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Fanshawe alumnus Dustin Schumann proudly displays his awards at Suki Salon, where he works.

CREDIT: ANDREW VIDLER

## Alumnus a cut above the competition



**JERROLD RUNDLE**  
INTERROBANG

Fanshawe College has always been a hotbed for talent and award winners from filmmaking, to music production, to athletics. Now the school can add a nationally renowned hairstylist to its roster.

Dustin Schumann, a graduate of Hair Stylist apprenticeship program at Fanshawe's Woodstock campus, recently walked away as the Best Newcomer at the 21st annual Canadian Hairdresser Mirror Awards this past April.

"It feels amazing because it's so hard to reach this point and so it's really exciting to see how hard work pays off," Schumann said about the win. "Because of this win it's going to push me more and more to succeed to challenge myself creatively."

Schumann says another Ontario inspires his influences, work and style.

"I really look up to Rossa Jurenas from Schwarzoft," he said. "She owns her own salon in Tillsonburg ... I even acknowledged her in my speech at the Mirror Awards. She was present and so it was very exciting."

Jurenas later went on to win Best

Editorial Stylist of the Year at the same awards this year.

London itself produced three winners for this year's Mirror Awards – including Schumann – and while these are competitions to be won, he says it's still about working together in the profession.

"I'm a big team player and to me, we are team Ontario, and team Ontario [is] pumping out talent," Schumann said. "Especially London ... shooting out awesome hairstylists ... it's a big honour to be added to that list."

Schumann adds that when he spoke with CBC, the interviewer was surprised London was home to so much talent.

"We've been pumping out talent for decades" he said. "It's just nice that there [are] enough of us to be recognized as a whole, as a city. It's exciting [to] finally bring business to London."

In addition to his Best Newcomer win, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities sponsored Schumann to compete in the Technological Skills Competition where he finished with a bronze medal.

He also earned his Bronze Level Master Judge certification, which allows him to begin judging Allied Beauty Association (ABA) competitions, and while he admits this is just the beginning as a competitive career, the key to staying happy and employed in hairdressing is to keep

learning.

"Be sponge [and] absorb, absorb, absorb," he said. "Instead of talking over the people teaching you; stop and listen. You have to learn to listen and take that constructive criticism."

"A lot of people walk out of the industry because they're taking it too personally. It's constructive criticism; it's to help them grow."

Suki Salon on 141 King St. is Schumann's other home, and his most recent awards sit behind reception. The win was a memorable moment not only for him but for his employer Suki as well – a Platinum Level Judge for the ABA himself.

"He's awesome about all that stuff, anytime we get an award, any news clippings, he says to bring them in and he'll put them up, he's very proud of us," Suki said.

And Schumann should be proud of himself. The young hairstylist worked for Universal Records weeks out of finishing his program, before even graduating.

"Through networking I was able to land a gig with Universal Records and I did hair for the six dancers that were dancing in a music video [for] Andee called 'Never Gone,'" he said. "It was huge because it's totally different from a photo shoot."

This extremely talented Londoner will only get better at his trade with time.

## OSAP stops punishing vehicle owners



**PAM-MARIE GUZZO**  
INTERROBANG

Car-owning students can now breathe a sigh of relief as they no longer have to think about cars when filling out their OSAP applications. This will be especially wonderful news for the many Fanshawe students who need their vehicles to commute in from surrounding areas that aren't serviced by LTC.

Tracy Davies, a Fanshawe student in the Computer Programmer Analyst program, would have much more difficulty making it to class without her car. "I have a son and I live in the opposite end of the city, so it's convenient for me to drive as opposed to take the bus," she said.

In a press release from late April, the College Student Alliance (CSA) announced the removal of the requirement thanks to recommendations from the organization's 2015 pre-budget submission called Strengthening Ontario's College System for Students.

Former president of the Fanshawe Student Union and president of the CSA, Matt Stewart, was happy on behalf of his peers.

"We're very pleased that the voices of college students across Ontario have been heard and are

helping to provide direction in the government's strategy going forward to ensure access to a quality post-secondary education," Stewart said in a press release. "Premier Kathleen Wynne organized a tour across Ontario, which included visits to colleges, to understand firsthand challenges faced by post-secondary students."

The submission reported that approximately 4.7 per cent of Fanshawe students who applied for OSAP in the 2012-2013 year had vehicles that were worth more than the asset exemption level, which is \$5,000 for single students and \$10,000 for married or sole support students.

For many students, a vehicle is thought of as an expensive necessity, not an asset.

"I don't consider [my vehicle] as an asset as I'm leasing it," Davies said.

Ontario is the second province to remove vehicles from its eligibility requirements, following Saskatchewan, which made the change in November 2014. As the Canada Student Loans Program removed the exemption in February 2014, Ontario students will have one less thing to worry about while navigating the forms.

"I think it's fabulous," Davies said. "Hopefully that will help a lot in my OSAP application for next year."

## Waste bins get a face-lift across campus

**STEPHANIE LAI**  
INTERROBANG

When Fanshawe's sustainability department experimented with new waste bin designs back in February, it wasn't clear to co-ordinator Mary-Lee Townsend if and when all bins on campus would receive a face-lift.

At the end of March and into April, the fresh designs rolled out across the board, but Townsend isn't stopping there.

"Now that we've done that ... the next place that we're looking at doing is, we're going to be visiting all our regional campuses," she said. "We would like to have all the regional campuses, the outdoor parking lots and the FSU done by the end of the summer as we're getting into the new school year."

Accompanying the sleek new design on bins, students and staff will now be able to see what goes where on signs that sit above the bins.

"Now it's sitting at eye level and people can see it a lot easier," Townsend said. "Not only do the decals help people know what bin's what, the detailed information gives people a lot more of an idea really quickly what goes where."

What prompted the change was a dip in the college's recycling numbers – or what sustainability folk call diversion rate.

"Because we experienced such a dip in our diversion rate in the last year, the college and the facilities really wanted to put a lot of effort into bringing that diversion rate back up," Townsend said. "As a college we've made a commitment to be more sustainable and more environmentally conscious."

Townsend says she received quotes to redo the bins, which ranged from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

But she insists that investing now will become fruitful in the future.

"It's going to come back to us because we're going to save on our waste diversion and we're going to save on our bills on our garbage going out," she said. "We pay for all of our garbage going out. We spend money going out so we might as well spend a little money to save and try to reduce the amount going out."

In a survey that sustainability previously did, Townsend says students and staff found signage to be confusing.

"All of the things that people said in that waste management survey we've adjusted with this new strategy," she said.

Travis Daly, an accounting student, says he wasn't confused by the old signage, but that the change is a welcomed one.

"I think they look better, they're [more appealing] and more presentable," he said. "It makes it more noticeable."

A change in Townsend's new strategy is that coffee cups, milk cartons and juice boxes can now be recycled.

"We're trying to mimic what the city of London is doing," she said. "Because our students living off-campus are hopefully recycling and we're wanting to make it so that when they come into the college, it'll be the same."

Consistency is key.

"We also want the bins to be arranged particularly where they are mounted," Townsend said. "We want them to be arranged landfill, paper, containers so it gets stuck in people's heads."

Townsend welcomes comments and concerns and can be reached at sustainability@fanshawe.ca.

## New programming and plans to better Fanshawe

STEPHANIE LAI  
INTERROBANG

Fanshawe is launching a total of 15 new programs in September as part of the college's plan for the future.

This news was brought about in a press release, which highlighted key goals for student success, enrolment, facilities expansion and program development called the Strategic Plan Implementation. The Plan also outlines the college's \$230 million budget plans, which was approved by the Board of Governors in April.

The 46-page document covers topics such as government issues, Board directions, the college's strategic goals and financial planning.

Tony Frost, executive director of Reputation and Brand Management for Fanshawe, says the college is making changes and it comes at a time of economic challenges.

"The number of students who are in high schools right now are declining and they're going to continue to decline until the Baby Boom Echo starts to have babies," Frost said. "It'll be a while before we start to see an uptick in the number of direct students."

Frost says the college has veered its focus on non-direct students – namely mature students, international students and students who worked before pursuing post-secondary education.

"You still have to continue to stay

relevant, so you have to change to meet student needs [and employer needs]."

So the college planned to launch new – and specialized – programs.

"We look at the market place and say, 'Where are the jobs?' and on the other side, where's the student demand?" Frost said. "The sweet spot is where are the jobs and where's the student interest. And it has to fit with what you have."

The following programs will be launched in September:

- Business Operations Management
- Insurance and Risk Management
- Aircraft Painter
- Power Engineering
- Network Security & Architecture
- Fire Safety Systems
- Baking & Pastry Arts
- Hospitality & Tourism Operations Management
- Video Game Design & Development
- Bachelor of Commerce – Accounting
- Bachelor of Commerce – Digital Marketing
- Bachelor of Commerce – Human Resources
- Public Safety Leadership
- Software Information Systems Testing
- Health Systems Management

In fact, the college hopes to increase enrolment by 15 per cent in the next five years and launching new programs is just one step in that direction.

"A lot of the programs are aimed at either international students or non-direct students," Frost said. "If you're already working in the field, what kind of program could we launch that would make it applicable to you as a person who already has a diploma or a degree."

Frost says the college is working on making learning accessible to non-direct students who have mortgages, cars and families.

"We've increased a number of our programs online so they can access it," he said. "We're looking at other alternatives of delivery that will allow them to access the programs that they need because we know the demand is there ... the delivery method just isn't suitable to them yet."

Online classes and weekend college has been made more available for these students.

Flexible learning options are also important to the college.

When issues like the ones Fanshawe's deaf students voiced arise, Frost says the college will listen and act. Accessibility is on the college's radar and the institution will continue to improve.

"Our job is to provide the great experience the best we can," he said. "We are always going to run into opportunities to get better and this is an opportunity where we can look at the challenges they're facing and articulating and where we can get better to meet their needs."



CREDIT: CANDIS BROSS

Bus-riders have concerns, but the LTC will try to make amends this year.

## School of Building Technology has support beams in London

STEPHANIE LAI  
INTERROBANG

The School of Building Technology at Fanshawe College is now named after the late founder of EllisDon, a London construction company.

The Donald J. Smith School of Building Technology was named after the construction company founder, who – with his now widow – was a large supporter of Fanshawe for decades.

A ceremony was held on April 27 in T building, which houses construction, civil engineering and apprenticeship programs, and hosted the patriarch's wife Joan and several members of the Smith clan.

Catherine Finlayson, the college's executive director of Advancement and Alumni, opened the ceremony by honouring the Don and Joan's involvement with Fanshawe throughout the years.

"This celebrates the very, very long history of involvement between Fanshawe College and Don Smith and Joan Smith," Finlayson said. "From the early days of the college, Don stepped forward and was an outstanding advocate for Fanshawe and for the community college system."

Finlayson invited Donald R. Smith to speak on behalf of the family.

"It brings our family a tremendous amount of pride to be here to do this and celebrate this," he said. "Our dad was always committed to Fanshawe and the education of young people here and always wanted to support."

Graduates of the programs in Building Technology often filter into the Smith family's construction company.



CREDIT: JOHN SING

Fanshawe College unveiled the naming of the Donald J. Smith School of Building Technology with the help of Catherine Finlayson (left) and Smith's widow, Joan (right).

"It's hard to fathom EllisDon without the input of the Fanshawe grads," Donald said. "It takes a great faculty and staff and management of a college to produce that level of education that can produce that kind of quality graduate that can move up and run companies."

Donald pledged continual support to the college.

"We've undertaken to donate \$1 million over a stipulated period towards the construction and towards new programs here at Fanshawe," he said. "It takes people to step up if we're going to build a great institution, and [my dad] certainly did

back then and we're trying to fall in his path."

Dean of the Faculty of Technology says support from partners is what makes programs at Fanshawe strong.

"Partnerships in post-secondary education are so important and we look forward to working with the Smith family to raise the profile of the Donald J. Smith School of Building Technology, while continuing to draw the best students to our programs," she said.

The Smiths were awarded honorary diplomas respectively – Don in 1992 and Joan in 2008.

## Late to class

The downs of the London Transit Commission



NICK REYNO  
INTERROBANG

If there's one thing Londoners like more than London Knights hockey games, it's complaining about their bus service; but it's easy to complain about something when you have nothing to compare it to.

Looking at similar-sized cities such as Hamilton and Waterloo, the London Transit Commission (LTC) not only runs more frequently, but also has to accommodate a considerably higher ridership with a minimal bus fleet, according to a draft report published in March, which outlines route structure and service guidelines.

The LTC has been constantly re-vamping and improving its services thanks to John Ford, director of Planning and Transportation. Ford has been spearheading the five-year route and service plan, which has been devised to combat consistent overcrowding on busses.

"The system was essentially broke," Ford said. "We needed to take transit to the next level, we needed to come up with a way to move busses more efficiently."

One of the main issues causing overcrowding within the city is that London's bus force is running on 30 fewer vehicles than cities with similar populations, forcing the LTC to make an additional 1.5 million trips each year, according to the draft report.

While the 2015 route review claims, "The load profile data did not identify any corridors where the peak passenger load exceeded capacity," students may miss busses due to overcrowding on post-secondary routes – with upwards of three busses passing over the stops nearest campuses.

Despite this, the report, which

analyzed 10 popular routes heading to Western and to Fanshawe, showed the average capacity during peak hours to be only 53 per cent. When talking with students, many confirmed that the overcrowding issues are far worse in the morning hours. The report, however, omitted data concerning this time frame, and instead published its numbers based on the afternoon rush.

While there are discrepancies between published data and public complaints, Ford says change is coming.

"In 2016, we're impacting about 50,000 hours of service on an annual basis and we're reinvesting that into the system; so there's 50,000 hours of changes – 17,000 of those are new," he said. "[We're] looking at improving some of the late evening services; the late evening Saturday, the Sunday services, those services that have currently a 60-minute frequency."

This leads to another issue with London's transit; short daily service span and infrequent to non-existent Sunday services. While other cities in the draft report are running busses from 5 a.m. till after midnight, LTC runs from 6 a.m. till midnight on weekdays, with shorter service hours on Sundays.

This can make commuting to and from work difficult for many Londoners and causes issues for students who count on weekend hours for the bulk of their income. Unlike the overcrowding issues, these problems haven't gone completely unnoticed. The newly proposed draft schedule would see the service span running from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday to Saturday, and 7 a.m. to midnight on Sundays.

Many of these issues will be addressed over the next five years as London's ridership continues to grow. Each year LTC holds public forums in April where citizens can meet with officials and voice any concerns they may have.



Beer Stores in Ontario will be sharing the sale of six-packs with a limited amount of grocery stores.

CREDIT: JERROLD RUNDLE

## Ontario grocery stores to sell six-packs

DAN TODD  
INTERROBANG

Allowing 450 Ontario grocery stores to sell beer is equal to the number of The Beer Store locations in the province, and is in addition to over 600 LCBO stores.

With Ontario entering into the Beer Framework Agreement with The Beer Store, craft brewers will have more access to the market, and have their own category for easier profiling. They will be given 20 per cent of shelf space in the Beer Store up from the current seven. Large brewers in the industry have agreed to cap price increases to inflation on popular products until May of 2017.

The Ontario Deposit Return Program will be extended beyond 2017, and is expected to generate an extra \$100 million a year for provincial revenue phased in over

four years.

But, this change also comes with some restrictions.

Grocery stores being given a liquor license will only be allowed to sell beer in a designated section within the same operating hours as The Beer Store, and there is an annual cap of \$1 million worth of beer sales per year.

There will only be a test group of 150 stores selling beer this month. A new tax is also being introduced on Ontario's beer. Starting in November, beer will cost an extra three cents per litre until 2018, which adds up to an extra 25 cents on a case of 24. In contrast to these policies, Vancouver is working on less restrictive regulations on the sale of medical marijuana than Ontario has for liquor sales.

"Ontario consumers have asked for more convenience, wider distribution and greater competition in the purchase of beer and alcohol beverages," said Finance Minister Charles Sousa in a press release.

"We have listened and are modernizing the system to enhance delivery and selection at competitive prices while ensuring our commitment to social responsibility."

The LCBO will also be adding online purchasing with home and in store delivery, as well as niche boutiques for craft beer, wine and spirits such as whiskey. It will also be selling refillable growlers, which can hold between 750 millilitres and a litre. Twelve-packs will also be added, but only to 10 stores in the province for an initial testing period.

There seems to be a difference of opinion between consumers and politicians on the best way to implement privatized alcohol sales in Ontario. Hopefully there will be an opportunity for craft brewers and fellow citizens to give more input on the issue in the near future.

After several attempts, Interrobang was unable to attain comments from London MPP, Deb Matthews or a representative from The Beer Store.

## LAWN launches Wi-Fi into London's sky

CARL GARNICH  
INTERROBANG

Nodes on Richmond Row are the beginning of the plan to make Wi-Fi accessible throughout the entire city.

Local organization Downtown London paired with Turnstyle Solutions and Cisco-owned Meraiki Technologies in April to launch the London Area Wi-Fi Network, a program allowing residents free Internet connection out on the streets.

Kathy McLaughlin, manager of main street programs for Downtown London, has been apart of the initial set up of the LAWN program.

"[The program] will offer residents the opportunity to share experiences in the city," she said. "Local businesses could get more exposure from LAWN. For example, businesses could send users coupons to bring more traffic to their stores."

The user experience is a main focus of Turnstyle Solutions. Colin Salter, director of client engagement, says the company is excited to work with Downtown London

and believes that the analytical information will benefit the city.

"We do not want people to think that using the Wi-Fi means that we will be watching them," Salter said. "It is anonymous data, and cell data. The information is out there and we should aggregate it."

"We will be able to examine the dimensions of enjoyment, and understanding the areas that have more [user] traffic."

The LAWN provides residents with 20 gigabytes. One issue Downtown London and Turnstyle Solutions could face is the impact it will have on Internet service providers such as Bell and Rogers.

"Turnstyle is very excited about how ISPs will benefit from this. Cell data is moving to Wi-Fi. That is the future," Salter said. "Without the need for cell towers – which are expensive – connecting to users is cheaper for providers and could drop the rates for users."

But the potential for the LAWN is not only commercial. McLaughlin is excited to bring more students further downtown.

"There is an awful lot more happening south of Jack's," McLaughlin said. "When you are downtown with your friends, it is nice to be

able to share your personal downtown experience. We would love for people to explore."

As the program continues, Salter is thinking about how the LAWN program will develop.

"There are two phases that the program [could] go through," he said. "The first, expansion up to Western University and Fanshawe College and the second would be moving the LAWN inside and out." "This would allow us to make a seamless connection throughout the community."

Building a stronger connection for the city with Wi-Fi is not the only initiative Downtown London is working on.

"We are also looking into fiber optic cable throughout the city," McLaughlin said. "It would help transmit files at the speeds that are used by professional companies. With the exorbitant cost for fiber, small businesses cannot afford to have it in their stores. We are looking into installation costs."

With LAWN growing and the potential for fiber optic cable throughout the city, London may have to change from the Forest City to the Smart City.

# Shifting gears

## Upgrading London transportation

CARL GARNICH  
INTERROBANG

All facets of transportation in the city are working hard to be more efficient. Public transit is expected to be more reliable following the SHIFT initiative and taxi services are going green by choosing hybrid cars.

"For the last number of years we have heard that we are not meeting Londoners' demands," said General Manager for the London Transit Commission (LTC) Kelly Paleczny. "[Public and private sectors] need to work together to give the community more options."

Accessibility is the key focus of all this change.

As the city works on SHIFT, the LTC is looking to increase the reliability of public transit. "[The LTC] is looking to add 17,000 hours a year of service," said John Ford, director of Planning and Transportation.

The plan would allow London to exemplify a system of rapid transit that could be incorporated into public transit in other cities. Although private transportation such as taxis and limousines do not have a specific initiative for change, many companies have turned to technology and social media.

London's Chief Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Orest Katolyk has been keeping track of the changes.

"A lot of the brokers have embraced this technology and have apps so that you know where it is, how long it's going to take to get to your location," he said. "You can follow [your taxi] as it's taking you where you want to go."

With the student population provided by Western University and Fanshawe College, mobile apps and

a social media presence are useful opportunities for the companies to organize the demographics of the users.

Under the service by-laws in the city, many private transportation companies are going green. "We allow a longer life span for hybrids to be in service because of the savings and benefit for the environment," Katolyk said.

Being able to remain cost-effective is important when implementing the new innovations, however, the change causes private transportation companies to adapt quickly.

Transportation is not the only thing being upgraded but also business models in order to stay competitive. Theresa Matthews, president of Voyageur Transportation Services, expects a ripple effect but is not concerned with the impact.

"It might change how [public and private] interact; we really fill a gap," Matthews said. "I don't think anything stays the same for very long. When there's change, there will be a ripple effect."

But the changes for public and private do not have to compete with one another. The London Community Transportation Brokerage allows the city to work contractually with private transportation companies.

"Pretty much every taxi company in the city – at one point in time – [has] had contracts with [the LTC]," Paleczny said.

Voyageur Transportation Services currently works with the city to provide special vehicles for residents. Matthews attends meetings held by the LTC and works with the transportation committee to understand where the changes will be taking place.

"It is important that we keep pace with the environment that is changing in the city," she said. "There may be new opportunities available to us."



CREDIT: JOSHUA AWOLADE

No it's not a drill, the New Democratic Party dethroned the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta for a majority leadership in the province.

## What 'Albertastan' could mean for the country

**MYNT MARSELLUS**  
THE CORD

WATERLOO (CUP) — It's official: pigs are flying and hell has frozen over. The province of Alberta elected a bunch of socialists to form their next government. I understand few reading this care about an election in Alberta, so why does this matter? Well on October 18 — barring hell freezing over again — we're having a federal election in this country, and a New Democratic Party victory in Alberta could mean a great deal.

Up until last month there was a clear path forward.

The Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta was on the road to a majority government in their election and the federal Conservatives were confident they would maintain their hold on the province and the country this fall with their tax-cut filled budget.

Justin Trudeau-mania was still in full swing among younger and progressive Canadians and the federal Liberal party was looking to unseat current Prime Minister Stephen Harper with some confidence this fall.

NPD lead Tom Mulcair spent his entire leadership trying to look happy and shouting at the wind about progressive ideas that, he swears, won't increase your taxes.

The federal election would end with either a Liberal or Conservative minority and everything would make sense again.

Now, none of that is clear.

To recap the past month in Canadian politics, things were unusual. Outside of Alberta, Prince Edward Island elected its first openly gay premier, Justin Trudeau's federal Liberal party voted in favour of the wildly unpopular anti-terror bill C51 and the federal budget appears to have had no effect on Harper's polling numbers.

When you put all that together and try to look ahead to the federal election this fall, you get one of the most uncertain electoral futures in the history of Canadian politics — all because Alberta decided to lose their minds and elect the NDP.

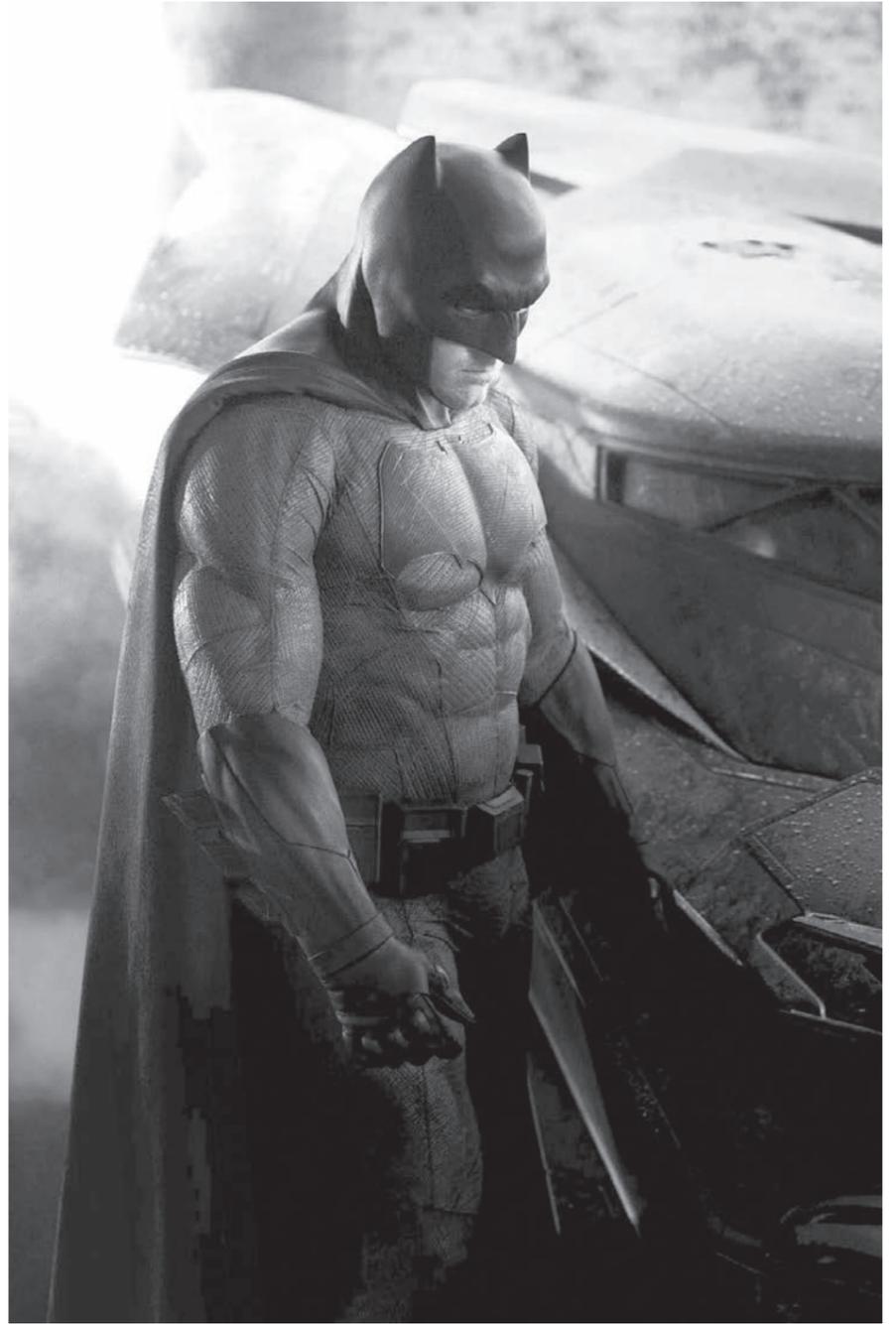
The Alberta election was so shocking that Federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay joked that the province was now the province of "Albertastan."

To many university students who were fans of Jack Layton, this may seem surprising. Younger Canadians have always had a partiality for NDP and never understood why their parents didn't. Were it not for the election in Alberta, it's likely this batch of Canadians would fall into the same pattern as their parents.

The NDP have always been Canada's social conscience, but Canadians that were sympathetic to their policies continued to vote Liberal because they knew the NDP could never win. Now, for the first time in Canadian history, that might not happen. With a Liberal party that's looking more and more like conservatives-lite and a prime minister associated with scandals a-plenty, voting for the NDP doesn't seem so crazy anymore.

We've seen it in Waterloo before. A place that had never, provincially or federally, voted for the NDP elected Catherine Fife when scandal-plagued Dalton McGuinty looked like he was trying electoral tricks.

The election this fall is so unpredictable because for the first time it's not unrealistic for Canadians from Vancouver to St. John's to think the NDP could form a government. Harper and Trudeau should rightfully be scared of the implications of Alberta 2015 because when people stop being scared of voting for who they really want, that's when the NDP thrives.



CREDIT: WARNER BROS.

We're taught not to judge a book by its cover, but does the same principle translate to movies?

## Don't judge a film by its trailer

**CAZZY LEWCHUK**  
THE OTHER PRESS

NEW WESTMINSTER (CUP) — Today, more than ever, the anticipation for a movie is almost as much fun as actually seeing it. Photos, plot details, and trailers advertising the latest big-budget franchise cause discussion and hype, ensuring the movie will gross a cool \$800 million. However, significant backlash is also often caused by the marketing, often before anything significant is even known about the movie.

Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice is one of the most anticipated films of all time. Ever since its announcement, fans couldn't wait to see the two biggest superheroes duke it out on the big screen. But every single reveal about it has caused anger and condemnation by a majority of the fan base. Nobody wants Ben Affleck as Batman. Nobody wants Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor. Nobody wants to see Wonder Woman and Aquaman be part of the plot. This backlash was before there was any plot detail or even photos of the cast revealed. Fans simply assumed there was no way a movie could succeed if it didn't fulfill all of their fantasies.

Sometimes, judging movie details is justified. When a fourth Indiana Jones movie was announced, there was skepticism every step of the way, and the final movie never did rise to the status of the first three.

However, a lot of movies turn out much better than their marketing implies. When

Heath Ledger was cast as the Joker, there was a huge protest against casting a heartthrob as our beloved psycho. In the end, his performance is remembered as one of the best portrayals ever—it even won him a posthumous Oscar (extremely rare for a superhero film). In fact, Ledger's performance helped audiences take superhero movies seriously. Perhaps his role is part of the reason we have such high standards for them nowadays.

Today's hottest movies are based off comic books and toy companies. The franchises were originally designed for children to consume with ridiculous amounts of popcorn. When there are significantly developed characters or "serious" plots, it's a nice bonus, but a movie can still succeed without them.

Marketing is only designed to get people talking about a movie. The latest reveal of the Joker is a single picture—and his tattooed, Juggalo-esque design has caused much outrage. His starring movie, *Suicide Squad* will not be released for 15 months, and we have no idea how Jared Leto (another Oscar winner) will portray him. Perhaps it'll be a terrible movie. Hopefully, it'll be a fun explosion-packed adventure about the exploits of villains. But regardless of what a single promo shot has told us, I'll still go see it, and so will 99.9 per cent of the fans crying foul on the Internet. And because it's a major superhero movie, it'll still gross big bucks at the box office. And in the end, isn't that what all the studios care about?

**HAVE AN OPINION? SUBMIT YOUR STORY!**  
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: FSULETTERS@FANSHAWEC.CA**

# London puts the 'L' in leadership



**CARL GARNICH**  
INTERROBANG

Social justice was approached in a different way this year by two students. Janice Lam, a second-year student at Brescia University College and Erica Boudreau, a London local attending Mount Allison University exemplify how one person can make a change in her community.

Lam, the 2012 winner of Brescia's speech competition: Take the Lead, supports new students participating in the competition. Take the Lead is an annual competition, which allows Grade 11 and 12 girls from around the world to speak to a panel of judges. All competitors are given an award for participating and the winner gets her first year of post-secondary paid for by the institution.

"The competition was a good introduction to the school," Lam said. "It empowers young women to be leaders in the community."

This year, Brescia teamed up with local organization The Circle, a women's centre for spirituality, activism and the earth to highlight leadership and women empowerment.

Theresa Ducharme and Jessica Matten, a mother-daughter pair that started Lemon Cree, a wellness and fitness centre, support women speaking up and getting involved in their community. Both women are advocates for opportunities like Take The Lead.

"[Living in Canada], we owe it to all women to speak on their behalf," Matten said. "We are so privileged to live in a country where we have the opportunity of free speech."

Lam and other alumni that have participated in the competition help out each year. "The competition shows you that you can [be a leader] and that you'll be valued," said Danielle Sakher, a competitor from Lam's year.



Second-year student at Brescia University College, Janice Lam, is among others in London who are putting an emphasis on leadership.

CREDIT: COURTESY OF JANICE LAM

That message is a cornerstone of Boudreau's initiative. She hopes to implement it on her campus in Sackville, N.B. She is an active member of the youth organization at the Talbot Street Church looking to share the teachings of the Talbot Street Church on campus to empower students to be confident and make a change in the community.

"If you have the opportunity to make someone feel safe or secure, then I think you are a fool not to take it," Boudreau said at one of the evening meetings.

Sandra Bork, youth director for the church believes that Boudreau has what it takes to lead the new organization in Sackville.

"[She] needs a good support team

and mentors," Bork said as she smiled at Boudreau. "You need an attitude that is willing to try."

From Lam's experience at Brescia and Take the Lead, she has been involved in mental health awareness in the city and works with many of her former competitors to make change on campus and in the city. Both Lam and Boudreau have

not confirmed any events for the coming school year.

Boudreau plans to gather more information on organizations in Sackville and what they are working towards before focusing on specific topics for her group. "My favourite saying is, 'Wherever you are, be all there.'"

# Street safety soars, railways roar

**PAM-MARIE GUZZO & JERROLD RUNDLE**  
INTERROBANG

As you wander the streets of London this summer, whether exploring a new area in the sun, stumbling home after enjoying a night of patio partying or visiting a favourite haunt with friends, it's important to remember you aren't alone on the streets.

Safety on the roads and paths of London has remained a major concern over the years, as everyone has a story about their last close call.

"I've been in a couple of car accidents," said Early Childhood Education student Katie McCowan. "Just people not paying attention when they're driving."

Business student Hardik Nayk says that while the streets are generally safe there are potential dangers.

"On a Friday night or Saturday night on Richmond, it's not too safe," Nayk said. "People [are] driving up and getting drunk."

Luckily, the statistics in the City

of London Road Safety Strategy show a hopeful trend.

The number of traffic collisions has been decreasing at a regular rate over the last few years, and while pedestrian fatalities haven't shown much change, accidents involving bicycles have lowered. This may be thanks in part to the expansion of bike lanes, an ongoing project, which keep more bicycles off the streets.

This trend has been seen across all of Ontario, as seen in the Canadian Motor Vehicle Traffic Collision Statistics 2013, which shows a 13 per cent decrease in total fatalities from 2009 to 2013, as well as a 7.4 per cent drop in serious injuries between 2012 and 2013.

"I think London's pretty safe," McCowan said. "I grew up in Richmond Hill and it's a huge difference."

With all the good news, there are still a few major areas for improvement. The Road Safety Strategy shows that intersections are still a major area of concern, and that many London drivers are still driv-



CREDIT: JERROLD RUNDLE

Though road accidents in London have been dropping, trespassing-related fatalities have not.

ing aggressively or while distracted. Pedestrians and cyclists combined are considered the cause of approximately 200 accidents every year, and don't have the casing of metal and fibreglass to protect them from the road.

Sadly, Ontario has the largest number of railway trespasser fatalities in all of Canada, consistently having three times the number of any other province, according to a

statistical summary by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada.

Walking down train tracks and using them as shortcuts to different parts of town may seem like a good idea, but it's important to remember that trains have no way to stop in time even if they do manage to see you on the track.

When thinking about taking shortcuts on tracks, the risk far outweighs the benefits. "I don't like to

take any chances of getting hurt," McCowan said.

It wonderful to see the great strides London has made in improving safety, especially since this is a town that thrives on biking and walking to its many hidden gems. Just remember not everyone pays attention, and in the contest of you versus giant metal machine, your odds of winning are incredibly low.

ANDREW VIDLER | INTERROBANG



# crazy nights

## Sunday / CALL THE OFFICE

(216 York St | [calltheoffice.com](http://calltheoffice.com))

**\$2 COVER, \$3.50 BEERS,  
MIXED DRINKS UNTIL 11 P.M.,  
\$12.75 PITCHERS ALL NIGHT**

The original dance party in London, Call the Office offers up the absolute best in '80s and '90s dance music for anybody who longs for the good old days of music, and there's a spacious floor to enjoy it on. This is a pure and simple dance party, perfect for anybody who still has leftover energy from the nights before, or for those looking to squeeze in a last little bit of fun before a new school week starts.

## Monday / JACK'S

(539 Richmond St. | [facebook.com/JacksLdn](https://facebook.com/JacksLdn))

**NO COVER, \$1 BEERS, \$2.50 SHOTS**

This is one of the most consistently crowded parties in the city. A Monday night at Jack's offers two totally different experiences: each of the bar's two levels offers a unique playlist with a great dance floor to get down on. Students can let loose and chase away the Monday doldrums in a flood of two-dollar beers. No cover and cheap drinks mean that come midnight, this bar is full and lively week in, week out – a great place to bring a group of friends to dance all your cares away.

## Tuesday / MOLLY BLOOM'S

(700 Richmond St. | [mollyblooms.ca](http://mollyblooms.ca))

**NO COVER, 30-CENT WINGS,  
LIVE MUSIC**

Located in the heart of downtown, Molly Bloom's offers a cozy faux-Irish pub experience that offers a perfect opportunity for students and their friends to wind down with a couple of pints and classic pub food. A multitude of drinks and an extensive menu make this the perfect place for a more relaxing evening when compared to what else is on offer. Live music helps to authenticate the experience and create a welcoming, friendly atmosphere.

## Wednesday / THE OUT BACK SHACK

(Student Union Building | [fsu.ca/obs](http://fsu.ca/obs))

**EVENT NIGHT PRICES VARY**

Located right on campus and serving students great food and drinks every day of the week, The Out Back Shack really comes to life on Wednesday nights, when the FSU hosts weekly, varied events that are always guaranteed to be a fantastic way to spend a midweek evening with your friends. Open Mic, Sex-Toy Bingo and Trivia Nights are just some of the confirmed events that are coming students' way, with many more to be announced weekly throughout the school year. More information and a full list of events can be found online and in the Interrobang year-round.

## Thursday / McCABE'S

(739 Richmond St.)

**\$6.99 SCHOONERS,  
VARYING NIGHTLY SPECIALS**

After reaching a year McCabe's has expanded to London bringing a wide beer selection, a classic, sit-down decor and an expansive rooftop patio that is perfect for a sunny day with a few pints. A full menu compliments the wide selection of beer and liquor, and an ever-changing specials menu guarantees to keep everything fresh. One constant, however, is the availability of a domestic schooner for just \$6.99, a perfect way to cap off a long day at work with the biggest glass of beer you can buy.

## Friday / TOBOGGAN BREWING COMPANY

(585 Richmond St. | [tobogganbrewing.com](http://tobogganbrewing.com))

**CRAFT BREWERY PRICES WILL VARY**

London staple Jim Bob Ray's shut its doors this summer after decades drinking and dancing on Richmond Row, with owner Mike Smith making the decision to rebrand and enter the ever-growing craft brewery industry. Entertainment co-ordinator Drew Hopeson voicing the staff's hope that the new restaurant will be "a new entertainment beacon in the city." With nine in-house beers on tap and more upcoming, Toboggan offers something for even the most discerning of beer tasting palettes. The new establishment will provide entertainment in the form of live music and open mics, with the latter having already attracted the attention of local talent, such as Fanshawe grad Pat Maloney.

## Saturday / THE HIDEAWAY

(545 Richmond St. | [hideawaylondon.com](http://hideawaylondon.com))

**\$5 COVER, \$3 BEER UNTIL 11 P.M.**

Occupying the former home of The London Taphouse, The Hideaway has stumbled through a couple of different identities before finally settling on what the space was built to do in the first place, deliver a kickass dance party. Offering three-dollar party cups of beer until 11 p.m., the two-floored bar can give the space the illusion of a particularly crowded frat party, that somehow always has a place for you to go and catch your breath, including the spacious – and now smoke-free – back patio.

London offers a wide variety of bars and pubs for students to quench their thirst, socialize and do what it is they came to college for. It can be difficult to plan exactly where it is you want to go. Here is your map to the booziest London week you can enjoy without breaking the bank.

This summer the city of London will host a number of festivals in the downtown core. You can expect music from around the world, whether you're into jazz, rock, country or folk. There will also be food to satisfy all taste buds from award-winning southern barbeque and ribs to the classic Canadian poutine.

## Grickle Grass

The Grickle Grass festival will be held at the London Children's Museum on May 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and includes programming for children and families focusing on sustainable and healthy living, music, and art. There will be a number of arts and crafts workshops, as well as a cooking demo. At 8 p.m., doors open for an eight-band concert. For more information visit [gricklegrass.ca](http://gricklegrass.ca).

## The Dundas Street Festival

On June 13, the Dundas Street Festival will be taking over downtown London for the sixth year in a row. It includes art, food vendors and music beginning at 12 p.m. and lasting until 11 p.m. The Nuit Blanche art show will be taking over from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. For more information visit [ourstreetlondon.ca](http://ourstreetlondon.ca).

## Sunfest

TD's Sunfest will be going on for the 21st year in a row from July 9 to 12 in Victoria Park. More than 35 world music and jazz bands will play music from different cultures on five stages. Around 300 exhibitors also get involved to provide food from all over the world, as well as crafts and visual art. For more information visit [sunfest.on.ca](http://sunfest.on.ca).

## Rock the Park

Rock the park, which takes place in Harris Park from July 14 to 18, includes a day of pop music, two days of country and a day of punk rock. The bigger acts include Keith Urban, Billy Talent and Rise Against. Rock the Park was originally created by the Jones Entertainment Group to support the Bethany's Hope Foundation in its research into a cure for metachromatic leukodystrophy. It has been running for 13 years, and has successfully raised over \$2 million for its cause. For more information visit [rockthepark.ca](http://rockthepark.ca).



## Home County Music and Art Festival

The Home County Music and Art Festival has been running for 42 years, and began as the Home County Folk Festival. This festival includes performers on a main stage as well as a stage, 30 food vendors, and a juried craft show featuring pottery, glass, jewelry, fine art, textiles, metal, wood and photography by Canadian artists. It takes place from July 17 to 19 in Victoria Park. Admission price is by donation. For more information visit [homecounty.ca](http://homecounty.ca).

## Pride London

The Pride London Festival will take place from July 17 to 26 and includes a youth art exhibition, three pride comedy nights at Yuk Yuk's London in the Western Fair District, a women's pride hockey tournament, a number of outdoor events and wraps up with the Pride Parade, which starts in the Western Fair parking lot and will disperse at Victoria Park, and will be led by London Police Chief Brad Duncan. Duncan was the first police chief to walk in the parade back in 2011. For more information visit [pridelondon.ca](http://pridelondon.ca).

## Ribfest

Ribfest London will be held in Victoria Park from July 30 to August 3, and includes 150 vendors, 75 bands, a beer garden, 100 food booths and carnival rides. The main event will be 10 world-class rib restaurants fighting for awards, including Best Ribber. London has been holding Ribfest for 27 years and was the first to be held in Canada. For more information visit [facebook.com/LondonRibfest](https://facebook.com/LondonRibfest).

Mayor Matt Brown has a plan for London's downtown core known as the flex street for Dundas, which is meant to make the street curb free with removable posts for converting from vehicle traffic to a pedestrian only space.

Director of Culture and Entertainment Tourism for Tourism London, Chris Campbell, thinks that this will mean great things for tourism.

"If you look at most major music cities they've got a street that they're known for," Campbell said. "In Texas, Austin is Sixth Street; you've got Bourbon Street in New Orleans; Saint Catherine's in Montreal; in London it's going to be Dundas."

"It'll be the hub for culture and music."



# LONDON FESTIVALS

OFFER LOTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS SUMMER

# Geppetto Stark, what have you done?



PAM-MARIE  
GUZZO  
INTERROBANG

The world is ill. Murder, corruption and avarice roam the city streets. Now, from the skies above, the world darkens with new threats from far galaxies. S.H.I.E.L.D., the first line of defense, has been compromised and now lies in ruins, and only a small, disconnected group stand between the innocent and those who would see them destroyed.

These are the Avengers, a group barely held together by a strange mix of necessity and unlikely friendship. The second film in the Avengers series and eleventh in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (not including the shows *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, *Agent Carter*, and *Daredevil*), *Avengers: Age of Ultron* tells a story of fear, darkness, truth, and redemption. It's a story that defines Tony Stark, allows Hawkeye and Black Widow the room to become more than killers, and introduces strange, non-X-Men versions of Scarlet Witch and Quicksilver.

Being part of a larger whole, this is a movie that feels almost part of TV series instead of a simple sequel. The story takes its time, pausing action to delve into deeper character issues and discuss the larger picture in a way most action movies simply don't. This deviation from the typical fighting of bad guys until everything is dead can be occasionally frustrating as one imagines Ultron taking advantage of the break, but does a great deal towards making the characters – especially those who do not have their own franchises – more relatable and human.



CREDIT: MARVEL STUDIOS

Aaron Taylor-Johnson as Quicksilver and Elizabeth Olsen as Scarlet Witch join the original group in the latest *Avengers* film, which dominated the box office May 1.

Not surprisingly, *Age of Ultron* is a beautiful movie, as director Joss Whedon's eye for the perfect shot hasn't diminished at all over the years. The issue with the cinematics lies entirely in how much the movie was built up prior to release. The promise of something bigger, brighter, louder and more epic than the first film was not quite fulfilled, which may leave some fans feeling a bit let down.

The titular villain, Ultron, deserves some recognition as being a fairly unique reimagining of the rogue AI trope. While Loki is definitely a villain no one should ever have to follow, Ultron does an excellent job of demonstrating insanity, intelligence, and menace in equal measures. This may leave the audience feeling sympathetic and uncomfortable by turns, but the turn to typical supervillain occurs

too early in the movie to make him a villain the audience can really feel for.

Perhaps the best moments are the small nods to the greater universe, including one-liners and jokes that only those who have been following from the beginning would be able to truly appreciate. The issue here is that, in adding these small moments, Whedon ran the risk of alienating a large portion of the viewers.

While *Age of Ultron* may not be the mind-blowing masterpiece superfans were praying for, it is still an amazing movie that manages to delve deeper into some of the greatest characters to ever show up on the big screen. A truly evil villain and some interesting twists make this a movie worth watching, with enough action to keep every eye on the screen.

# Not everyone has perfect pitch



PAM-MARIE  
GUZZO  
INTERROBANG

It's been three years and the award winning Barden Bellas are back in *Pitch Perfect 2*. After a ridiculous stunt goes awry in front of the President of the United States, the Bellas are in hot water with only one chance to get out of the pot – beat the reigning European champions in an international competition. The question is how to beat German team Das Sound Machine when you can't even find your own sound.

The movie features a ton of familiar faces as well as a few new ones, including the always amazing Katey Sagal as the mother of the newest Bella Emily (played by Hailee Steinfeld). The characters reprise their roles with great ease, but it's obvious that none of the characters have grown as human beings in the intervening time.

For some strange reason, despite having first pick of recruits after the last film, the Bellas only added one new singer, which makes them freaking out when they're banned from adding people feel a bit ridiculous. The only member

of the group who isn't in her final year is Emily, which makes it seem unlikely that the Bellas will last another year whether or not the group gets banned from performing ever again.

While Anna Kendrick does an excellent job playing the quirky leader of the group, with none of the typical relationship drama one usually sees in sequels, there is an unfortunate amount of focus given to Fat Amy. Rebel Wilson is a fine actor, but her character is such a funny fat girl stereotype that it's easy to get bored with her antics, and the shoving in of her relationship subplot feels more like a way to fill up time than something that actually adds to the movie.

Luckily the dull bits are balanced with some amazing lyrical battles – this time with the rules actually explained before the battle commences. Hearing groups of such incredibly talented individuals angrily belt the lyrics to butt-themed songs at each other is an experience that shouldn't be missed. Most of the song selections fit the scenes rather perfectly, and the original song introduced in the mix is really catchy, although perhaps repeated a bit more than is really necessary.

*Pitch Perfect 2* also keeps the love of the over-the-top commentary and insane situations seen



CREDIT: UNIVERSAL PICTURES

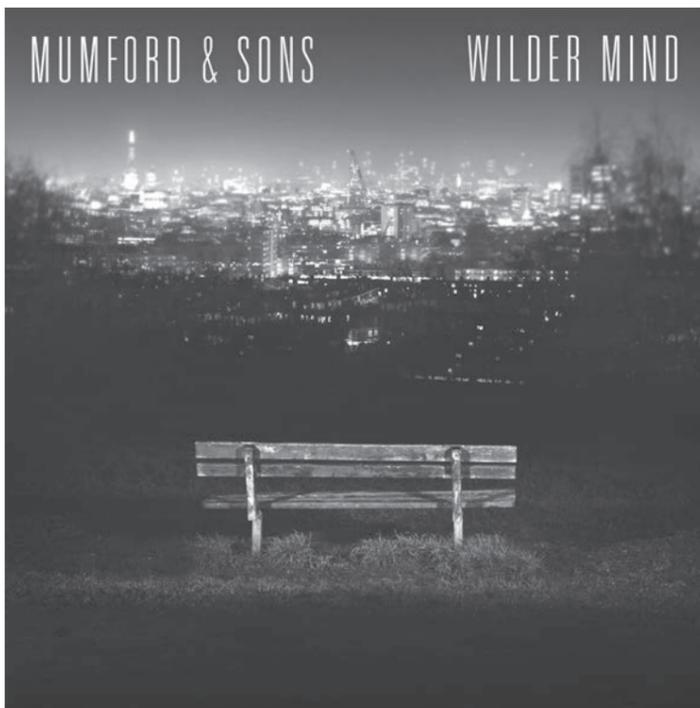
*Pitch Perfect 2* is not only a sequel to the wildly popular original but is also actress Elizabeth Banks' directoral debut.

in the first movie. The movie at times feels like nothing more than a mash-up of montages, including a scene that is reminiscent of the bonding boot camp montage from *Spice World*. This isn't that much of a problem thanks to the context,

but it occasionally makes it difficult to imagine how some sequences of events actually happened.

Overall, *Pitch Perfect 2* is full of talent and excellently directed by Elizabeth Banks. The humour varies from deeply cynical to low

brow, giving everyone something to enjoy. While some moments drag on and the film could have easily benefitted from being about 15 minutes shorter, the larger percentage of the scenes are pure gold.



This album hits the palette like an unsalted cracker.

CREDIT: MUMFORD & SONS

## Wild Minds and mild manners



NICK REYNO



Bands go through a lot of changes over the years; members leave, new muses surface and the pressure of turning into a pop music takes its toll. Mumford & Sons, the band made famous for its banjo-driven, high tempo folk music, has recently gone through one of these drastic transformations.

Its latest album *Wilder Mind* sees the band laying down the folk instruments to pick up electric guitars and keyboards. Mumford & Sons released its latest album on May 4, a month behind its first single, "The Wolf."

When a band changes genres like this it's always trepid waters, usually spanning the next two albums as the ripples smooth themselves out. *Wilder Mind* is a relatively mellow album for Mumford & Sons, and it seems like the band may be at a loss for replacing the prominent banjo picking from their previous releases. The change from pop/folk into the realm of alt-rock has been anything but successful.

All in all this album sounds like an easy-money, cash-grab with no real identity. All of the songs on this album follow a meticulous structure with little variance. A number of songs are so similar in fact, that it is hard to distinguish them.

With a name like *Wilder Mind*, the album is actually quite mellow, as if the band had burnt out and regretted its decision halfway through making it. In comparison to singles like "I Will Wait" and "Little Lion Man," which were anthemic and filled with energy, even the most energetic songs off *Wilder Mind* feel soulless and bland.

Everything on this album seems to drag on with no real innovations or deviations from the initial song's format. Mumford & Sons was so focused on making a true alternative rock record that the band lost any identity that could have made

this album unique.

The lowest point of this album comes in the song titled after the album, "Wilder Mind." The song is carried through with a simple drum-beat that offers little to no variation throughout. Although the song seems to be building consistently, it never quite reaches a satisfying resolve. Even the highest point of the song offers nothing more than a sparse six-note guitar solo. The guitars for the most part are drowned out by the warm synth pads, which dominate most of the album.

“With a name like *Wilder Mind*, the album is actually quite mellow, as if the band had burnt out and regretted their decision halfway through making it.”

Despite being a good album to fall asleep to, *Wilder Mind* does come with two highlight songs. The tune "Just Smoke" is possibly the only optimistic sounding song on the album; opening with a loud and upbeat jam featuring playful piano and tambourines that bring a refreshing pop vibe. Crowd vocals and claps brought in on the choruses finally deliver a sound big enough to believe there's an entire band behind it. The second highlight comes near the end of the album in "Ditmas," which is the closest Mumford & Sons comes to achieving a rock tune. Although it starts quite bare, the song continues to develop and reaches a level of excitement not prevalent in the rest of the album. If Mumford & Sons had tried to model *Wilder Mind* off the excitement contained in "Ditmas," it might have had a higher replay value.

If you're hoping to hear fast-paced guitar trills in place of the prominent banjo, you're going to be disappointed. *Wilder Mind* is filled with minimalist piano ballads and shallow songs that would be a more suitable backdrop for a rainy fall than a warm summer.



CREDIT: JORDAN BROADBENT

David Vertesi's solo projects incorporate personal experiences, which fans connect to.

## David Vertesi dives into solo work



PAM-MARIE GUZZO  
INTERROBANG

The lights come on, the band takes the stage and the first notes of Sad Dad Cruise Ship music fill Rum Runners. David Vertesi, guitar in hand, begins with songs from his 2010 album *Cardiography*, playing with a passion and personal touch that shines through every song.

Known more for his work with Hey Ocean!, he has nothing but good things to say about his experience with the band.

"I've learned so much with Hey Ocean!," he said in an interview before the show on May 5. "As a performer and a business person and as all the aspects about it, I've been lucky to have that experience."

Vertesi's songs, both old and new, tend to have a personal feel, but some come from a more intimate place.

"They all really are very personal," he said. "There's no song on [*Cardiography*] that isn't personal to me and my experiences. 'Learn to Run' is the most crazy for me ... I thought it was too cheesy, like people might not dig it because it's just so emotional ... and in the

end it's actually been one of the songs that connects with people the most."

It takes a remarkable amount of courage to write a song about a vulnerable time and expose oneself in that way, but the payoff can be amazing, as anyone who listens to Vertesi's songs will quickly learn.

"There's a certain universality of experience, and so I feel the more honest you're being, the more brutally honest you're being, the more people connect with you because I think in the end the truth is we all go through the same shit," Vertesi said about why fans feel so connected with his music. "It's a kind of crazy weird cosmic connection that everybody has."

That connection can also be felt in his new song "Waterways," a song that's a bit louder and more aggressive, while remaining simple. Vertesi's new album promises to be full of new surprises as he becomes more ambitious with his art.

"This record is much more of a grab bag," he said. "What really ties it together is the ambition. I'm looking at these songs whether they're old or new and [thinking], 'How do I really take my music to where I want it to go and make the music that I want to make?'"

"Whether I'm completely re-imagining a song I wrote 10 years

ago or I have a brand new song that I'm working on now, I want it all to be representative of me now."

The bane of every writer and artist's existence is writer's block; the moment when a blank white page almost seems to mock you with its emptiness. Vertesi, however, tries not to let it bother him, "I just do other things. I have so much going on that I don't really feel that I need to push myself ... Sometimes I'm in the zone. Sometimes I'm like, 'I'm writing so many songs!' and sometimes I can't write a song to save my life."

Luckily, even in those lulls Vertesi is blessed by being surrounded by people who match him in dedication to the craft. "I need to know the people I'm working with are going to be my spiritual warriors, that we will together be spiritual warriors," a term from *Jodorowsky's Dune*, referring to people who become dedicated to and fully invested in a project.

Launching into a cover of the Spice Girls' "Say You'll be There," commenting on the beauty of the song's lyrics with a hint of irony, Vertesi gives weight to his words.

"I also want to surprise people. I think that's a really big thing for me. I want people to hear my songs and maybe they weren't expecting it."

# Music streaming is heating up this summer



NICK REYNO  
INTERROBANG

As the music industry crawls into the digital age, decades behind the rest of the world, we continue to find new ways of listening to music. Whether it's been pirated, burned, downloaded or shared, people are listening to music now more than ever.

The newest trend in music listening is a streaming format modeled after Netflix. There are already several big names in the business such as: Spotify, Rdio, Songza, Pandora and newcomer TIDAL.

Streaming has become a popular method of listening to songs due to an overwhelming library of free content that pays artists royalty fees. Sure, you could burn that latest album, but don't you want the artist to make another one? It doesn't cost you anything to stream songs, so why shouldn't everyone benefit?

Currently dominating the market is Spotify, which has drawn users not only for its free access to over 30 million songs, but for convenient mood, genre and event-based playlists. Whether you're making dinner or need a pick-me-up, Spotify has dozens of company- and user-created playlists for nearly any moment.

The only pitfall to this free streaming service are the ads that pop up once or twice in about 10 songs, which is a small price to pay for easy access to all your favourite bands.

TIDAL is the newest heavy hitter in streaming apps. The service is based on the presumption that consumers are willing to pay \$10 to \$20 a month for a higher quality sound, but unfortunately didn't take



CREDIT: NICK REYNO

Spotify is one of a handful of music-streaming services at consumers' finger tips, along with Rdio, Songza, Pandora and TIDAL.

into account that rampant pirating has exponentially lowered expectations for song quality.

Although TIDAL is trying to connect with indie artists and every day consumers, it has been branding itself with big name artists like Kanye West and Madonna, making it to be widely regarded as a greedy business venture by musicians who are already making a considerable

amount of money. Crowdfunding websites have shown time and time again that the public would much rather give its money to local indie artists than to big-name pop stars.

The final streaming website you should keep an eye on is Apple's reboot of Beats Music. The company recently acquired Beats and is preparing to roll out a worthy rival to Spotify and TIDAL. The

new venture has been shrouded in mystery as rumours and speculations fly. While some sources claim there will be room for user created content, others are reporting on Apple's aggressive tactics for exclusive content. A full launch of the product is expected in June, after being pushed back from its May launch date. As with everything Apple does, there will be no firm

details about the service leading up to launch day.

Until Apple enters the market, the crown of music streaming will inevitably remain with Spotify. Its freemium business model has made them both a heavyweight and a household name, but if you're interested in the controversy over TIDAL, it does offer a free one-month trial period.

# Rockers creating big sound waves



JERROLD RUNDLE  
INTERROBANG

Canadian indie rockers in the band Zerbin have been touring across Canada since 2009, but it wasn't until winning awards in 2012 at Edmonton Music Awards for Best Single and Music Video of the Year that creative brains frontman Jason Zerbin and guitarist Peter Mol began to receive wider fame across the country.

The duo, accompanied by Durrant Ritz on drums came to London May 9, playing at Call The Office in support of their most recent EP, *Darling*, which came out April 14.

"I think this is the first true Zerbin debut [that] we think there's something in it that anyone can relate to," Zerbin said.

With such a distinct name one would guess it from another language, evoking the calls of nature around Alberta, but that's not the case.

"I started a solo project under my own name; Peter and I started collaborating, writing together and it became obvious that it wasn't a personal thing it was becoming a band thing," Zerbin said.

By then, the duo had been through several other band mates but the name is what continued to stick.

"We'd already had a significant amount of momentum under the name [Zerbin] so it just made sense to stick with it and turn it into a band."

While calling Edmonton home, both Zerbin and Mol knew it wasn't a city where the band would be able to flourish.

"I don't think Edmonton played that huge of a role to what we sound like," Mol said. "Sheet and sheet and sheet of snow every year [influenced us]."

The guys likened their home city to being deserted.

"What Edmonton did was ... throw us on an island alone, like a desert island of music and we had to come up with our own thing," Zerbin said. "We do love Edmonton though, it's a great city."

When Zerbin and Mol relocated to British Columbia – where they currently situated – the band took advantage of the province's well-established music scene, learning to appreciate the laid-back atmosphere of shows in the province to further develop their sound.

"Staying connected to the outside world with other musicians in other countries, just learning and play-



CREDIT: COURTESY OF VIC42.COM

The boys of Zerbin popped by London earlier in May to perform at Call The Office and speak to the paper about its sound and how why the band is now located in British Columbia.

ing together is how we formed our sound," Mol said.

But that doesn't mean Zerbin has lost respect for its hometown – in fact it's quite the opposite.

"Edmonton was always a massive support to us," Zerbin said.

"They gave us our first radio spins and our first significant support ... and we're grateful for that."

Sounding like early Born Ruffians mixed with Paper Lions, then thrown into a west coast indie rock blender; Zerbin has left little to the

mind with soft-spoken lyrics dancing across its music.

The guys aren't lying when they say, "This is our most authentic, true Zerbin debut that represents the sound of our collaboration."



CREDIT: JERROLD RUNDLE

London is adding over 21 km of bike paths throughout streets and green spaces.

# City cycling

New summer, new plans, new paths



**JERROLD RUNDLE**  
INTERROBANG

With the beginning of summer just around the corner the City of London is getting ready to ensure Londoners feel safe and welcome when they get on their bikes.

With over 91 km of bike paths already spread throughout the city across green spaces and streets alike, the city's Cycling Advisory Committee is installing an additional 22-plus kilometres of path this summer.

Joining that is the plethora of cycling related projects on the Civic Works Committee roster this summer, including the installation of more Bike Fit-It stands, a pilot program for a fitness rewards app last summer that recorded over 28,000 km cycled, as well as having information booths at a number of this summer upcoming festivals like Grickle Grass, Old East Block Party and Dundas Street Festival – it's beginning to look like London's bureaucrats are taking cycling seriously.

Not convinced yet? The City teamed has teamed up with Ontario By Bikes, a provincially recognized website promoting cycling culture, to help promote this year's London Bicycle Festival, being held June 27 in Springbank Gardens.

The push is all part of what London's Division Manager of Transportation Planning and Design Doug Macrae says is a multidimensional, infrastructure promoting plan called London ON Bikes.

It's a master plan the city has been using for the past year to design and shape the next four years growth and transit of citizens around the city, and website londonbikes.ca is the latest way the city is trying to connect its increasingly digital based population.

City paths are an amazing and fun way to view several of the city's natural and manmade features like the London Archaeology Museum and the Westminster Ponds, but if you're looking for something a bit out of the way and worth the effort of lugging your lunch with you

the Fanshawe Conservation Area boasts an intricate latticework of off-road trails and stunning viewings of both the Fanshawe Dam – a 30-metre tall hydroelectric generator – and the waterways on either side of it.

The Fanshawe Lake is used to seeing boaters every weekend throughout the summer and the Thames River which dropping 12 metres and host of fishers and their children lounging on the fossil filled rocks along the shore in the dams shadows, waiting for the next perch or walleye to bite.

While biking through all parts of the city, Londoners must continue to realize one thing. We share these streets with others who use them for their home and grocery store.

In a phone interview with James McKay, an ecologist for the planning offices of London, he says Londoners should be aware of other living creatures.

"People need to be aware that there's the chance that you could come across wildlife while going on one of our trails," he said. "I don't think there's been an increase in number occurrences, but it's always been a potential issue."

McKay also says there's the potential for concern, considering the green space we have.

"In urban areas, especially London, we have quite a bit of green space within the city ... but that's always the potential concern," he said. "There's always going to be a potential incident."

It's mostly been people with small dogs who have been attacked in recent coyote incidents, McKay says, and that despite the case of a teenage girl being jumped on by an unknown canine on May 8 that most animals try to avoid humans as much as possible.

In the end, people need to be aware about a few things: the city of London is beginning to wake up to its citizens' demands for a more comprehensive plan for cycling in the city; there are dozens of interesting and unique places that can be visited by using London's current bike paths; and our streets are animals' homes.

Remember these before heading out, and enjoy the summer cycling.

# Favourite finds in Forest City



**NICK REYNO**  
INTERROBANG

Living in a new city can be difficult and it's not always easy to find things to do in your down time. Sure, there are the big festivals you hear about on the radio, but people aren't always around to tell you about the smaller things that keep them from getting bored all summer.

Here are some must-see attractions in London.

The essential food destination of downtown is Prince Albert's. This cozy little establishment is decked out to look like a retro diner straight out of a TV show. Prince Albert's is famous not only for its decor, but for the milkshakes and adventurous variety of hamburgers.

After you've had your fill, you might want to take a stroll through Victoria Park, directly across from the diner. This downtown park plays host to a number of festivals throughout the summer.

If you need a morning pick-me-up, check out one of the city's less-

er-known attractions, the Locomotive Espresso bar. This café sells on using locally sourced goods to provide great caffeinated beverages in London. By collaborating with the local businesses, Locomotive has been able to cultivate a unique coffee/espresso café with a healthy selection of foods to complete the experience.

A newer attraction to the London Downtown core is the Cardboard Café. Although it looks unassuming from the outside, the café has an inventory of over 400 board games. If you can't convince a group of friends to accompany you, Wednesdays are set aside for league games where you can sign up and play with other café visitors.

A gym isn't something you'd expect to see on this list, but London has a unique one, which goes by the name of Junction. Located in a warehouse in the Old East Village, this gym is completely dedicated to rock climbing. With walls nearly four stories tall, and about 60 different climbing routes, it beats any other rock climbing facility in London. The best part about Junction is that it offers a student discount on day passes and monthly memberships.

If you're looking to make a day-long outing, East Park Golf has the perfect collection of attractions. It boasts a full 18-hole golf course, a driving range and two 18-hole mini golf courses. If golfing isn't your thing, you may want to try driving bumper cars, go karts, practicing swings at the batting cages or playing at the arcade. Finally, perhaps the greatest part of East Park is its water slides and splash pad, which could entertain for an entire day.

Lastly, if you're looking for a cheap date night, check out Rainbow Cinemas in Citi Plaza downtown. The Fanshawe Student Union offers four-dollar movie tickets through the Biz Booth for a Wednesday night movie at the theatre. If you don't like the movie being played, cheap Tuesday tickets are only five dollars; a small price to pay in comparison to other theatre chains.

If you want to find more little gems in your part of London, check out neighbourgoodguide.ca. The website has an extensive list of lesser known attractions, and even a feature that lets you search by location.



CREDIT: NICK REYNO

Flyers are delivered Thursdays and Fridays, and be sure to save your receipts to optimize price matching.

## Stretch your grocery budget with price matching



**NICK REYNO**  
INTERROBANG

**DISCLAIMER:** Some store policies may vary from the information that follows. Please check with your local store about its specific policies before shopping.

Price matching is a relatively new craze hitting London that owes its success to apps such as Flipp and websites such as Red Flag Deals. It's a practice whereby companies discount items at the point of sale when shown a cheaper price in a competitor's flyer.

This hasn't been a common occurrence in the past though, due to difficulties in obtaining and navigating dozens of flyers found throughout London. The transition to digital flyers has quickly made price matching an every day routine.

Flipp has been a real juggernaut in the price matching initiative because of the streamlined services it offers. The smartphone app compiles all of the flyers from grocery and big box stores into one easy location, and offers a search feature that allows you to search by brand or product. In addition to this, the app allows you to pin your price matches and make grocery lists, which makes extensive matching on shopping trips quick and painless. Although this may seem like

the golden age for price matching, shoppers need to be wary of varying policies between franchises. The best grocery store to bring your price matching to is Walmart, while the worst is Sobeys, which does no matching at all.

If you can't find all of your groceries at Walmart, its closest competitor is No Frills. The only difference between these stores is that No Frills will not price match with Shoppers Drug Mart.

After your purchase, make sure you hold on to the receipt for further savings. Stores like Walmart will refund the price difference for products that go on sale within 90 days of the transaction.

This is a great policy for seasonal and festive items, which see progressive price slashing as they go out of season. Buy early to take advantage of the selection, then go back and get that valuable refund when the price drops later.

Now that you're armed with an arsenal of money saving tips, the following guide will guarantee your price-matching trip goes off without a hitch.

**1. Always make sure to match the brands in your ad**

If Neilson is having a sale on milk, you can't bring a carton of Beatrice to the counter and hope for the best.

**2. Make sure you find the same size of item**

Drink, cereal and chip ads usually come with a restricted size range

that the ad will honour.

**3. Be careful when using half-off ads**

Most stores will not match these unless the original price is listed as well.

**4. Some stores use pounds, some stores use kilograms**

Ask your cashier which system the store weighs by, otherwise you could end up paying more than you bargained for.

**5. Be organized**

Having the cashier scan all price-matched items at once saves both time, and prevents items from being missed.

**Perfect for matching**

Giant Tiger  
Loblaws  
No Frills  
Real Canadian Superstore  
Walmart

**No matching**

Costco  
Farm Boy  
Metro  
Rexall  
Shoppers  
Sobeys  
Valu-Mart

**Be careful**

Food Basics – limit two per person, only matches with major competitors

FreshCo – limit two per person, only matches with major competitors

No Frills – limit four per person



CREDIT: RYAN KILPATRICK

Western University opens the observatory doors to the public to use its telescopes and see the starry wonders.

## Starry skies on summer Saturdays



**JERROLD RUNDLE**  
INTERROBANG

With the continued excitement of NASA's James Webb Telescope, set to be launched in late 2018 as a much-needed update to Hubble, as well as recent news about protesting around Hawaii's Mauna Kea proposal for the world's largest land telescope which would measure a 30-metre behemoth capable of seen back 13.5 billion years ago, sometimes Londoners forget that the Forest City boasts its own high-powered telescope.

The Cronyn Observatory is open to the public, if you know where and when to go. Each summer Western University opens the observatory doors, allowing the public to look through one of its three telescopes or one of the many portable amateur telescopes set up on the roof by the London chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC).

While also open during the other seasons – the doors only open once a month during those times –

each Saturday evening the summer months, the Cronyn Observatory is packed with budding amateur astronomers.

With an oblong asteroid roughly five kilometres across named after him – 5899 Jedicke – Peter Jedicke is still humble about what he does, when looking out to the stars it puts everything in perspective though.

Jedicke is a Western alumnus and professor of math, physics and astronomy at Fanshawe and the president of RASC from 2004 to 2006. He has been helping co-ordinate the weekly summer viewings at the Cronyn for a number of years and openly discusses his passion for the stars.

Jedicke says the most daunting aspect of his previous role as president of RASC was that despite the group boasting over 4,000 members, trying to get youth involved in “club oriented activities” was a continuing challenge. He was quick to add that’s not to say no one’s looking up.

“There’s an awful lot of interest in astronomy when I talk to young folks,” Jedicke said. “They watch a TV show or documentary about astronomy or space, or go on a website like NASA to see the latest

discoveries, but they are not joiners – they don’t come out to a club meeting.”

He says that meetings target a narrow demographic and that it “ends up being guys my age.”

While getting everyone talking together is an issue, getting people to be able to view the summer’s best celestial events is not. Jedicke talked about his favourite summer viewings to look out for.

“In spring and summer 2015 Venus is visible, but it will not be visible all summer,” he said. “Jupiter will be easy to see ... but Saturn is just starting to be visible now, and Saturn is the most amazing thing to look at through a telescope.”

“Jupiter [is] a close second, with Venus in third place. The Moon changes from night to night, the moon is available for telescope targets that’s almost always a good thing.”

The Cronyn Observatory is located across from Alumni Hall just after entering the campus through at the Lambton Street entrance. The summer hours are Saturdays from 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. and there is no cost and no reservations are required.

## StopGap stepping up local accessibility



**ANDREW VIDLER**  
G33K LYFE

Founded in 2011, the StopGap foundation began with the goal of providing ramps to businesses with a single step access – a seemingly simple barrier to accessibility that is unfortunately still found in hundreds of businesses and other community areas in any community in Ontario. It is driven by donations and pledges, but more importantly, by the efforts of a diverse team of volunteers with the necessary skill set to make the project happen.

Operating primarily in the Greater Toronto Area, the foundation’s Community Ramp Project is coming to London on the weekend of June 13, in an effort to spread awareness and accessibility in local areas.

The concept of The Community Ramp Project came to StopGap founder Luke Anderson after losing his legs in a mountain biking accident, and his subsequent realization that something as seemingly innoc-

uous as a small set of stairs can have a drastic effect on the lives of people who have lost the use of their legs.

He saw how the simple addition of a structure as simple as a ramp could drastically make accessing these previously restricted areas simple, and at minimal cost. Throughout the succeeding years, the organization put up over 150 ramps, all of which were donated at no cost to the local businesses, chosen via an application process.

“Our primary focus is to provide our ramps to businesses who only require one step to access,” Anderson said. “We have been involved in more complex projects but The Community Ramp project is all about the single step construction.”

This enables volunteers to construct multiple ramps over the course of a weekend, maximizing the amount of change they can bring into a community in the course of a two-day span.

“The program is primarily an awareness initiative, we want to get a lot of these ramps out there.”

Anderson is enthusiastic about bringing the program to the city, and the team being assembled is

among the largest that the program has ever put together. “Any community is in need of a project like this,” Anderson said. “London is particularly interesting because we have such a committed and enthusiastic group of volunteers.”

“We’re actually aiming to break our record of building over 50 ramps in a weekend, and I’m convinced that this is going to happen.”

Local businesses that are confirmed to be contributing include The Artisan Bakery, DUO Building and Fire Roasted Coffee Company, among a number of local individual volunteers and suppliers who are contributing food, supplies, labour and the financial backing required to make this project a reality.

“This is a simple way to show people how a simple ramp can help get life started for everyone,” Anderson said.

All signs are pointing to the London operation being a success, and every extra volunteer can help it be among one of the foundation’s best.

Anyone interested in volunteering or contributing can contact the London operation through [stopgaplondon.ca](http://stopgaplondon.ca).



CREDIT: MADHOUSE

*Trigun* is east meets west at its best and is an anime series that combines sci-fi with western settings.

## *Trigun* brings the Old West to the Final Frontier

**ADAM TATELMAN**  
THE OTHER PRESS

NEW WESTMINSTER (CUP) — I initially credited *Cowboy Bebop* as the show that helped me get anime. By that criteria, I should have mentioned *Trigun*, the first anime series I ever watched from start to finish and truly enjoyed. Adapted by Madhouse Studios from Yasuhiro Nightow’s manga series, *Trigun* blends comedy and tragedy just as haphazardly as it does American western tropes with sci-fi.

In the distant future, humanity has colonized a desolate, Tatooine-like planet called Gunsmoke and things are very much like the Old West, except with towering mutants and automatic weapons. There is a ludicrous 60-billion “double dollar” bounty on an unstoppable force-of-nature outlaw named Vash “The Stampede,” who obliterates all in his path. Fed up with making payouts to Vash’s victims, the Bernardelli Insurance Company assigns watchdog representatives Milly and Meryl to track Vash down.

What they find is a misunderstood goofball who, while an impossibly good shot, refuses to kill anyone regardless of the horrific wrong-place-wrong-time situations he routinely blunders into. Forced to tag along and make sure he doesn’t cause any more financial carnage for their employer, the girls are strung along through gleefully twisted visions of every clichéd American western plot imaginable: bank robberies, train jobs, kidnappings, border towns endangered by bounty hunters, robber barons monopolizing the water supply, determined homesteaders imperilled by thieves, and more.

*Trigun* seems like a comedy western at first, but despite all the action, Vash’s near-childish belief in his morality becomes central. You don’t want to see him just kill the bad guys – no matter how awful their deeds – you want to believe vengeance solves nothing. Characters like the desperado priest, Nicholas Wolfwood, add thematic resonance to the show’s moral dilemmas, being mysteriously two-faced even in their best moments. Two words: Martyr. Complex.

The soundtrack is a quirky, alien mix of synth-rock and twanging acoustic guitar, playing well with the sci-fi/western setting. As the origins of both Vash and Gunsmoke are slowly revealed, the sci-fi elements gradually shift to the foreground, bringing early foreshadowing into sharper focus. The world becomes fuller and richer with each revelation, and its true nature is something far more than just a silly space western, much like the script of the show itself.

I’m not going to say that the dub is perfect, but it’s pretty good. This is the series that established Johnny Yong Bosch as a voice actor, and he’s been a mainstay in the industry ever since, most recently voicing Kung Jin in *Mortal Kombat X*. Sadly, other standouts like Jeff Nimoy and Lia Sargent haven’t been as prosperous as their talent surely deserves.

*Trigun*’s quality is undeniable. Although some say the late ‘90s-era animation doesn’t stand the test of time, I was utterly absorbed by its attention to detail and low-rent charm. So if you’re looking for an anime with brains, heart and a spine, you can’t go wrong with *Trigun*.



CREDIT: "RONNIE MACDONALD" BY ALEXIS SÁNCHEZ ON FLICKR (CC BY 2.0)

The addition of Alexis Sanchez for Arsenal who aided the team with vital goals this season.

## Chelsea crowned, Burnley and QPR Down



**ANDREW VIDLER**  
PREMIER LEAGUE  
PONDERING

As another season of English football comes to an end, it's time to look back, reflect and take stock of the performances of the 20 clubs that made up the 2014/15 season if the Premier League.

To the surprise of absolutely nobody, there is a new champion as Jose Mourinho's Chelsea was successful in its endeavours to wrestle the title back from the hands of the two Manchester Clubs, mathematically securing the trophy with a victory over Crystal Palace on May 3, leaving the club's remaining three fixtures to be played with little concern as to what results came its way.

As much as it pains to admit, The Blues were utterly deserving in its successes this year, buying and selling with great success and never once looking like the team was going to finish anywhere other than the top.

With top spot secured, the remaining top clubs in the league have been aggressively pursuing the final three Champion's League places with both Arsenal and Man-

chester City managing to claim second and third in the table. Three points currently separate the two clubs, who will finish where could change two or three more times before the season comes to a final conclusion.

Arsenal found the road to qualification easier than it has been for the team in recent years, thanks to the signing of Alexis Sanchez, who will finish his debut season with at least 16 goals.

However, the most telling point gap is between City and Chelsea, as there are 11 points separating this year's champions last year's.

Manchester City turned in one of the most underwhelming title defenses in years, falling off the pace over a month ago, and casting the future of the team's manager in doubt. A second-place finish and an FA Cup weren't enough to save the job of Roberto Mancini two years ago, and there's a strong feeling that those in charge of the club will be similarly harsh in their treatment of their current coach.

Barring the sort of slipup that just doesn't happen in the real world, fourth place will be occupied by Manchester United, which currently holds a six-point lead on Liverpool while also holding a superior goal difference. This secures its

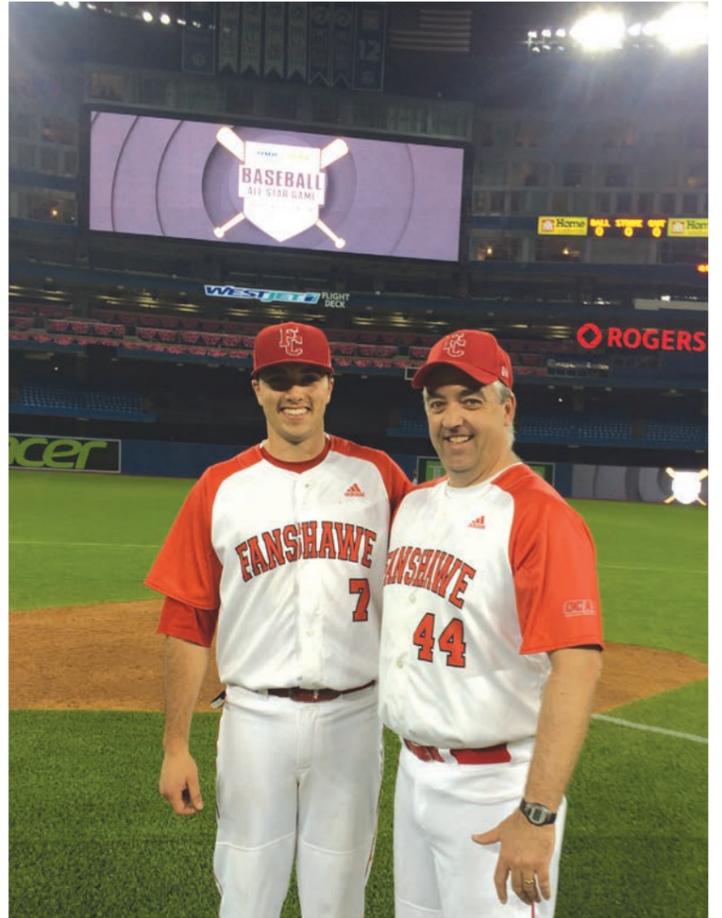
place even if the team was to lose the final two matches.

Luis van Gaal deserves credit for turning around the team's fortune after an indifferent start, but the inconsistencies of the team's nearest rivals greatly aided its return to Europe's top table.

With everything settled at the top of the table, the remainder of the season's drama will be originating from the bottom, as the fight to avoid relegation is set to go down to the last day.

The drop has already claimed two clubs, as both Burnley and Queen's Park Rangers didn't do enough to earn a second season in the top flight, but the third spot could still be taken by a number of clubs. Attempting to predict which club will be heading down to the Championship is impossible, as none of the teams in danger have shown enough consistency to deserve a spot among England's elite.

With two fixtures remaining, Hull City occupy the final relegation spot, but there are only four points separating them from Aston Villa in 14th, and any of the clubs in between find themselves facing the drop, giving fans one last desperate bit of drama before football takes a rest for another summer.



CREDIT: COURTESY OF BRIAN HARVEY

From left: Paul Lytwynec joined head coach Brian Harvey to play in his last OCAA baseball game at the all-star game against the Ontario University Athletics team.

## Home run: From student to coach



**DAN TODD**  
INTERROBANG

Captain of Fanshawe's first men's baseball team Paul Lytwynec will be returning next season as an assistant coach. He was also captain of the Western University men's baseball team.

According to Fanshawe Athletics officer Ernie Durocher, "With his knowledge of baseball and the league, plus playing for the London Majors, I think [Lytwynec] is a great asset and it's good to have someone like that who is affiliated with a club like that... it just makes sense."

Lytwynec played his last game as a Fanshawe athlete and joined three other Fanshawe baseball players to participate in the Ontario College Athletics Association (OCAA) vs. Ontario University Athletics (OUA) men's all-star game held at the Rogers Centre in Toronto on May 9.

Along with Lytwynec, Sean Refflinghaus, Travis Rice and Braeden Ferrington all play for the London Majors as well as the Fanshawe Falcons. Head coach Brian Harvey acted as one of the OCAA team's assistant coaches for the game. Mike Lumley from Western University – who played for the Detroit Tigers – acted as an assistant coach for the OUA team. Two players from Western also went; Turner Spears, who played infield and pitcher Jordan Skavinsky.

Durocher was confident going into the game. "We're expecting to win, but the OUA has a very good squad," he said.

Unfortunately he was right, and the final score of the game was 8-4 for the OUA all-star team in 11 innings.

It was a back-and-forth game, with the university team scoring four definitive runs in the 11th in-

ning. Lytwynec played as the short-stop through all 11 innings scoring a run in the sixth, and won all-star MVP for the OCAA team. Refflinghaus caught for the last six innings, Rice pitched in the third inning, while Ferrington pitched in the fifth. Neither pitchers gave up any runs.

Lytwynec was modest about winning MVP in terms of his performance during the game.

"We played pretty good as a team, and we ended up losing there in extra innings, but I think they had to give it to someone on the losing squad," he said. "I think they chose me because I got the game tying hit, but I didn't expect it at all."

In October, London will host the OCAA baseball championships at Labatt Park, and head coach Brian Harvey is hopeful about his second season.

"If you don't have high expectations something's wrong," Harvey said. "I'm expecting to play in the gold medal game in the OCA championships... if last year we had a bronze medal, next year I'm looking for gold."

Roughly 15 players will be returning, and Harvey hopes to have more depth in all positions on the team in order to play all nine innings without running thin anywhere. Improving consistency between hitters is his main goal for next season.

For anyone considering trying out for varsity but concerned about their school work, "With education it's not just what you're learning in the classroom – it's about the whole student experience. Academics are important, but I think getting a good balance of sometimes people are employed at the college, or you're playing athletics, or you're volunteering. I think it just overall contributes to your education," Lytwynec said.

Lytwynec will assume his coaching position for the upcoming season.

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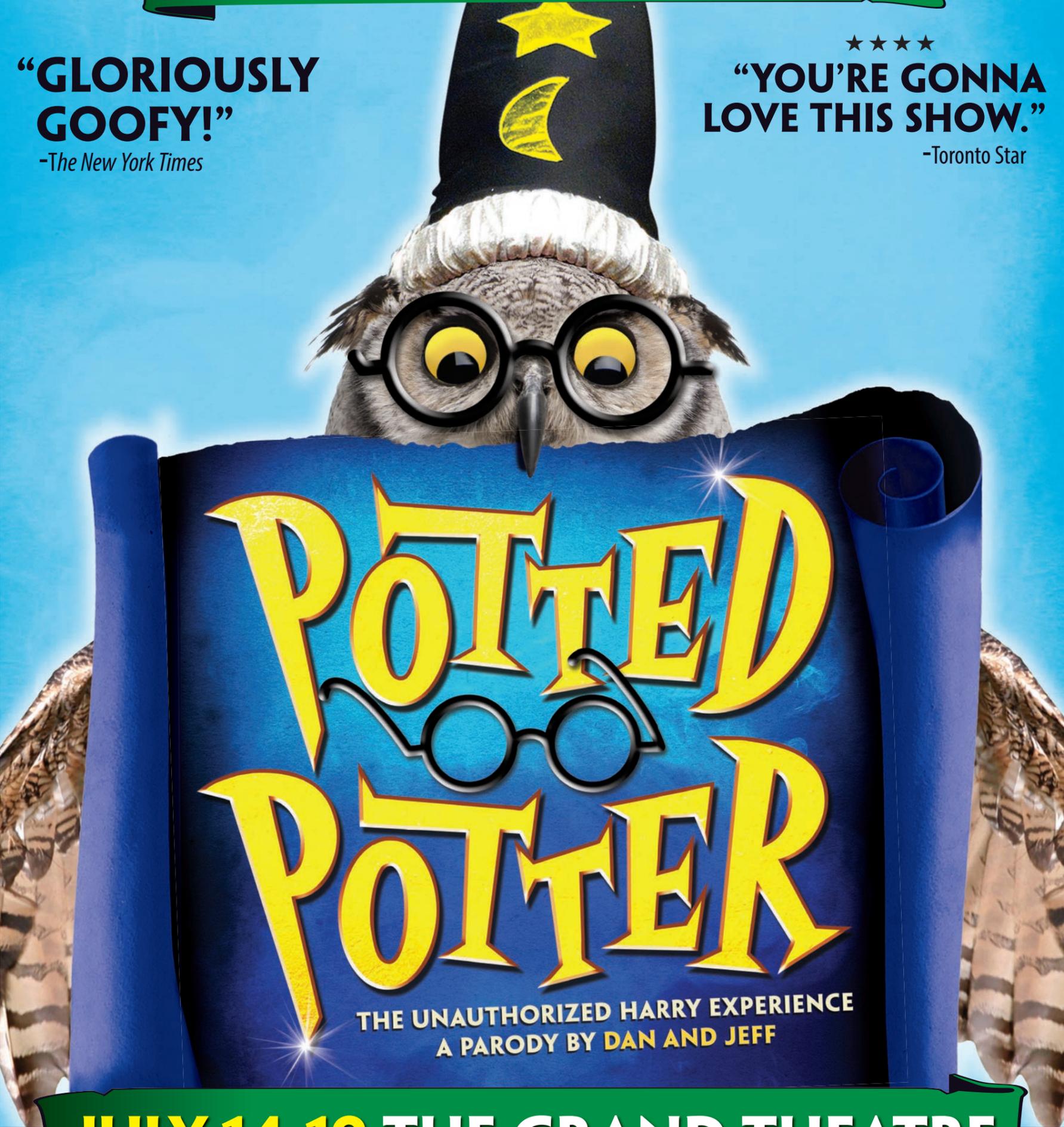
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