

NATIONAL NEWS

POLITICS

Leaders come out fighting

MARK KENNEDY
Ottawa Citizen

TORONTO — Canada's political leaders clashed over competing economic visions Thursday night in the first debate of a long election campaign.

The two-hour debate featuring the leaders of four parties began with a bang, as Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper fended off criticism from his rivals over his record in managing the economy as prime minister over the past decade.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and Green Leader Elizabeth May accused Harper of turning his back on the middle class, and doing little to create jobs as Canadian families saw their incomes stagnate in recent years.

Trudeau, who has seen his party's popularity drop in recent months, was particularly aggressive in his attacks on Harper — and also aimed his sights at Mulcair.

"You have become completely disconnected with the reality that people are facing across the country," Trudeau told Harper.

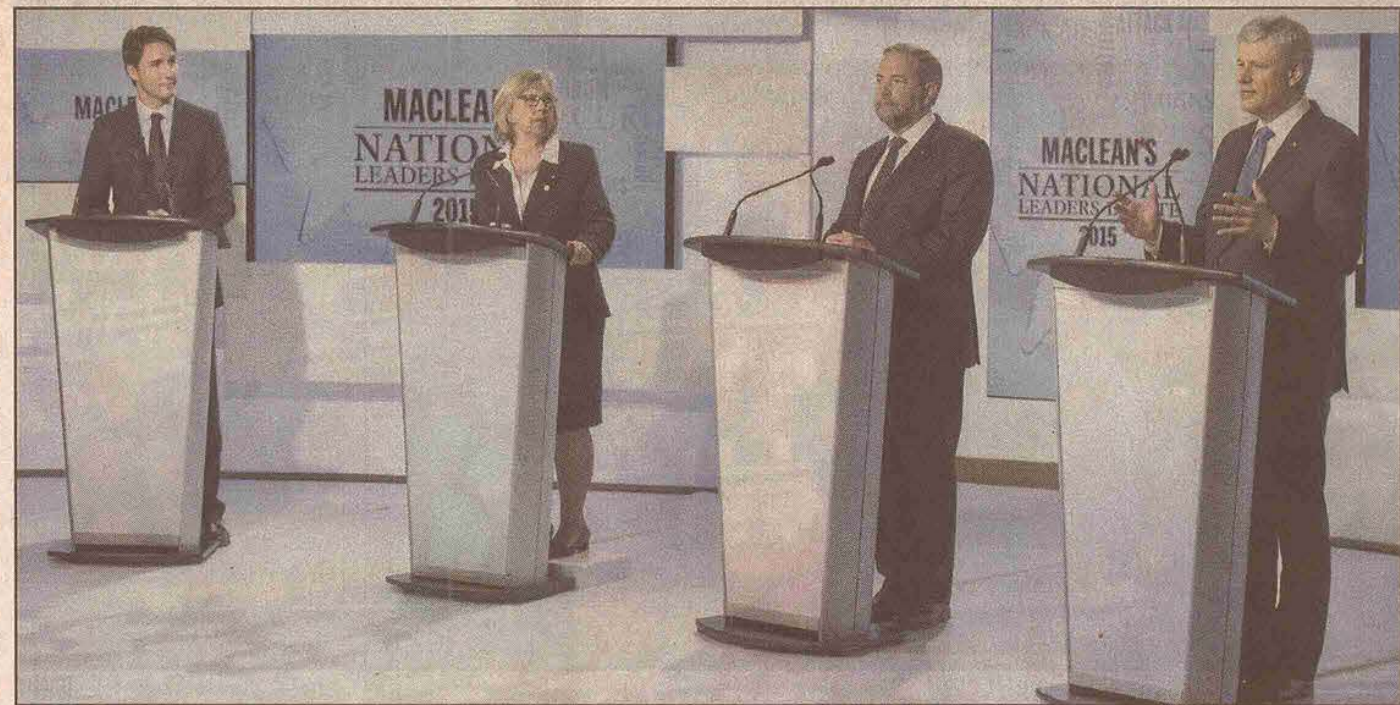
He reminded viewers that Harper's government has delivered eight deficits after inheriting surpluses from the Liberal government he defeated in 2006. Trudeau ridiculed Harper's statement that voters will be taking a big risk if they put his rivals in power.

"The only risk right now would be sticking with a failed plan for 10 years."

Mulcair blasted Harper for failing to take action to protect the manufacturing sector and protect jobs throughout the country.

"Incomes are flat-lining, household debts are skyrocketing."

Mulcair also said Harper is try-



Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, Green Party Leader Elizabeth May and New Democratic Party Leader Thomas Mulcair listen as Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks during the first leaders' debate on Thursday.

ing to deceive Canadians about the health of federal finances and is hiding the fact the country is still in deficit — not a surplus, as the governing Tories claim.

May, who participated in a debate with Harper in the 2008 election, reminded him of how he denied during that debate that the country was in recession.

She said Harper doesn't have a good "track record" spotting when the country is in recession "and we are in a recession now."

Harper fought back, saying his is the only party committed to providing a fiscally responsible government. For instance, he said his opponents would hike taxes through higher payroll premiums for the Canada Pension

Plan.

"Now is not the time to throw us back in deficit and to spend billions of dollars."

Trudeau also repeatedly drew a bead on Mulcair, whose policies he must discredit if the Liberals hope to regain their standing in the polls.

Trudeau said Mulcair is giving workers "false hope" with promises of higher wages, when the NDP's pledge affects only those in the federally regulated sector.

"That kind of false advertising is simply irresponsible."

As well, Trudeau said the NDP is "pandering" to people who do not like corporations through its policy of tax hikes for large companies. But Mulcair defended

that plan as fiscally responsible.

"We think corporations are not paying their fair share," Mulcair said.

The leaders entered their first debate of the race knowing the stakes are high.

The debate, hosted by *Maclean's* magazine, came just four days into the campaign and the outcome has the potential to seal voters' impressions of the main contenders.

Conversely, a surprise performance by one of the leaders could shake loose votes and set the tone for an election that already has a high degree of unpredictability.

All the while, because the major TV networks did not

broadcast the full debate, it's still unclear how many people watched it (either on TV or online).

The debate was moderated by *Maclean's* political editor Paul Wells and focused on four broad themes: The economy; energy and the environment; democratic institutions; and foreign affairs.

After debating the economy, the leaders had a heated debate about their party's policies on climate change and oil pipelines.

In recent days, the leaders rehearsed intensely for the debate at City-TV's studio in downtown Toronto.

In the opening days of the campaign, Harper — who is seek-

ing a fourth consecutive mandate — has appealed to voters to opt for the status quo. He has argued that only his party is able to manage the economy, spur tax hikes, and protect Canadians from jihadist terrorists.

Mulcair, enjoying a surge in popularity that has his party leading in the polls, is promising a fiscally responsible government that creates jobs and establishes a national child-care scheme.

At a campaign event in Toronto on Thursday hours before the debate, Mulcair blasted the Tories' economic record.

"Mr. Harper has given us eight deficits in a row, \$150 billion in new debt... and he's got one of the worst job-creation records in Canadian history," Mulcair told Trudeau, who is campaigning on a platform of tax cuts and child-care benefits for the middle class.

Trudeau began the day in Toronto within a photo-op at a boxing ring — a move designed to evoke memories of how he put on the gloves in 2012 for a charity and ousted then-senator Patrick Brazeau in the ring.

The timing of the debate, so early in the campaign, is highly unusual. Normally, the leaders don't have to worry about being on the same platform with their rivals until midway through the race.

Harper's Conservatives broke that tradition this election by refusing to appear on four TV debates that had been proposed by a consortium of networks that ensured the matches would be viewed by millions of voters.

Instead, Harper has agreed to appear on only five debates — three English, and two French — and the other main leaders have also agreed.

100th crawler



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THE BEACON HERALD

Stratford, Ontario

■ SCHAFER AT DAWN: Three performances of the composer's work

Summer Music's morning glory



PHOTOS BY SCOTT WISHART/THE BEACON HERALD

Mark Vuorinen, music director of the K-W Grand Philharmonic, leads a choir of amateur choristers in an early morning rehearsal of Schafer at Dawn on Tom Patterson Island on Thursday.

SCOTT WISHART
Staff Photographer

The music of Canadian composer R. Murray Schafer has the power to transform.

Just after daybreak on Thursday morning, it subtly altered the acoustic landscape around Tom Patterson Island, momentarily turning an immaculate Stratford park system into a remote wilderness setting.

The early morning rehearsal of Schafer at Dawn, featuring a choir of some 50 amateur choristers, along with TorQ Percussion Quartet and soprano Brooke Dufon, was a delightful teaser for what's to come.

Stratford residents and guests will have the chance to enjoy three consecutive free performances of the work as part of the 15th season of Stratford Summer Music.

They run Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 a.m.

Guests, who are advised to bring lawnchairs to avoid a heavy dew, will be treated to a uniquely Canadian experience.

"Here I am at the rehearsal, and I'm feeling moved," said Stratford Summer Music artistic producer



Canadian composing legend R. Murray Schafer listens to a rehearsal of his work Schafer at Dawn on Tom Patterson Island on Thursday.

John Miller.

"This is the man who expresses Canada. It's the nature that's in us, as Canadians. He's caught that in a way you wouldn't find a composer in another country capturing that."

"He's interpreting Canada."

Schafer, a much-awarded composer who recently received the Companion of the Order of Canada, said he hopes the performances appeal to listeners while perhaps offering a sense of iden-

tity.

Indeed, it's unlikely anyone can hear his work without feeling a sense of its roots.

At any given moment in the performance, human voices mimic flocks of wildfowl, while shimmering percussion evokes gentle breezes on a northern lake, far removed from civilization.

"We have a very big identity, a world-wide identity," Schafer said. "So we have to give that identity some kind of an acoustical attachment, so that we can 'hear' Canada. And that's exactly what happens, I think, on a day like today."

"You can see that we're trying to blend ourselves into nature, so that the sounds we make are the same sounds that nature produces back to us."

"So we have this kind of game, backward and forward. It makes a real sort of parlour game between ourselves and our environment."

For choir member Lynn Mitchell, the chance to perform a work by a legendary Canadian composer has been "absolutely wonderful... and a privilege and an honour."

She first became aware of

Schafer's work when she was a music student in Toronto in the '70s. His work has left a lifelong impression, she said, and it's a gift to be able to work with him.

"He is a lovely man. For someone who is a legend in his own time, there is no ego."

Meanwhile, a concert featuring the composer's spiritual and sacred works entitled Schafer at Dusk is set for St. James' Anglican Church on Friday night at 10 p.m. Tickets at \$40 for that performance are available by calling 519-271-2101 or visiting stratfordsummersmusic.ca.

Artistic producer Miller said welcoming Schafer back was a priority in planning for this season.

"I visited Murray and said this is our 15th anniversary and you have to be here," Miller recalled.

"There's no living composer or Canadian composer who we've featured more than him. He was with us in our first year and has been with us all the way along."

"So, it's incredibly moving for me to have him here. I regard this man as Canada's Bach, Canada's Beethoven."

■ SOD-TURNING EVENT: Construction begins next week

County breaks ground on new EMS headquarters

MIKE BETZ
Staff Reporter

After plunging a gleaming stainless steel shovel into the ground at the future home of Perth County's new EMS facility in Stratford Thursday, Warden Bob Wilhelm turned to emergency services chief Linda Rockwood and smiled.

"There you go Linda. I did the hard work," he said.

"Actually, getting the vote through county council was the hard part," quipped Stratford Mayor Dan Mathieson, referring to the long and sometimes bumpy road leading to Thursday's sod-turning event.

Construction of the new \$4.9-million land ambulance headquarters and EMS base off Douro Street is expected to begin next week after years of planning, and more recently, months of reworking and refining the final building plan.

"It took us a little bit longer, but I think we've got a great project, a great building, a great facility," Rockwood told the gathering of county staff, municipal representatives, paramedics and project partners.

The building will not only support effective deployment and

response of EMS staff to the county, Stratford and St. Marys, but will also improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of its operations, she added.

"And it's going to support our goals of getting the right resources to the right patients in the right amount of time," said Rockwood, "so we really, really are excited about this project."

Mathieson congratulated the county for taking "such a long-term view, and delivering such a first-class service to our residents and our community along the way."

"This shows real courage in being able to modernize facilities and make the system work," added St. Marys Mayor Al Strathee on Thursday.

Wilhelm called it an "exciting opportunity."

The goal of this building is to make EMS more effective and efficient in its day-to-day operations," he said, noting that it will consolidate inventory, equipment, education, training, administration and support staff for the department.

The multi-use facility will also meet accessibility standards and post-disaster building standards, and will provide back-up IT infrastruc-



SCOTT WISHART/THE BEACON HERALD

Sharing a smile at a sod-turning ceremony for a new Perth County EMS paramedic station and county headquarters are, from left, Stratford Mayor Dan Mathieson, EMS Chief Linda Rockwood, Perth County Warden Robert Wilhelm and St. Marys Mayor Al Strathee on Thursday.

structure, additional offices and meeting rooms for county staff.

In the event of a local disaster, it can be converted into a fully functional emergency operations centre.

Rockwood praised the "massive team effort" responsible for balancing design and functionality of the new facility, which will be built by contractor Gateman Milloy, along with NA Engineer-

ing and R. Ritz Architect.

"Collectively, we are all doing a happy dance," she said, "because today marks day one of the construction phase."

After a long search for the property, long discussions over the design, and some long debates over the financing, the sod-turning was an "amazing" milestone for Perth County EMS, she said afterward, as participants took

turns posing for photos by the patch of upturned grass.

"I said at the beginning I won't believe it until the shovel is in the ground, and it's in the ground, so a big sigh of relief," she said.

The new building is expected to be completed in the spring of 2016.

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■ CANADA 150: West Perth's top priorities didn't receive funding

Pumping station gets federal cash

GALEN SIMMONS
The Mitchell Advocate

As one of four approved projects in Perth County that will be partially funded by the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, the Harry Parrott pumping station on Herbert Street in Mitchell will receive \$67,161 for repairs and upgrades.

According to a press release issued last week by the office of Perth-Wellington MP Gary Schellenberger, FedDev Ontario has approved \$362,000 in funding for four projects in the riding.

The project was not listed as West Perth's top priority when they submitted, which was a disappointment, council heard at its

July 27 meeting. West Perth councillors expressed some disappointment that neither the West Perth Lions Pool nor their bridge rehabilitation projects submitted as the municipality's first and second priorities were selected for funding.

Interim CAO Susan Duke said, on behalf of council, the municipality was still grateful for any funding they receive. "There is only so much money available for each constituency. They were selected on how much of the funding had been leveraged and the project total — for example the city of Stratford has a \$1.6-million project, they got \$250,000. That was the amount that the municipality

requested," explained Jane McKelvie, Schellenberger's executive assistant, adding that every project approved by the program in Perth County will receive the complete application for funding.

The \$67,161 will cover one-third of the projected \$201,000 cost of the repairs to the pumping station.

"The Harry Parrott pumping station upgrades will ensure the continued safe and energy efficient operation of a vital component of the wastewater system," West Perth Mayor Walter McKenzie said in the press release.

"As a municipal asset that is vital to the public's health and welfare, it is critical and legislated that standards for the treatment of wastewater be maintained," he said. "West Perth is pleased to have received this celebratory funding and expresses its gratitude to the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program for its approval."

Projects were approved based on program criteria, including the extent to which funding was obtained from other sources (50 per cent or less); a completion date of March 31, 2018, and whether it can be linked to Canada's 150th anniversary.

Other projects given funding in the riding include \$250,000 for the rehabilitation of Market Square in Stratford; \$24,461 for upgrades to the Arthur Community Centre in Wellington North; and \$20,040 for improvements to Pioneer Park in Perth East, located in Millbank.

activity and maintain a high quality of life for residents of all ages," Schellenberger wrote in his press release.

As a lead-up to Canada's 150th celebrations, the program is expected to boost economic activity through infrastructure investments, build community-based partnerships and modernize existing community buildings and infrastructure.

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Polished performance

Sienna Wildgust, 9, takes a break from polishing her junior dragster at the annual Stratford Spectacular pre-event at Boston Pizza and Expressway Ford in Stratford. A full weekend of racing kicks off Friday evening and runs through Sunday.

SCOTT WISHART
THE BEACON HERALD

■ BUSINESS: Private sector is frustrated by public-sector inaction.

Tech leaders step up to bankroll start-ups

PATRICK MALONEY
The London Free Press

Forget waiting for government investment — London's digital entrepreneurs have thrown their own money behind a business incubator that's expanding its downtown digs.

Motivated as much by business' own zeal as by frustration with perceived public-sector inaction, the tech leaders are digging into their own pockets to back what they hope can become a talent-producing tech hub.

"We want these types of businesses," said Andrew McClenaghan, who started Digital Echidna in his basement with one employee in 2005 and now employs 40.

"We need to build the environment to grow them," McClenaghan and his competitor-colleagues at Ellipsis Digital, Resolution Interactive Media and Inspiratica, have cobbled together about \$20,000 to invest in Hacker Studios as it expands.

Hacker, located on Dundas Street, is run by Amanda Stratton and Joel Adams. They describe it as a private-sector-led community hub that provides office space for new entrepreneurs and start-ups, including the tech sector.

Its expansion grabbed the notice of McClenaghan and his peers, who see promise for their sector. So they've bought multi-year memberships to help bankroll its operation. The benefits

are clear: ■ Hacker Studios gets two-thirds of the \$30,000 goal it set when it launched a crowd-sourced fundraising campaign. In addition to the entrepreneurs' investment, they've raised another \$5,000.

■ Mid-sized firms like Echidna and Ellipsis hope the shared space gives rise to small tech outfits, where young people

can stay in London to learn the craft — thus creating a labour pool to potentially solve the industry's local talent shortage.

■ Londoners get the possibility of businesses spinning out of Hacker Studios, creating jobs and

boosting the tech sector London and most cities crave.

There is some government involvement here: The London Economic Development Corp. is aware of the effort and has pitched in \$1,200 for a one-year Hacker membership.

The LEDC plans to have an employee there several days a week to make contact and help guide the would-be entrepreneurs using the space.

But while city hall has taken steps recently to support the digital sector — \$200,000 to help bankroll fibre-optic connections, for example — Adams and Stratton say they don't want government money.

Having visited

"start-up communities" around the world in previous jobs, the pair found a common denominator: a lack of government involvement.

"In start-up communities, the private sector steps up and takes a lead position," said Stratton. Added Adams: "The private sector stepping up in a leadership capacity is something that's been missing (in London). And we're thrilled to see it happening."

Hacker Studios is one of about 10 incubators in London. The move to a bigger Dundas Street space will allow it to triple the number of workers it can fit, to about 100.

The fundraising campaign at indiegogo.com continues for another week.

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NATIONAL NEWS

■ EDUCATION: Shift to grants delights students, but others skeptical

N.L. drops student loan program

SARAH BOESVELD
National Post

Daniel Rumbolt is lucky enough to have been born in Newfoundland, the province with the lowest tuition fees in Canada — roughly \$2,300 a year compared to \$7,500 for Ontarians.

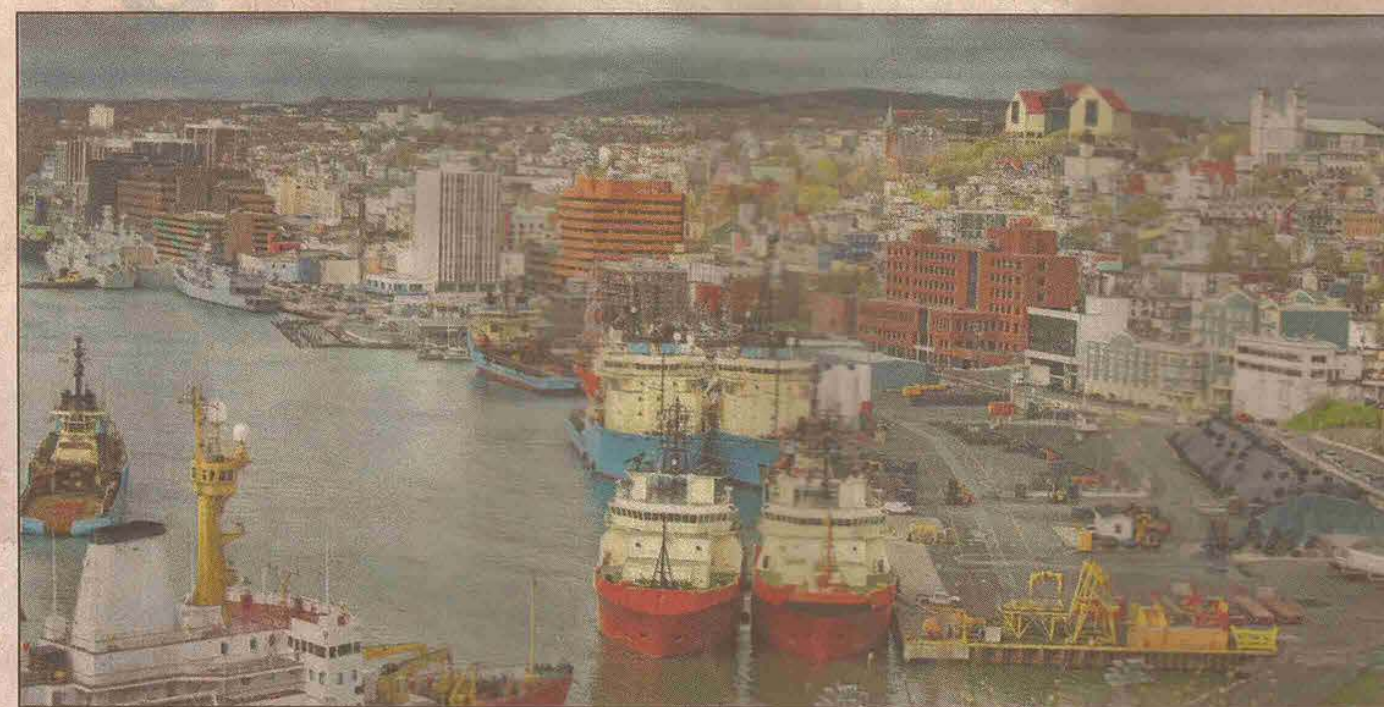
As of this month, the 21-year-old, who is entering his fourth year of Visual Arts studies at Memorial University this fall, will get his education 40% cheaper, thanks to the government dropping its student loan program. This makes Newfoundland and Labrador the first province to make this move in response to complaints of crippling student debt.

"Now that our government is supporting us and giving us this aid, (students) really feel like we want to stay here and we want to see our province grow," said Rumbolt, who will now save \$4,000 per semester.

But critics say the incentive won't actually guarantee Newfoundlanders stick around. They're also dismissive of efforts by the Canadian Federation of Students to convince the rest of the country to follow the province's lead.

The federation believes grants will lift students out of debt and turn them into productive citizens, buying homes and starting families instead of boomeranging back into their parents' basements.

"Seventy-five per cent of jobs today require some post-secondary education, so why not enable that generation?" said the student federation's national chairperson, Bilan Arte. "Why not provide upfront grants, which is what they're doing, in order to provide more money for young people who, when they do graduate and



FOTOA

Storm clouds form over the city of St. John's in this file photo. Politicians in Newfoundland and Labrador capital this week announced the end of the province's student loan program and the creation of a grant program to lift students out of debt.

get good jobs, feel more comfortable reinvesting in the economy?"

Newfoundland's shift from loans to grants is part of the province's "Population Growth Strategy," a 10-year plan to reinvigorate a region that has seen residents flock to the Prairies in search of well-paid work (Newfoundland's unemployment rate was 10.7% in July compared to the national unemployment rate of 6.5%). The Atlantic province has spent another \$15 million over the past two years to phase out the loans, and are bringing in a "Part-time Incentive Grant Program," which

offers \$500 per semester to people who are trying to get a university degree while working.

But ditching the loans program is nothing more than a "blunt instrument" to deal with a "small problem" that impacts a small cohort of taxpayers in the province, said Jason Clemens, executive vice-president of conservative think tank the Fraser Institute.

"If the premier came out and said 'Hey look we have a new policy to transfer income to children in high-income households,' I don't think any Newfoundlander or citizen in the program would

be cheering the program, because they'd be forced to think through 'Who is actually benefiting?'" he said, adding that loan forgiveness might make more sense for people from lower-income backgrounds who truly cannot afford to pay back a loan.

He remembers a similar discussion about investment in education — as economic engine in Saskatchewan 15 years ago. The government had considered lowering the price of tuition so students would stay in the province and contribute to the economy. It never happened.

"By and large, people agreed the problem wasn't the tuition costs — it's that there were no jobs once they were done school. So they were going to (the University of Saskatchewan) and then moving to Calgary," he said.

"The point is not that you want to make school cheaper for kids coming from middle income or affluent households. It's 'How do you invigorate and create a more robust economy? That has to do with competitiveness, it has to do with the regulatory regime, it has to do with tax rates.'"

He also believes taxpayers will

foot the bill for the new grants in some way. Newfoundland and Labrador's Minister of Advanced Education and Skills, Clyde Jackman, was not available for an interview Thursday.

But Arte of the student federation says the systems — both federal and provincial — designed to administer loans from Canadian students are actually more expensive to maintain. The money would be better spent by replacing the loan system with grants, she said.

In terms of the calculations that have been made in Newfoundland and Labrador, the government just found it much more efficient to just provide these upfront investments in post-secondary, rather than sustaining the financial barriers and saying to students 'Oh, it's going to be very expensive today and you're going to take on a lot of student debt, but once you find a job four or five years down the road, you'll be able to pay this back and you'll be eligible for this tax credit, etc., etc.," she said.

While some of his fellow Visual Arts classmates might seek work out west when they graduate, Rumbolt wants to remain in the St. John's area — a choice many of his friends have already made.

"I've been noticing fewer and fewer people leaving," he said. "Growing up in a small town, you want to leave, you want to get out. But then you start to realize as you're living here, living on your own and paying into the province — this is kind of your home now. You want to stay here no matter what happens."

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■ ENVIRONMENT

Toxic algae in western Lake Erie a danger to people, animals

GREG FURMINGER
Welland Tribune

WELLAND, Ont. — Toxic algae conditions are at near-record levels at the western end of Lake Erie, an American watchdog agency says.

The Lake Erie algal bloom is caused primarily by nutrient runoff — phosphorous — from agricultural sources including fertilizers and manure. The bloom's growth is fuelled by sun, high temperatures and calm water.

"Typically, this bloom stays on

the west side," said Rick Stumpf, lead forecaster of algal blooms for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — NOAA.

According to NASA, cyanobacteria produce toxins that can kill wildlife and domestic animals and cause illness in humans through exposure to contaminated freshwater and the consumption of contaminated drinking water, fish or shellfish. Cyanobacteria blooms are characterized by their dense biomass, toxins, taste and odor.

The latest bulletin from NOAA on the algal bloom, issued Thursday, warned that the Lake Erie bloom had intensified in the lake's western basin, where people are warned to keep themselves and pets out of the water.

No blooms, the bulletin said, are evident in Lake Erie's central basin — which Stumpf said seldom occur and dissipate quickly — and eastern basin.

NOAA estimates the cyanobacteria concentration at 8.7 on a 10-point severity scale, a figure that could climb to 9.5. A 10 was

reached in 2011, the worst year for toxic algae on record on Lake Erie.

Stumpf said this year's growth is particularly high because of the runoff associated with the spring's heavy rains, when an "enormous slug" of phosphorus entered the water system.

The problem peaks in September. Bacteria die off when the water gets cooler under windy conditions.

"Cyanobacteria are happier when it's calmer and warm," Stumpf said.

Lake Erie had a major problem with toxic algal blooms in the 1960s and into the '70s, but it disappeared following the introduction of the Clean Water Act in the U.S. and similar Canadian legislation, which targeted sewage source points, Stumpf said.

Through changing farm practices, he said, algal blooms re-emerged in 2003 and have persisted — with help from a recent Great Lakes nuisance.

"Zebra mussels don't eat cyanobacteria, but do eat the

good algae," Stumpf noted.

According to NASA's website, the annual cost of freshwater degraded by harmful algal blooms is estimated at \$64 million in the U.S.

Toledo, Ohio, in August 2014 banned use of drinking water supplied to more than 400,000 residents after it was contaminated by the bloom.

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LOTTERY

Thursday, Unofficial winning numbers

MIDDAY DRAWS

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PICK 4: 8 9 7 5
ENCORE: 4672678
KENO: 09 10 14 19 20 21 23
31 33 37 38 39 40 44 48 53 56
61 63 68

EVENING DRAWS

PICK 2: 02 PICK 3: 2 2 8
PICK 4: 0 3 0 4
ENCORE: 4312917
KENO: 03 10 11 12 15 17 19 22
26 34 35 37 39 51 53 55 59 62
64 66

POKER LOTTO:

10W 36 4W 9 4W
MEGAID: 02 06 10 26 37
39 BONUS: 11

REWIND

today in history

August 7, 2015

1987 — Marathon swimmer Vicki Keith, a swimming instructor from Kingston, Ont., completed the first double crossing of Lake Ontario. Keith, 26, estimated she lost 40 pounds during the 56-hour swim. Marilyn Bell was the first to complete a one-way crossing in 1954.

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■ BUSINESS: Sales growth despite slow economy

BCE boosts Q2 income

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI
Financial Post

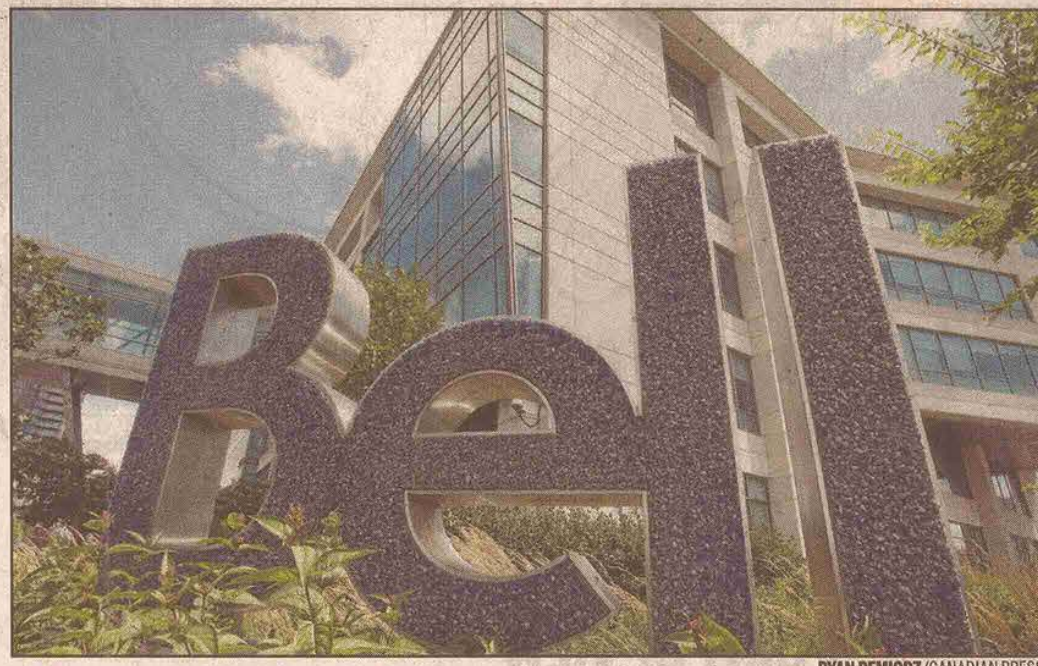
Yet another period of steady, moderate sales growth is giving BCE Inc. the cash it needs to fund the sizable network upgrades it's making in Eastern Canada, which will power a new broadband service, Gigabit Fibe.

The country's largest telco recorded second-quarter results that were largely in line with analyst estimates, posting adjusted net income of \$735 million and revenues of \$5.3 billion as the company pushed through headwinds such as a sluggish economy, the first few weeks of the double cohort and a "tricky" ecosystem in media. Those were up from \$640 million and \$5.2 billion, respectively, a year ago.

Bell added a net 61,033 post-paid cellphone subscribers, down from the 67,951 it gained last year, but above the estimated 56,000. "We, again, took market share from the largest wireless carrier in the country," chief executive George Cope boasted in Thursday's earnings call. But Rogers Communications Inc., to its credit, did surprise the Street last month when it said it captured a net 24,000 clients in its own second quarter.

"There's no doubt it was an aggressive last few weeks of the quarter," added Cope, who's bracing for more.

Carriers have been spending



RYAN REMONIZ/CANADIAN PRESS

Bell Canada head office is seen on Nun's Island, Wednesday, in Montreal. The company reported on Thursday second-quarter results that were largely in line with analyst estimates.

more in recent months to retain, attract and upgrade wireless customers as a burst of untethered users hit the open market on June 3, when some two-year plans and most three-year contracts expired. (This time of flux for the industry has been dubbed the double cohort.)

As a result, BCE saw its churn rate jump 0.08 percentage points from a year ago to 1.23 per cent

and retention spending grew to 13 per cent of its \$1.5 billion in wireless services revenues, up from 10 per cent in 2014.

While Cope expects BCE will post an additional bump in retention costs during the second half of the year, analysts at RBC Capital Markets reiterated in a note to clients that they "view the pressure as temporary" and "continue to believe the double cohort

dynamic remains manageable for BCE and the industry."

In the company's wireline segment, which accounted for close to half of total sales, it's a tale of two stories: consumers, whose thirst to be connected to the latest Internet and TV offerings shows no ceiling; and businesses, which are feeling the financial pinch.

Residential revenue jumped four per cent, driven by contin-

ued growth in Bell's Fibe and Bell Alliant's FibreOP. Conversely, the business markets unit slumped. It was attributed to reprising pressure and lower customer spending on service solutions and data products, the latter of which falling 16 per cent.

This performance is reflective of the sluggish economy and slow employment growth we are experiencing in both Central and Atlantic Canada," said Glen LeBlanc, BCE's new chief financial officer.

But Bell's new broadband offering, Gigabit Fibe, will be available in Ontario and Quebec starting Monday to 1.3 million homes, including the recently connected Toronto neighbourhoods of Regent Park, Distillery District, Harbourfront and Willowdale. The company says it can deliver download speeds of as much as a gigabit, or 1,000 megabits, per second. Pricing hasn't been announced.

BCE plans to spend \$1.14 billion through the end of 2017 to upgrade and build its fibre optic cable network in Canada's largest city.

Cope said Thursday a long-term agreement with Toronto Hydro gives Bell more access to aerial utility poles that will save the company "north of \$200 million" since it allows 70 per cent of the build-out to be done aerially rather than just 50 per cent and the remaining through man-holes.

STUDS...

Biggest % gains in stocks over \$5

1 CALFRAC WELL SERVICES \$6.17 +13.00

2 FIRST QUANTUM MINERALS \$10.28 +8.32

3 TVA GROUP \$5.39 +7.80

& DUDS

Biggest % losses in stocks over \$5

1 PURE TECHNOLOGIES LTD \$6.24 -11.99

2 STANTEC INC. \$32.34 -11.40

3 PARADIGM RESOURCES \$16.76 -11.37

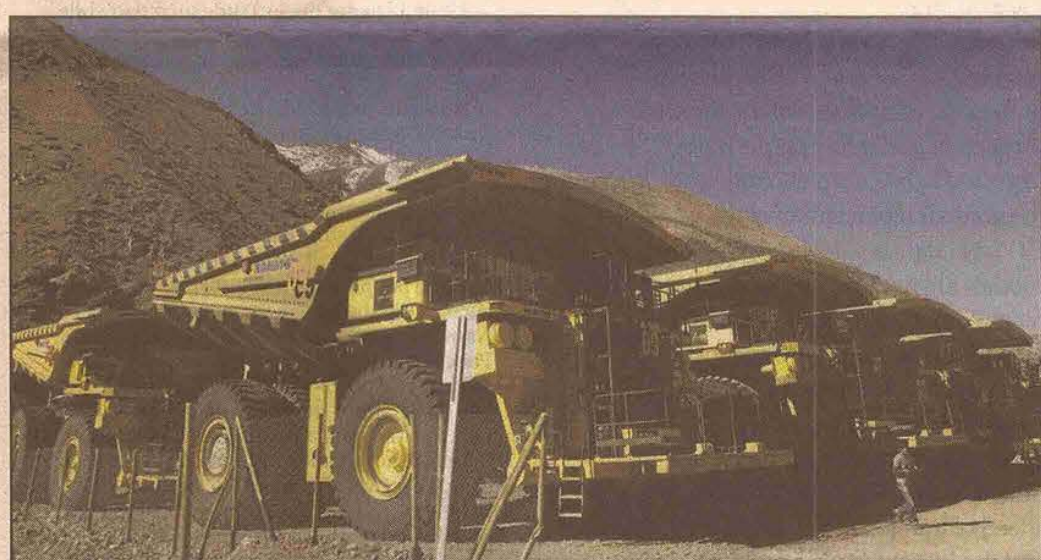
GO FIGURE

Today's big financial number

\$260M

Bombardier has won a contract from Israel Railways for 62 electric locomotives valued at \$260 million US, the railway said Thursday.

■ BUSINESS: Corporation seeking \$2 billion in cuts



JORGE SAENZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS FILES

Mining trucks sit parked on the facilities at the Barrick Gold Corp.'s Pascua-Lama project facilities in Chile.

Barrick tightening belt

ALEXANDRA POSADZKI
Canadian Press

TORONTO — Barrick Gold Corp. is selling off some of its mines and cutting its dividend as it works to transform itself into a leaner, more profitable company amid the plummeting price of bullion.

"This is not only about reducing debt," co-president Kelvin Dushnisky told investors during a conference call Thursday. "We want a portfolio focused on high quality gold assets and growth projects in our core regions of the Americas."

The Toronto-based gold miner said Wednesday it will now target spending cuts across its operations at \$2 billion before the end of 2016 — double what it had previously announced.

The company said the reductions will come out of its operating expenses, capital spending an corporate overhead and will position it to deliver stronger earnings when gold prices recover.

Barrick, which also reported a second-quarter loss, said it has already identified \$1.4 billion of potential cuts across the business.

The company also announced a

streaming agreement with Royal Gold, related to Barrick's 60 per cent stake in the Pueblo Viejo mine in the Dominican Republic. Dushnisky said the deal will "strengthen the balance sheet in the short term while preserving material exposure to higher gold and silver prices in the future."

Under the agreement, Barrick will sell a portion of the gold and silver produced at the mine to Royal Gold, in exchange for a \$610-million upfront payment as well as ongoing cash payments.

Barrick reported a net loss of \$9 million, or one cent per share, compared with a loss of \$269 million, or 23 cents, in the same period a year earlier. Sales dropped to \$2.23 billion from \$2.46 billion.

The company said it will slash its dividend by 60 per cent to two cents per share from the current

five cents per share. The company said it's also considering a number of expressions of interest for the purchase of its non-core assets in Nevada and Montana as it anticipates further weakness in the price of gold during the last half of this year.

Gold bullion has lost roughly 40 per cent of its value since 2011, which has left miners scrambling to reduce how much they spend to produce each ounce of the precious metal.

December gold futures closed Wednesday at US\$1,085.60 an ounce, down US\$5.10 from the previous day's close.

Some experts say gold's value may drop further if, as many expect, the U.S. Federal Reserve hikes interest rates this fall. That could prompt investors to ditch safe havens like gold in favour of U.S. dollars.

■ FINANCE: Shares sink 8.42 per cent

SNC-Lavalin Inc. stock tumbles after missing Q2 estimates

DAMON VAN DER LINDE
Financial Post

MONTREAL — Investors reacted negatively Thursday to Quebec construction and engineering giant SNC-Lavalin Group Inc. missing second-quarter estimates in its infrastructure division, although one analyst says this is an overreaction to an isolated problem.

"It looks like it's more of a one-time miss than some sort of structural dynamic," said Maxim Sytchev, head of research at Dundee Capital Markets. "The issue resides in one division and this is infrastructure. Everything else is doing quite well."

Shares sunk \$3.68, or 8.42 per cent — the most in three years, according to Bloomberg — to close at \$40.05 in Toronto trading

after the firm reported earnings 20 per cent lower than the same period last year.

Net income of 17 cents a share lagged the 37-cent average of analyst estimates compiled by Bloomberg.

SNC said this was driven by a pre-tax loss in the infrastructure division caused by difficult soil conditions along a transit tunnel and costs associated with an unnamed major Canadian highway project.

Revenue rose 33 per cent over the second quarter of 2014 to \$2.3 billion, and the company reported no change to its core earnings per share guidance of \$1.30-\$1.60.

"Given the fact that they are telegraphing in-line guidance, that means they should have the visibility to be able to correct that

executorial issue," said Sytchev, who maintains a "buy" rating on SNC with a price target of \$54.

Several large-scale projects will also soon be reflected in the company's backlog numbers, including the new Champlain bridge in Montreal and Toronto's Eglinton Cross-town project.

Backlog was \$12.4 billion at the end of June 2015, compared with \$8.2 billion at the end of June 2014 and \$12.3 billion at the end of December 2014.

"Right now we have the revenue opportunity to generate margin, but it's up to the company to execute," said Sytchev.

SNC says the backlog increase compared to June 2014 is mainly due to last year's \$2.1 billion acquisition of the Kentz Corp. liquefied natural gas operation in Australia.



RYAN REMONIZ/CANADIAN PRESS FILES

The offices of SNC-Lavalin are seen in Montreal. SNC-Lavalin Group Inc. missed second-quarter estimates in its infrastructure division, sending shares down 8.42 per cent.

LOCAL NEWS

■ NUHN INDUSTRIES: Sebringville manufacturer celebrates 100th lagoon crawler

Marking a major milestone

LAURA CUDWORTH
Staff Reporter

It's the very definition of a mean machine.

When the tent lifted and the dry ice cleared, the massive machine rolled out onto the floor with AC/DC's Back in Black pumping in the background. It wasn't like any before it. This Nuhn Industries lagoon crawler was the 100th to roll off the line. It was black instead of red, with red lights up the back and silver signatures on the side from all the staff.

The remote-control machine is amphibious. It goes into sewage lagoons, pulls the sludge off the bottom and pumps it onto the land for fertilizer. Looking up at it, it's hard to believe it floats.

It's the end product of a lot of hard work, dedication and brilliant design—all of which starts and ends at the Sebringville business.

Less than two years ago, Ian Nuhn, vice-president of Nuhn Industries, was only 23 years old and thinking about what customers were saying they needed. Exactly what they wanted didn't exist—at least, not yet.

To pull nutrients out of lagoons, farmers were using pumps that spray more water than nutrients from the bottom and don't provide the same consistent application of fertilizer to the land. Nuhn said clients have told him if they had to go back to using the pumps, they'd quit.

"We've made a hard task really easy."

It's all very practical, but it's also really cool. For anyone who has ever had, or wanted, a remote-control anything this is a dream come true—it's a futuristic, jacked-up, amphibious machine on steroids.

"We started with a blank computer screen. Ten days later, we built a fully-working prototype," Nuhn said.



SCOTT WISHART/THE BEACON HERALD

With the company's 100th lagoon crawler in the background, Nuhn Industries' vice-president Ian Nuhn speaks to a crowd of guests at a lunchtime celebration at the Sebringville firm on Thursday.

The main market is in the United States, but the machines have been sent all over the world, including shipments to Russia and China.

Before that happened, there was a lot of "blood, sweat and tears, literally" to get it right.

"I've grown very attached to it. It's not just about the 100th. It's all the times the prototype broke down, all the hours designing

and building and digging deeper. That's what that 100th means."

They took it to a farm show and sold 10 right out of the gate. They've also won international innovation awards.

By January 2014, they were in production. They stopped making tanks and pumps temporarily to focus on the crawler. Back then, Nuhn and his father, Dennis Nuhn, the company president,

couldn't have predicted the 100th would roll off the line the following year.

"I knew we had something. I thought we would be lucky to do 20 units a year," Nuhn said. "To do 100 in a year and a half, I couldn't believe we'd be here."

"I'm proud of what 85 guys in the middle of Sebringville can create." Nuhn would like to keep the

100th, but clients have heard about a special-edition black model with red lights and want to know how to get one.

In addition to the lagoon-crawler milestone, the company is also celebrating a significant expansion. Nuhn Industries has been growing at a rate of about 40 per cent for the past three or four years, Nuhn said. Since they first conceived of the crawler, about

30 new employees have come on board, bringing the staff numbers up to 85.

To accommodate the upswing in business, Nuhn needed more room as well, so it's gone from 6,131 square metres (66,000 square feet) to about 9,290 square metres (100,000 square feet).

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■ PERTH COUNTY: Councillors reverse decision to defer

Council moving ahead with public works garage

MIKE BEITZ
Staff Reporter

Despite concerns about adding to the county's debt-load, Perth County council agreed Thursday to move forward with a new \$2.1-million public works garage in Mitchell.

Councillors had voted last month to defer the approval of a tender for the Napier Street facility, which would replace the one that was heavily damaged by fire

in 2013, largely because of the cost involved.

The low bid by Domm Construction was \$466,000 above what the county had budgeted for the project.

After agreeing to reconsider the motion to approve Domm's bid, council replayed the debate it had in July, with some members balking at the additional cost, and others resigned to it.

"Yes, they might need building, but I have a real problem

with awarding a contract that's almost a half a million dollars over budget to someone, just because," said Coun. Rhonda Egoetz.

She suggested earlier that the county was partly to blame for the additional cost, because it put the project out to tender too late in the season.

Council had discussed retendering the project at a later date in hopes of getting a better price. The additional cost above the

budgeted amount is something the county simply can't afford, suggested Coun. Julie Behrns.

"At the end of the day, someone is still going to pay for it," she said. "Especially when you're borrowing money, you may think it's only \$466,000 more, but by the time that debt is paid, it's a whole lot more than that."

But Coun. Walter McKenzie argued that the cost difference had more to do with the weak Canadian dollar, which makes

construction materials purchased from the U.S. significantly more expensive.

Retendering the project in the winter won't guarantee a better price, he added.

"It is what it is," he said. "It's unfortunate we couldn't have done this two years ago right after the building burned."

"We have to move forward," added Coun. Doug Kellum, who initiated the motion for council to reconsider the issue Thursday.

"We have to think about our kids and grandkids down the road as well, but we also have to think about future councils and future employees."

Council approved a motion to authorize an agreement with Domm Construction for \$2.1 million (plus HST) for the design-build contract for the new public works garage.

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■ FRYFOGEL TAVERN

Step back in time

BEACON HERALD STAFF

All are welcome to the first annual ancestors' picnic and Arboretum this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tours, games and demonstrations will be part of the event, being held at the historic tavern located just east of Shakespeare on Highway 7/8.

Guest can try their hand at pioneer games, watch stepdancing performances and enjoy a tour of the arboretum and heritage garden led by a horticultural expert, a release from the Stratford Perth

Heritage Foundation said.

Stratford chef Ben Uniac will prepare light snacks while volunteers in the Tavern tea room will serve tea and treats. Events are free, with food offered at a reasonable price or by donation for the tea service, the release added.

A silent auction is part of the event, as well, with items donated by businesses in Stratford and across Perth County.

A scavenger hunt is planned for noon. All proceeds from the event support the ongoing restoration work of Fryfogel.

POLICE BRIEF

OPP investigate SUV theft

The Perth County OPP are investigating the theft of an SUV from a rural residence near Arboretum Wednesday. It marks the 16th reported vehicle theft in the county this year, OPP said.

"The majority of these stolen vehicles had been left unlocked and most had the keys either left in the ignition, or hidden under the floor mat, behind the visor or in a cup holder," OPP said in a release. In this incident, the vehicle was unlocked, with keys inside, in an unlocked garage, police said. After seeing the vehicle leave the driveway, the resident noticed a different vehicle was left behind. That turned out to be a 2014

Ford Explorer reported stolen from a residence near Hesson early Tuesday morning.

The missing vehicle is described as a brown 2011 Chevrolet Equinox with Ontario plate 347YTW.

Citing Insurance Bureau of Canada statistics, OPP said that about half of all stolen vehicles get used to commit another crime or driven, often recklessly, for transportation.

"It may sound repetitive, but owners should take that extra care in securing their motor vehicles," said Inspector Steve Porter of Perth County OPP.

"Roll up your vehicle's windows, lock the doors and pocket the keys. If we make this a habit, I am certain that we will see a decrease in these preventable motor vehicle thefts." Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Perth County OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



TorQ Percussion Quartet's Adam Campbell takes part in a rehearsal of Schaefer at Dawn on Tom Patterson Island on Thursday.

SCOTT WISHART/ THE BEACON HERALD

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Caroline Smith, 16, of Princeton suffers from Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, which damages connective tissues that support the skin, bones, blood vessels and other organs.

Health-care 'runaround' irks patients, families

DEREK RUTMAN / THE LONDON FREE PRESS

Local teen risks all to seek relief from rare disorder

JONATHAN SHER
The London Free Press

Sixteen-year-old Caroline Smith knows the surgery might kill her and cost her dad every cent he has.

But those are risks the Oxford County teen will take in two weeks to escape a life where friends shun her, doctors dismiss her and Ontario health ministers have left her and others to suffer with a rare disorder that can cause bones to dislocate at the slightest touch.

"I can't have (any) physical contact... I can't risk my neck being injured in any way. If I pick up something wrong, I could dislocate my wrist or my thumb," she said this week.

Smith, from Princeton, near Woodstock, has a condition that weakens connective tissue like ligaments that bind bones. Ehlers-Danlos syndrome affects one in 5,000, only some of whom suffer the worst symptoms.

The toll on the teen has been immense: horrendous pain, limbs that pop out of their sockets, bowels she can no longer control, blood pressure that drops so she passes out and a spine so fragile a small blow to the neck might leave her a paraplegic.

Last year alone, Smith went about 200 times to emergency rooms and doctors, but it's her next appointment that's critical and expensive: A Maryland surgeon and facility will charge \$100,000 to fuse a bone to her neck Aug. 20 to support a spinal cord that no longer safely supports her head.

Smith's father Bruce, who's looked after her as a single parent the past three years, isn't wealthy. He doesn't own a home, and while he works in a scrapyard, he's seeking help from friends and strangers because the Health Ministry hasn't agreed to pay for surgery outside Ontario.

"It hurts to watch her, how much pain she's in... We came in to the emergency one day... with her crying, saying 'I'm not crazy,' and the doctor, calling a psychiatrist, saying she is. This is basically how she's been treated the last three of four years," Smith said.

She's not alone in misery. About 100 Ontarians have Ehlers-Danlos, with about 20 with symptoms so severe their lives are consumed seeking help from doctors who don't know what to do, said Darren Crawford, whose 19-year-old daughter Erika has undergone two American surgeries at a cost of \$185,000.

"(Some) neurosurgeons here have such big egos, they say, 'I'll don't know about it, it doesn't exist,'" Crawford said.

For Caroline Smith, though, one doctor has been a godsend — London pediatrician Tony D'Souza, who started a practice here after forming and leading the pediatric emergency department at McMaster University Children's Hospital.

In the face of several obstacles, D'Souza has been fighting for a teenager he calls determined and vibrant. Each time he sees her, she gets worse and worse.

"The neck issue is pressing," he said. "Could she die? I don't know."

DEADLY SYNDROME, LACK OF CARE

■ Ehlers-Danlos syndrome damages connective tissues that support the skin, bones, blood vessels, and other organs. Symptoms vary from mild to life-threatening.

■ A leading pediatrician can't find any surgeon in Ontario who will operate on those who need potentially life-saving neck surgery.

■ An American surgeon has done 2,000 operations on those with the syndrome but Ontario's Health Ministry refuses to pay.

■ Ontario Health Minister Eric Hoskins promised action more than two weeks ago but families of patients say he's giving them the runaround.

HOW TO HELP

■ To help Caroline Smith: <http://www.gofundme.com/caroline-smith>

■ To sign online petition asking Ontario to pay for care out of province: <https://goo.gl/Q3FAZL>

OBSTACLES

London pediatrician Tony D'Souza has tried to find Caroline Smith help in Ontario, an effort that has led instead to dead ends. Among them:

■ Neurosurgeons know too little about Ehlers-Danlos.

■ Many doctors dismiss her problems as something else.

■ A specialist says the teen must wait nine months just to consult him.

■ Ontario's Health Ministry won't consider paying for surgery outside Ontario unless a specialist requests it.

■ Hospitals don't know how to do MRI scans on those with Ehlers-Danlos and have refused to learn.

What it proves, as do numerous other examples, is that political corruption isn't a function of being a Conservative or a Liberal, the NDP never having not yet won a federal election. It's a function of time spent in power.

Inevitably, the leaders and parties who come to power promising to clean up the political corruption of the previous regime — as Jean Chretien promised when he replaced Brian Mulroney and Kim Campbell, and Harper promised when he replaced Chretien and Paul Martin — do the very things they once blasted their opponents for doing.

Ethics and morality are easy when one is in opposition, removed from the levers of power — although heaven knows opposition parties these days commit serious breaches as well. But the true test of a party's morality comes when it enters government and the seduction of power, patronage and limousines contends with the two most important attributes a political leader can have — good judgment and common sense.

The point here isn't that Justin Trudeau and the Liberals don't have a moral leg to stand on when it comes to attacking the Conservatives on pork-barrelling, given their own history.

It's that Harper promised to do politics differently, and he isn't.

POSTMEDIA

COMMENT

Harper promised to be different; he hasn't been

I will serve Prime Minister Stephen Harper right if the Canadians whose votes he is trying to buy through political pork barrelling across the country refuse to stay bought.

After all, by betting almost \$1.2 billion of taxpayers' money in one day last week on local capital improvement projects that flooded into mainly Conservative ridings just before the election call, the Tories have made clear they believe the votes of Canadians can be purchased.

All they're really arguing over now is the price.



LORRIE GOLDSTEIN

The unseemly spectacle has appropriately been dubbed pork-a-palooza by *Sun* Parliamentary Bureau Chief David Akin, who counted 84 cheques valued at \$839 million sent to Conservative ridings last Thursday alone, shortly before the writ dropped, after which such announcements can no longer be made.

That compares to \$68.6 million earmarked for Liberal ridings and \$53.8 million in NDP ridings, with the rest going to national programs.

You can find a list of the grants and what they're ostensibly to be used for in the July 31 entry of Akin's political blog.

Yes, the Liberals used to do the same thing when they were in power from 1993 to 2006, but that's no excuse.

Harper came into power promising to end Liberal political corruption — of which pork-barrelling is one component — not double down on it.

The federal government can have a legitimate role to play in funding capital projects in communities across Canada, such as needed improvements to wastewater treatment, seniors centres, high-speed Internet access, even fixing up Legion Halls and recreational facilities.

But rushing cheques out the door just as the writ is about to be dropped, not on the basis of priority and need but rather mainly on which ridings voted Conservative in the last election, is a disgrace.

It lowers the chances the spending will be done properly and increases the chances the work may not be necessary, if the government was simply trying to find Conservative ridings on which to shower money at the eleventh hour.

What it proves, as do numerous other examples, is that political corruption isn't a function of being a Conservative or a Liberal, the NDP never having not yet won a federal election. It's a function of time spent in power.

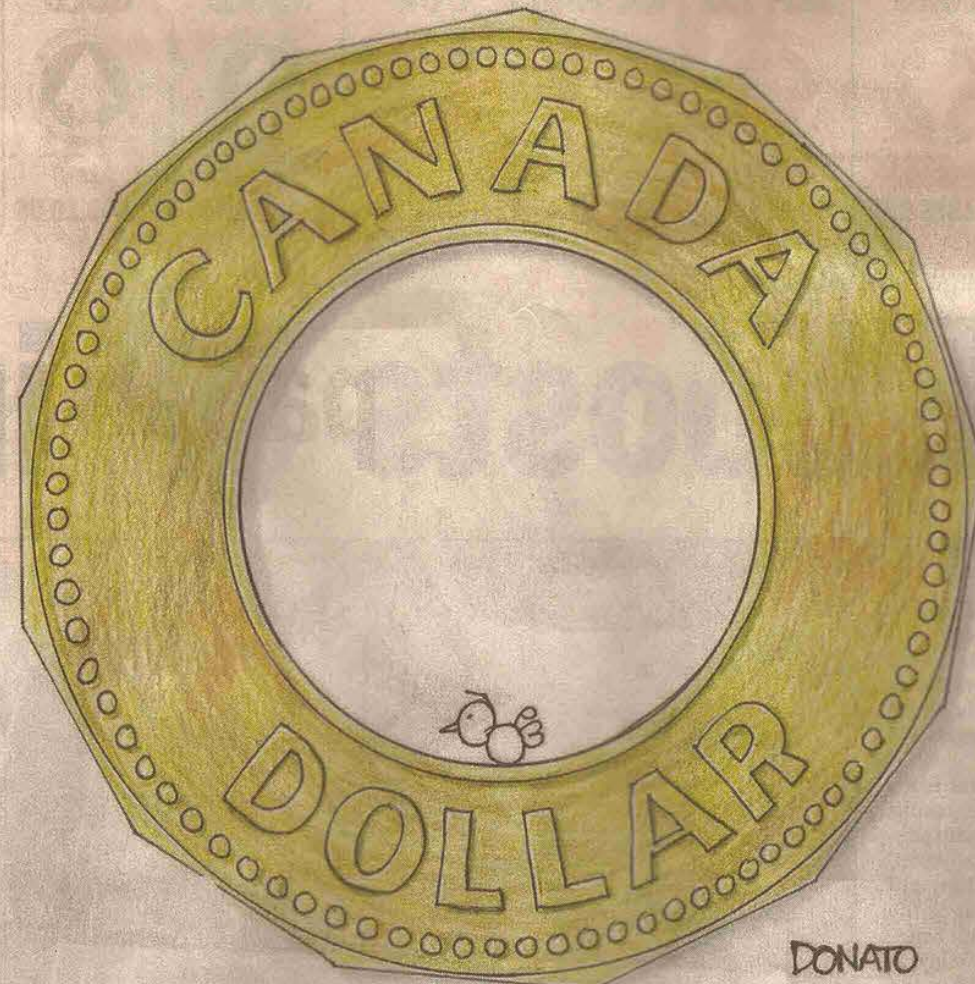
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It's that Harper promised to do politics differently, and he isn't.

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NEW ISSUE

POINT OF VIEW

Rail rules update welcome, not enough

Transport Canada took another step last week toward preventing future railway tragedies such as the one in Lac-Mégantic.

The announcement of a permanent update to Rule 112 of the Canadian Railway Operating Rules, which clarifies when and how trains carrying dangerous materials must be secured before being left unattended, is significant.

Essentially, it formalizes an emergency directive issued in 2013, shortly after an unattended freight train carrying crude oil rolled down a hill into Lac-Mégantic and exploded, killing 47 people. As of Oct. 14, railway employees must adhere permanently to a table that outlines how many handbrakes should be set before a train can be left unattended, taking into account both its weight and the incline on which it is parked.

Handbrakes are designed to keep the train immobile should the main air brake system fail, which is what happened in the hours leading up to the Lac-Mégantic accident.

This is good news, but there is still reason for concern.

Updated Rule 112 requires the train operator to confirm with "another employee" that the proper procedures were followed, but says nothing about the training or knowledge the second employee must possess. A similar update

to American regulations, also announced last week, requires this second opinion come from someone who is qualified to provide it. Rule 112 should be amended to say the same.

Meanwhile, the phasing in of more resistant tanker cars with shields on both ends, reinforced valves, thermal protection and thicker hulls is not expected to be complete until 2025. While the gradual replacement of the weaker DOT-111 cars is sorely needed, the new models are not immune to rupture. Two recent derailments in Northern Ontario proved this, with the stronger cars torn apart by the sheer violence of the incidents.

Transport Canada cannot ignore the other factors in play, which include the speed of trains, the condition of the tracks, and the maintenance of equipment. The department has recently introduced a 64-km/h speed limit for urban areas with more than 100,000 residents, and brought on 10 additional inspectors. But with the volume of crude oil being moved by rail still ballooning, more manpower will surely be needed.

With each incremental change to outdated regulations and standards, the Canadian government proves it is taking rail safety seriously. This vigilance must continue and any gaps must be identified and quickly closed.

— Postmedia Network

dreevely@ottawacitizen.com

More than ever, news coverage is the campaign

At one of the late rallies in last year's Ontario election campaign, Tim Hudak, then the leader of the Progressive Conservatives, had a rally in a big room at the Nepean Sportsplex. They used drapes to cut the space down to about one-third its actual size so people would be lined up out the door.

The Tories were attempting to follow a basic rule of political stagecraft. That is, however many people you're expecting, book a room slightly too small. You want to look as though you're totally taken aback by how many people your bandwagon is picking up.

When Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne first hit Ottawa on that campaign, she spoke in a storefront campaign office that forced more people than fit in the building to strain to hear from outside.



DAVID REEVELY

When you see the federal leaders or local candidates on TV during the next 11 weeks, they're not speaking at huge rallies, they're speaking at events designed for news viewers, in which the real live people with them are props. We know this, but it's easy to forget: The "campaign" is in the coverage, not in the events themselves.

At his first Toronto-area event of the current campaign in Ajax, Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke with multiple rows of supporters behind him. Politicians do this a lot: it gives them a mobile, active backdrop and gives the impression that the room is so crowded they've had to seat people on the stage.

Harper has had more and more success as a campaigner the more tightly he has controlled his audiences and appearances, and in this campaign the Conservatives have turned their rallies into ticketed events. You can't just hear that the 'Tory leader's in town and go see what he has to say.

"Friends," he begins many of his sentences, and it's not just a figure of speech. You need to be a loyalist just to get in the door, to limit even the possibility of heckling or other nasty surprises. Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, meanwhile, kind of likes surprises because he handles them deftly. They create the kinds of moments you can't fake, for better or for worse.

He wants to look like he's at the head of an irresistible movement, like his father in 1968 or U.S. President Barack Obama in 2008.

When Trudeau hit Mississauga on Tuesday, he attracted a remarkable number of people to an outdoor rally before 8 a.m. after a long weekend. It sure looked good. Yet a remarkable number of those people are on Liberal payroll, people such as Wynne's press secretary and MPP Yasir Naqvi's communications director at Queen's Park.

They're citizens like anybody else and they can do whatever they want before work. But they also owe the man a favour, what with his lending his efforts to Wynne's 2014 re-election campaign even when winning wasn't at all a sure thing. He helped them keep their jobs, and getting up early to bulk up Trudeau's numbers is small payback.

At least they're real Liberal supporters. Some politicians have been known to hire crowds for these things.

Tom Mulcair, leader of the New Democrats, is taking a different tact, striving to appear not like a popular party leader but like someone who's already prime minister.

First he welcomed the beginning of the campaign before a microphone at the Museum of History, the grandest perspective of Parliament behind him.

His next appearance was on Mount Royal, backed by New Democrat candidates, again speaking directly to the people of Canada, not to anyone physically in front of him.

He'd promised an announcement but there wasn't one, beyond a summary of the things the NDP stands for, an invocation of Jack Layton and a lot of talk about what "our government" will do. Just as if he were already running the place.

dreevely@ottawacitizen.com

How to get Aboriginal kids' grades up

RODNEY CLIFTON

Aboriginal students' educational achievement is, on average, two years behind other Canadian students and their graduation rate is less than half the national average.

How can their educational outcomes be improved? Hire private tutors.

First, it is important to know that the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development funds education for many bands. These funds are then in many cases passed on to off-reserve school boards so Aboriginal children can attend the local public schools.

One idea to improve educational outcomes is for school boards to give vouchers to

aboriginal parents when their children have been assessed as being capable but are two grades below grade-level. These vouchers would last for a short time because when the children have improved to the appropriate grade level they would stop receiving tutoring and resume full-time attendance in the regular school program.

The voucher program would only focus on literacy and numeracy because these are the necessary skills for sustaining progress in all the other subjects. Local people with B.A., B.Ed., or B.Sc. degrees, or private agencies, such as Kumon or Sylvan, could provide the tutoring services. People who could tutor students are often available in rural areas where more

than half of Canada's aboriginal students live.

Obviously, vouchers will not be issued to parents who have children in kindergarten, or grades 1 or 2 because these students cannot be two years below grade level. As a result, teachers will have at least 2,000 hours of school time to assess the children and bring them up to the established levels of proficiency. If some children cannot be brought up to standard, the teachers and administrators, in cooperation with the parents, will need to take a different tack.

Why use school board money to hire private tutors? Because the band councils have already paid for their children's education, and independent tutors are the only people who can, at

any time during the school year, provide the services necessary to lead teachers and administrators accountable.

Of course, vouchers would also hold principals and teachers accountable for ensuring that all students are at acceptable levels of literacy and numeracy. In fact, teachers and principals would have incentives to ensure that few students are in tutorial programs.

Parents will also become more accountable because they will pay for their children's assessments. These tests will be administered by professionals who are independent from the schools and the private tutors. The costs may be a hardship for some parents, but there is nothing preventing private founda-

tions and public interest groups from helping them pay.

This voucher system not only returns considerable power to parents but it also ensures teachers have incentives to increase the time their students spend on literacy and numeracy. Moreover, teachers will have incentives to assess their students, talk with the parents, and provide effective and immediate remedial programs to those students who are falling behind. In addition, teachers and principals will be unlikely to tolerate students who waste valuable instructional time.

In turn, school administrators will be more careful in hiring and retaining teachers. It also won't be as easy to shuffle incompetent teachers from

grade to grade or from school to school in the so-called "turkey trot."

Finally, principals will encourage their best teachers to teach the most difficult students. No longer will excellent teachers be asked to bargain with administrators to obtain the best classes, leaving the most difficult students for inexperienced colleagues.

Rodney A. Clifton is a senior fellow at the AIMIS.ca and a professor emeritus at St. John's College, the University of Manitoba. He co-authored What's Wrong with Our Schools and How We Can Fix Them.

PHILLIPS, Robin, O.C. - Peacefully at Sakura House Residential Hospice, Woodstock, Ontario on July 25, 2015 at the age of 75. A Service of Thanksgiving will take place at St. James' Anglican Church, Stratford, Ontario Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com



MCKONE, Dorothy (nee Walker) - Passed away peacefully at the Stratford General Hospital on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at the age of 86. Born in Tumbarly Township to the late Norman and Myrtle Walker. Beloved wife of the late Hugh McKone (1999). Loved mother of Brian of Toronto, Paul (Mark) of Waterloo, Murray (Lynn) of Stratford, Leanne Burr (Stephen) of Stratford and Kyle of Waterloo. Dear sister of Isobel Holland (Harvey) of Hanover, Joyce Leigh (Ronald, 2014) of Elliot Lake and Gloria Skowby (Ted) of Stratford. Proud grandmother of Alyssa (Mike) and Tyler McKone, Liam, Wesley (Esther), Mitchell (Michelle), Vincent (Bethany) and great-granddaughter Nykole Burr. Predeceased by her son Guy McKone (1999). Friends and relatives may call at the W.G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron St., Stratford on Friday, August 7 from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2015 at 11 a.m. A reception will be held at the funeral home following the interment in Avondale Cemetery. The family extends their thanks to the staff of River Gardens Retirement Residence and the staff of the Stratford General Hospital for their help and kindness. Memorial donations may be made through the funeral home to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Stratford General Hospital Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society, 519.271.7411 www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com

Stratford and Area Forecast

Today	Tomorrow	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
High: 24° Low: 15° Mainly sunny with cloudy periods.	High: 25° Low: 15° Mainly sunny with cloudy periods. Winds easterly 25 km/h.	High: 27° Low: 17° Mainly sunny with cloudy periods. Winds easterly 15 km/h.	High: 25° Low: 16° Mainly cloudy with scattered showers (pop. 70%).	High: 23° Low: 15° Mainly sunny with cloudy periods. Winds northerly 30 km/h.

Today: Normal High: 26-1°
Normal Low: 14-4°
Record High: 33.8°/2001
Record Low: -6.2°/1989

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Southwestern Ontario Today

Location	Forecast
Goderich	22/17
Kitchener	24/15
Stratford	24/15
London	25/15
Port Dover	24/17
Windsor	25/16

Sunrise: 6:21 a.m.
Sunset: 8:38 p.m.
Hours of Sunlight: 14hrs, 17mins.

Canada tomorrow

Location	Forecast
Barrington	22/10
Calgary	22/12
Edmonton	22/10
Halifax	22/14
Regina	22/12
Saskatoon	22/12
St. John's	22/12
Thunder Bay	22/14
Vancouver	22/17
Victoria	22/17
Winnipeg	22/14
Yellowknife	22/14

United States tomorrow

Location	Forecast
Atlanta	30/22
Boston	28/18
Buffalo	24/16
Chicago	27/20
Cleveland	28/17
Dallas	40/27
Denver	31/17
Detroit	30/22
Houston	32/20
Indianapolis	27/19
Los Angeles	27/18
Las Vegas	36/24
Memphis	31/27
Minneapolis	29/18
Myrtle Beach	31/24

The World tomorrow

Location	Forecast
New Orleans	35/27
New York	27/21
Philadelphia	31/25
Pittsburgh	30/21
San Francisco	27/18
Salt Lake City	27/18
Seattle	24/16
Tucson	36/28
Washington	30/21
Amsterdam	21/13
Brussels	23/13
London	21/13
Madrid	34/28
Moscow	31/22
Paris	31/17
St. Petersburg	31/17
Tokyo	31/17
Warsaw	30/22

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SPORTS

■ **STC:** Auto works takes 'A' title

Stratford Tennis League champions crowned

BEACON HERALD STAFF
The 2015 Stratford Tennis League champions have been crowned.

Auto Works, who finished fourth in the regular season standings but caught fire in the playoffs, took the 'A' championship.

Auto Works faced Donkers Agri in the final, Play opened with Auto Works' No. 1 ladies doubles team of Johanna Billings and Deb Murphy sweeping Linda Doig and Maria Donkers 6-2, 6-4. The No. 2 ladies doubles split sets as Donkers team of Lindsay Murray and Nancy Chung took the first set 7-5 before Auto Works' Carmen Miron and Sandra Hofing responded by taking the second set 6-4.

The No. 1 men's doubles had Richard East and John Noble of Donkers win the first set 6-2, and Grant McPherson and Pat McCarroll of Auto Works rebounding to take the second

set 6-4. The No. 2 men's doubles also saw a split of sets as Larry Shurrie and Mike Schiedel won the first set for Donkers 6-4, 7-6 (7-5). There was a split of sets in the No. 2 men's doubles as Ryan Lay and Landon Hoare of Snapd won the first set 7-6 (7-3), while Jared Larder and Wayne Carney of Sunrise took the second set 6-4.

The mixed doubles opened with Ennett and Fischer of Sunrise scoring a 6-3 victory over Weernink and Parson in the No. 1 match. The No. 2 mixed doubles match went to Sunrise as Lange and Coates took out Wensink and Schiedel 6-2. Eickmeyer and Lay won the No. 3 mixed doubles for Snapd by edging Leasa and Larder 7-5. The No. 4 mixed doubles went to Sunrise as Holmes and Carney scored a 6-1 victory over Mowbray and Hoare.

The 7-5 sets victory gave the 'B' championship to Sunrise Health Services.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stratford Tennis League 2015 'A' champions Auto Works, from left: Stuart Arnett, John Fischer, Pat McCarroll, Grant McPherson, Johanna Billings, Deb Murphy, Sandra Hofing, Carmen Miron.

ladies doubles as Sandie Ennett and Naomi Lange dominated Erma Weernink and Cox Wen-

sink 6-0, 6-1. Snapd responded by taking the No. 2 ladies doubles with Monica Eickmeyer and

Cathy Mowbray downing Marilyn Leasa and Marilyn Holmes 6-0, 6-3.

■ **MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**



TOM SZCZECZAK/GETTY IMAGES

Edwin Encarnacion of the Toronto Blue Jays slides safely into second base with an RBI double as Brian Dozier of the Minnesota Twins tries to make a tag in Toronto Thursday. The Jays won 9-3.

Jays sweep Twins, Yankees up next

RYAN WOLSTAT
Postmedia Network

TORONTO — Look out Yankees. There's a runaway blue and white freight train barreling its way to the Bronx.

The Blue Jays won for the eighth time in nine games on Thursday and fifth straight overall, 9-3 over the Twins, setting up a huge three-game set at Yankee Stadium starting Friday.

Building off of a series win over Kansas City, the Jays ran Minnesota out of town, its first four-game series sweep at the Rogers Centre since 2009.

The deadliest offence in the majors pummeled the Twins yet again, led by Edwin Encarnacion (three hits and four RBIs, including a home run), Ben Revere (three-for-four with three runs scored) and Troy Tulowitzki (two more hits).

Mark Buehrle delivered his latest in a long line of snappy starts, allowing just three runs and five hits in seven innings, though he and manager John Gibbons made it clear Buehrle didn't have his best stuff. Homers to Trevor Plouffe (a two-run shot in the fourth that cut the lead to 4-2 and Aaron Hicks were the only two major blemishes on Buehrle's night.

"It wasn't one of my best nights, I didn't feel the greatest, but you're going to have those starts over the course of the year," Buehrle said.

Still, the 36-year-old, who

started 2014 at 10-1, before dropping his next six decisions, improved to 12-5 and the Jays moved to 13-6 since the All-Star break, outscoring opponents 101-63.

Bo Scholtz mopped up with two scoreless, hitless innings in relief.

Buehrle said the Jays are oozing confidence.

"The city is buzzing. The clubhouse is here, you've got that feel every day when you come to the field, 'Who's next?' No matter if it's a nookie pitching or a guy that's been around for a while, you've got that feel of, 'Whose butt are we going to kick today?' Buehrle said.

"There's just a different feeling. I felt the same way in '05 when we won the World Series (with the Chicago White Sox)," Buehrle said. "There were times when we'd be down two runs in the seventh inning and it was like, 'We don't care, we're going to win this game,' somehow we're going to find a way to win this game, and we do."

While the pitching has come together (Toronto's starters are in a quality starts groove not seen in years, and the bullpen has been the best in the American League in recent weeks) it's Toronto's dynamic offense that remains must-see entertainment — unless you are an opposing pitcher or manager.

Only two Jays starters failed to collect a hit and Revere had his

second multi-hit game in a row after going 0-for-13 in his first four outings as a Blue Jays.

The speedster, who led the National League in hits a year ago, has added a pesky contact hitter with lightning wheels to the bottom of the lineup, which mixes with the thunder that sits just behind him later in games quite well.

Twins veteran Torii Hunter is impressed.

"There aren't too many teams going to beat that team over there," Hunter said from the visiting clubhouse after the game.

"They've got a great squad. They way they hit the ball is just unbelievable. When they hit the ball, it sounds like car crashes."

The Jays repeatedly punished Twins starter Kyle Gibson, eventually chasing him after 4.2 innings after scoring eight earned runs on nine hits, successfully keeping their focus on the Jays, even with the massive series with the Yankees looming.

The Jays were the total package on this night, with the defence also excelling at times, most notably when Kevin Pillar added to his highlight reel with another brilliant diving catch in centre field to end the eighth inning and when Donaldson flashed the leather a couple of times to make strong plays at the hot corner.

All the pieces are coming together for this club at just the right time, though there remains considerable work to be done.

for two months and hopefully longer. That's my objective, to get this behind me and worry about plate and tossed Sanchez."

The Jays said Wednesday Sanchez would not be available to work Wednesday as he had pitched four times in six days. Sanchez said he had been given two days off. The fear from the Jays' end is that the ruling could come Friday and he would miss all three games in New York.

The Jays have a seven-man bullpen without Sanchez.

With two out his pitch hit Escobar on the knee. With great theatrics Wolf walked in front of the plate and tossed Sanchez.

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■ **WORLD JUNIOR CAMP**

Younger players 'class of skill'

TERRY KOSHAN
Postmedia Network

Skill and depth. Those words come to mind when one glances at the group of forwards Canada has the potential to put on the ice at the 2016 world junior championship.

The question for Hockey Canada director of player personnel Ryan Jankowski and the staff is how the forwards eventually will break down once the final 22-player roster is set following the selection camp in December.

Of the 24 forwards who were invited to the summer development camp, 15 were born in 1996, with nine born in 1997. Usually, it's the 19-year-olds who provide a foundation at the world junior. But the 18-year-old group should include Mitch Marner and Dylan Strome, a couple of players who lit up the Ontario Hockey League last season while much of the focus was centred on Connor McDavid and then went to be top-four NHL draft picks.

"The 1997s are the high-calibre class of skill," Jankowski said. "The 96 group, we have had a bunch of really good soldier-type players. It's going to be interesting to see how it meshes."

"I think we are going to be a little younger than we were last year."

Provided head coach Dave Lowry takes 13 forwards to the tournament in Helsinki, with a Dec. 26 date with the United States marking Canada's opening game, it could be that four spots are spoken for. Robby Fabbri, Brayden Point, Jake



LYLE ASPHALL/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

London Knights' Mitch Marner lit up the OHL last season, while much of the spotlight was focused on Connor McDavid.

Virtanen and Lawson Crouse played on the team that won gold in 2015, and barring injury, an unexpected setback in their play or the earning of a roster spot in the National Hockey League, it's difficult to imagine any of them being cut. Fabbri and Point would be offensive catalysts in Finland.

What's clear is there will be no straying from the philosophy that helped Canada end a five-year dry spell without a gold. Skill will be the way to go, with exact roles to be determined.

"We felt in the past, at times, that we had cut our depth in half," Jankowski said. "We did not have enough skill on the third and fourth lines to create. When we brought in guys specifically for a fourth line, they

were not good enough, when you needed a goal, they could not play."

Indications from the summer development camp as it progressed this week were encouraging. None of the forwards had to be told that competition for jobs would be stiff. There was an effort level that was appreciated in the first week of August as many players have been itching to get out of the gym.

There was the recognition that leaving a good first impression with Jankowski and Lowry was paramount.

"With the exception of the Olympic team, the world junior team is probably the hardest team to make," John Quenneville said. "We split the squads up and we still had so many good players on either side. But it was also fun to play alongside all of these guys."

Said Marner: "No one was taking anything for granted." No less than 11 forwards in camp finished in the top 20 in scoring in their respective leagues last season. And we can't forget that at least a couple of players who did not get invited will perform well enough in the first few months of the 2015-16 season to earn a spot at the selection camp.

terry.koshan@sunmedia.ca

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■ **JAYS WATCH**

Sanchez maintains innocence

BOB ELLIOTT
Postmedia Network

TORONTO — Aaron Sanchez dropped his three-game appeal but not his plea of innocence.

Sanchez was fitted for a set of Major League Baseball suspenders to wear for three days for intentionally hitting Kansas City Royals' Alcides Escobar on Sunday at the Rogers Centre.

"This way made sense," Sanchez said told reporters Thursday. "I want this behind me. I've got 24 other guys to fight with

for two months and hopefully longer. That's my objective, to get this behind me and worry about plate and tossed Sanchez."

The Jays said Wednesday Sanchez would not be available to work Wednesday as he had pitched four times in six days. Sanchez said he had been given two days off. The fear from the Jays' end is that the ruling could come Friday and he would miss all three games in New York.

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Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Closed
Sunday, Closed

Community Calendar

SUNDAY

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Sunline Group (O), 10:30 a.m., Stratford Optimist Club, 72 Water St. (1-800-706-9833)

Exeter
ALANON - EXETER AFG GROUP Exeter United Church, 42 James St. E. Back door off parking lot. 8:00 p.m. For information contact 1-800-706-9833

Stratford
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS - weekly meeting 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 9 Doro St. All welcome. Call 1-800-573-0920 for more information.

Stratford
2014 CONCERTS IN THE PARK, Sunday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Kiwanis Pavilion Bandshell in Upper Queen's Park. August 9th Summer Festival Wind Ensemble. The funding for these concerts is provided by the Kiwanis Club of Stratford.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Stratford
WHALE OF A TALE - free evening drop-in story-time for pre-schoolers, 6:30-7:15 p.m. at the public library, 19 St. Andrew St. Admission is free.

Stratford
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - First Step Group (O), 7:30 p.m. at Mitchell Friendship Centre, 55 Montreal Street, Mitchell. (1-800-706-9833)

Clinton
ALANON - NEW FREEDOM GROUP, Clinton United Church, 105 Ontario St. Use parking lot off road. 8:00 p.m. Call 271-7755 or 1-800-706-9833 for more information.

St. Mary's
ALANON CARING AND SHARING GROUP - weekly meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Hospital, Call 271-7755 or 1-800-706-9833 for more information.

Listowel
ALANON 12 STEPS TO FREEDOM meeting, 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Wallace Ave. N. Call 271-7755 or 1-800-706-9833 for more information.

Stratford
TACIST TAI CHI - health recovery classes, Monday thru Friday, 11 a.m.-noon, at Taoist Tai Chi of Stratford, 670 Ontario St. For more information, call 273-5614.

Stratford
SENIOR CITIZENS - activities at the Kiwanis Community Centre include 9 a.m. Billiards, Woodcraft, Line Dancing 9:30 a.m. Pepper, 1:00 p.m. Shuffleboard, Contact Bridge

Stratford
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Women's Group (O), 7 p.m. at Ontario Street Baptist Church, 230 Ontario St. Call 519-271-7755 for more information.

Stratford
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Shiftworkers Group C, 10:30 a.m., Ontario Street Baptist Church, 230 Ontario St. Call 271-7755 for more information.

Milverton
SWIFT WALKING CLUB - every Monday, thru Friday, 9-11 a.m. at Perth East Recreation Complex. No charge. Safe, flat, dry, walking surface. To register call Community Outreach Services at 595-8755.

Stratford
ALANON - New Way of Life Group weekly meeting, 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, corner of Cambria and Nelson streets. (use side door) Call 271-7755 or 1-800-706-9833 for more information.

Stratford
TOASTMASTERS meets every Monday from 7:30 p.m. at the University of Waterloo, Stratford, C. Toastmasters is a fun public speaking and leadership group all are welcome, at no cost to try more info at www.toastmasters.com or call 519-275-2455.

Mitchell
FOREVER YOUNG GROUP EXERCISE - Group offers a one-hour exercise class for seniors. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Upper Thames Missionary Church. No fee. Call Kathryn @ 519-348-9765 for more information.

Stratford
T.O.P.S. - Take Off Pounds Sensibly, a weight St. Romeo Court, 40 Long Drive, weigh-in starts at 4:45 p.m. with meeting to follow at 5:30 p.m. New members always welcomed! Contact Helen at 519-276-2661 or helen@topsstratford.com for more information or visit www.tops.org

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ALANON CARING AND SHARING GROUP - weekly meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Hospital, Call 271-7755 or 1-800-706-9833 for more information.

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TACIST TAI CHI - health recovery classes, Monday thru Friday, 11 a.m.-noon, at Taoist Tai Chi of Stratford, 670 Ontario St. For more information, call 273-5614.

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SENIOR CITIZENS - activities at the Kiwanis Community Centre include 9 a.m. Billiards, Woodcraft, Line Dancing 9:30 a.m. Pepper, 1:00 p.m. Shuffleboard, Contact Bridge

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Women's Group (O), 7 p.m. at Ontario Street Baptist Church, 230 Ontario St. Call 519-271-7755 for more information.

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Milverton
SWIFT WALKING CLUB - every Monday, thru Friday, 9-11 a.m. at Perth East Recreation Complex. No charge. Safe, flat, dry, walking surface. To register call Community Outreach Services at 595-8755.

Stratford
ALANON - New Way of Life Group weekly meeting, 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, corner of Cambria and Nelson streets. (use side door) Call 271-7755 or 1-800-706-9833 for more information.

Stratford
TOASTMASTERS meets every Monday from 7:30 p.m. at the University of Waterloo, Stratford, C. Toastmasters is a fun public speaking and leadership group all are welcome, at no cost to try more info at www.toastmasters.com or call 519-275-2455.

Mitchell
FOREVER YOUNG GROUP EXERCISE - Group offers a one-hour exercise class for seniors. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Upper Thames Missionary Church. No fee. Call Kathryn @ 519-348-9765 for more information.

Stratford
T.O.P.S. - Take Off Pounds Sensibly, a weight St. Romeo Court, 40 Long Drive, weigh-in starts at 4:45 p.m. with meeting to follow at 5:30 p.m. New members always welcomed! Contact Helen at 519-276-2661 or helen@topsstratford.com for more information or visit www.tops.org

Community Calendar

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - First Step Group (O), 7:30 p.m. at Mitchell Friendship Centre, 55 Montreal Street, Mitchell. (1-800-706-9833)

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THE BEACON HERALD

Community Calendar

MONDAY

COMICS PUZZLES

YOUR HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

Good fortune will be yours if you are diligent and push to get ahead professionally. Your ability to learn on the spot and to adapt to whatever changes occur around you will help you remain in the game. Personal changes that are geared toward self-improvement are encouraged and will help build your confidence as well as your reputation. Your numbers are 2, 10, 18, 25, 32, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Set up interviews or check out online job postings. You'll make a good impression if you send out your resume or discuss what you have to offer based on your past experiences. Romance and making personal living changes are encouraged.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your efforts into making your home comfortable and welcoming. Entertain friends, but don't go over budget. Get everyone to pitch in and help. Your ability to make someone feel at ease will allow you to discuss sensitive issues.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Ask questions if you feel someone is withholding information. Your ability to get others to share secrets will help you make decisions that will influence your future. Changes to your home or where you live are encouraged.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let your beliefs, talents and skills speak for themselves. Show everyone what you can do, but don't brag or exaggerate. The proof is in the results you get. Stand up and do your best.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look at your job options. Don't limit yourself to a geographical location. Sometimes moving to where the action is professionally is the best answer. Send out your resume and prepare to negotiate. A past partner will influence your decision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your distance from anyone who puts demands on you. Take care of your own business first before you take on something that has absolutely no benefits for you. Don't let an emotional matter lead to a mishap.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Offer to help others. Giving your time and attention to a cause may not please the people close to you, but the satisfaction you get will be worth your while. An instant connection to someone you encounter will influence your future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't wait for others to make a move. Emotional problems could develop with your colleagues or potential employers if you aren't careful. Back up and take a moment to sort out your feelings and consider how to best move forward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Run a checklist before you vocalize your intentions. You have to keep everything in its place or someone will object or criticize you. Put your feelings on the table and extend an invitation to share your life goals.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A proposal to get involved in a joint venture won't be as good as you anticipate. Before you give the go-ahead, rethink the outcome and prepare for any possible problems that might arise. Protect your money, possessions and investments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll meet opposition if you try to push your ideas on others. Do your best to go it alone and present what you have done only after you are finished. The setbacks you'll encounter will not be worth the aggravation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Time spent with an old friend or visiting places you used to frequent will bring back fond memories. Consider reviving an old idea or starting a new partnership with the potential to bring in extra cash. Consider starting a small, home-based business.
www.eugenialast.com

SUDOKU

			4	7		2		
7		9		6		4		1
6			5				7	
	3				7			
2	9			5			6	7
			1				3	
	7				4			3
8		3		9		7		4
		5		3	1			

HOW TO PLAY: Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GANIA

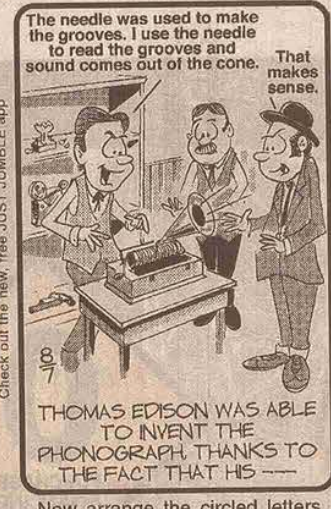
CRODH

MOUSTT

WLIVES

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: WHILE ELDER INFAMY TOMCAT
Answer: The pickpocket at the bottom of the Grand Canyon was a — LOWLIFE

WORDFIND

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

On the buses

Solution: 15 letters

T	L	S	S	S	S	Y	O	H	N	E	R	C	N
G	O	T	S	N	N	R	R	I	B	A	X	E	A
Y	O	W	O	E	E	A	G	A	H	P	N	I	W
P	O	O	N	N	T	H	C	E	C	C	L	M	R
Y	Z	R	E	S	W	S	N	K	K	T	O	A	N
E	T	C	A	A	V	T	O	A	P	E	R	R	S
L	S	C	Y	G	E	I	E	H	A	R	E	K	N
L	A	R	A	R	N	R	L	A	C	T	E	T	R
A	O	D	T	P	B	I	G	L	K	S	U	I	U
V	C	A	L	A	T	E	K	U	E	A	D	C	T
O	I	O	U	T	B	A	C	K	R	L	R	K	E
N	G	N	I	R	O	B	I	Y	A	W	E	E	R
R	E	A	D	I	N	G	U	N	U	S	V	T	I
B	O	W	R	A	L	G	E	E	F	F	O	C	D
R	K	E	C	N	A	T	S	I	D	R	I	V	E

- backpacker
Bega
boring
Bowral
break
Cairns
captain
cars
- coast
coffee
Darwin
distance
driver
entertain
explore
freeway
- Guys
highway
hostess
Kingsford
lane
late
outback
overdue
- radio
reading
Renmark
return
ride
scenery
sit
snack
- snooze
stop
stretch
ticket
Townsville
valley

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Sheep's cry
- 6 Dishonest way to make money
- 10 One of the Three Bears
- 14 Bird of prey
- 15 Castro's land
- 16 Old
- 17 Word with right, acute or obtuse
- 18 Rainbows
- 19 Use a Kindle
- 20 Look like
- 22 Take a ___; gamble
- 24 Coat with a thin layer of gold
- 25 Roller ___; ride for the daring
- 26 Greek goddess of wisdom
- 29 Numerical comparison
- 30 Parched
- 31 Evil demon
- 33 Peruvian pack animal
- 37 Guacamole and salsa
- 39 Robes in India
- 41 ___ on; incite
- 42 Eyeglasses, for short
- 44 Log floats
- 46 American ___; North Dakota's state tree
- 47 Traveler's stop

- 49 Steers clear of
- 51 Ousted from the throne
- 54 Army vehicle
- 55 Flowering; in blossom
- 56 Very confused mental state
- 60 Newborn horse
- 61 Tearful request
- 63 As silly as a ___
- 64 "Measure twice, cut ___"
- 65 Slender; thin
- 66 Abhors
- 67 Watched
- 68 Geologic ages
- 69 Rubbish

DOWN

- 1 Tote; carry
- 2 Path
- 3 Breakfast order
- 4 State without proof
- 5 Abounding
- 6 Overcook milk
- 7 Make well
- 8 Big TV network
- 9 The Phillie Phanatic, e.g.
- 10 Umbrellas
- 11 Representative
- 12 "War and ___"

- 13 Deadly viper
- 21 Has the ___; is blue and bored
- 23 "___ Mary, full of grace..."
- 25 New's neighbor
- 26 Tallies up
- 27 Stumble
- 28 Excessive publicity
- 29 Not of the city
- 32 Rowed
- 34 Ridiculed
- 35 Stubborn critter
- 36 Upper limbs
- 38 Taught
- 40 Common metal
- 43 Unexceptional
- 45 ___ of hand; magician's skill
- 48 Star of "Heidi"
- 50 Tumult
- 51 Actor Willem
- 52 Black wood
- 53 Location
- 54 Levi's
- 56 College official
- 57 Smidgen
- 58 ___ up; depletes
- 59 Fit snugly together
- 62 Zodiac lion

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21				22	23			
						24				25				
26	27	28						29						
30					31		32				33		34	35
36														
37				38		39				40		41		
42					43		44				45		46	
						47		48			49		50	
51	52	53							54					
55								56				57	58	59
60							61	62				63		
64							65					66		
67							68					69		

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

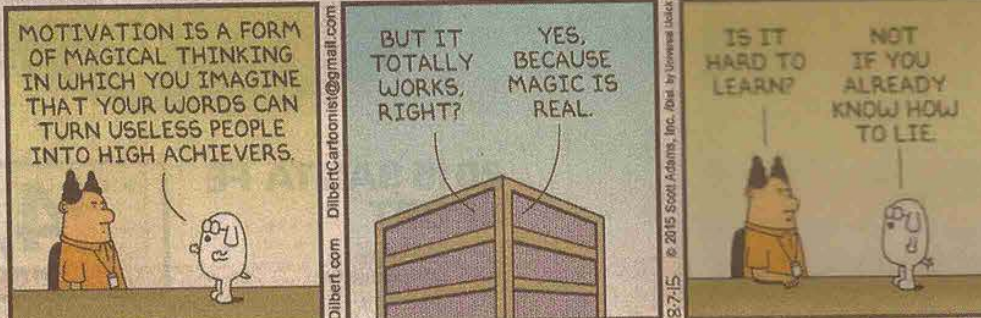
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2	5	8	3	1	9	4	7	6
9	4	6	5	7	2	3	8	1
1	8	5	2	9	6	7	4	3
4	7	9	1	5	3	2	6	8
6	2	3	7	8	4	1	9	5
8	1	2	4	6	5	9	3	7
3	6	7	9	2	1	8	5	4
5	9	4	8	3	7	6	1	2

R	O	D	S		H	I	C	K	S		S	W	A	B
S	H	O	T		O	N	I	O	N		T	A	C	O
V	I	S	A		U	N	D	U	E		A	D	D	S
P	O	E	T	E	S		F	A	B	R	I	C	S	
					U	S	E		M	A	K	E	R	
S	P	A	R	S		H	E	X		N	E	A	R	S
T	A	L	E		P	A	L		A	N	D	R	E	A
A	N	T		F	A	L	L	A	C	Y		D	A	B
B	I	A	S	E	D		O	L	D		D	O	D	O
S	C	R	A	M		A	W	L		W	O	R	S	T
					L	U	A	U	S		C	A	L	
E	F	F	O	R	T	S		C	U	R	E	A	L	L
T	R	I	O			O	S	C	A	R		F	L	E
C	A	A	N			L	I	A	R	S		U	T	E
H	U	T	S			L	E	A	S	E		L	O	S

GARFIELD



DILBERT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



ADAM

