign about the dangers of the drug fentanyl created by AdCentre students launched last Tuesday at Humber College's Lakeshore campus in Toronto.

The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police presented the provincial wide campaign – called Face the Fentanyl – in collaboration with Humber's AdCentre students and community members.

Fentanyl is an addictive synthetic opioid that when combined with drugs such as cocaine can cause overdoses or death.

In Toronto, death due to overdose is on the rise.

"In 2004 146 people died due to overdose. In 2014 that number had increased to 252, the largest number in the history of our city," said city councillor and chair of the Toronto Drug Strategy Implementation Panel Joe Cressy.



SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY

Poster for *This Changes Everything* marks environmental film based on Naomi Klein's book.

Lindsay Walker, Humber's sustainability manager talked about initiatives at the college to reduce waste.

"Now all paper on campus is 50 per cent recycled but I hope in the future we stop using paper much more than we do but also if we do have to use it, it is 100 per cent recycled," she said.

She also explained how much the school is doing to become sustainable.

"They have to get food locally, they have to increase those percentages over time, they have to report to us on an annual basis about what that food is and where it's coming from," she said. "We have been installing water refill stations

throughout the college over the last bunch of years."

The panel also ventured into the realm of Canadian politics and Justin Trudeau's environmental track record.

"I think, pretty though he may be, JT represents more of the same kind of systemic problems that we had over the past ten years with Ste-

phen Harper which was a government that was more or less in the back pocket of corporate power," said Tyler Shipley, a politics and economics professor at Humber.

"Nothing suggests that Justin Trudeau is going to stop the development of the tar sands," he said. "Quite the contrary, he said so just in the past month, in fact, First Nations walked away from a meeting with Justin Trudeau's ministers on the question of the tar sands within the last month."

Sarah DeCoutu, a third-year Sustainable Energy and Building Technology student at Humber fielded questions about her job prospects in the future. She said she was more excited for the jobs to come than the jobs currently available.

"Right now I'm looking for a job in energy management position for a property management company or municipalities but I'm excited for the jobs to come," she said.

The environmental panel ordered more food for attendees than they needed, which did not go past the panelists.

"I just want to reiterate that we definitely didn't quite catch how many people we thought might come... so literally bring home food to your family, find other people out in the hallway," said Walker. "Let's not waste this food."



Learn more about Tina's story at facethefentanyl.ca

HUMBER ADCENTRE

Egypt flight hijacking raises airport security concerns

Katie Jones
SENIOR REPORTER

Egypt's airport security was under scrutiny Tuesday after an EgyptAir plane was forced to land in Cyprus, Larnaca, when a man told the plane's crew he was wearing a suicide explosive belt.

The aircraft left Alexandria and was scheduled to land in Cairo.

There were 81 people on board during the hijacking. Once the plane landed, the passengers and crew exited unharmed and the man was arrested after giving himself up.

The motive behind the incident is still in question but authorities said the explosive device was fake.

It was stated by authorities that the man wanted to contact his ex-wife and demanded to see her. She lives in Larnaca.

The hijacking was not related to any terrorist acts and the perpetrator was psychologically unstable, said a senior Cypriot official.

Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades said the man appeared to have a personal agenda.

Tuesday's security incident comes after the crash of Metrojet Flight 9268 on Oct. 31 in Egypt's Sinai desert. The aircraft was brought



Man (centre with glasses) who was arrested after he allegedly hijacked an EgyptAir flight, which was forced to land in Cyprus on Tuesday, is transferred by Cypriot police to a court in the city of Larnaca on March 30. Egyptian security has faced criticism.

REUTERS/YIANNIS KOURTOGLOU

down by a homemade bomb killing all 224 people on board.

Egyptian authorities confirmed the plane was destroyed by terrorists.

There is concern considering that the incidents are six months apart, said Ken-

neth Gray, Coordinator of the National Security Studies Program at the University of New Haven in Connecticut. "That fact that they've had two such incidents in the last six months should make one question if they have adequate security measures in place,"

said Gray who specializes in counterterrorism and crisis management.

How the incident will be treated going forward is not clear, experts said.

Kanishkan Sathasivam, a professor from Salem State University in Massas-

schusetts, says there are already a lot of questions about these kinds of issues in Egypt because of the current government crackdown on Islamic militants.

Sathasivam, who specializes in national security and aviation, said that Egyptian

security officials will have two different groups dealing with this issue – international and domestic audiences.

"For the international audience, they constantly have to provide reassurance that Egypt is a safe place to travel to," said Sathasivam.

"They are going to want



That fact that they've had two such incidents in the last six months should make one question if they have adequate security measures in place

Kenneth Gray

COORDINATOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN

foreign business people coming into Egypt and they're going to want tourists coming into Egypt," he said.

"This is extremely important to the government because the government is struggling with economic hardships in that country.

"They can't afford to alienate the international business community, tourists or even friendly foreign governments who provide them with aid."

Bill C-51 weighed by observers in wake of recent terror attacks

Sam Juric
SENIOR REPORTER

Terrorism has pervaded the pages of newspapers around the world and online media outlets in the week following the deadly twin blasts in Brussels and the recent gruesome suicide bombings in Lahore, Pakistan.

Coverage of both attacks is unavoidable across all media platforms.

The damage is personified by the number of dead, which continues to rise in the wake of the Brussels attack, with 35 dead and 270 wounded.

At least 70 lives have been lost following a devastating suicide attack in Pakistan's second largest city on Sunday. At least 14 of the dead have been identified as Christian and 44 as Muslim.

Of the dead, 12 people remain unidentified.

The attack happened in a crowded park in Lahore filled with hundreds of people, including many Christians out for Easter Sunday, and the Lahore bombing stresses a

history of unrest caused by years of terrorism in Pakistan.

There is a discrepancy between the media coverage on both attacks said David Benson Skilicorn, professor of counterterrorism at Queen's University, with far more coverage of the European incidents.

"It's not hard to see that there are differences," Skilicorn said.

"Partly it's because North Americans care about North American attacks, but it's also true westerners do not pay as much attention to attacks in other parts of the world, unless they are dramatically more deadly."

Canadians were also confronted with news of terror.

Kevin Mohamed was detained on fears of terrorism by the RCMP on Saturday following a tweet asking how to alter a video game to emulate the terror which unfolded at Zaventem airport in Brussels.

The 23-year-old University of Waterloo student's detainment points to the changes in

Canada's terrorism laws.

"They'll have to submit a request for recognizance, and with that they're going to have to lay out their investigative materials that lead them to think this 'individual may engage,'" said Lorne L. Dawson, professor of Sociology and Terrorist Radicalization at the University of Waterloo. He added that that's the new language used by Canada's controversial anti-terrorism legislation, Bill C-51.

"It used to be that they had to prove that the individual was likely to engage in a terrorist attack, now they only have to prove that they 'may' engage in an attack, which is a lighter condition," he said.

As the threat of terrorism rises, intelligence organizations will continue to grapple with how to respond to individuals like Mohamed.

"Intelligence organizations have this problem that people go from wannabes to operatives carrying out moderately serious attacks," said Skilicorn.

"Their challenge, even



REUTERS/MOHSIN RAZA

Men mourn death of relatives after a blast outside a public park in Lahore, Pakistan on March 27. Attack appeared in part to target Christians out to celebrate Easter Sunday.

when they detect someone like this, is when should I pull the pin and arrest this guy? It's impossible to get right," said Skilicorn.

Most of Mohamed's online activity was of a theological or religious nature.

"There is stuff there but not enough that we think would be really cause for concern,"

Dawson said.

The outcome of Mohamed's case will be dependent on the material revealed in court, and Dawson said it's hard to say if Bill C-51 has more of a capacity to protect or harm people.

"I suppose our concern would be that if they start to revert to these measures a lit-

tle too commonly, then eventually we're probably going to have people who are going to have their freedom curtailed because they have expressed ideas that we don't like.

"That then of course becomes very problematic in a democracy where freedom of expression is absolutely a pillar of all of our freedom."



PHIL WITMER

Union VP Paul Michaud says the wage gap in staff is growing. Sunshine list shows Humber CEO has twice salary of Premier Wynne

Phil Witmer

SENIOR REPORTER

The Ontario “Sunshine List” of high-earning public sector workers continues to grow as it marks its 20th anniversary this year.

Known more formally as the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act, the Sunshine List compiles the names, positions, and places of employment of Ontario public workers who make over \$100,000 annually. The 2016 list was released last week.

“The benefit is primarily transparency,” said the anonymous webmaster of ontariosunshinelist.com. “Releasing the list on the internet also allows the public, such as myself, to analyze the list and this provides a benefit to society as a more convenient way to search and understand the list.”

The webmaster, who has no direct connection to the Ontario government, compiles the list into the simple URL as a free resource.

What’s not so transparent is that the Sunshine List’s cut-off point no longer accurately represents its own value.

The Sunshine List has not accounted for inflation since its inception. The \$100,000 of 1996 is now closer to \$145,000. This means that the list increases in double-digit percentages every year. Just 4,576 names were in the 1996 list, compared to over 115,000 in the 2016 list.

Paul Michaud, the 1st VP of the Humber Faculty Union, has monitored the list for years and told *Et Cetera* that the increase is particularly pronounced in Humber’s staff, where a gap between administrative staff and full-time faculty continues to grow as well.

“When the list first came out in 1996, the president earned about double what full-time faculty did. Now they’re earning over four times [as much],” said Michaud.

Humber President and CEO Chris Whitaker made \$432,765 last year, with an additional \$22,491 in benefits. The average for the rest of the full-time faculty on the list was around \$120,000.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne only made \$209,374 total, less than half of Whitaker’s base salary.

Michaud predicted as much and did not expect much change from 2015 since the provincial government placed a freeze on upper-level administration.

“There’s always a game that happens there,” said Michaud. “If you can’t get a salary increase where you are you get a new job internally.”

Debates over the wages for Ontario post-secondary instructors regularly appear around the Sunshine List’s publication, with much of the criticism stemming from poorly organized faculty.

“The bigger issue is the size of schools’ bureaucracies,” said Allan Richarz, a columnist for the *National Post* and *The Globe and Mail*. “There are a lot of well-paid admin positions that may not be necessary, but take up an increasing portion of schools’ budgets.”

Richarz also said that the provincial government cannot impose regulations on college salaries due to such control on these institutions representing an “overreach” of government authority.

“Informal regulation can exist at these institutions. If a school feels it is paying too much for professors, it will bring in more lower-paid, contractually limited appointments or hire non-tenure track positions,” said Richarz.

Premier Wynne continued to defend the \$100,000 minimum at the time of the list’s release and also denied that the provincial government attempted to keep the list’s release a low-key event by releasing it at the beginning of the Easter weekend.

Marco Muzzo given 10 years in prison

Veronica Appia

SENIOR REPORTER

Marco Muzzo wiped away tears and looked toward his family as he was escorted out of the Newmarket courtroom on Tuesday after being sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Muzzo was convicted of four counts of impaired driving causing death and two counts of impaired driving causing bodily harm in the Sept. 27, 2015 drunk driving crash that killed Daniel Neville-Lake, 9, Harrison Neville-Lake, 5, and Milagros Neville-Lake, 2, along with their grandfather Gary Neville in Vaughan, Ont., northwest of Toronto. The children’s grandmother, Neriza Neville, and great-grandmother, Josefina Frias, were also injured in the crash.

Muzzo pleaded guilty to the six counts on Feb. 4.

Justice Michelle Fuerst subtracted the eight months Muzzo spent in custody from his sentence, which will result in him serving nine years and four months followed by a 12-year prohibition from driving when he is released from prison. He is eligible for parole after serving one third of his sentence.

Fuerst considered the positions of both parties regarding the length of Muzzo’s sentence. In February, the defence submitted that Muzzo should be sentenced to eight years in prison, while the Crown suggested 10 to 12.

In her ruling, Fuerst recounted certain victim im-



KATHERINE GREEN

Jennifer Neville-Lake shows photos of her children that were taken following the September 2015 crash.

compact statements, referencing specific passages demonstrating the intense suffering of Neville-Lakes, as well as their family and friends as a result of the crash.

Jennifer Neville-Lake, the mother of the three children, spoke outside of the courthouse, holding up a photo book she created, entitled “Choices... Actions... Consequences...”

She flipped through each page showing photos of her father’s wedding, her and her siblings as young children, her own wedding photo, and a photo of her three children, prior to the crash.

“This was a choice made by an individual and choices are actions that have consequences,” Neville-Lake said.

She then proceeded to show the media photos of their family vehicle after the crash and her two youngest

children holding hands moments before she and her husband had to make the choice to take them off life support.

The final photo is of three tiny urns.

“When you choose to drink and drive you are hurting other families, you are killing someone else’s babies.”

After summarizing the victim impact statements, Fuerst addressed the 92 letters of support for Muzzo, submitted by family members, friends, co-workers and other members of his community.

Muzzo’s family wiped away tears as Fuerst read the contents of the letters, which describe Muzzo as a humble and hard-working man.

“The letter writers consistently speak of Mr. Muzzo as a compassionate and kind person who goes out of his way to help others,” Fuerst said. “The

letters are replete with small everyday acts of kindness done by him for others.”

Fuerst listed a number of aggravating factors involved in her decision including that Muzzo chose to drink and drive, was speeding and killed four people.

Included in the mitigating factors was the fact that Muzzo pleaded guilty early on in the legal process, had no previous criminal record and expressed deep and genuine remorse, the judge said.

Muzzo’s lawyer Brian Greenspan, spoke outside of the Newmarket court following the decision.

“Marco Muzzo took full responsibility for his actions, took full accountability for his actions and today he fully accepts the sentence that was imposed by Justice Fuerst today and will commence his sentence today – the sentence that was imposed by her honour,” Greenspan said.

Carolyn Swinson, a spokesperson for MADD Canada said that often, sentences do not reflect what the victims are looking for. She said she hopes this trial sends a message not to drink and drive because it’s not worth it.

“Beside the sentencing, I don’t know how you could possibly live with yourself after killing three gorgeous children and their grandfather. You have to live with that. We hope it will be a message to people out there to say you can go to jail for a long time, don’t do it.”

“It’s not easy, it should be easier.”



Flag of international transgender community by Monica Helms, first unveiled in 2000.

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According to the Canadian Blood Services, a man is now eligible to donate blood if it has been at least five years since he last had sex with another man.

“Obviously the whole problem is not about them having sex – it’s about anal sex, they don’t say that they specifically target gay men,”

said Dawkins.

And that’s not where it ends.

Karas said it is very difficult to talk about mental health.

“It’s not easy. It should be easier,” he said.

Having a job as a medical practitioner is a privileged situation and practitioners are not representing the community they serve by making

it difficult for us to speak, Karas said.

MacKinnon said that at the same time, though, many health care providers have not had access to proper training or education to adequately support trans people.

“Many well-intentioned health care providers are afraid of making a mistake, or saying the wrong thing, or misgendering a trans per-

son,” said MacKinnon.

“This is why improving training and education on issues related to gender identity and sexuality is so important in all health-related and human services disciplines,” he said.

This, in part, explains why so many trans people avoid necessary health care. Or decide not to disclose their history of transitioning, or wishes to transition, or non-binary gender identity--to automatically be assumed to be cisgender may be a way of avoiding trans-related discrimination at the hands of health care workers, MacKinnon said.

“I feel like people just need to be more accepting,” Dawkins said.

“It’s all about intersectionality and everyone has different qualities about them and they just kind of meet somewhere,” Dawkins said.

Commentary

Let us not forget the real Rob Ford

When Rob Ford died on Tuesday, instead of mourning, some people only continued to laugh at the former Toronto mayor.

TMZ ran a headline simply describing him as “Crack Mayor” while international outlets angled their coverage towards his boorish public persona.

Meanwhile, on social media, R.I.P.s rolled facetiously proclaiming Ford “the greatest rapper of all time” and “a legend”, as though he were an eccentric genius instead of an addict.

Ford definitely knew that there were benefits to being a visible personality, but much of what was muckraked in the last few years did not seem like an elaborate PR campaign.

It looked like a downward spiral. Crack cocaine and alcohol abuse were publicly acknowledged by the mayor. He made messy associations with Toronto’s criminal underworld; many of the men pictured in the scandalous “crack photo” went missing or were mysteriously found dead months later.

He sought the frequent company of his “driver” Alessandro Lisi, a known drug dealer whose own bru-

tal enforcer was also hired by Ford to coach Ford’s high school football team.

He went on intoxicated rants that were offensive to women, gays, and people of colour, sometimes simultaneously.

These shouldn’t have been read as entertainment. Yet because these were so outlandish (and because Ford had already established himself as a clownish heel), the world chortled at our buffoon of a mayor with Torontonians being the first to point and laugh.

The coverage of Rob Ford during and after his crack-smoking scandal should have made him look ridiculous.

It should have caused people to look at the man behind the public drunken racist slurs and deduce that he needed help and even more that he was unfit to lead the country’s largest city. Instead, he was cheered on by a bloodthirsty audience, eager to see how far down he’d plummet.

Torontonians were proud of his infamy. For once, we weren’t just known for Drake (when pictures of the two together surfaced, the retweets and Facebook shares flew wildly). This fandom propelled

Ford, adding to his legend as a consummate populist as much as his supporters did when they sympathized with his bungled attempts to save face.

It took Ford’s cancer diagnosis and subsequent disappearance from the public eye for him to stop being a meme.

When a prominent figure displays signs of being unwell, whether mentally or physiologically, public reaction usually depends on how beloved they are. Because Ford was both admired and reviled for his bumbling everyman character, this reaction was in limbo and few knew whether his antics were just an act or a cry for help.

By default, the latter should always be assumed. There is no need to entertain someone’s public meltdowns even on the off-chance they’re purely for attention. There is value in having compassion for celebrities. Beneath the infamy, Rob Ford was human—no matter how flawed he seemed to be. Maybe if this were taken into consideration Ford’s health wouldn’t have declined so drastically.

Now that he’s dead, the Torontonian public is showing a strangely

disproportionate amount of respect and reverence for Ford. In the days following his death, he has been compared to Princess Diana and hailed as a visionary politician. Where was all of this in the thick of Ford’s personal crisis?

During his tenure he was rightfully criticized for neglecting Toronto’s LGBT community and his counter-intuitive adoption of fiscal conservatism.

Should feeling badly about speaking ill of the dead erase the sins of those who have passed?

So, how to remember this man? Ford’s positives were what won him the election, but it was apparent hubris and/or addiction resulted in his worldwide infamy.

Those qualities are not something that should be celebrated, especially considering the damage they did to the city he ran.

But perhaps it doesn’t matter what he did here. A person’s terminal illness does not wipe out their sins.

Let’s remember Ford without the polished and apologetic tributes. It is possible to be respectful of the dead without rewriting a man’s history.

Are people with disabilities unwelcome in Canada?



Amy Wallace
NEWS EDITOR

Felipe Montoya is a full-time, tenured professor of environmental studies at York University. For three years, he has been living with his family in Toronto.

Montoya, whose family is originally from Costa Rica, submitted an application for permanent residency for himself, his wife and his two children. But the family’s ability to remain in Canada is now being called into question because Montoya’s son Nico, 13, has Down syndrome.

Immigration officials have denied his application because of the “excessive demand” that Nico would place on the health-care system. “Excessive” is defined as anything that costs more than \$6,387 per year. The family is now facing the prospect of having to return to Costa Rica.

A letter from Citizenship and Immigration Canada that was sent to Montoya claims that Nico functions at the level of a three-year-old. It estimates that special education support would cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000 a year.

When a family applies for residency, a finding of inadmissibility against one of its members affects everyone on the application.

This is selectively unfair. It contradicts the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which affords protection and benefit of the law without discrimination.

As the Syrian refugee crisis has demonstrated, we are a country that prides itself on its generosity. Over the past few months, Syrian families have been entering the country with several children in tow.

The average Syrian family coming to Nova Scotia has seven members, according to the province’s director of operations for the Immigrant Services Association.

The majority of government-assisted refugees in Canada are families with five to eight members.

Wouldn’t families with multiple children cost as much, if not more than Nico Montoya?

While two such situations are completely different, it still begs the question: how can one child be singled out for his disability?

Mr. Montoya doesn’t seem to gain any benefit for being in Canada for

three years, being a Canadian taxpayer and working a meaningful job.

This is not an isolated case. In 2011, a New Brunswick family faced deportation to South Korea because of their son’s autism. That same year, a French family was denied residency due to their daughter’s cerebral palsy.

It is time we re-evaluate our immigration policy with regards to disability. An article posted on The Council of Canadians with Disabilities website calls upon the Canadian Government to undertake a review of the “excessive demand” clause.

The current approach assumes that people with disabilities are a burden on Canadian society, and overlooks the contributions they can make. Many individuals with Down syndrome lead normal and productive lives, and spend hours participating in volunteer work. They may become employed and get married.

Our immigration policy needs to recognize those with Down syndrome as people, and not define them by their condition. Nico Montoya does not pose a threat to society, and it is unreasonable to assume he’s incapable of contribution.

Actress Olivia Wilde stars in a new video released in honour of World Down Syndrome Day on March 21. The video, narrated by a young woman with the disability,

shows Wilde spending time with friends and family and enjoying everyday activities. At the end of the video, the face of the real narrator is revealed. The video was intended to “change the way we look at people with Down syndrome,” but it faced some criticism for portraying the attractive actress rather than the young narrator herself.

While the video is a positive attempt to draw attention to those with Down syndrome, it shows that we have a long way to go.

Integration of children with special needs is also important because of the impact they can have on the greater community.

An example of this is Sam Forbes, the dancing Starbucks barista. The Toronto teenager has autism, as well as a movement disorder, which led him to channel his movements into dance.

A recent YouTube video of Sam dancing at work went viral, and landed him a spot on The Ellen DeGeneres Show.

After being told that he was unemployable, Sam has since gained confidence and independence from working at Starbucks. “People with autism do not want to be looked at with sympathy,”

Sam said in a statement. “Please, please, please keep an open mind about what people with special needs can do.”

Humber 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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Trudeau's first budget is taking baby steps in right direction



Jeremy Appel
SENIOR REPORTER

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's inaugural budget, unveiled by rookie Finance Minister

Bill Morneau is a step in the right direction, with billions of dollars pledged for infrastructure, child care, First Nations and the arts.

But the Trudeau government is constrained by its commitment to "fiscal responsibility," code for austerity, and no one in Parliament is credibly taking them to task for it.

Much of the discussion over the budget is determined by the size of the deficit.

The government is now going \$29.4 billion into the red, instead of the \$10 billion promised on the

campaign trail.

The Liberals have also all but abandoned their pledge to balance the budget in time for the next election.

Yet Pierre Trudeau never balanced a budget in his 16 years as prime minister, nor did Conservative Ontario Premier Bill Davis in his 14 years in power.

Suffice it to say, the sky is still intact.

The real problem with Trudeau's budget is that it doesn't go far enough in restoring the damage wrought to the Canadian welfare state by both the Stephen Harper and Jean Chretien years.

This sentiment is echoed by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), a left-leaning think tank. (Full disclosure: this writer has done paid work for the CCPA's Monitor magazine.)

"The Liberals are spending in the right places, but the amounts aren't up to the task," said chief CCPA economist David Macdonald. "The deficit is too small to really tackle Canada's biggest economic challenges: unemployment and slow growth."

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, hardly a left-wing organiza-

tion, says that the budget's \$11.9-billion in infrastructure investments are "spread too thin" to be effective.

Since the money is borrowed, they suggest the government spend more on infrastructure before interest rates increase.

Interest rates are currently so low that the Bank of Canada is contemplating experimenting with a negative interest rate, which would place the interest rate below one per cent.

Wouldn't now be an appropriate time to make massive investments?

In a \$2-trillion economy, what's the difference between \$10 billion, \$30 billion and \$80 billion? Not a whole lot.

As Macdonald pointed out, the \$29.4-billion federal deficit amounts to no more than 1.5 per cent of GDP. Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio of 32 per cent, which Trudeau has said will serve as his fiscal anchor, remains on the lower end of G8 nations.

Increased funding for First Nations is a welcome change from the Harper government's bellicosity, but the \$8.4 billion pledged conveniently goes into effect fully after the next election.

Ditto for the \$1.9 billion earmarked for arts and culture organi-

zations - Canada Council, Telefilm Canada and the National Arts Centre that fund and promote Canadian content. Another \$675 million is going "to modernize and revitalize" the CBC for "the digital era," again doled out over five years.

It's no wonder that Tom Mulcair, who's in danger of losing his job as NDP leader as a result of the party's disastrous 2015 campaign, has suddenly discovered the virtues of deficit financing.

It was ultimately an easy, albeit politically risky, vote getter for the Liberals.

If you recall, Mulcair ran in the election as a fiscal conservative, pledging to balance the books in every year of an NDP government. This allowed the Liberals, Canada's natural governing party, to position themselves as outsiders with their pledge to adopt minor deficits that are easily affordable.

Mulcair's criticism that Trudeau's budget doesn't do enough to tackle economic inequality reeks of insincerity. He knows that if he has any chance of staying on as leader, he must embrace the NDP's social democratic roots.

One of the few issues where Mulcair did outflank Trudeau on the left

during the election was his promise to establish a federally subsidized childcare program.

Paul Martin had made a similar pledge in his failed 2006 campaign for re-election. He dismissed the argument that parents should be given money to spend as they see fit on their children. This sort of stipend amounted to "beer and popcorn money," the former prime minister said.

Now Trudeau is offering beer and popcorn money to low- and middle-income parents with his Canada Child Benefit. It's not as dependable as federally-funded daycare, as its success depends on how the parents spend their money. That it's being targeted toward those with less money is no doubt a step in the right direction.

The childcare aspect is a microcosm of the budget - ambitious, but not ambitious enough.

The NDP and Conservatives have yet to offer a coherent or preferable alternative.

That may change if Mulcair is shown the door and the NDP chooses a leader with stronger progressive credentials who can put pressure on the Liberals' left flank to move further away from years of cuts.

Don't give up on NHL playoffs yet



Alex Martino
SENIOR REPORTER

It was only last year that five of the seven Canadian NHL teams made their way into the postseason.

The Ottawa Senators had their incredible win record in the second half of the season.

The Winnipeg Jets made their first playoff appearance since relocating from Atlanta.

The Calgary Flames and the Vancouver Canucks had all their key players working at full speed.

And the Montreal Canadiens sat atop the Atlantic Division.

What a difference a year makes.

Hockey fortunes did not smile on Canada this NHL season: injuries plagued teams that should have been the top in the league and half the Canadian teams are in a rebuild stage right now.

With the playoffs just weeks away it seems certain that our great white

northern teams will be hitting the golf courses early.

Right on cue, the mutterings of this year's playoffs having a low viewership, the unfairness of no Canadian teams in the playoffs despite hockey being Canada's sport and the classic taunt that the NHL commissioner "Gary Bettman hates Canada."

The jury is still out on the latter claim, however not seeing a Canadian team in the playoffs isn't reason to give up on the NHL altogether, especially not when there are so many reasons that the playoffs are worth a peek this year.

Let's begin with some context about why the "why watch hockey if Canada isn't represented" argument is antiquated: we are months shy of the 50th anniversary of the 1967 expansion that doubled the number of teams in the National Hockey League.

That expansion move drove Canadian team representation from 40 per cent of the league down to 20 per cent.

The current climate around hockey is also nowhere near what it was during the early days of the league.

The talent pool is more of a Schengen zone - that is to say the borders are open between European and North American talent in general - than it was in the days of Canadian hockey team dominance; the best players from around the world are in the NHL and they're spread across the

league.

And there's the effect salary caps have made on the mobility of players in general.

With that in mind great players from Canada are spread out across the league, as opposed to playing for their hometown team at an elite level.

Take the Montreal Canadiens, a team historically known for having a roster largely comprised of French Canadian players and native Montrealers.

The Habs haven't had a Canadian captain since the 1998-99 season and the organization has come down to maybe a handful of token francophone players.

Beyond that, in Toronto it's a lucky but rare occurrence for a local GTA kid to get a shot at being a part of the team they cheered for in their youth.

So, your favourite Canadian player is probably on a team somewhere south of the Border, you have him in your fantasy league and you're interested in how his games are going.

With all that in mind, there is plenty of reason to still watch the NHL playoffs, despite the projected lineup of teams not meeting CRTC standards.

Despite the hot streak of the Habs fizzling out due to Carey Price's injury problems, there is one team that has maintained dominance all season: the Washington Capitals.

Alexander Ovechkin has had the season of his life collecting numerous milestones and NHL records

and joining the 500 goal club.

With the additions of some key pieces from the Los Angeles Kings' 2012 Stanley Cup team in Justin Williams and Mike Richards, and with Braden Holtby a shoo-in for a Vezina nomination, it's worth seeing if the Caps will be able to overcome the challenges of previous seasons and make a deep run toward the Cup.

The Stamkos issue is intriguing for completely different reasons. Rumours have been flying all season about Stamkos' contract: will he stay, will he go?

The idea of Stamkos no longer being a member of the Lightning has Leafs fans salivating. But if the Lightning can make a strong case for keeping the star forward with a deep playoff run and a return to the Stanley Cup finals, those hopes may slowly be crushed.

The Eastern Conference wild card race is still tight with the Detroit Red Wings and the Philadelphia Flyers neck and neck to make it into the postseason.

Should Philadelphia find their wings the scoring potential brought by Claude Giroux, Jakub Voracek (who's been off his goal-scoring game this season but may peak at the right time), Wayne Simmonds and Brayden Schenn (who's put up career high numbers) will make them an interesting team to watch. They'll just need to make sure their goaltending is ready to go.

On the Western Conference side

it's mostly looking like more of the same. The Chicago Blackhawks, despite currently being third in the Central Division, have extensive playoff experience and are always favourites to extend their hockey dynasty.

Their young additions have fans awestruck by their point production this season and their franchise guys in Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane and Andrew Shaw know exactly what to do in playoff situations.

And when all else fails, Brent Seabrook in overtime is a cure for anything.

The Dallas Stars lead the Central Division and have clinched a playoff spot.

Like the Capitals, they have difficulty translating regular season dominance to playoff success but if they can stop their opponents from dictating the game and forcing more defensive play, the Stars could become the most fun team to watch in the playoffs in recent history.

That's just scratching the surface of what could happen in the NHL playoffs this year so it's easy to say "what's the point of watching with no Canadian teams in" but to follow that principle would deprive a hockey fan of some potentially fascinating storylines.

And Leafs fans, there's always the lottery for top prospect Auston Matthews to get your heart racing.

Filmmaker Pariselli honoured with Humber retrospective

Jennifer Berry
SENIOR REPORTER

Award-winning short filmmaker Mark Pariselli's work delves into themes of sexuality, identity and acceptance with an often darkly humorous lens and on Thursday, Humber's North Space Gallery in the Learning Resource Commons honored him with the official opening of a retrospective.

As part of Prismatic Intersection, Humber's LGBTQ+ celebration and art exhibit in partnership with the Gender and Sexual Diversity Committee, Pariselli's short films will be screened followed by an informal Q&A featuring him and Humber Creative Photography alumnus Adam Moco, the exhibit's curator.

The filmmaker's experimental piece, *Kiss*, has also been projected throughout the gallery's photography exhibit which began last week.

Ashley Watson, curator of Humber Galleries and Collections, said that curating the exhibit was a collaborative process between herself, Moco, and the diversity committee with a common goal of "bringing a wider knowledge of LGBTQ+."

"It's not the whole spectrum but it is a start to talking about things that are LGBTQ+ but also more universal, like body image," said Watson of Prismatic Intersection, which includes work from three



COURTESY OF MARK PARISELLI

Pariselli's films have won prizes and been featured in festivals around the world

artists including Moco and Pariselli.

"And Mark's talking about laws around gender and sexuality" she said.

Pariselli said that his path toward filmmaking was a natural progression and seemed like the best way to blend his artistic interests.

"I wasn't the kid that picked up his mother or father's camera and began making short films at a really young age," said Pariselli.

"But I was an avid reader as a child, reading beyond the recommended reading level and was always drawn to storytelling. I also found myself directing games on the playground with other

kids, imagining scenarios for us and creating characters and story lines. I also became interested in music and photography."

After high school, the Toronto-based artist went on to graduate magna cum laude with a BFA Honours in Film Production from York University. He hit the international film scene almost immediately, taking part in prominent international LGBTQ+ film festivals across the globe.

His dialogue-free debut short film *After* screened at more than 40 international film festivals including Toronto's 2009 Inside Out LGBT Film Festival, where Pariselli received Honourable Mention for the Best Up-and-Coming Toronto Film or Video Maker Award.

After was also shortlisted for the Iris Prize that same year and won the Best Short Film Award at the 2011 Sicilia Queer Film Festival in Italy.

Pariselli said he feels fortunate to have been supported by *Inside Out* throughout his career and embraces the opportunity to show this work globally, even if there are some nerves that parts of the work might not translate.

"It's always an interesting experience screening your work in a foreign country where English isn't the main spoken language. Sometimes

your film has been subtitled and I worry that some of the humour or other elements won't translate," said Pariselli.

In 2012, Pariselli was chosen to attend the Berlinale Talent Campus at the Berlin Film Festival. He also attended the Sicilia Queer Film Festival as a member of the International Jury. In 2014, he served as a member of the Short Film Jury for ImageOut: The Rochester LGBT Film & Video Festival.

Pariselli's other internationally acclaimed short films include the experimental works *Kiss* and *Pigeon Hole* and the narrative dramas *Frozen Roads*, *Severed*, and *Monster Mash*.

Pariselli's most recent short, *Necromantic*, a Tim Burtonesque, stop motion, Gothic piece that involved working with Ken dolls and maggots in home-built, doll house sets is no exception, calling it a "new and challenging experience."

Pariselli also recently tried his hand at a different kind of artistic endeavor, directing his first music video for the Toronto-based band, *Light Fires*. Calling it a fun and exciting experience, Pariselli said he drew inspiration from one of his artistic heroes, Andy Warhol – specifically his *Screen Tests*.

"Half of the project was shot on film which is always nerve racking when you have become used to working with

digital and video playback, but it turned out beautifully," Pariselli added.

Pariselli names Gregg Araki, Stanley Kubrick, Lynne Ramsay, Ingmar Bergman, and Michelangelo Antonioni as inspirations for their "fearlessness and creativity" and said he focuses on telling a story visually in his own work.

"In my own work, I like to focus on visual storytelling rather than relying heavily on dialogue so I draw inspiration from photography and music videos as well," said Pariselli.

Next, the filmmaker has his sights set on completing his first feature length film, which is currently in the development stage.

"I'm challenging myself to write something that is small in scale and cast – two characters in one location. It is shaping up to be part horror/part dark relationship drama," said Pariselli.

"Staring at that blank computer screen is always intimidating, but expanding the scope of the storytelling (from short to feature length) is exciting."

Pariselli said that while he wishes he'd tried feature filmmaking sooner, short films have allowed him to harness his vision and find his voice.

"Working with shorts is great for developing your voice, strengthening your storytelling skills, experimenting and exploring."

Oculus Rift headset sees guarded optimism

Phil Witmer
SENIOR REPORTER

Reaction among tech insiders was mixed on Tuesday after the Oculus Rift virtual reality headset began shipping to the consumer market on Monday following years of anticipation.

While many have praised the California company's accessible form of VR (virtual reality) gaming, others are critical of a rollout that promises the more hyped titles, such as *Insomniac's Edge of Nowhere*, at a later date.

Attention has been drawn in particular to the Rift's impracticality as a household product, citing its US\$600 price tag and the requirement of a high-end gaming PC that usually costs over \$4,000.

Mashable editor Lance Ulanoff told Reuters Business that the premium pricing was most likely a measure to ensure that only customers with more advanced support hardware were able to access the Rift's features.

"They actually priced it in such a way to limit the audience, it's a benchmark for entry into the club of enjoying virtual reality gaming," said Ulanoff.

According to Rob Robson, professor of PC Computer and Game Programming at Humber College, VR gaming itself is still in something of a trial period as gamers have little to direct them towards objectives.

"You could be looking around with your headset on saying, 'wow, look at the pretty birds' and then someone in the game shoots you," Robson said.

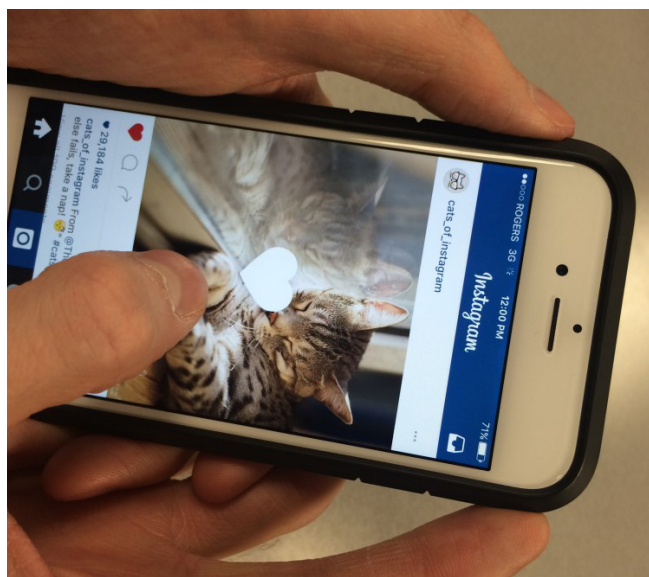
"You've got major issues. How do you get the player to look where they're supposed to be looking?"

He also notes that the Rift is a less practical purchase than its competitors, such as the forthcoming Sony Playstation VR, since those products are or will be ready-to-play out of the box.

Still, Robson believes that the Rift will eventually lead the way toward a future where VR gaming comprises 50 per cent of its industry in as little as five years.

"The time it takes for people to figure out how to properly use a machine gets smaller every time new technology is introduced," said Robson.

Instagram feed changes could be a 'huge win' for advertisers, expert says



RYAN DURGY

Instagram recently announced changes to order in which users see pictures and videos in their feed, a monetizing move.

Ryan Durgy
SENIOR REPORTER

The social media world was shaken up last week with the announcement that Instagram is switching to a non-chronological newsfeed order, a timeline of posts controlled by an algorithm.

Sandra Robinson, a faculty

member at Carleton University who researches and teaches algorithmic culture said one of the goals of a social media algorithm is to extract meaningful information from users based on their interactions in an effort to better target ads.

"It could be a huge win for advertisers," Robinson said.

Instagram has said the changes would be made in the "coming months" but some of the platform's most followed users have posted the changes would come into effect this week.

Instagram said the switch will improve the experience for users, but Robinson said that all depends on the patterns the app picks up.

"It all hinges on algorithms and machines learning to shape what they believe we want to see based on what we've been doing on the app," Robinson said.

The proposed changes do not sit well with some Humber College students.

Tristan Malaran, a health sciences student, said the changes may transform Instagram from a social media app into a popularity contest.

He said he is a daily user of the app and doesn't focus on the likes, but said that some may change up their posts to try and get seen.

"People will really try to alter themselves, just so they

can get the likes," he said.

Malaran said he thinks insecurities will sky rocket with users when the changes are made.

"Everyone has an equal share, as of right now," he said. "If it's going to happen like that, of course celebrities are going to be more on the higher end than other people."

Robinson said the changes may be problematic and concerns that the app will become a popularity contest are reasonable.

"Certainly it does move towards that experience where popularity becomes part of what ranks, what kind of flow is going to show up in people's Instagram feed," she said.

Kathy Keonavongsa, an esthetician/spa management student, said that she likes how Instagram is now and doesn't see the point in changing the app.

"I'm already missing a lot of the stuff that people update on," Keonavongsa said.

People miss on average 70 per cent of their feeds, Insta-

gram said in a release on their website. The popular social media platform offers a solution to missing content by allowing users to turn on post notifications for their favourite accounts, which Keonavongsa uses.

Keonavongsa has more than 2,500 Instagram followers but isn't worried that her posts may not get seen with the new algorithm.

"For me, my Instagram is just what I want to show people and if people want to see it, they can see it," she said "I'm not going to push anyone to see it."

In February, Twitter introduced a new algorithmic timeline but allowed users to turn off the setting.

Robinson said Instagram could follow Twitter's lead to give users of the app a choice in how their feed is constructed.

"I think that a way to mitigate frustration is to make users feel like they have some control and that it's not just being left up to an algorithm to decide on their behalf," she said.