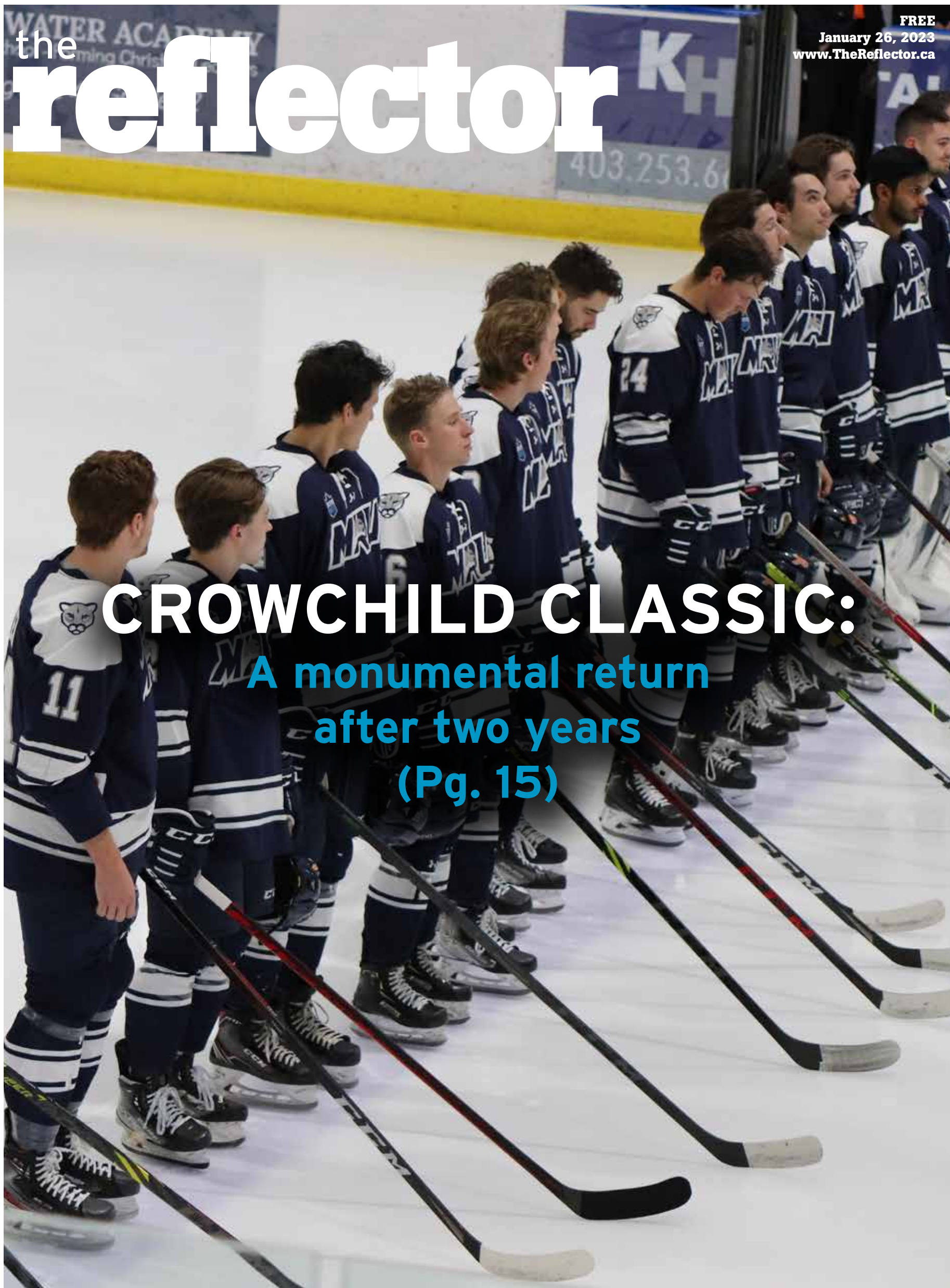


CROWCHILD CLASSIC:

A monumental return
after two years
(Pg. 15)



Calgary Police teams up with KalTire to prevent catalytic converter thefts

Khai Choual

Contributor

The Calgary Police (CPS) and KalTire have teamed up to help prevent catalytic converter thefts in the city. From Jan. 11, 2023, vehicle owners will now have the opportunity to have their vehicle identification number (VIN) inscribed onto their catalytic converters.

If a catalytic converter is stolen, the engraving will permit the part to be tracked as stolen property through the Calgary Police Information Centre (CPIC).

“Scrap metal recycling businesses and private buyers can identify potentially stolen catalytic converters if they are engraved, and the seller cannot produce proof of ownership. In these instances, potential buyers should not proceed with the purchase and will need to report it to police,” CPS states.

The motive behind these thefts is due to the precious metals that are inside catalytic converters, as they are easy to take and take only minutes to steal.

Yakov Aluph, vice president of the Mount Royal University Car Club informs that the purpose of a catalytic converter is to stop toxic fumes by using the precious metals palladium and platinum.

“It stops nearly 90% of the toxic fumes from the engine just because of the platinum screens inside the [catalytic converter] with the palladium. The fumes are as follows: carbon monoxide (not carbon dioxide), sulfur



The catalytic converter on a 1996 Dodge Ram prevents harmful byproducts to keep the driver safe while driving. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

dioxide (corrosion and smog), and nitrogen oxide (which causes toxic fogs),” says Aluph.

According to the CPS, 205 catalytic converter thefts were reported to the Calgary police in 2019. There was an increase in theft in 2020 as the number increased to 300. In 2021, that number went up to 1560.

Between January to November 2022 alone, it was reported to the police that 3174 catalytic converters were stolen.

CPS has stated these statistics do not capture the full extent of theft that took place during this time period.

“We are aware that a large number of catalytic converter thefts are not being reported as people worry they are tying up police resources, or that it will be too difficult for the suspect to be located and held accountable,” says Calgary Police Service Community Resource Officer, Const. Brent Podesky.

Aluph expresses that “The police partnering with KalTire to engrave on [catalytic converters] with VIN numbers is cool, but in the end, someone can just grind it off and sell it to [catalytic converter] vendors who are desperate. Or they outsource, where someone can get the

platinum extracted, and the rest is scrapped.”

According to CPS, “Appointments with KalTire will be available from January through to the end of March 2023. The cost for this hour-long service is \$40 and will include a free visual tire and brake inspection. Customers will also receive two small window decals that indicate the catalytic converter has been engraved with the vehicle’s VIN.”

CPS states that they continue to work with scrap metal dealers and recyclers. The Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act makes sure that dealers and

recyclers are held accountable by checking for proof that the metals they obtain are not stolen property. The Calgary Business Licence Bylaw (32M98) also dictates that scrap yards must document detailed descriptions of the parts they salvage from vehicles.

The CPS encourages citizens to install home security cameras and alarms and to also install car alarms. Drivers are encouraged to park in a well-lit area and a secured garage if possible.

Thefts can be reported via the CPS non-emergency line at 403-266-1234 or 911 for crimes in progress.

MRU professor shares research on horse-human bonds

Matthew Hillier

Staff Writer

How the relationship between horses and their riders have had an effect on human history is hard to research and understand. However, one of MRU's very own professors, Dr. Carolyn Willekes PhD is attempting to work out how both humans and horses have changed and affected the world around them.

"You can see horses represented in Paleolithic Cave art that's 35,000 years old and depicted in an incredibly realistic manner, which I think speaks to the fascination humans have had with horses for a long time... It's a complicated relationship because it's easy to romanticize them... So trying to define the relationship is complicated because I think our first tendencies to say that we've used them as tools for ourselves," says Willekes.

Alberta and particularly Calgary are equestrian hubs that have fostered both Willekes' love of horse riding and countless other horse riders. This love has been fostered over 30 years and has led Wilkes to places all over the world including riding with nomads in Mongolia and riding throughout Turkey, Greece and Spain to help her further expand her experience with the cultural and emotional significance behind horse-human bonds.

In addition to her experiences abroad, she is also the president of the Equine History Collective, which deals with the historic relevance of horses, donkeys, mules, zebras and even mythical creatures like the pegasus and unicorn.

This international network

of academics focuses on the anthropological connection of equine and how that dynamic has shaped human history.

Willekes states that trust is a key aspect of the horse-human dynamic. She also states that this trust is one of the biggest reasons riders and their mounts bond so quickly and meaningfully.

"Horses are a prey animal. They run away from literally everything. I have had horses run away from their shadows before. The intrinsic survival of their species was based on being aware of what was going on and reading what was happening around them. They force you to kind of recognize things about yourself. If you put on a facade of being super chill... but inside you are anxious or you feel intimidated, the horse picks up on that. So that's why horses have become so important in our modern society as therapy."

The application of equine therapy has been known to help the treatment of children with cerebral palsy, soldiers with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and individuals with reduced mobility.

Willekes has even looked into the benefits of equine therapy to the MRU campus, which hasn't seen horses since *The Last of Us* wrapped filming on campus.

"This animal did revolutionize, in many different ways our lives and how we have moved through the world and interacted with one another. I think allowing students to just be in the presence of horses, to watch how they interact with one another, their likes,

their dislikes... That sort of equine-assisted therapy helps in terms of self-reflection and self-discovery... I think it would be a neat opportunity for students."

Willekes has spent countless hours studying, travelling across the world and even participating in reenactments of historical events to learn more about how they can positively affect students across campus. While it may involve more logistics than bringing puppies to the library for students to meet during exam seasons, Willekes hopes students will work, engage and help themselves by experiencing the complicated horse-human connection that she has spent so much time enjoying.



Mount Royal University Professor Carolyn Willekes have always had a passion for horses. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Willekes



Professor Carolyn Willekes explores the relationships between humans and horses through her research work and publications. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Willekes

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MRU prof emerita helps in developing online course

The course focuses on helping children who witnessed domestic violence

Mikaela Delos Santos

News Editor



Mount Royal University Professor Emerita Dawne Clark helped in updating and digitizing the Healing Brain course with the ACWS. Photo courtesy of Mount Royal University Media Relations

Dr. Dawne Clark PhD, a Mount Royal University (MRU) professor emerita, has been an essential part of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters' (ACWS) online course, the Healing Brain. The course gives participants the opportunity to better understand early childhood brain development, the impacts of trauma on children and how to build resilience in children exposed to domestic abuse and violence.

The previous MRU professor has helped with the digitalization and updating of the module-based course. Originally a course for frontline workers who support children in domestic violence shelters, the expansion of the course's digitization is open for anyone who works with children. This includes

teachers, daycare and healthcare workers, coaches and caregivers. The course is free for the first two months to the general public. ACWS members can access the course free of charge.

The ACWS first launched the program in the fall as a part of its new learning management system which enabled shelter workers from across Alberta to access various training opportunities. This also meant that the platform was accessible for those in remote locations in the province.

According to ACWS, 2,389 children were admitted to ACWS member shelters across Alberta in the last fiscal year of 2022. The organization says that the creation of this curriculum was driven by the fact that children represent the largest percentage of residents that

are served at shelters around the province.

MRU Child Studies associate professor and associate dean, Dr. Gaye Warthe PhD, says that domestic violence has always been identified as a silent pandemic. Because of this, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk for domestic abuse victims.

"The Healing Brain contributes to helping shelter professionals understand the impacts of trauma on brain development and the importance of focusing on practices that promote wellness and resilience," says Warthe.

Clark says that the societal belief that children are naturally resilient has been proven wrong by neuroscience over the past 30 years.

Rather, children are

impacted by trauma in their early years.

"If those who work with young children understand the impact of trauma on those in their care, they are able to provide meaningful experiences and relationships to help the children heal," Clark adds.

Clark has been working with the ACWS since 2010. While Clark was a full-time faculty member at MRU, she took part in Early Brain and Biological Development (EBBD), a five-year project by the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative which is directly linked to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. EBBD was adapted for Alberta into what is called the Core Story, which was developed at Harvard's Center on the Developing Brain.

The Communications Coordinator at ACWS, Olivia Street, says that they are thankful for the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) Alberta for their donation that made the Healing Brain into what it is today.

"...because of [IODE's] generous donation we are able to offer this course to the public for free for a limited time. We are currently working on other course programs to be made available soon, and we are always looking for sponsors to support this work. We would encourage anyone interested in sponsoring a course to please contact ACWS," says Street.

Michelle Yeoh: “Shut up, please. I can beat you up...”

*How both the actors and story of *Everything Everywhere All at Once* can define Asian cinema in Hollywood*

Arroy (AJ) Jacob

Contributor



The critically acclaimed movie, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, won big at the Golden Globes. Photo courtesy of Alyson Riggs

“Shut up, please. I can beat you up, okay?” says world-renowned Michelle Yeoh to the pianist who began playing in the middle of her winning speech as she accepts the Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical/Comedy. Her portrayal as protagonist Evelyn Wang in long-awaited film, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, gained notoriety for masterfully intertwining the pains of a struggling immigrant with the space-time continuum. But the win means so much more than just an award for a deserving actress; it can also change the perception of Asian Hollywood media for years to come.

The 80th Annual Golden

Globes is one of the world’s most prestigious award shows of the year, a celebratory accolade from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association recognizing some of 2023’s best American/International films, TV shows and media people. *Everything Everywhere All at Once* was nominated for six awards in big categories.

Despite the speculation of the show’s producers attempting to send her off with the pianist, Yeoh stood her ground and continued to praise her directors’ and colleagues’ nominations.

Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan’s wins meant the world for its superfans. Quan’s winning speech for his Globe left national treasure Steven

Spielberg blowing kisses as Quan thanked him for his first opportunity as a child actor in *Indiana Jones: The Temple of Doom*.

As a person of colour myself, it’s easy to evoke a similar emotional response. But there is a difference between “a really good” movie and a movie with meaning.

East-Asian representation

Amidst the sudden spew of Asian hate crimes in recent years in the Western world, *Everything Everywhere All at Once* artistically counteracts the misinformation and stereotypes that comes when being associated with the label “Asian” in North America.

Evelyn Wang’s Chinese heritage heavily influenced her character and her role in rescuing the paradoxical multiverse, whether it was Yeoh’s musicality in Chinese opera or her expertise in martial arts. However, the way it translates into the initial American setting accentuates its beauty further, showcasing the complexities and allure of East-Asian cultures.

A critique on generational trauma, but in space

On the topic of enlightenment, the directors Daniel Kwan and Daniel

Scheinert (also known as the Daniels’) critique Asian stereotypes for its audience as it follows the Wang family’s journey through the ever-expanding multiverse. Non-communicative relationships run rampant within Asian families everywhere. The problem, however, is the product of a never-ending cycle of generational trauma.

As Evelyn stumbles through her journey through the infinite display of parallel universes, she (as should many immigrant families) looks inward at her own family dynamic and sees the gaping holes that she cannot patch up alone.

Vichayuth Chantan from *Lifestyle Asia* comments on how “this film... reminds parents that it’s okay to talk to your kids directly. Our pride isn’t going to be hurt if we have a heart-to-heart once in a while.” The Daniels’ eloquently reiterated how a struggling family, especially one escaping the cycle of generational trauma, can patch the gaping holes keeping their loved ones apart, and not just because they’re in another parallel universe.

People of colour can do everything (everywhere, all at once)

Returning to the accolades, Yeoh and Quan were the only

actors of colour nominated for their respective categories and won. Their victory exemplified how marginalized individuals living in the Western world can achieve success despite their racialization. At the Golden Globes press room, Yeoh waltzed the stage ready to answer questions from the reporters, one of them addressing that Yeoh has “completely flipped the script when it comes to what it means to be a leading woman in Hollywood and people finally seeing all the incredible talent that [she possesses].”

Their awards also showcase the need to uplift talent from marginalized communities. As Yeoh puts it, “whatever that glass ceiling was, we just ninja kicked it....we shattered it, and we have to keep it that way.” *Everything Everywhere All at Once* is the film our society needs more than ever. It simultaneously critiques and uplifts people of colour while creating the perfect template of what Hollywood needs to do to continue its journey for equity, diversity and inclusion. This original message pierces the hearts of any audience in any universe.

When asked for her advice on “the Asian diaspora who have unfulfilled dreams,” Yeoh says, “if you believe in yourself, you believe you have a passion in what you do, you don’t give up...”

Even if the pianist next to you tries to shut you down.

Chinook Blast returns in 2023: New spectacles and old favourites

Annila Baigzada

Contributor



Chinook Blast promises fun for not only families but all Calgarians. Photo courtesy of Neil Zeller

Now that the stressful Christmas holidays are over, many people have found themselves flying back home to Calgary or beginning to settle in for the new year. But if you are seeking a couple of nights of celebration and fun, Chinook Blast offers something to look forward to for the remaining winter months.

Chinook blast is set to return from Jan. 27 to Feb. 12 and aims to bring an array of new spectacles as well as old favourites from past years of the festival.

Initially an idea from November 2019, Chinook Blast hopes to gather people from Calgary during the cold winter months. Their goal is to introduce enjoyable winter experiences and

expose Calgarians to sports, recreation, art and other offerings that Calgary provides.

The celebration will showcase live performances, music, art exhibitions, installations and other attractions the heart of Calgary has to offer. This year, the third annual winter celebration takes place in various parts of downtown Calgary.

Executive Director of Chinook Blast Franca Gualtieri, adds, “we want it to not only be in the hub of downtown, we want it to hit all the corners of our city that [becomes] our winter festival, just like we have a very iconic summer festival.”

The two-week event brings different organizations together to show off the best in the city while providing families, citizens, tourists and artists the opportunity to showcase and enjoy the winter season.

“Last year, we hired over 500 artists, local artists, for showcasing their very best, right in the City of Calgary in the heart of downtown,” said Gualtieri.

Many attractions, such as pop-up art, lights, displays and events will be taking place during this time. A new addition to the festival is the Nitro Rallycross. The electric car racing event will feature competitors going head to head at Stampede Park on Feb. 4-5.

Chinook Blast also adds emphasis on the night market happening on the weekends along with its popular displays and anchors from 2022.

Some iconic events from last year that you can expect

to see this new year include the High-Performance Rodeo, BIG Winter Classic, Snow Rodeo and more.

This year will be the first year the festival will open in a post-pandemic world.

“We actually launched during a lockdown of a pandemic, we had over 1000 people come downtown,” Gualtieri noted.

This year, she’s excited to leave the lockdown behind. “It’s our first year that we’re able to actually have the lineup that was originally envisioned.”

To ensure a safe and healthy return, the Chinook Blast team has taken specific and appropriate precautions regarding COVID-19 since they launched in 2019.

“We work with the City of Calgary and Alberta Health Services, so safety is always our main caution,” Gualtieri says.

She also adds “a majority of our programming is outdoors, which provides for ample space and that comfort level of not being indoors.”

As for the future, Chinook Blast plans to grow bigger and extend throughout all of Calgary to increase diversity and an inclusive lineup. New events will be introduced which will attract people every year.

“In 2024, Chinook Blast will also be happening around the time of the Special Olympics as well as the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, an annual women’s curling championship,” says Gualtieri.

Gualtieri and her team aims to make “Calgary a destination of choice” for Calgarians and travelers alike.



There will be a variety of performers throughout the festival. Photo courtesy of Neil Zeller

Tip tip... hooray?

Tipping culture has changed dramatically in recent years, but has it gone too far?

Abbie Riglin

Photo Editor

Let's paint a picture: you've decided to go out to dinner. Maybe you're celebrating or just meeting up with a friend. You sit down, order a \$14 drink (ouch, guess it's just one tonight), maybe decide to split a \$10 appetizer, and carefully pick out your \$20 main course that you're hoping will be enough to include a doggy bag. At this point you've racked up close to a \$50 meal and the only thing that might be saving you is the fact that you have never really been a dessert person.

The meal is wonderful, the service exceptional, and you ask the waiter for the bill. They bring it out diligently and place the card reader next to it. The sweating has started.

Maybe it's a little more than you were hoping to spend but at least you decided to split the bill with your friend (chivalry and kindness died as inflation rose). You go through the prompts. Purchase, OK? Not really but do you have a choice at this point? Next up is the tip. You have to do 20 per cent. The waiter picked up your fork off the ground and you can feel their breath on your shoulder as they discretely watch you complete the transaction. And just like that an extra \$10 is added to your meal.

If you've been out to a restaurant, or anywhere that offers a service at this point, you've probably experienced this phenomenon known as tipping. It's one of those things

that's easy to hate, but easy to understand why it's necessary.

A living wage is the hourly wage required to cover an individual's expenses throughout the month. According to the Alberta Living Wage Network, the living wage required to live in Calgary is \$22.40.

Currently, minimum wage in Alberta is \$15 an hour, meaning many individuals working jobs within the customer service industry are making more than \$7 under the living wage without tips, so for lots of workers, tips are what allows most to make ends meet.

Because of this, it makes sense why tipping is becoming popular everywhere you go,

from cafe's to restaurants to bars to fast food joints. But it also begs the question of why it has become the customers' job to make sure that an employee is being properly compensated for their work.

Employers have made it so that customers are put in a spot where they have no choice but to tip. With the huge advance in card machines, businesses can now automatically prompt a gratuity or larger tipping options. It begs the question: is the experience the product, or the people serving you?

So, what's the solution? Well, the obvious one is for corporations to pay more, and it's not exactly wrong.

In the past year wages have risen by only 3.1 per

cent according to Statistics Canada, half the official inflation rate of almost seven per cent. This answers the question of whether or not money is available to be able to increase wages, but instead this money lines the pockets of the already wealthy.

As someone who works a minimum wage job, it's frustrating. As someone who likes to be able to go out to dinner occasionally, it's frustrating. There are places that have an actual living wage and have a lower tipping custom because of it, so it's not like it can't be done, but unfortunately it looks like tips might need their own category in the monthly budget for the foreseeable future.

What's in-store for Alberta's film industry?

Emma Duke

Staff Writer

When you think of the booming film industry, you probably think of places like Hollywood, Vancouver, Toronto or Montréal. But recent projects, funding, and developments are putting Calgary on the map.

In 2022, film making magazine *Moviemaker* named Calgary as the 10th best place to work and live as a filmmaker. This is partially thanks to the \$70 million the government allocated to the Alberta film industry in 2022/23, and the removal of the \$10 million cap-per-project that was done in 2020.

The removal of the \$10 million cap-per-project rule, and Alberta's tax credit incentive, attracted big name productions to Calgary, like HBO's *The Last of Us* (now available on Crave), Reitman's *Ghostbusters: The Afterlife* and FX Production's *Under the Banner of Heaven*.

The province's tax credit incentive offers film corporations a refundable tax credit certificate on production and labor costs. The funding has also allowed for new infrastructure to be built in the city. Two new sound stages are opening in March. The Alberta

film industry will receive more money in the coming years: \$75 million in 2023/24, and \$80 million in 2024/25.

In an interview with *CBC*, Damian Petti, President of The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) says there is a misconception that film production crews are hired from out of province. Film production crews are more commonly hired locally, Petti tells *CBC*. This means that as the film industry continues to strengthen in Calgary, there will be more job opportunities for Calgarians on film sets.



Cinematographer Varinder Singh says things are looking up for Calgary's film industry. Photo by Keo Bunny

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New Year, new music: The most anticipated albums of 2023

Izabella Jaspar

Staff Writer



There are so many local vinyl stores in Calgary that would love your support, especially in inner-city neighbourhoods. Photo courtesy of Unsplash

It's a new year, which means there is new music on the way. From heartbreak anthems to alternative bangers, 2023 will be a fantastic year for music.

Endless Summer Vacation by Miley Cyrus

Miley Cyrus is back with her recent single "Flowers," a catchy self-love pop anthem that celebrates her newfound independence. This song is filled with tons of easter eggs about the supposed toxic relationship she and Liam

Hemsworth had. This song may sound familiar due to the sampling of Bruno Mars' song, "When I Was Your Man," which was claimed to be her and Hemsworth's song. *Endless Summer Vacation* is to be released on March 10, 2023. This album is highly anticipated and based on the tone of the first single, it is going to be a good album.

Flashback to the early 2000s with Gorillaz

Gorillaz is coming out with

a new album on Feb. 24, 2023, titled *Cracker Island*. Gorillaz is an iconic and recognizable virtual band that was formed in 1998. The band rose to fame in the early 2000s with stand-out songs "Dare" and "Clint Eastwood." The titular track "Cracker Island" sets a tone for the album and reflects the alternative and inventive sound that Gorillaz captures. The band is scheduled to perform at Coachella this year and the new album tracks will be played live for the first time on the Coachella

stage, which is exciting for many fans. Gorillaz always delivers an experience with their albums, this album will hopefully be another success.

Belt your heart out with Sam Smith

Sam Smith is a non-binary artist that has had a recent comeback last year. In 2022, they released a pop song "Unholy" featuring Kim Petras. This song blew up on TikTok and everyone was excited about this new single. This is a new sound for Smith and it does not disappoint, it is just as good as their heartbreak anthems. It has been three years since Smith's last album *Love Goes*, which was released in 2020. Smith is known for their ballads and gospel heartbreak sound. This new

album is titled *Gloria* and is going to be released on Jan. 27, 2023. Hopefully, Smith brings a mixture of the classic Sam Smith sounds we all fell in love with and the new pop star energy that "Unholy" has.



OUT'N ABOUT

We Were Here

Visit the Gasoline Alley Museum from now until March 30 to view and learn more about Chinese history in the prairies. Tickets are \$14.95 for adults and can be bought on Heritage Park's website.

RESIDUE Gallery

Andrew Testa and Guillermo Trejo explore the in-between spaces of printmaking. The gallery is open until March 3 every Wednesday - Saturday at Alberta Printmakers Society.

Voices of Abstraction

Albertan artists Barb Kreuter and Sharon Thompson explore abstraction. This exhibition can be found at CrossRoads Market every Wednesday to Saturday until Feb. 25.

The Artist's Lens 2023

Alberta photographers delve into the unseen and abstract in part of the 2023 Exposure, Alberta's Photography Festival at CrossRoads Market until Feb. 25.

New kids on the block

Rating the top 4 pilot episodes from recent months

Emma Boyne

Contributor

In today's age, finding a TV show that hasn't been done is difficult. With repeated plots, stereotypical characters and lack of invigorating dynamics, I've struggled to hang on to a series because of the time commitment. And why do I usually quit TV shows? The answer: because I couldn't get past the first episode. Pilot episodes are more than important. They introduce the entire show and try to convince you why you need just another taste of what's going to happen next.

This week, I tasked myself with sitting down and watching four different pilot episodes, each from a newer series that has gotten audiences talking.

4. *The Glory*

Date of Release: 2022, new season in March

The satisfaction of a well-written revenge plot is something almost everyone can relate to and enjoy. Currently one of the top three K-Dramas on Netflix, the show introduces each character with precision and motive. We see the main character, Dong Eun, grow from a scared and tormented girl to a strong and independent woman, seeking justice against those who abused her both physically and mentally. Each person who tormented her is on her hit list, and she's ready to kill to get what she wants.

While the storyline does follow the classic bully plot where rich people don't get consequences, the TV show draws more appeal by not focusing on the torment, but rather focusing on Eun herself.

I did enjoy the premise and the character, but the episode itself wasn't as strong of a pull

as many of the others on this list.

The episode sets the scene, and has viewers saying "alright, let's see what's next," but doesn't have that "I need to know" feel to it. I will probably continue to watch the show, and I definitely know that the satisfaction of revenge will have me content, but I'm waiting to see if the later season pulls me in more than this episode.

3. *The Last of Us*

Date of Release: 2023

When I say I was excited for this show, that is an understatement. A fungal zombie infection, or any zombie outbreak, is sure to catch my attention, especially when it relates to a renowned video game. It begins like a typical zombie start up where we meet a typecast jumbled old military man, Joel, who tries to help his family escape this viral outbreak.

The beginning is a classic, and I do love zombie movies, but it is a bit cliché for the purpose of pilot episodes. Where the show really got me focused is the jump forward where we meet Ellie, a strong female character who has the mouth of a sailor. Both Joel and Ellie are really well casted, and the dynamic between the two grisly and hardened characters is refreshing.

While this episode was probably more cliché than *The Glory*, the hype around it (as well as my own inner nerd) has me biased in putting it at number three. We get to see life after the zombie outbreak, and don't have to wait for the plot to unfold slowly and unnervingly. I enjoy that characters know what to do, and know why

they are doing what they do.

After this episode, I'm excited to try and spot Calgary throughout the series, and again, I can't wait to see how the plotline unfolds.

2. *White Lotus*

Date of Release: 2021, new season released 2022

White Lotus has been the talk of the town since season 2 released, with a star-studded cast and a well-developed sinister secret hiding behind each character. With all the chatter, I had to see what audiences were so intrigued about.

The pilot episode brings us to the White Lotus hotel, with a variety of different guests staying for a variety of different reasons.

Each family or person has a different issue or reason that brings them to the White Lotus, and the more we see these characters interact, the more we question: what is really going on here? Each relationship seems out of place, or off, and each character struggles to truly relax at the hotel. While each character and the introduction of the show feels comedic and almost typical, you can tell that something isn't quite right at the White Lotus, foreshadowed by the birth of a baby while a new hire is on the job, an unexpected and surprising moment that has audiences on the edge of their seats wondering why and how will this impact the future, and if it's an omen for episodes to come.

With seemingly simple characters that I'm sure have much deeper and complex backgrounds, the draw of the darkness behind colour and light is one of my



Yellowjackets season 2 is set to release on March 26, 2023. Photo courtesy of Entertainment One

favourite tropes and appeals to the series. Definitely on my to finish list, I'm already growing anxious to see how backstories and interactions intertwine, and how *White Lotus* might reveal the secrets of the guests.

1. *Yellowjackets*

Date of Release: 2021, new season coming in March

I don't say this lightly; this is possibly one of the best pilot episodes I have ever, and I mean ever, seen.

With jarring and jumping timelines, the beginning opens with a brutal cult-like murder, and we can only guess at who is dying, why they're dying, and who did it. We jump to months earlier, where we meet a strong group of girls playing soccer, working hard to get to nationals. We meet each character, and discover their dynamics, interactions and overall personalities.

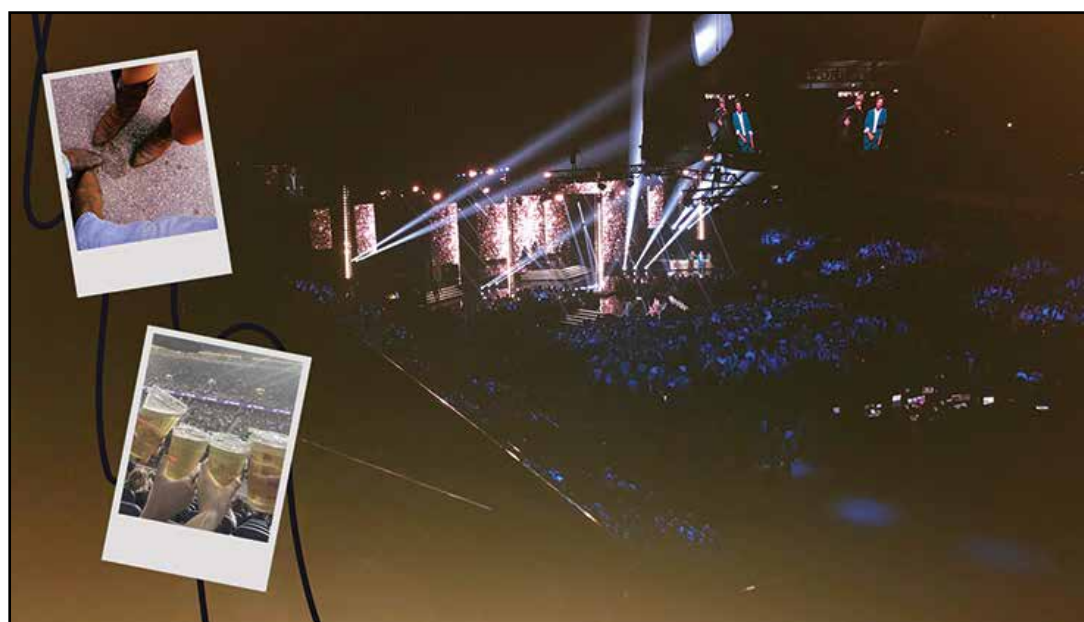
The first episode has audiences trying to piece together a puzzle that has yet to even be explained, and while the plane crash happens at the end of the episode, we can already understand just how impactful the few years in isolation really were. We get to also meet the characters years ahead, trying to forget and forgive their past selves and lives, and we wonder what really happened out there?

I'll make the confession that I ended up staying up until the early hours of the morning to finish the series, entrapped in the motives and consequences, eyes-wide and curious as to the actions taken in each episode. With a mix of timelines, you don't feel bored and you fall in love with the sick and twisted newness of the new-turned cult soccer team and how they will survive, but more importantly, who will survive.

A musical journey through Canada's country scene

Charlotte Holmes

Contributor



Many country artists have made a pit stop in Calgary over the last three years.

Photo by Charlotte Holmes

Country music traditionally is associated with our neighbours to the south. But here in the great white north, we too have a vibrant and diverse country music industry that has seen years of transformation through the artists who have built and contributed to it. Whether a bush party in high school, a music festival over the summer or a Thursday night at Cowboys Casino, each of us has listened to country music at some point.

Although the genre might not be everybody's favourite, Canadian country music in recent years has flourished throughout the prairies. If you're living in Alberta there is a minimum requirement you know all the lyrics to Paul Brandt's "Alberta Bound."

Jokes aside, although

country music in the south is typically associated with, in layman's terms, country — you know, like horses, cowboys, whisky and sweet Georgia peaches — the genre here in the north has developed a little differently.

Nearly a hundred years ago during the 1930s, fiddlers in the Eastern region of the country helped to popularize the genre here. Singers and songwriters tended to stick to ballad-like songs with clearer, more predominant vocals over nasal-based ones. With the growth of the genre since, it has expanded in style, now encompassing various sounds, undertones, cross-genre mixes and so on.

Canadian summers are littered with different festivals and the country ones seem to be seeing more

and more familiar faces each year. Canadian-based artists are increasingly becoming the headlining acts of these festivals as their music is topping the charts even in the heart of country music, Nashville. Notoriously it has been difficult for Canadian country artists to penetrate the scene in Nashville, there are many contributing reasons for this but one driving force is the amount of saturation created by American names in the genre.

Despite the difficulty, Canadian starlit artists like Ian Tyson and Shania Twain have been able to break into mainstream country and compete with our neighbours to the south. These artists have not only created a

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British rapper Little Simz ended 2022 with the release of *NO THANK YOU*, her fifth album to date released on Dec. 18. Hip-hop is a genre of music I don't normally experience often. However, Little Simz offers a fresh new flavour of hip-hop with additional elements such as gospel, soul, funk and electronic music.

The album's opener, "Angel" is a great start to understand Little Simz's style. This track features self-reflection and harsh reality paired with a light ambience, a perfect fit for its title.

A notable favourite is a song that comes right after, "Gorilla." The deep

lyrics of self-image make an interesting contrast to the otherwise upbeat vibe of the drums and horns.

Little Simz touches upon the topic of history through the song "X." Supported by harmonious voices and an orchestral style, this song produces a moving piece when compared to other tracks in her album.

Overall, *NO THANK YOU* provides an innovative technique with methods that I didn't even think could be paired with rapping. If you're looking to experience a new take on hip-hop, give this album a try.

- Farheen Agoro



It's not often you get to watch contest winners in the music industry continue to build off their success, but Måneskin has taken their win and shared it globally. Young and clad in leather you would have never expected such a classic yet refreshing rock sound from them, but their third album *RUSH!* has been just that.

RUSH! is exactly what music is supposed to be: fun. The album explores a more explosive sound, but still includes irresistible guitar riffs from guitarist Thomas Raggi, who even brings Tom Morello on the second track "GOSSIP." It seems this time around Måneskin has truly

been able to flush out the sensuality they so seem to enjoy.

Stepping away, though not completely, from the provocative themes layered in the album lies completely unexpected gems in the form of ballads dedicated with love. "TIMEZONE" and "IF NOT FOR YOU" both remind us that love can come from the most unexpected places.

Possibly the best part of *RUSH!* is the amazing use of their first language to show that music is multilingual, and you don't need to understand what they're saying to know it sounds good.

- Abbie Riglin

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name for themselves but have created space for other aspiring Canadian artists to do the same.

Over the past decade, people like Dean Brody, Dallas Smith, Brett Kissel and Jess Moskaluke have continued to build and popularize the genre. After leaving his rock band, Default, Dallas Smith threw himself into the country scene and has become one of the most celebrated Canadian country artists. With multiple chart-topping albums and singles, the singer has accumulated a wealth of awards, like the Canadian Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year award for back-to-back years in 2019/20.

Current and upcoming artists have their eyes set wide as they continue the efforts of their predecessors by collaborating and even touring with them while still creating their own chart-topping hits. In 2020, country

music legend Keith Urban — who has previously described Calgary as a second home — presented Grand Prairie native Tenielle Towns with the award for New Female Artists of the Year.

Duo, High Valley has also contributed with continuous high charting releases like “She’s With Me,” peaking on US country charts at #11. Collaborations have also added to the popularization of Canadian names in the mainstream. Gord Bamford and Jess Moskaluke with “To Get to You,” The Reklaws and Dean Brody with “Can’t Help Myself” or even Kelsea Ballerini’s “Hole in the Bottle” with the one and only Shania Twain. These collaborations have fostered special connections between Canadian country music artists and even with some of their American counterparts.

With a more difficult path to mainstream country fame than American artists,

Canadians have been working hard to make their voices heard. One example is the James Barker Band’s 2019 European Tour where the Canadian foursome played six shows from London to Norway and even Switzerland — that’s right the Swiss like country music too.

That all being said, even if you may not be the biggest fan of country music yourself, I urge you to keep your ears open for what’s next from our Canadian artists. Emerging names like Jojo Mason, Lindsay Eil, and Tenille Arts along with more established artists like Mackenzie Porter, Chad Brownlee and all those mentioned above have proven that Canadian artists have a place on the charts and within the mainstream country.

So just like some of these artists encourage in their music, maybe it’s time to crack a cold one and enjoy your own footloose fantasies.



Shania Twain in her iconic “That Don’t Impress Me Much” music video from 1998. Photo courtesy of Mercury Records



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Canada wins gold in 2023 IIHF World Junior Championship

Matthew DeMille
Staff Writer



The IIHF World Junior Championship has seen Canada realize lots of success throughout the years. Photo courtesy of Resolute/Wikimedia Commons

“Unforgettable.” That’s the word that will be uttered over and over when the hockey world looks back and reminisces about the

2023 IIHF World Junior Championship.

While it’s a word that carries considerable weight and should not be batted

around lightly, there is no term that more accurately describes the tournament that was recently held in the two Maritime cities of

Halifax, N.S. and Moncton, N.B.

When listing top tier destinations to catch a hockey game in Canada,

Halifax or Moncton won’t be on many lists. That is,

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#s

5, Games lost in regulation by the NHL league-leading Boston Bruins.

53, Current points for the Calgary Flames.

31, Pro victories for the newest UFC Hall of Fame inductee, José Aldo.

38, Total goals scored by MRU Cougars teams at the Crowchild Classic Saddledome events.

Continued from Pg. 13



Connor Bedard set many records during this year's World Junior Championship tournament. Photo courtesy of Kaiser Matias/Wikimedia Commons

until now. The most recent hosts of the famed under-20 tournament showed us that hockey in the Maritimes is booming, especially when the team wearing the red, white and occasionally black, is in town.

Pair that with Canada's new goal song, "Heave Away," a celtic rock tune chosen by the team as a nod to the music native to the seafaring people of Eastern Canada, and you get instant goosebumps, every time. And that's saying a lot, considering the song was played 42 times this tournament.

All-in-all, the competition garnered seals of approval from coast-to-coast as well as internationally. The venues, the atmosphere, and most importantly, the competition between nations was unrivaled when compared to previous tournaments in the past decade.

Repetitive storylines were littered with jaw-dropping plot twists, record books were re-written, and more than a handful of games will go down as instant classics for the years to come.

This is what stood out to us the most.

Canada captures gold for the 20th time

It wasn't an easy road to glory for the host country, not by any means whatsoever. With only three skaters not having been drafted by an NHL team (Connor Bedard - 2023 NHL Draft, Adam Fantilli - 2023 NHL Draft, Thomas Milic - Undrafted), many speculated that Canada had put together the most talented roster to ever represent the red and white at the junior level.

That would turn out to be incorrect. Canada dropped their first game of round robin play to an underdog Czechia team, voiding the statement.

You know what they say though? You can't lose two straight games when you have 19 NHL prospects and the top two projected selections in the 2023 NHL Draft on your team. Or, at least that's what we say!

After their opening night loss, Canada bounced back with ease, stringing together three consecutive round-robin wins and a date with Slovakia in the quarter finals. In past tournaments, a

meeting with Slovakia would be a perfect case scenario for the Canadians as it would almost guarantee a spot in the top four. Not this year, however.

The Slovakian squad proved to be a bigger challenge than expected, taking the Canadians into the overtime period following a draw after 60 minutes. Queue, Connor Bedard.

Almost guaranteed to go first overall in the upcoming 2023 NHL Draft, Bedard danced his way through Slovakia's defense for a highlight reel goal — and the overtime winner for Canada.

The semi-finals would see Canada power past the United States, making it the fourth time in four years where Canada would be featured in the gold medal game. This year, Canada was set to square off against the team that dealt them their initial loss in the tournament. Canada versus Czechia, and this time, a little more than a round-robin record was on the line.

Canada was pressing for back-to-back gold medal finishes while Czechia was looking to finish in the top spot of the tournament for the first time since 2001. Much like the semi-final meeting with Slovakia, Canada would need the overtime period to capture the win. This time, it was Arizona Coyotes prospect,

Dylan Guenther, who starred as the overtime hero for his team. On home soil, Canada would get revenge on the Czechs to reclaim World Junior gold for the 20th time and in back-to-back fashion.

The Bedard Show rolls through the Maritimes

If by some phenomenon the name Connor Bedard is not one you were familiar with, it is almost a guarantee that you know his name now. I mean, how can you not? Being just 17 years old playing in a tournament that primarily consists of 19 and 20 year olds is a feat in itself, but it wasn't enough for Bedard. He didn't come to play. He came to take over.

In just seven games, Bedard bragged a statline of nine goals, 14 assists, and 23 points. American forward and third overall pick in the 2022 NHL Draft, Logan Cooley, finished second in points behind Bedard — with 14.

Not only was Bedard one of the youngest competitors this year, he was undoubtedly the most dominant skater from all 10 nations. So much so, the World Junior history book may need an entirely new section to hold all the records Bedard broke. Bedard now holds the World Junior record for most points (23) collected by a skater under

18, the Canadian record for most assists (14) and points (23) in a single tournament and the record for most goals (17) and points (36) all-time by a Canadian in the World Juniors.

This — albeit — is not the first time Bedard has single-handedly dominated a tournament or league before. You see it everywhere he goes. At the time of writing, Bedard, who plays for the Regina Pats in the Western Hockey League, sits first in goals (36), assists (41), and points (77) across the entire WHL. All that in just 33 games.

To literally nobody's surprise, Bedard's dominance in the World Juniors did not go unnoticed. Along with his second World Junior Championship, Bedard took home tournament MVP and was one of six skaters named to the tournament's All-Star team.

What's more impressive? At the mere age of 17, Bedard could potentially play in the 2024 and 2025 World Junior Championships if given permission by his NHL club — whomever it may be. With all the fun being behind us now, all we can do is painstakingly await the next holiday season in the hopes that we will once again hear "Heave Away" echoing through an arena filled with fellow World Juniors followers.



2022 fourth overall NHL draft pick, Shane Wright, also contributed to Canada's success at the World Junior Championship. Photo courtesy of Jenn G/Wikimedia Commons

Crowchild Classic game at the 'Dome set for Jan. 27

Josh Werle

Sports Editor

The “Crowchild Classic” U SPORTS hockey event at the ‘Dome is back after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Crowchild Classic — a term used to describe any matchup where the University of Calgary (U of C) and Mount Royal University (MRU) are pitted against each other in a sports contest — is always a game to mark on your calendar for students and fans of the two Calgary post-secondary institutions. Although the U of C and MRU go head-to-head in hockey, volleyball, basketball and soccer under the U SPORTS banner throughout the season, this yearly event is one that fans look forward to attending.

A tradition since 2013, the Crowchild Classic game at the Scotiabank Saddledome has been a staple of the U SPORTS hockey season.

Both the men’s and women’s hockey teams from MRU and U of C get a chance to play in front of thousands of fans in attendance. In 2013, the attendance was 4,275 fans. This has grown to more than 10,000 fans in attendance each year from 2016-2020. In total, 76,207 fans have gone to the ‘Dome to watch these teams square off throughout the years.

Although the stakes are always heightened for all teams when competing at the ‘Dome, the games this year are of vital importance.

In 2020, the decision was made to have the women’s teams be the main event on even years, while the men would be the main event on

the odd years. This means that the first game of the 2023 Crowchild Classic at the Saddledome belongs to the women’s squads. The MRU Cougars women’s hockey team currently sits in third of the U SPORTS Canada West division with a record of 14-5-3.

With 31 total points, the Cougars are two spots ahead of their Crowchild Classic rivals, and only five points away from first in their division. The team that wins the game at the ‘Dome this year could use that momentum to make a final push towards the top with only five games remaining in the regular season after the conclusion of the Crowchild Classic event.

The MRU Cougars men’s hockey team currently have a record of 16-3-3 this season, and are sitting at 35 total points. This places them in second place of the U SPORTS Canada West division, trailing only the U of C Dinos. Not only do the Cougars have a chance to close the gap between their divisional rivals, but they also have the opportunity to snap a 17-game winning streak that the Dinos currently hold.

Out of all the men’s hockey teams across the U SPORTS divisions, MRU currently ranks fourth in the overall rankings. The Dinos are currently first, and would be considered the best team in the country. If the Cougars were to defeat them in their game at the ‘Dome this year, it would be hard to imagine a scenario where they don’t receive the designation of number one.



The MRU Cougars men’s hockey team will have a tough challenge ahead as they compete against the top-ranked U of C squad. Photo by Josh Werle



The MRU Cougars women’s hockey team looks to make a push toward the top in the remaining games of their season. Photo by Josh Werle

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