

# the reflector

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# High times: Legal cannabis is on the horizon

*How medical marijuana has influenced legal use*

**Lexi Wright**  
Staff Writer

The federal deadline for cannabis legalization is drawing nearer. But how has medical marijuana influenced those who use it and are concerns about medical marijuana being addressed in Calgary?

If you're not familiar with medical marijuana, a brief history of the plant will take you on a journey through all of its different components.

In addition to THC — the most well-known chemical component in marijuana and what gives you that “high” feeling — there are several other cannabinoids. Many of these chemicals were more recently discovered, and some are still being tested to find the best medical uses for them.

Kait Shane, Director Of Community Outreach at Natural Health Services, says that the curiosity surrounding medical marijuana has been around for years.

“Before the 1960’s, a lot of plants had just as much CBD [cannabinoid] as THC in them but once the recreational market hit, nobody could tell what CBD was really doing for them. When medicinal entered the scene again, mainly through parent advocacy groups around seizures, they started doing a bit more research on CBD and discovered how important it was for the medicinal component,” says Shane.

CBD, the cannabidiol which is naturally found in hemp plants, is non-psychoactive and has been known for its success in helping with anxiety.

Craig Pearce, one of the many doctors at Natural Health Services, started studying medical marijuana after having done his own research.

“I started to see some of the patient results, anecdotal of course, and coming from research background it was a bit difficult. We live in a day and age of evidence based medicine so I really wanted to see research but I was experiencing patient results which were really truly inspiring”.

One of his most memorable success stories was a pediatric epilepsy case. The patient had exhausted all conventional therapies and after turning to medical marijuana, saw huge success.

“That was probably the most remarkable initial patient result, watching this patient go from 30 to 50 seizures a day to less than half a dozen with CBD oil,” says Pearce.

“It really just takes one or two happy patients per day to make you feel like, okay, maybe there isn’t a whole lot of evidence based medicine yet but here are some anecdotal responses that are really, really promising and changing people’s lives.”

And the popularity of medical marijuana is only growing stronger.

Eric May is one of many individuals in Calgary who uses medical marijuana for both recreational and medical purposes.

“A couple summers ago I was getting really dizzy and had no idea why. I went to a few doctors and one doctor suggested that it might be anxiety. With an [anxiety] pill, you feel different, you don’t feel like yourself. With weed, I was actually able to lower my dosage of the anxiety pill,” says May.

After consulting with friends who had also been using medical marijuana, May decided that it would be a safer and more effective option.

“You know, the whole fentanyl crisis is a big deal. Medical marijuana is way better than street stuff in terms of potency and just cleanness. The whole idea of it being clean and from somewhere I can trust really helped with my decision,” says May.

Contrary to popular belief, you don’t have to smoke medical marijuana. In fact, smoking it is not recommended by health practitioners.

For May, CBD oils have proven to be the most effective.

“If you don’t mind the taste, you just drop it under your tongue and it starts doing its thing. The



**Eric May smokes a joint of medical marijuana. As of July 1, 2018, marijuana will be legal across Canada. Photo by Lexi Wright**

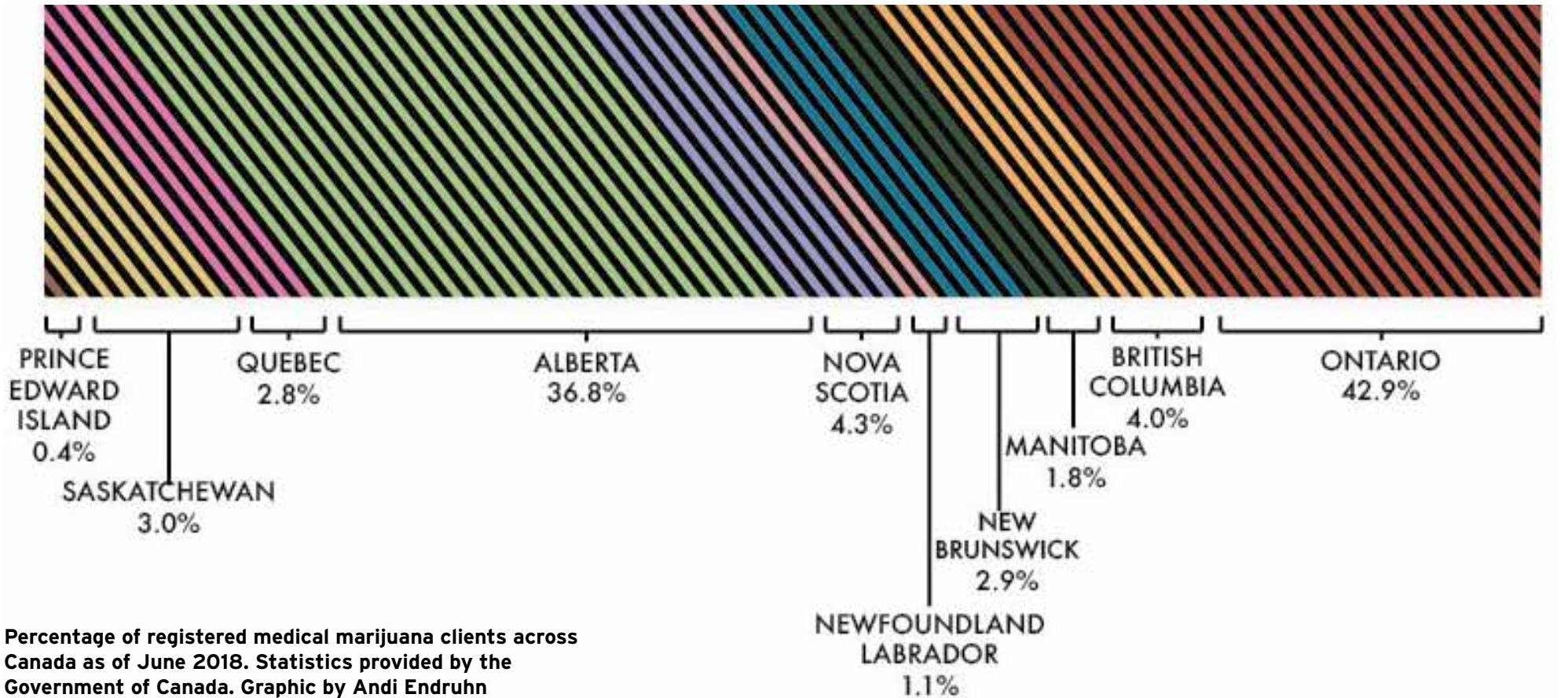
CBD drops are the ones that really curbed my anxiety.”

Future studies are planned to evaluate the effectiveness of CBD for treating psychotic disorders, arthritis, epilepsy and inflammatory bowel disease.

Whether you’re an advocate for legalization or not, legislation has been set for July 1, 2018. The provincial government announced that the minimum age of consumption will be 18 and cannabis is to be sold at privately

operated stores, while online sales will be managed by a Government of Alberta website.

In the meantime, the City of Calgary is looking for your thoughts on legalized cannabis. You can provide feedback on business regulations, retail sales, use, consumption and growing it at home. The website [engage.calgary.ca/cannabis](http://engage.calgary.ca/cannabis) is open until Dec. 10.



# This holiday season, remember to be kind to retail workers

## Retail workers share stories and tips to survive the season

Anna Junker  
News Editor

Retail workers are bracing themselves for every person that celebrates Christmas hitting the malls hard with dreams of finding the perfect gift for the important people in their lives.

Over two million Canadians work in retail, according to Statistics Canada. The packed malls mean those retail employees, the ones who are folding clothes, behind the tills, making your favourite Starbucks drink have to put on a brave face, a warm smile and try their hardest to politely deal with some of the most difficult customers.

Tyler Ryan, an ex-employee of Chapters who worked there for just under four years, has his fair share of stories of dealing with difficult customers.

“I saw some savagery that only the holidays can produce. I watched a grown woman rip a toy out of a crying toddler’s hand, I listened to parents get into yelling matches with their kids in the store, and I even saw two dudes throw down in the parking lot after one of my shifts,” said Ryan.

One of his “favourite” stories is from last Christmas where the latest toy craze for children was the Hatchimal, a robotic animal that hatches from an egg.

“We got a tiny shipment to the store and we were straight up

told we wouldn’t be getting any more until New Years,” Ryan said.

“Within a few days we were all sold out and those things were something like \$80 a pop. Not a single Indigo/Chapters in the city got their stock replenished before Christmas.”

According to Ryan, they explained the situation to customers and most took it well. Except for one woman who walked into the store to acquire a Hatchimal on Dec. 23, two days before Christmas.

“I tell her — in my super nice retail voice — ‘Sorry ma’am, we’re totally sold out of those and we won’t be getting any until after New Years. No stores in the city have them,’” recalled Ryan.

“She doesn’t believe me and tells me to go check in the backroom because she ‘knows we have them.’”

Ryan goes to the back to appease the woman and comes back empty handed. Yet, the woman is still not pleased and tells Ryan to go check again because he wasn’t in the back long enough and could have missed seeing the toy.

“As I come back, she goes ‘Are you serious!? How the f--- can you guys have no Hatchimals!?’ She proceeds to go on a tirade about how poor our customer service was and how I’m a bad employee

that’s clearly incompetent etc.. She then demands to speak to my manager,” said Ryan.

In efforts to appease the woman, Ryan went to retrieve his manager and warned her that the customer was becoming “irate.” The manager then proceeds to reiterate what Ryan had previously told the woman. The store has zero Hatchimals.

“The customer explodes into a tirade about how we’re terrible employees and how stupid it is that we don’t have enough stock. The icing on this dumpster fire of a cake was when she said, ‘You’ve f----- ruined my child’s Christmas you assholes, I hope you’re all happy.’ She then stormed out of the store but not before I got in my ‘Hope you have a happy Christmas ma’am!’”

Drew Tytgat works at a home furnishing store and also shared their thoughts about working retail during the holidays.

“Working retail over the holidays is somewhat of a grab bag of people, I think. I’ve gotten some really awesome people who are totally understanding if things don’t go their way, or really appreciative if things do work out, but I’ve also had a fair share of people who take their holiday frustrations out on me and the people I work with,” said Tytgat.

Tytgat also had an experience

of dealing with an upset customer over the sold out Google Home Mini.

“It’s real popular and we’ve been selling out of it every time we get a new shipment, and he got really frustrated with me when I said we were sold out - starting to get confrontational and asking why we were advertising it if we didn’t have it, and really seemed to be taking it personally. Thankfully he dropped it, but that’s really not uncommon,” said Tytgat.

“It’s unsettling when that happens, because even though it’s out of my control, someone wants answers, and I get that, but it really freaks me out sometimes.”

Ryan says he understands Christmas is a stressful time of year, especially for parents but he would like it if people were more understanding during the season.

“If the happiness of your child and the health of your relationship with your family hinges on your ability to get them a toy, maybe you should re-evaluate what’s important in your life.”

For all the retail workers out there counting down the days until the holiday is over, Ryan does have some tips to survive the season.

“First, think like the customer.

If you were buying stuff, would you really want to hear about all 36 of the dumb promotions that are being offered? Of course not,” said Ryan. He adds that although it may be part of your job to offer the promotions, read the person’s body language. If they seem disinterested, move along.

“Second, kill them with kindness. You may have the worst human being come through your till, but if you stay nice and they still treat you poorly, ultimately you win,” said Ryan.

“Why? Because no matter what they say to you, just remember that you’re not the loser being [rude] to a retail worker. As one of my old managers used to say: ‘Well they can be nasty to me, but karma is going to make a bird shit on their car one day.’”

The third tip, not only can retail workers use this, but any holiday shopper can take to heart.

“People are savages when the holidays come about. When you go to work, there’s a chance that you won’t be seeing your car for eight hours. Park far away because people in parking lots don’t care about anything but themselves. They’ll ding your car, scratch your doors, and maybe even fight you for a spot. Not worth it.”

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**War criminal kills self at hearing**

In a dramatic scene, a Bosnian Croat war criminal at an appeal hearing at The Hague killed himself in front of United Nations judges.

Slobodan Praljak, the ex-commander of Bosnian Croat forces swallowed poison moments after the UN judges upheld his 20-year prison sentence. On hearing the decision he said he was not a criminal and drank the poison.

The 72-year-old was taken to hospital but died soon after. A preliminary autopsy showed he died of heart failure after consuming potassium cyanide.

Praljak was convicted in 2013 of war crimes and crimes against humanity during Bosnia’s War from 1992 to 1995. He was one of six former Bosnian Croat political and military leaders up before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

**Council passes 2018 budget**

Calgary city council approved the new \$4-billion operating budget for 2018 in an 11-4 vote.

In the new year, property taxes will go up 3.8 per cent, meaning the average homeowner will pay an extra \$5.95 per month. The police budget has been boosted by \$20.8-million, which includes the cost of new body cameras and 55 new staff.

While some areas were boosted, council did make a number of cuts across all city departments, including the elimination of 156 full-time equivalent positions.

Also at stake for cuts were 27 different bus routes. However, council approved to use \$4-million to reverse some of the cuts.

The approval comes after four days of deliberations. Councillors Joe Magliocca, Ward Sutherland, George Chahal and Jeromy Farkas voted against the budget.

**Trudeau apologizes to LGBTQ+ community**

In a tearful apology, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau apologized for the federal government’s treatment of members of the LGBTQ+ community.

From the 1950s to the 1990s, thousands of federal workers were fired because of their sexuality, with the government citing “national security” reasons for the purge.

One of the things Trudeau apologized for was the use of the “fruit machine,” a homosexuality test developed by a Carleton University professor.

Subjects had pictures of their pupils taken while being shown pornographic images. If their pupils were dilated, it suggested excitement and therefore a same-sex attraction.

The federal government also announced over \$100-million has been earmarked to compensate members of the military and other federal agencies who were fired due to their sexuality.

**Remembering Montreal Massacre victims**

Dec. 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, which commemorates the anniversary of the 1989 Ecole Polytechnique massacre.

It marks 28 years since Marc Lépine walked into an engineering class in the school, separated the men and women and told the men to leave. He then declared his hatred for feminists and subsequently shot and killed 14 women: Geneviève Bergeron, 21, Hélène Colgan, 23, Nathalie Croteau, 23, Barbara Daigneault, 22, Anne-Marie Edward, 21, Maud Haviernick, 29, Barbara Klueznick, 31, Maryse Laganière, 25, Maryse Leclair, 23, Anne-Marie Lemay, 22, Sonia Pelletier, 23, Michèle Richard, 21, Anne St-Arneault, 23, and Annie Turcotte, 20.

The incident led to better gun control laws across Canada and emergency response protocols. Annual memorials are held across the country to mourn women killed by intimate partner violence and femicide.



# Shane Book: A storied life

Former writer-in-residence at the U of C shares key to success

**Alec Warkentin**

Staff Writer

To not only exist, but thrive as a poet is not easily done. All aspiring writers come to that crossroad sooner or later: to follow your passion, or succumb to a life of practical sustainability. Just ask Shane Book, an award-winning poet and filmmaker.

Prior to the publication of his first collection of poetry, 2010's *Ceiling of Sticks*, which ultimately won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry, Book struggled with even telling people that he was a poet, opting to describe himself as a filmmaker first — something he took up much later in life.

"I think I was embarrassed about it... I didn't have a book out, so... I didn't feel like I could say that I was a poet," Book recalls. This was despite Book having attended or taught at over ten universities across North America from Stanford University in California to Western University in Ontario.

His latest collection of poems, 2015's *Congotronic*, was shortlisted for the prestigious Griffin Poetry Prize, ultimately losing to fellow Canadian poet Jane Munro's collection *Blue Sonoma*.

Prior to the nomination, Book had applied three times for a position as the Writer-in-Residence at the University of Calgary—which he considers one of the most prestigious writing positions in Canada — only to miss out by a small margin.

"They would send me a note [saying] 'you were the finalist, you were our alternate person'... or

'please apply again' so, I did. I just kept applying and I wanted to see Calgary," Book explains.

With a history that involves holding a long list of other significant positions across the U.S. and Canada, it wasn't for a lack of experience that Book was turned down so frequently, and he's supplemented his career as an established poet by also finding success as a filmmaker as well.

So far, Book has directed and produced two short films: *Dust*, in 2013, and *Praise and Blame*, in 2015 — the latter featuring Costas Mandylor, best known for his work as Detective Lieutenant Mark Hoffman in the *SAW* horror film series.

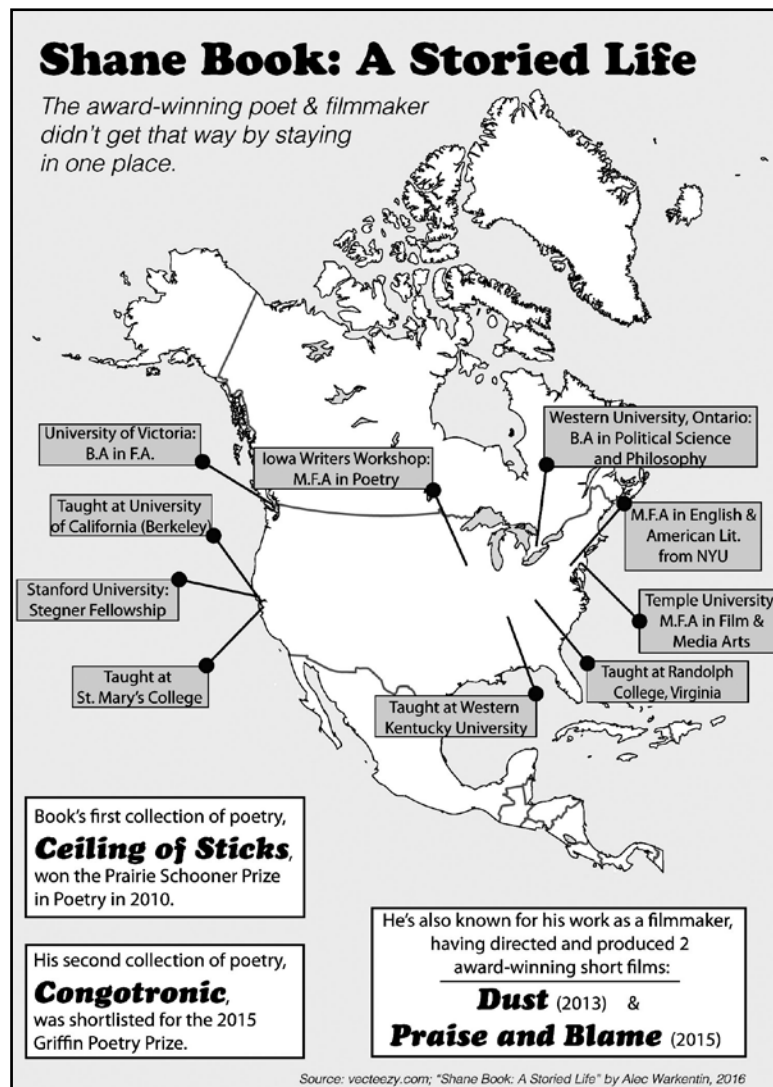
"I always tell people that you gotta have a day job... you can't just be thinking you're gonna make a living writing. Poetry, for example. Or even fiction. You have to write other kinds of things like journalism, or technical writing. Or you have to teach," says Book. He recalls what one of his first professors — Philip Levine, former Poet Laureate of the United States — said on one of the first days of poetry class:

"If you can do anything else, do it. Because there's no money in it and nobody gives a shit if you write a poem... the world is not gonna collapse if you — you, personally, — do not write something."

While Book's own stance on the matter of young writers isn't quite as grim, he does believe that to pursue a career in writing requires an insane compulsion to do it,



Shane Book's work as a poet and filmmaker has taken him all over the world, from working with Costas Mandylor (*SAW* franchise) to learning tips from Werner Herzog. Photo by Alec Warkentin



regardless of if you're going to get paid or be successful.

"I tell my students that it has to be something that you just can't not do," Book says, who explains that the need to write just isn't a lifetime occupation, but more of a vocation — a calling — and that aspiring writers have to be willing to be humiliated, and humbled, frequently.

"You can't expect to be thanked for doing it, you can't expect to win a bunch of awards, you can't even expect to get published. You can want those things, if they don't happen, you have to be cool with still doing it. Otherwise, you're just going to get ground into the dust."

Book believes that the downplayed importance of poetry and creative writing has to do with the "screen culture, the advent of television, and the advent of the internet" which has led to people reading a different kind of way.

"It's shorter, it's a kind of linked reading," Book says.

"We don't have time to sit with a book... like a book of poems takes a lot concentration and it's intense... you can reread them multiple times and they'll sort of grow like flowers," something that isn't present when it comes to reading online, he explains.

Ultimately, Book's career as a

writer, poet and filmmaker hasn't been an easy one. The success that he's found is rare — in part due to the tumultuous attitude towards writing as a profession and also in regards to Book's lack of interest in marketing himself — something he says is important in order to get your name out there.

"People go really far on being great self-promoters, just like in any business," Book says.

"There's always great musicians that don't know how to promote themselves, and they get crushed. And a lot of the real hacky people... they do awesome because they can talk about themselves, and they can market themselves. They're unashamed of just being cheesy and aggressive and stuff and it's just shocking to see who makes it and who doesn't."

Book recalls a conversation he had with a friend who believed that the reason Book wrote was because he wanted the fame that came with it, and that he wrote for selfish reasons.

"If I wanted to be famous," Book told him, "I wouldn't be writing poetry."

## THE REFLECTOR

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# features

## The holiday season of giving

*Tips on how you can give back this winter*

**Amber McLinden**

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The holiday season has everyone feeling extra generous. While you might be thinking about buying gifts for family and friends, it's also a time to think about donating to charities and nonprofits who help those less fortunate.

The general public spends a ton of money on Christmas and other gift-giving holidays in winter. In December of 2014, Statistics Canada analyzed how many purchases and sales went up during the month. Revenue was in the millions and billions — with sales of televisions and audio and video equipment going up 136 per cent compared to the monthly average. Toys were even higher than that, going up 186 per cent compared to the monthly average.

Consumerism is rampant when it comes to the holidays. We've all heard of an incident, seen a video or read an article about a bratty kid who is mad they didn't get the right colour of iPhone for Christmas. It forces people to spend money they don't have on gifts that people expect and don't appreciate as much as they should.

Maybe that's a little cynical. It's a really nice thing to give gifts and see how much people do enjoy it, and let's be honest — it isn't bad getting gifts either. But when Canadians claim they'll be spending anywhere from \$1,000 to \$2,000 on gift purchasing, with citizens carrying an average of \$22,000 in debt, it's hard to not be cynical.

But alas, in the chaos of all the spending, gift giving and the occasional break for a turkey dinner or two, there is a ray of hope. The feeling you get when you watch friends and family open your gifts can be replicated and multiplied. The answer is simple — take a break from the consumerism and donate to charity (and get a little bit of a tax deduction while you're at it).

With the holiday coined #GivingTuesday, a global social movement to encourage people to donate to charity post-Thanksgiving and Black

Friday, giving back is on many people's minds.

So what are the best ways to donate to charity? What are some ways you can give back without leaving the comfort of your couch? How much should you give? Without further ado, some tips to donating over the holiday season.

### Donate to local charities

Calgary has an array of places that are always looking for monetary donations. The Mustard Seed is one, an organization in the city that helps those in poverty and experiencing homelessness to meet basic needs. The Women's Centre provides assistance to women in Calgary through peer support, legal counselling, social issues work and girls programs. Inn From the Cold is an emergency shelter for those who don't have a place to go. There's many more, and can be accessed by a quick Google search of "Calgary charities."

Many of these places, due to their nonprofit nature, don't turn a profit and rely on donations. The best way to help is to donate money and keep them running. They provide an important service that many people rely on. If you don't have a lot to donate, or you don't know which you want to donate to, that's okay! Any member of an organization will tell you to donate what you can. If you don't know where to donate to, choose one that speaks to you. Not everyone can donate to multiple charities, so pick one that you feel is important or that you hold close to your heart.

### Donate to global organizations in need

Donating money to local charities is important, but there are also many national and global nonprofits that need as much assistance as possible. Organizations like the Samaritan's Purse work on disaster relief, something that



Giving back to your community is one thing you can do this holiday season, besides just buying presents for friends and family. Graphic created by Andi Endruhn

the world has seen no shortage of in the past year. Consider donating to disaster relief organizations that are helping those in Puerto Rico, those affected by the B.C. wildfires and areas affected by multiple hurricanes. While these events might have come and gone in the news, nonprofits supporting the redevelopment of these areas need continued support. It takes time to repair after a natural disaster and organizations will continue to need funding in the coming year.

Be careful who you choose to donate to, however. If you're searching up disaster relief organizations, make sure to check they are legit before giving them money. There are a number of tools on the web to use when checking if a charity is legitimate or not. You can easily find tools to see if they're tax exempt, if they're registered as a nonprofit and much more.

### Donate non-monetary items

Not everyone has the ability to donate money and that is completely fine. Perhaps

you have coats laying around your house you no longer use. Project Warmth Society of Alberta is looking for donations in the cold months of winter. Maybe you have an excellent discount at Walmart or you have a Costco card — consider buying socks and underwear and donating them to places like Inn from the Cold and other organizations that are looking for clothing donations. Even gently used shoes, boots and other winter accessories are a good way to donate.

You can even use your skills to donate things to organizations. Maybe you're an amazing knitter or crocheter. Buy some cheap yarn and knit up a few hats, mittens, maybe even a blanket and donate those to different places in need of items.

### Donate your time

Time is money — unless you're donating it. Many places, especially during the cold winter in Calgary, need people to volunteer. Research places close to you or places that you think are important and interesting and reach out to see if you can volunteer.

Many people are in a giving mood during the holiday season, so consider extending your volunteer hours beyond the month of December and give all year round.

You can also donate time and money by planning a fundraiser. Usually those who give to you are also eligible for tax receipts. You don't have to know everything. Reach out to your charity of choice and see if it's possible to host a fundraiser for them and they can fill in the blanks for you.

Those are just a few ways you can get involved in giving back over the holidays. After exams are done, consider looking into doing something good that isn't getting an A in your classes (although that would be good too) and make the most out of your holiday season.





# App offers real cash prizes with no catch

*Live trivia app HQ set to be the future of mobile gaming*

**Amber McLinden**

Features Editor

It's 7 p.m. You hear the ping go off on your phone. Your heart starts beating. You slide the notification and wait as the countdown begins. Your fingers shake. Are you ready?

No, it's not a doomsday count, or a timer for your assignment due at midnight. It's the HQ app, a live trivia game show that is gaining popularity faster than any other mobile game on the market today.

The mobile game show, which TechCrunch reported on Oct. 17 had only 3,300 players the previous night, usually attracts around 200,000 or more players these days.

How does a game founded only in August of this year gain over 50 times its audience in less than three months? The answer is simple. Real cash prizes.

That's right, folks. Those players are here for a chance to win money. The jackpot, which usually ranges from \$1,000 to \$8,500, a new high as of Dec. 3, can be won by players if they answer 12 questions correctly.

The jackpot is split between all players who answer all 12 questions correctly. If no players win, the money turns over to the next round. At 7 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST), and an extra game at 1 p.m. MST on weekdays, you need to have notifications

turned on to be alerted the game is starting.

On Dec. 3 players were vying for a \$8,500 cash prize. Forty-two people won, dividing the money up, winning approximately \$212 each. Following a win, the money is transferred to the players' PayPal.

The founders of the mysterious new gaming app are none other than co-founders of the late-but-great Vine, Rus Yusupov and Colin Kroll. Vine, unfortunately, died a slow death at the hands of Twitter in 2015.

Yusupov and Kroll quit Twitter that same year and began working with Intermedia Labs, an app studio. The duo got a few million dollars funding for the app through Lightspeed partner Jeremy Liew. The venture capital firm partner also spoke with TechCrunch about the app.

"We really believed in the technical and design capability of Rus and Colin and their broad thinking about the future of mobile video being far more interactive than just hearts," says Liew, likely referring to Instagram and other social media apps that allow you to like videos.

It's definitely a innovative concept, if that's how you see it. To others, it seems especially strange

that you can just win money, with many asking, "what's the catch?"

It may seem weird, because the internet always seems to be asking for something in return, but in reality the app is only in its startup phase. Likely the seed money from Liew and Lightspeed are being used for some of the cash prizes, creating a larger audience to pave the way for monetization through advertising.

There are many ways that are already presenting themselves, such as in-game advertisements and sponsored questions or content. Where Vine seemed to have trouble monetizing, especially after being acquired by Twitter, it seems as though Yusupov and Kroll have focused HQ around the concept of money entirely.

So while others seem to be suspicious of the turn HQ might take, others are cashing in. With a record amount of players trying to get their piece of \$8,500 on Dec. 3, the number of people in the game reached over 320,000.

The game shows great potential for growth, has an interesting concept and has a number of potential paths in front of it. While other apps are still charging people \$1.50 to download, HQ is paying winners.

So how do you actually win the money? The trivia questions themselves are general knowledge, ranging from questions like, "Which restaurant is known for Tex-Mex?" to "Where would you find the gracilis muscle?" the game seems to give everybody a fair chance, unless you're a general knowledge whiz. You have 10 seconds to answer, leaving little time to try and cheat by googling the answer.

You can also refer friends to sign up with your username, which gives you extra lives, limited to one life per game. Regularly, if you get an answer wrong, you're eliminated. With an extra life, you

could be one step closer to the money even if you get an answer wrong.

That might be a limited-time user acquisition strategy, which also has the potential to become an in-app purchase and another revenue stream, Inc.com speculated.

While 320,000 players seems like a lot, it's miniscule compared to what HQ has the potential to bring. With the growth heading exponentially upwards, increasing prize sizes and competition will head that way too. If you want to see what it's like, download the app for yourself (and feel free to use referral code amcli602).



# Dissecting the phrase "most girls"

*How commonly used terminology reflects on us*

**Mackenzie Gellner**

Contributor

The phrase "not like most girls" has been used as a form of a compliment for a long time. However, why is it considered a good thing to be different from "most girls" in society?

Talking to Mount Royal University students about the phrase "Most Girls," different women were given the opportunity to tell us what words come to mind when they hear the phrase. The response was coloured in empowering words, such as "smart," "beautiful," "dynamic" and a collection of others. If women see other women as having these incredible qualities, why do we take the phrase of "not being like most girls" as a compliment?

People have both individualistic and collectivist viewpoints. According to *ScienceDaily*, with the Association for Psychological

Science, individualism "conceive[s] of people as self-directed and autonomous, and they tend to prioritize independence and uniqueness as cultural values." While, collectivism "see[s] people as connected with others and embedded in a broader social context." People are drawn to feeling a sense of belonging, while also maintaining what makes them a unique individual.

As human beings, there are stereotypes dealing with a wide variety of concepts, one of which being gender. Classic stereotypes depict women as being bossy, dramatic, sensitive and delicate. Qualities men can also possess yet they are considered to be more feminine traits. When women do not act in these manners, it does not label them as different or the same; they are themselves as an

individual. The same goes with men.

Looking at well-known celebrity, entrepreneur and activist women today counteracts this idea that women only mold to a stereotype and are not individuals. When going back to the answers from MRU students on how they see women, the individualism in the words is noticed, but also the collective viewpoint of all women having these qualities. Women, in many cases, have support and respect for one another in their individuality and their similarities.

Malala Yousafzai stood up for women's rights to an education at the risk of her losing her own life, and even refused, afterwards, to fight back angrily, but insisted on peaceful responses on several occasions. According to the *Huffington Post*, in 2013 Yousafzai

was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize at only 15 years old for "her courageous commitment to the right of girls to education," parliamentarian Freddy de Ruiter wrote, according to NBC.

Petra Collins is a female photographer who depicts the female gaze and body positivity. Her work is extremely unique in its style and colours, but it strives to support and empower all women. According to the *Calvert Journal*, she is seen as one of the stars of the new female gaze concept coming into play.

Amy Schumer is a female comic known for her risqué humour, but she is also a strong feminist. Though she makes fun of herself at times in her acts, she has one large goal of women empowerment. According to *People Magazine*, she explained that she wanted

women to have a greater role in society, stating, "Like, [women] playing human beings instead of, like, caricatures from the 1920s," adding, "I want women to lift each [other] up. Get more and more powerful, building each other up."

These women mentioned are all completely different, but are all looking to support one another. It is just as the Mount Royal students showing support for other women by describing all the great qualities they see women having.

Today, feminism, which is synonymous for gender equality, allows women to feel more open to being heard, standing up for themselves and achieving their own goals. If women continue to help support other women, the opportunities and chance at full gender equality will slowly be reachable.



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# arts

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## The quintessential holiday movie guide

*What to watch and what to avoid during the holidays*

Colin Macgillivray

Arts Editor

It is clear to me that the worst sub-genre in film is Christmas movies. The plethora of films that are released during the holiday season each year absolutely suck all the joy out of arguably the happiest time of the year. The holidays are about getting together with friends and family, giving back to those you love and winding down after a hard year of whatever you've been doing. So, the movies that you watch during the holidays should be about all those things and more.

So, since everyone is already going to be crowded around the television, watching another mind-numbingly bad Christmas movie that you've already seen a million times, I've compiled a list of movies to watch over this holiday season and some movies you should definitely avoid. This list might be a little unconventional for some, so if you're looking for me to drool over holiday favourites like *Elf* or *Home Alone*, you'll be incredibly disappointed.

### Watch: Die Hard

I've said it before and I'll say it a thousand times, *Die Hard* is the best Christmas movie of all time. There really is nothing better during the holidays than to gather around a nice fire, grab some hot cocoa and watch John McClane thwart a terrorist plot on Christmas Eve.

The beauty of this Christmas movie is that it really isn't a Christmas movie and that is exactly why it takes the coveted top spot on the list. The holiday theme doesn't feel forced and

the fact that Bruce Willis' take-no-prisoners detective just so happens to be delivering presents for his children just in time for Christmas is just a nice little added bonus for the audience. This movie is still incredibly re-watchable and an overall fun experience, but the Christmas hook just gives me an excuse to start up the old VHS machine for a night of *Die Hard*.

Bruce Willis is at his best here. Not only does he have hair, but his charismatic portrayal of John McClane made the cowboy synonymous with iconic action heroes. The late, great Alan Rickman plays arguably the greatest villain in movie history, Hans Gruber, while the definitive holiday action classic is constantly delivering with legendary one-liners, brilliant action sequences and genuinely funny moments of levity throughout.

Although none of the sequels have been able to live up to the magic of the first, *Die Hard* will forever hold a place in the holiday history books as arguably the best action film of all time and easily the greatest holiday flick ever made.

### Dont Watch: Love Actually

Making a Christmas movie is also the ultimate cop out. When a studio wants to make a couple million dollars by preying on holiday cheer, they'll make a movie like *Daddy's Home 2*, a film that has no business being a Christmas movie in the first place. By adding a Christmas or holiday theme to any movie, you can

ensure that it will be seen by everyone at some point, because of television reruns.

This is exactly the case with the abysmal tale that is *Love Actually*. This convoluted mess of a movie commits every deadly sin when it comes to filmmaking. Not only does it shoehorn in an unnecessary Christmas theme, but it wastes an exceptionally talented ensemble cast that includes Alan Rickman, Liam Neeson and Emma Thompson on 10 minutes of screen time each. It is maddening that a movie that

boasts so many talented stars but ensures that none of them are allowed to give standout performances due to story and time restraints. There are at least 11 distinct narratives in this movie and none of them are given enough time to be even remotely compelling.

*Love Actually* is actually really disappointing. It is the quintessential holiday romantic-comedy, but that is exactly why it is a terrible movie. By lazily writing a Christmas setting into a cookie-cutter rom-com, writer and director

Richard Curtis essentially assured immortality for this overstuffed turkey of a film. For that reason alone, both this movie and that laughable cue-card scene should be burnt with the yule log.

### Watch: Kirk Cameron's Saving Christmas

Have you heard Kirk Cameron and his absolutely

*Continued on Pg. 10*



Too many Christmas-themed movies make people dull. Add some variety to your holiday movie marathon this year! Photo courtesy of GirlsLife Magazine

## OUT'N ABOUT

### Once Upon a Christmas:

Starting Dec. 9, Heritage Park is offering old fashioned winter festivities to those who want to experience the holiday traditions of the early twentieth century.

### Northwestival:

On Dec. 10, a family-friendly festival chalk full of plenty winter workshops will be in Calgary. From sled dogs to wreath making, Northwestival is perfect fun for a lazy Sunday afternoon.

### Christmas with New West:

Looking for your holiday music fix? The New West Symphony and Chorus will be performing an entertaining mix of new and old Christmas music on Dec. 16 that will surely put you in the holiday spirit.

### Zoolights:

Need a first date idea? Until Jan. 3, The Calgary Zoo's annual Christmas light display will once again be weaving 1.5 million twinkling lights through the zoo grounds for the holiday season.



## Continued from Pg. 9

abysmal film *Saving Christmas*? If you haven't, I suggest you stop everything you're doing for an hour and 20 minutes and watch arguably the worst movie ever made.

Now, you might be asking yourself why you would want to watch the worst movie ever made? Well, there is nothing more entertaining than watching bad movies with loved ones. Not only can you sit back and relax with friends and family and make a mockery of Kirk Cameron and his horrific film, but more importantly, you'll appreciate all those overplayed Christmas movies just a little bit more.

But why is *Saving Christmas* so bad? Well, there are a couple reasons. The first being Kirk Cameron, a washed up 80's sitcom star who has some pretty interesting things to say about trees and consumerism. Not only does this ludicrous film dive into how hip-hop is essential to properly celebrate the holiday season, but also includes a 10 minute conversation of Kirk Cameron telling his brother-in-law that Santa Claus is really "Satan Claus."

This is *The Room* of holiday movies. A movie so laughably bad that it transcends film all together and becomes a watchable movie. Not only is it an incredibly entertaining experience, but Kirk Cameron's

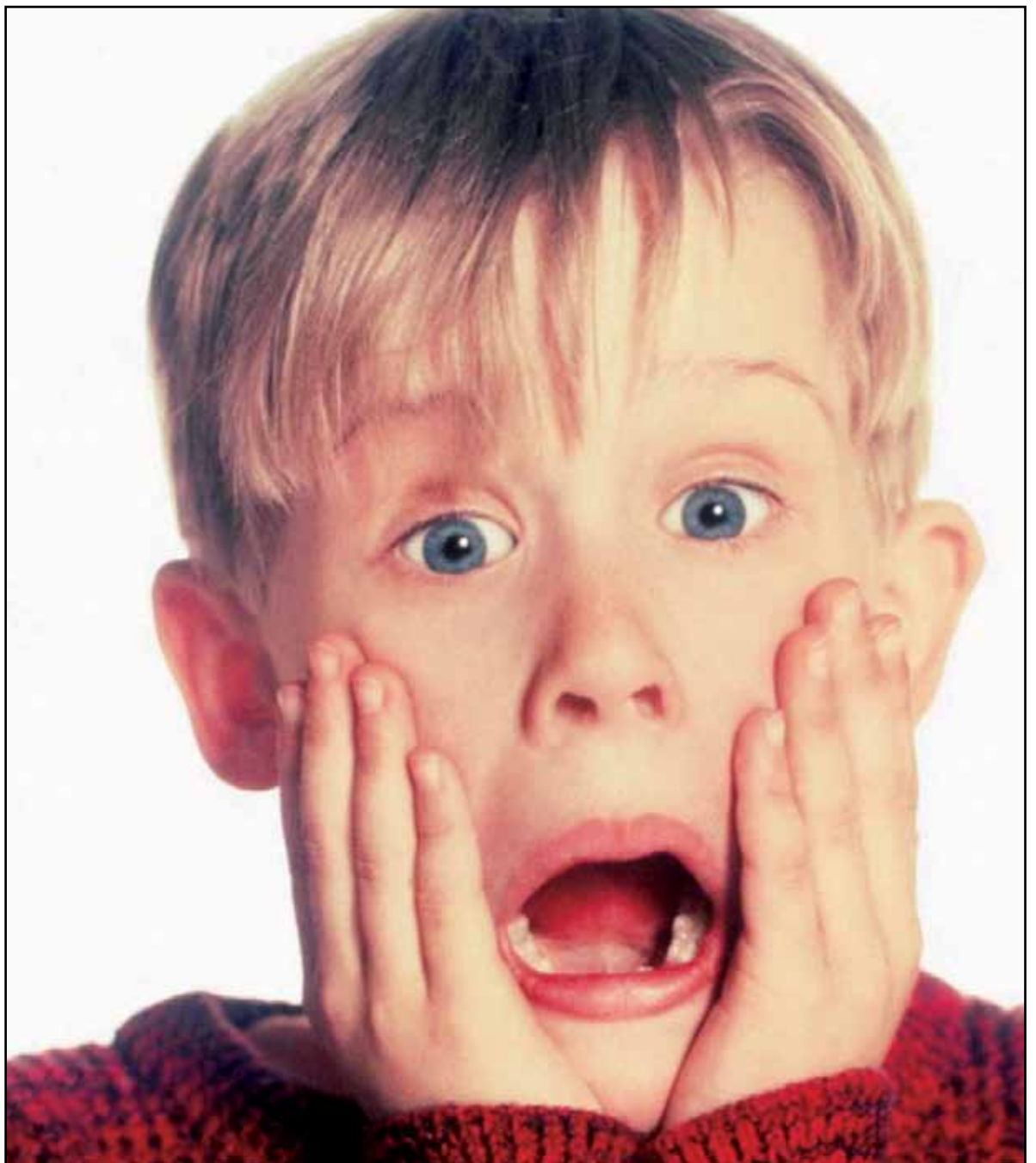
*Saving Christmas* is an enigma in the holiday movie world that you will never forget.

## Don't Watch: Four Christmases

What a stupid premise for a movie! *Four Christmases* is essentially about hiding from your dysfunctional family over the holiday season because of creative differences. When Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon are trapped in an airport during Christmas and are subsequently forced to stay home, their four divorced parents all want to visit them, which is completely normal behaviour. For some reason, this movie insists that parents wanting to see their children is asinine.

88 minutes of pure torture, the film's major plot points include Reese Witherspoon's character being deathly afraid of inflatable bouncy castles, something that, for some reason puts an intense strain on her relationship with Vaughn's character. In the end, none of the character's really change and essentially there was absolutely no point for anyone to care about the nonsensical narrative in the first place.

Every Christmas comedy trope is used and abused in *Four Christmases*, so don't watch it.



This is the face I usually make when I learn that my family insists on watching *Home Alone* every Christmas Eve. Photo courtesy of NBC

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# The resurgence of adult animated television series

*How animation could be both the future and the end of television*

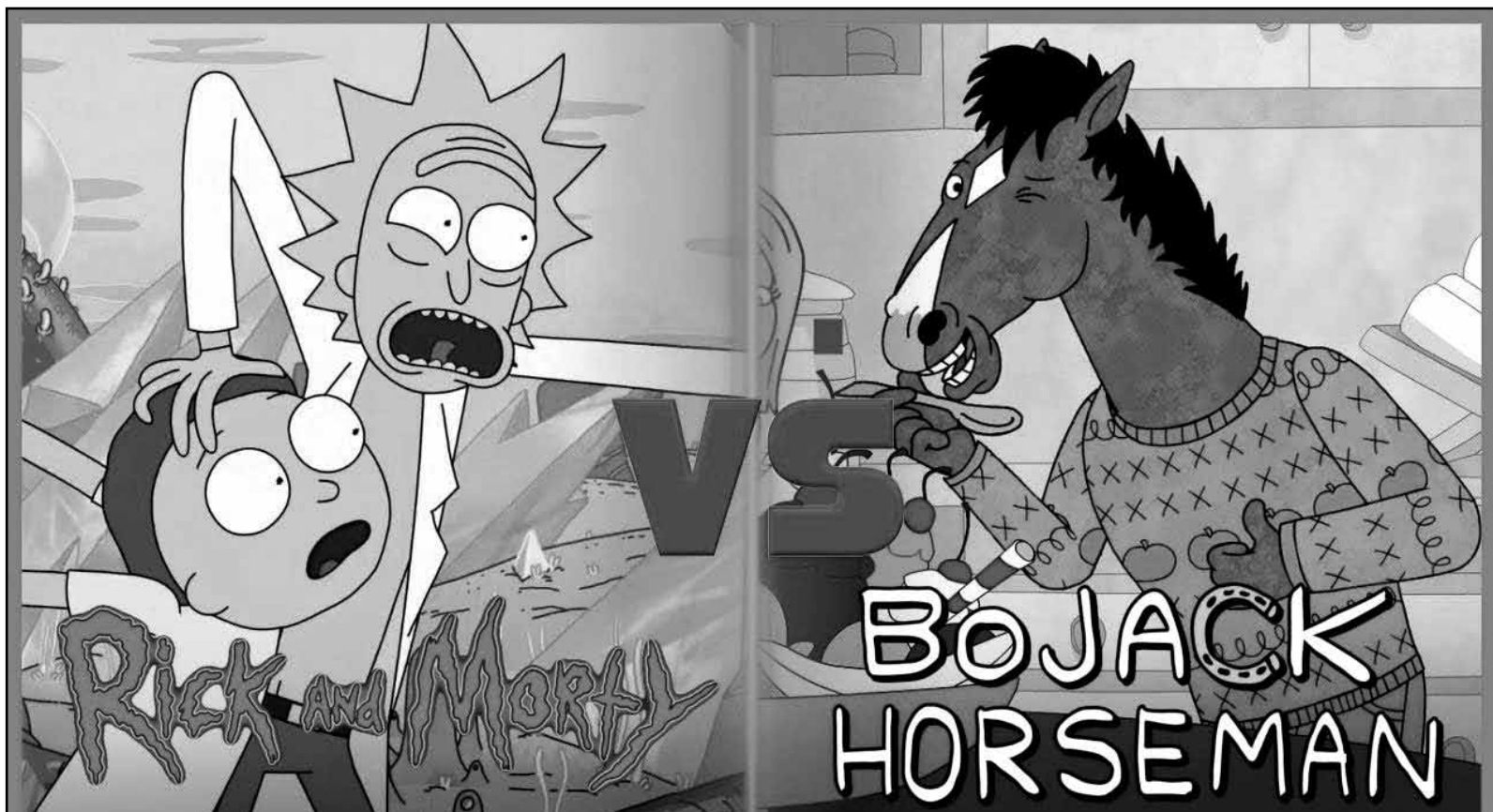
**Colin Macgillivray**

Arts Editor

With animation being embedded in the entertainment industry for close to a century, it's hard to believe that this easily accessible medium of storytelling has just recently broken through into the adult world. Sure, you could argue that *The Simpsons* has had a cult-like following since its inception in 1989. You could say that *Family Guy* pushed the boundaries of what someone can do with an animated series. *South Park* can even be thrown into the conversation, as its dedicated fanbase has kept the show running for 20 years. You could even suggest that this article is entirely baseless because it's no secret that animated series for adults have been permeating the mainstream for years. But, it is hard to argue that the popularity of the genre has increased tenfold in recent years. We might have even entered a golden age of sorts.

This fact has everything to do with accessibility to these programs and the dissolution of the stigma surrounding adults watching cartoons. Adult Swim, an adult-oriented programming block on the Cartoon Network was, for years, essentially the only place that fans could access their favourite animated show. Due to its placement on a children's network, there was surely some level of stigma harkened by those who insisted that "cartoons are for kids." That's why adult-oriented animation had trouble truly breaking into mainstream popular culture.

For years, busy-bodies and uppity-folk clamoured that these adult cartoons would infect the mind of the children and ruin society due to their crude nature and adult themes. Pseudo-intellectuals on web boards claimed that watching cartoons as an adult would make you revert into a childlike state. Parents around the world would insist that their children are too old for silly cartoons. The societal construct of misinformation that surrounded adult animated programming held the movement back. This, coupled with the lack of marketing and access, led to countless fairly decent shows being cancelled well before they were given time to shine. *Futurama* was cancelled in 2003 even though it received universal acclaim from both critics and audiences. Luckily the sci-fi satire was brought back in 2006 after overwhelming fan support. *The Oblongs*, an incredibly interesting commentary on social stratification and socioeconomics



**Fans of *BoJack Horseman* and *Rick and Morty* have debated for years over which show is better. The real question: Who cares? Photo courtesy of DoingOK**

was cut short after a 13 episode run, while even *Family Guy* was cancelled in 2002 and was only brought back after staggering DVD sales.

Luckily, when a little streaming service called Netflix obtain the rights to countless adult animated series such as *Archer*, a spy-sitcom that offers some of the most brilliant voice acting in recent memory, *American Dad*, Seth MacFarlane's criminally underrated black-comedy series and countless other incredibly popular animated series, the accessibility issues that plagued animated series immediately disappeared. Soon, after witnessing the tremendous demand there were for shows like *Family Guy* and *Futurama*, Netflix began creating their own animated content.

Shows like *BoJack Horseman* appeared and truly paved the way for mainstream success for adult-oriented animation. The series, which follows both humans and anthropomorphic animals through ludicrous scenarios, is not only extremely clever and entertaining, but it's a realistic take on issues such as self-destructive behaviour and depression are arguably some of the most compelling in years. Due to its stellar cast, universal acclaim and position on the most popular streaming service in the world, *BoJack Horseman* proved to mainstream audiences that adult-oriented animated series can be more than just raunchy comedies.

Horseman's success led to Netflix churning out four more adult animated series over the past three years. *F is for Family*, a more traditional animated comedy premiered in 2015, while *Castlevania*, a dark-fantasy series based on the popular video games, *Neo Yokio*, a science-fantasy comedy created by Vampire Weekend frontman Ezra Koenig and *Big Mouth*, a crude coming-of-age comedy all came in 2017. Although the shows have had varying success, with *Neo Yokio* being borderline unwatchable and *Big Mouth* relying on shock value one too many times, this commitment to adult animated series shows that they could be the future of television.

Animation simply gives showrunners more freedom. Not only are they fairly inexpensive to make compared to live-action television, but animation fosters an environment of creativity. There are just so many different ways one can go with animation, while live-action is constantly limited by location, budget and things that real humans can do. Some may say it's gimmicky and that a story that relies on animation is not a good story, but animation can enhance average stories and make them captivating.

Unfortunately, the fan bases for adult animated series are generally toxic. This is a generalization, of course, but one just has to look back to earlier this year when

thousands of *Rick and Morty* fans harassed McDonald's employees for hours because they had run out of Szechuan sauce. Remember the uppity-folk and busy-bodies that were mentioned before? The infamous Szechuan sauce incident confirmed their point about how adult-oriented animation makes you act like a child. This is why adult animated series could also be the downfall of television and how arguably the most accessible medium for children and adults could be ruined.

There's an unfortunate heir of superiority that fans of certain shows, like *Rick and Morty* and *BoJack Horseman* tend to have. Just because an animated television show deals with themes of existentialism or addiction, it doesn't mean you're inherently clever for watching that show. The self-indulgent behaviour that so many fans of adult animation have is genuinely disheartening. Not because it is incredibly narcissistic and annoying, but because their actions counteract the exact messages these shows are trying to present.

A core group *BoJack Horseman* fans insist on putting down fans of *Rick and Morty*, *The Simpsons*, or even *Gravity Falls* because 'those shows don't deal with as deep concepts as our show.' This arrogant behaviour is exactly what a show like *BoJack Horseman* depicts as awful and counterproductive. Throughout

*BoJack's* four seasons, there are moments where a character will exhibit a superiority complex that will end up being a hindrance to their character, proving that being a bad person is generally not a good thing to do.

Again, a large number of *Rick and Morty* fans insist that they are incredibly intelligent for watching the show. Immediately after, they chant "Give us sauce!" at bewildered fast-food restaurant employees because a character in the show said it was good. Essentially the whole point of *Rick and Morty* is that being self-centred is destructive no matter how smart you are, which is clearly lost on the fools that shut down restaurants because they wanted a dipping sauce.

At the end of the day, the success of any entertainment medium relies on the fanbase. While these shows might have some incredibly delusional fans, it is refreshing to see something other than apathy when it comes to original animated content. If adult-oriented animation can continue to push the boundaries when it comes to comedy and drama, there will be a real future for these types of shows. If fans continue to derail fast-food chains and insist they are better than everyone else, a new stigma around these shows will emerge and adult animation will once again fall down the hole of irrelevancy.

# Five podcasts to keep you company through your winter commutes

**Nathan Kunz**

Contributor

Winter in Calgary is nearly synonymous with long commutes. Whether there's been three accidents on Glenmore on a Monday morning or rage-inducing rush-hour traffic on Crowchild daily, tacking an extra 15 minutes onto your commute time has become a celebrated annual event for Calgarians. When you're bumper to bumper on Deerfoot, watching your clock tick over 9 a.m. and coming to terms with the fact you're going to miss your early morning Gen-Ed class, having a good podcast to rely on can be a godsend. Here's five titles to make your mornings a little more bearable:

## Last Podcast on the Left

Hosted by Ben Kissel, Marcus Parks and Henry Zebrowski, Last Podcast on the Left takes a light hearted approach to discussing true crime, conspiracy and supernatural topics. Subjects are researched in depth, regardless of their absurdity, as the hosts deliver highly accurate accounts of some of history's most notorious killers while firing out outrageous jokes and impressions every other sentence. With nearly 300 episodes available on iTunes, Last Podcast on the Left offers listeners with guilt-free info on just about every topic related to the horror genre while remaining upbeat and fun.

Where to start: Episodes 288-291: Robert Pickton, for the Canadian flair.

## The Daily

Looking to keep up with the news while killing time in your car? The Daily offers bursts of the day's top headlines through quality journalism from The New York Times. Hosted by reporter Michael Barbaro, The Daily is a fantastic tool for keeping up with the biggest stories emerging from the overwhelming tornado of headlines courtesy of the 45th President of the United States and pals. Using both first hand interviews as well as behind-the-scenes chats with journalists working on complex stories, The Daily creates engaging and informative content every weekday to help listeners try to keep up in what can be a dizzying 24 hour news cycle.

Where to start: Whatever episode came out today. Jump right in!

What about Canada? Check

out Jesse Brown's Canadaland for something a little closer to home.

## Comedy Bang Bang

With their "new" catchphrase "The show where we talk to interesting people" still being pitched to nearly every guest who visits to Earwolf studio, Comedy Bang Bang continues to innovate and push the boundaries of comedy podcasting every week. With most episodes consisting of the same four segment formula—a real guest, followed by two characters portrayed by comedians and actors and the beloved concluding "plugs" section—Comedy Bang Bang finds ways to combine whacky characters with a surreal casual tone. Every episode presents a new, unpredictable dynamic between characters and host Scott Aukerman, creating an incredibly fun listen for their dedicated audience.

Where to start: Any episode with Paul F. Tompkins. Episode 510 with Andy Samberg, Tompkins and Drew Tarver is a personal favourite.

## I Was There Too

Playing off the "No small parts" mindset, I Was There Too gives the listener a better understanding of the movie-making process from actors who played small roles in some of the greatest films of all time. Hosted by actor Matt Gourley, the podcast consists of interviews

with actors from flicks across the genre-board, from Star Wars to Catwoman to Inglourious Basterds. With anecdotes from people who experienced great moments first hand, the podcast is a great way to better understand the film industry from the inside out.

Where to start: *Django Unchained* and *Get Out* with Marcus Henderson

## The Dollop

Comedians Gareth Reynolds and Dave Anthony explore the most absurd stories of American history, a topic which has no shortage of available real estate. By leaving Reynolds in the dark, the podcast creates a relationship between the listener and host, as you experience the ridiculous storylines in unison with him. With stories ranging from terrifying early colonial tales to more recent but just as ridiculous events left out of the history books, The Dollop is a fantastic place to find the next great story to tell your friends.

Where to start: Episode 12 — The Rube, the story of an ace pitcher who was often distracted mid-game by puppies, firetrucks and wrestled alligators in the off-season.



**The Podcast app allows anyone with an iPhone to easily access a massive library of episodic series on almost any genre. Photo by Colin Macgillivray**

## reputation

Taylor Swift  
Big Machine  
Records

**Score: B-**



The old Taylor Swift really is dead. Swift's new album *reputation* is dark and twisty. She dabbles into using auto-tune. Some of the songs also appear to have hip-hop elements to them (as much as a 27-year-old white woman can do hip-hop). The album shows Swift has grown. Where 1989 was all about getting over heartbreak, this album is about coming into your own and (somewhat) dealing with problems (of which Swift

seems to have a lot of). The album works except for where it doesn't. Her earlier released singles seem to stick out like a sore thumb on this album. The singles showcase a whiny Swift that can't get over herself or her problems whereas tracks like "Dress" and "New Years Day" represent her potential and depth. Through it all, Swift is absolutely unapologetic. Your move Kanye.

-Anna Junker

**Anymore**  
Gleemer  
Other People  
Records  
**Score: A**



The second wave resurgence of shoegaze over the last few years has unfortunately led the once-underground cult genre to the valley of the buzzwords. The result of this hazy round-two is a plethora of bands heavy on the reverb but with no real merit or distinction.

But Gleemer is not one of those bands.

Anymore, the band's latest, is a perfect example of the dream-pop-shoegaze-hybrid done right, meshing slight affectations and

big dissonance like a toned-down Jesu, hitting you full well in the eardrum before you even have the chance to turn your eyes towards your kicks.

The perfect example of this is on "Cooler Pt 2," one of the album's many highs, where energy meets solipsism in a tidal swell of sound.

For anyone still not sick of shoegaze, and even for those who are, this album slays.

-Alec Warkentin

## War & Leisure

Miguel  
ByStorm  
Entertainment/RCA  
Records  
**Score: A-**



With his fourth album *War & Leisure*, Miguel has solidified his status as an R&B supergiant. Thankfully, he hasn't compromised his founding principles in exchange for pop stardom like some of his peers. Even with songs featuring big names like Travis Scott, Rick Ross, and J. Cole, Miguel brings out the best of his peers through smooth, soulful production, leaking with ingenuity and sincerity – qualities that have escaped his peers such as The Weeknd. The album has a

great flow to it, capitalizing on a consistent vibe.. Utilizing sparse guitars and keys throughout, the album is often reminiscent of a laid-back summer day. "Told You So," a personal favourite, takes a page from Jai Paul with guitars that fade in and out of the track's soundscape, backed by Miguel singing with an inhuman amount of energy. *War & Leisure* is a record you'll constantly return to in the new year.

-Paul McAleer



# sports

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## Top 10 sport stories of 2017

*Another historic year in sports*

**Dan Khavkin**

Sports Editor

### Superbowl LI

2017 started with a bang when the New England Patriots came back from a 28-3 deficit in the fourth quarter, finishing off a choke of epic proportions in overtime.

Remember the “Warriors blew a 3-1 lead” jokes last year? Well the roasts that followed this epic choke job by the Atlanta Falcons at the hands of Tom Brady and his New England Patriots is one hilarious meme to kick off the new calendar year.

Despite being suspended for four games and missing his star receiver Rob Gronkowski, Brady and his Patriots finished with the NFL’s best record at 14-2.

Atlanta had a breakout year after missing the playoffs three seasons prior. NFL MVP Matt Ryan lead his Falcon offence to the most total points on the season with 540. Along with a brick wall in the back end, the Falcons got the second seed in the NFC East with an 11-5 record.

In the first half, it seemed

like quarterback Matt Ryan had the game under control when he pushed his offence two touchdowns up on New England, the biggest deficit Brady ever faced which eventually grew bigger, being down 21-3 heading into the half time.

Lady Gaga did some bizzare jump from the top of the NRG Stadium and continued with a colorful concert during the halftime show that for all we know, changed the outcome of the game.

The Falcons defence were most likely mesmerized by Lady Gaga’s circus show which lead them to forget how to play proper defensive football.

With a bit of luck, Julian Elderman’s insane catch between three Falcon defenders in the final quarter and Brady turning into GOAT mode in the final 15 minutes, the Patriots forced overtime and scored on the first possession.

Brady finished with 42/66 in the passing game with a record breaking 466 passing yards. At the ripe age of 39, Brady carried his

dominance into the new season as well.

New England now have five Super Bowl titles to their name, putting them tied for third place all-time.

### World Series

Two titans in the 2017 MLB season squared off in an epic heavyweight fight for the title between the 101-61 Houston Astros and the 104-58 money driven L.A. Dodgers.

The Dodgers had a rough end to their season, dropping 11 games at one point in a stretch of losing 20 of 25 games. However, they won eight of their last 10 and managed to clinch the N.L West division title.

On their way to the final, they swept a surging Arizona Diamondback squad and beat out the defending champion Chicago Cubs. A white-hot bullpen threw 23 consecutive shutout innings before the final and outscored opposition 48-19 in the process.

Houston also made quick work in the first round, sweeping the Boston Red Sox and went the distance with Aaron Judge and the New York Yankees. The 113th World Series went the distance with Houston winning their first series in franchise history.

MVP honours were given to outfielder George Springer who had five home-runs in seven games.

The turning point of the series was a marathon game two that ended in the 11th inning, with Houston winning the contest 7-6. Houston went on to win game three as well before trading blows the rest of the way until the Astors bats came alive in game seven, scoring the five runs they needed and held onto their lead to win the title.

### Stanley Cup

Sidney Crosby and his Pittsburgh Penguins went back-to-back for the ones that didn’t get message,

beating out a strong Nashville Predators team in six games.

Pittsburgh made quick work of Columbus in the playoffs, beating them in five games. After that, they knocked out Alex Ovechkin and the President’s Trophy holders Washington Capitals for the third time in seven years in six, then squeezing themselves into the final, beating Ottawa in seven games.

Playoffs are called a new season for a reason as they absolutely dusted the Chicago Blackhawks in four games to start the postseason, moved on to beat the up-and-coming St. Louis Blues and toughed out a six game series against a gritty Anaheim Ducks team before meeting the Penguins.

In the final, Pittsburgh showcased why they are the model playoff team with a squad consistent of two-way players from top to bottom along with a stable presence in net with Matt Murray who posted a 1.70 GAA and stopped 0.937 percent of pucks shot at him.

Murray also technically won the cup twice in his rookie year. In 2016, he came in relief during the playoff run against the San Jose Sharks. This season was Murray’s first actual rookie year.

### Vegas and the Golden beginning

The Vegas Golden Knights became the 31st team to be added to the 2017/2018 NHL season.

After nitpicking at other NHL rosters and forming a team that was assumed to be full of third line scorers and mediocre defence, the Golden Knights are sitting well above the wildcard spot in the competitive Pacific Division with a 16-9-1 record as of Dec. 4.

A once forgotten thought turned into reality on Oct. 10 when an NHL hockey game was played on Las Vegas ice.

The home opener against the

Arizona Coyotes took place just days after the mass shooting where 58 people were killed in the Route 91 Harvey Festival.

Vegas won 5-2 and became the first expansion team in NHL history to start a season 3-0-0 out of the gate.

### Floyd vs Conor

Dubbed the Money Fight, boxing pantheon Floyd Mayweather Jr. came out of retirement for one more big pay day and boxed UFC superstar Conor McGregor on Aug. 26 in the then future home of the Golden Knights, at T-Mobile Arena.

If you were not in a bar or illegally streaming the fight, you would’ve had to pay a \$100 USD premium to watch the fight from the comfort of your own home.

After a series of staged and comedic press conferences, the boxing match took place with Floyd knocking out Conor in the 10th round via TKO.

Many people were acting surprised at the fact that Conor did put up a fight in the first three rounds, essentially winning them by aggressively swinging his arms like the chump he is in a boxing ring, eventually tiring himself out.

Floyd, simply toyed with the UFC fighter who had a very amateur background in the sweet science and started to put on a clinic, round by round.

He eventually started battering and out dueling his challenger until in the 10th round when the referee Robert Byrd stopped the fight. Mayweather was expected to earn minimum \$100 million USD while Conor was guaranteed at least \$30 million USD.

### NBA

Yes, the NBA season and playoffs were so horrid that Charles Barkley resorted to watch NHL playoffs instead and yes, we all called the rematch between Steph Curry and

*Continued on Pg. 14*



Tom Brady pumping the Vince Lombardi trophy after his epic comeback. Photo courtesy of the Collider

# #S

## 13,697

rushing yards for Frank Gore of the Indianapolis Colts, passing LaDarian Tomlinson for 5th all-time

## 6

straight wins for the Edmonton Oilers against the Flames, first time in 32 years they beat Calgary six times in a row

## 578

Alex Ovechkin passes Mark Recchi for 20th in all-time goals

## 34

on 71 total points of the Calgary Flames held by Johnny Gaudreau as of Dec. 4

**Continued from Pg. 13**

LeBron to happen in the finals.

In the not so grande finale, Kevin Durant picked up his first ring in the weakest way possible by truly bringing the saying “if you can’t beat them, join them” to real life.

Even though he did his part by averaging 35.2, 8.4 and 5.4 winning the finals MVP, to me and over half of the sport world, it shouldn’t be so celebrated.

I mean, he did join a team who came off a 73-9 record the season prior and had a 3-1 lead in the playoffs over them but lost. Let me put it to you this way. Rihanna compared you winning your first title the way you did to losing your virginity to a prostitute, it really adds to everyone’s point.

But that’s a story for another day. Nonetheless, LeBron also became the first player in NBA history to average a triple-double in the finals but his Cavaliers were simply out-matched in a series that had neither side play real defence. Devin Booker was the closest player to reach Kobe Bryant’s 81 point total in one game when he dropped 70 and Klay Thompson dropped 60 points in 28 minutes. So yeah, it was kind of an ok season.

**UEFA CL**

Real Madrid were also another team that went back-to-back and still hold the title of European champions.

Las Blancos chalked up their

all-time leading 12th Champions League title when they beat Italian giant Juventus 4-1 and became the first team to win two in a row since Milan did in 1990.

In the playoff rounds, the Old Lady squad made quick work out of Portugal’s best talent in Porto, winning 5-0 on aggregate, went on to dust Lionel Messi and his Barcelona side, shutting them out 3-0 in two games and punched their ticket in by sweeping aside France’s A.C Monaco at 5-1.

Cristiano Ronaldo and his Galacticos beat Napoli 3-1 twice,

had a scare against German and heavy favourites Bayern Munich, beating them 2-1 and 4-2 in extra time during the rematch and finally held on against city rivals Atletico Madrid, beating them 3-0 but losing 2-1 in the second match to narrowly punch their ticket to the finals.

Cardiff, Wales was the place to be at on June 3rd where the thriller kicked off.

Despite being tied at 1-1 at halftime, three Madrid goals helped secure their European title thanks to a double from Ronaldo

who finished with 12 goals during the European campaign.

**Russell Westbrook**

Russ Westbrook is a beast.

This man broke Oscar Robinson’s 55 year old triple-double record of 41, tallying 42, while leading his team to a sixth playoff seed into the playoffs.

This man was the definition of one-man-army.

Here is a list of all the things he has done in 2017:

Only player in NBA history to win the scoring title, MVP award, and average a triple-double in the same season.

Only player in NBA history to win consecutive NBA All-Star Game MVP awards, without sharing either.

Only player in NBA history to average 40 points, 12 rebounds, and 11 assists over a 5-game span.

Only player in NBA history to record at least 50 points, 10 rebounds, and 10 assists three times.

Only player in NBA history to record a triple-double against every team in the NBA.

**Wladimir Klitschko retirement**

Boxing icon and heavyweight Wladimir Klitschko hung up his gloves for the final time in 2017 after losing all his titles to Anthony

Joshua.

The Ukrainian juggernaut standing at two meters high ends his career record is 64-5 heading into retirement with 53 of those wins being via knockout.

Overall, Klitschko holds the record for the longest combined world championship reign in boxing history at 4,383 days; the most wins in heavyweight title bouts in modern history at 25.

He has the second most total successful title defenses of any heavyweight boxer with 23.

Klitschko fought in 29 heavyweight title fights, more than any heavyweight champion in the sport’s history. He also holds the record of having defeated the most boxers with an undefeated record, at 12 while also defeating 10 current or former world champions throughout his career.

**Rafa Nadal is back**

Tennis and Spanish superstar Rafa Nadal is back to #1 in the ATP World tour from January to November 2017.

He won six tournaments, winning four in a row at one point.

His most notable wins were the U.S Open and the French Open.

The pride of Spain won six tournaments out of 17 and winning \$15,840,00 USD in earnings and jumped up eight spots in world ranking.



**Russ Westbrook getting hyped over his buzzer beater to win the game against the Denver Nuggets the day he broke a 55 year old record. Photo courtesy of Getty Images**

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# 3 plays Calgary Stampeders should have made in Grey Cup final

## Find out where the 'Stamps went wrong

**Sajan Jabbal**  
Staff Writer

The Toronto Argonauts pulled off a huge upset beating the 'Stamps in the Grey Cup final, but it all came down to one bad play-call.

It was late in the fourth quarter and tensions were high. Toronto had just made a huge field goal to take the lead 27-24. With just 45 seconds remaining, Calgary quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell and the Stamps had to get into field goal range if they were to have any chance at tying the game.

After two great plays and a huge 37 yard pass to Kamar Jorden, the Stamps were second down and four yards remaining, on Toronto's 24 yard line, with only 20 seconds to go.

Then, it was the play.

The interception heard from coast-to-coast that sent the Stamps home in a snowy TD Place Stadium in Ottawa. A

bold touchdown pass attempt that would have given Calgary the win backfired and the ball was intercepted by DB Matt Black which he ran out of bounds, marking the end of this contest.

"I said I wanted the ball in my hands at the end of the game, and it was, and I didn't get it done," Mitchell said post game.

These are the top three plays that should have been called instead of the interception pass.

### Run the ball

It was a snowy day in Ottawa during the 2017 final. It was wet and cold, which meant one thing, the ball is very slippery. Although passing did take over much of this game, the majority of big plays came from passes in short yardage situations, where Calgary was already in field goal range. The safe play is to run the ball.

Running Back Jerome Messam had 62 yards on 13 carries, and averaged 4.6 yards per carry. You bet your ass he's getting this clutch short yardage situation first down. This should have been the play called.

Even if he missed the first down marker, he would have gained yards which would have put them in even better field goal position going into third down.

### Screen pass

The second play that should

have been thought to run would be a screen pass, either to a receiver or to a running back. Screen passes are meant for plays just like this where you need the first down, but are worried about running the ball.

Even with the short time, a screen pass to the side of the field would have given a Stamps receiver the option to get out of bounds quickly to stop the clock from running. A screen pass would have probably set them up with another first down and another chance to move the chains with time running out.

### QB sneak

If you rewatch the game film, you'll see a wide open gap for Mitchell who had an available fullback to block him down field. If Mitchell realized the amount of space on the left side and made the run for a first down, this would be a completely different story.

Not only did you have the backfield going downfield into the end zone which freed up space in the middle, he had blockers that could have helped him get the first down and out of bounds to stop the clock.



A snowy affair in the 2017 Grey Cup at TD Stadium Place in the nation's capital. Photo courtesy of Patrick Doyle

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# Are the Flames red hot?

*Calgary Flames break through in November with wins and point-producing players*

**Nathan Woolridge**

Staff Writer

The Calgary Flames have been outstanding in the month of November. They have won most of their games, despite some setbacks, such as a rough 8-2 battering from the Red Wings. The top line has been producing and Johnny Gaudreau has been topping NHL standings.

## Top line is producing

The first line of Michael Ferland, Sean Monahan, and Gaudreau have been unstoppable. Ferland has 10 goals, Monahan has 14 goals, and Gaudreau has 11 goals. Gaudreau is currently third in the league for points and fourth

for assists. Ferland has really been proving himself so far this season. He is showing that he's not just an instigator, but that he can rack up points just like Monahan and Gaudreau; he currently sits third for scoring on the team.

## Jankowski begins his career

Linemates Jaromir Jagr and Sam Bennett both only have a goal each, while rookie Mark Jankowski has five goals already. The young player drafted in 2012 has played well with his teammates. Jagr and Bennett have been scoreless, but they have been effective in setting up Jankowski. If Jagr and Bennett could begin to put up more solid numbers, that line could be very powerful.

In the Nov. 30 game against the Arizona Coyotes, Jankowski scored two goals in a 3-0 win; both amazing goals assisted by Jagr. It was a good night for the line to step up because the top line ceased to get any points.

## Goalie situation

Mike Smith has been nothing short of an amazing goaltender this season. Even when the team loses, he continues to have great games. There hasn't been much reason to pull him so far this season which has led to backup Eddie Lack only playing four times and farm team backups John Gillies and David Rittich to

play one game each.

Lack's 1-2-0 record along with Smith's consistency led the team to assign Lack to the Stockton Heat to get him some more playing time. The Flames called up goaltender Rittich, who in his first NHL game, was able to secure a win against the Colorado Avalanche. This allowed a much needed break for Smith in the midst of playing 22 games and winning 12 of them.

## Season letdowns

Much of the Flames' roster remains to be scoreless. Players who, as of Nov. 30, have not scored goals include: Troy Brouwer, Matt Stajan, Curtis Lazar, Freddie Hamilton, Rasmus Andersson, Matt Bartkowski, Tanner Glass, Garnet Hathaway and Brett Kulak.

If these players can find it in them to start contributing a few more goals, it would really round out the team. The Flames have been steady, but if these players can pick it up the team can start winning more games and begin to climb out of the middle of the pack.



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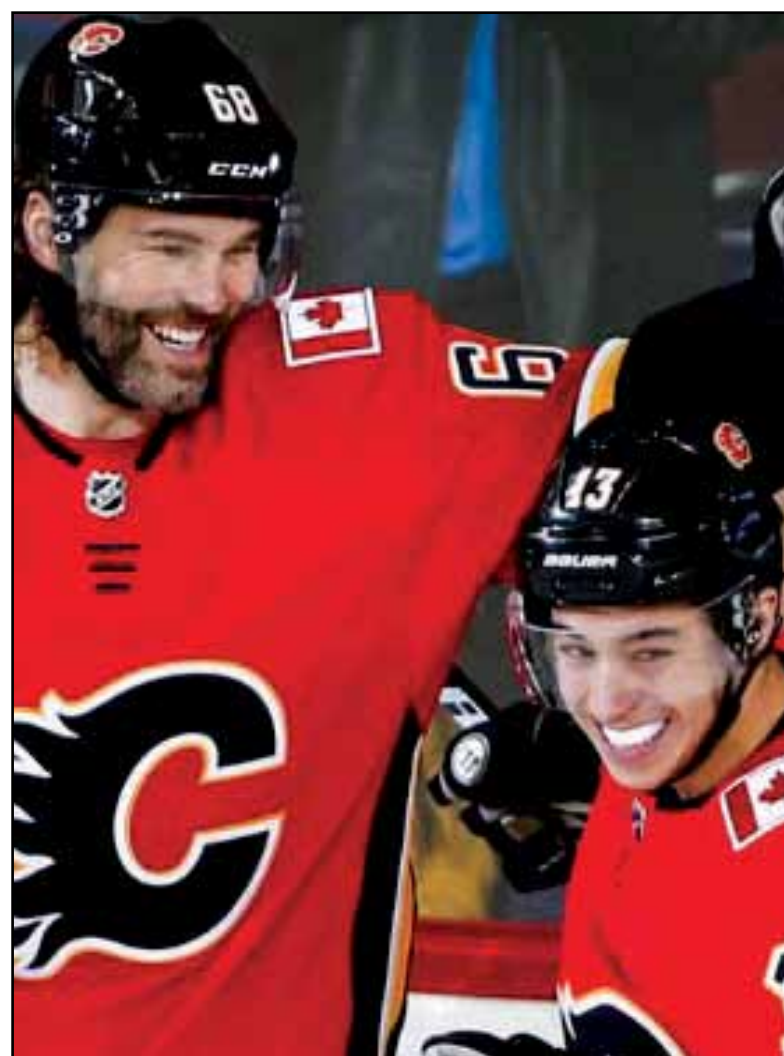
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Young meets old, Jaromir Jagr and Johnny Hecman celebrating a Flames goal. Photo courtesy of Flickr user Robloz1