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**POSTPONED**  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Goodbye, Gambino! A look  
into his career  
(Pg. 10)



# Geologic olympics coming to YYC

*The International Geoscience Conference is coming to Calgary in 2028*

**Liam Rockliffe**

Features Editor



**South Korean delegates receiving their white hats at a white hat ceremony, reserved for dignitaries and visitors to Calgary. Photo courtesy of Katherine Boggs**

The International Geoscience Conference (IGC) is coming back to Canada—and more specifically—to Calgary! The IGC was created in 1876 and Canada—only formed for nine years at that point—was one of the five original founding countries. Canada has immense pull in the geoscientific community, with some of the most beautiful mountain ranges, 22 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, six Geoheritage Sites, and five Unesco Global Geoparks, it's no wonder why Canada has been so invested in the geosciences since its inception.

However, since the IGC was created, Canada has only hosted twice, once in 1913 and in 1972. The IGC has also never been hosted in Western North America, meaning Calgary has the opportunity to demonstrate the versatility of the West. Calgary also has five UNESCO World Heritage sites within a day's drive.

## Calgary's bid

After the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)—which oversees the geological conferences—withdrawed the invitation to Saint Petersburg, Russia to host the IGC. The IGC then reached out to Canada to host

and Canada held a national competition to select the host city.

Katherine Boggs, a professor for the Faculty of Geology at Mount Royal University (MRU) and the international director for the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES), led the social media and bid team for the IGC along with Dave Eaton. Boggs was on the committee for the national convention and her role was to connect geoscience communities with convention centres around Canada.

Boggs attempted to have Vancouver and Toronto run to host.

"I tried to [have Vancouver host], but the academic community in Vancouver was tired because they hosted two big conferences in 2019 and 2014...Toronto, they withdrew from the competition because their convention centre is already booked past 2028."

This left Calgary to be the perfect fit.

All that was left for the IGC to be hosted in Calgary was for Canada to win the bid. Three countries put their hats into the ring to host the IGC: Scotland, Australia and Canada. The bid was held at IGC 2024 in the South Korean conference centre of Busan. In the final weeks of

August, Canada beat out the competition with a majority vote of 83 out of a possible 165 votes, Scotland came in second with 46 votes and Australia tailed just behind with 36.

## IGC back in Canada, expectations

A vision for the opening ceremony, Boggs stated, would be to host it in the Stampede GMC Grandstands. Starting with an Indigenous Relay Race, and then a gigantic white hat ceremony for the delegates of the event, this would be followed and accompanied by 100 per cent Canadian music.

The proposed theme for the event is Geosciences for Humanity, meaning a focus on the future of humanity. This would be represented by a large focus on renewable energy and the power that geoscience holds over the advancement of technologies to battle climate change and protect against natural disasters.

With the consistent focus of oil, gas and mineral exploration in Calgary and Alberta, there will be a core shack focusing exclusively on these elements of geoscience. There will also be a space and planetary geology day

backed by NASA and the Canadian Space Agency. This will represent North America's advancements in space exploration, and also speak on Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen's current mission to circumnavigate the moon.

Boggs and her team hope to meet the goal of creating a welcoming environment not just for geoscientists, but also for students, school children and people around the world. There will be a day exclusively for young geoscientists, including university students and younger demographics. The day will consist of competitions and projects solely to inspire young geoscientists. Destination Canada also donated a million dollars which the team will be using to help students and researchers from the Global South attend the event.

Boggs believes that children should be involved in geoscience.

"Childrens interest is super important because the discipline of geosciences is in a really weird, existential threat state. The numbers in geoscience programs across the planet have dropped off by about 40 per cent since 2015," said Boggs.

Boggs hopes that this

convention will reinvigorate young Canadians to pursue geoscience.

## How the IGC effects MRU and Calgary

A convention of this scale, from the 12,000 delegates attending is projected to bring 18 million to the city of Calgary, and that's just the delegates. Scientifically, having an event of this magnitude will put Calgary—and Western Canada—into the foreground of geoscientific focus, which in the long run can bring around more local scientific developments.

With Boggs being from Calgary and from MRU, she believes that the university's involvement in bringing the IGC to Calgary will further put MRU on the map. MRU students may also have the opportunity to showcase their undergraduate research projects especially if it relates to geology, such as MRU's own venus project.

Calgary hosting the "rock olympics" will provide nothing but opportunities for academics and citizens alike, and is definitely something to look forward to in 2028.



**IGC cup passed to Canada. Photo courtesy of Katherine Boggs**



# New alliance forging in the East

*Russia, North Korea, Iran and China: What are they up to?*

**Amirmohammad Bagheri**

Contributor

Over the past few years, Russia, North Korea, Iran and China have formed a partnership with one another that keeps on expanding as the years go by. This partnership is geared toward the need to gain control of their respective spheres of influence, the sanctions imposed by the West and their resentment toward the United States for blocking their paths to expansion.

## Russo-Ukrainian war

Vladimir Putin's aggression in Ukrainian territory continues as the war moves toward its third year of hostilities.

Over these two years, the U.S. and its allies have imposed more than 16,500 sanctions on Russia. With Russian forces unable to restock their inventory of weapons and ammunition due to these sanctions, two new powerful clients stepped up to the task.

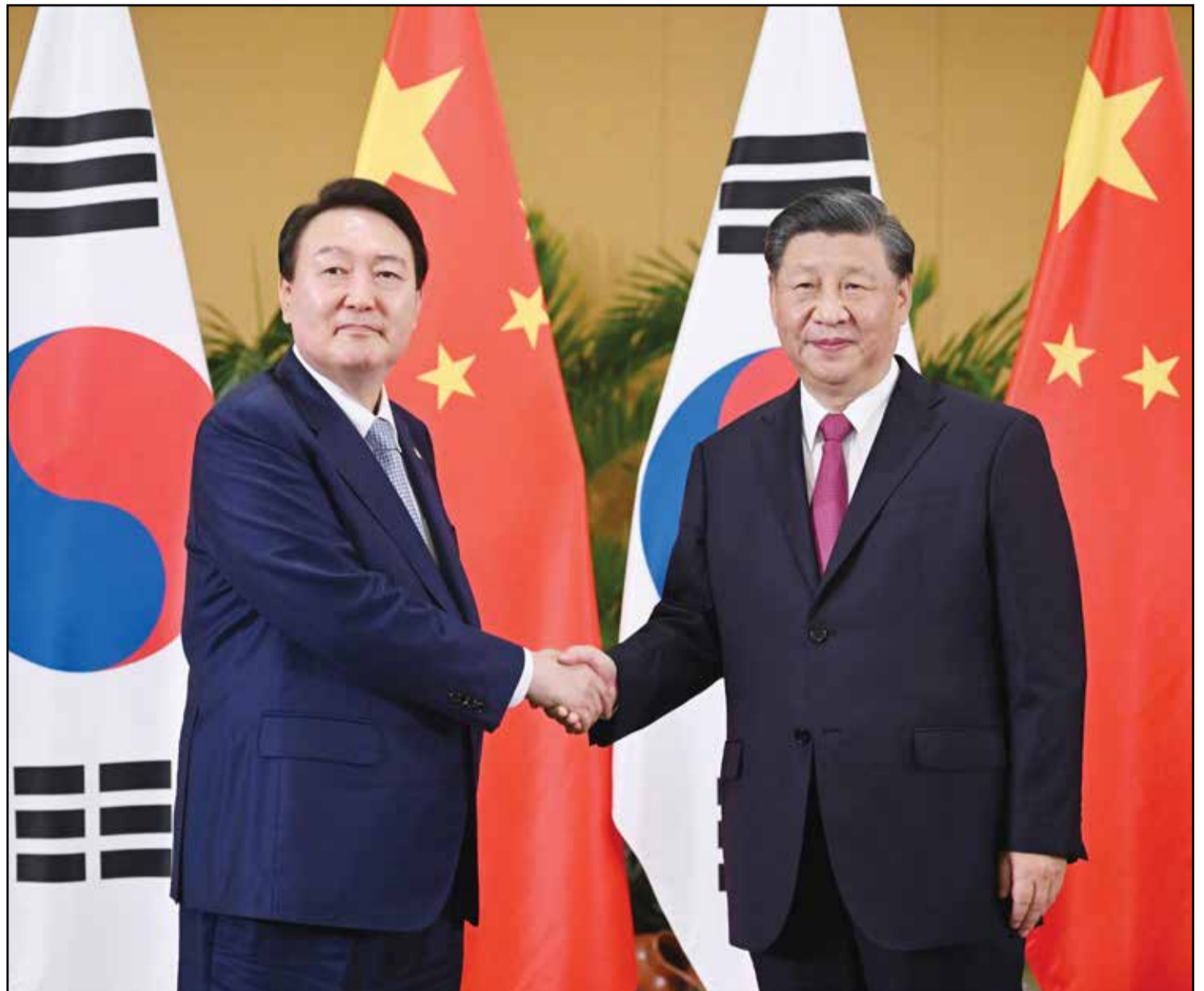
Ukraine is now facing a new threat of Iranian-made missiles and lethal drones, plus millions of artillery rounds that come from North Korea. In addition, China has been boosting Russia's deteriorating economy by purchasing its oil as well as supplying the country with materials used in various military equipment.

## North Korea's needs

The Western sanctions accumulated throughout the past decade have lowered the exports of North Korea by a significant margin. This not only takes a toll on the economy of the nation, but it impose critical humanitarian problems on its population.

On June 19, 2024, Putin's brief meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un brought to fruition a defense pact that promises military aid if either country is invaded. North Korea received food, energy and advanced technology in return.

Development of nuclear weapons have also made



**President of South Korea, Yoon Suk Yeol (left), and General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Xi Jinping (right), shaking hands after a meeting. Photo courtesy of South China Morning Post**

changes in North Korea's strategy to reunify the South with the North.

At the end of 2023, North Korea started a campaign to indoctrinate its citizens and get rid of any notions of fraternal bonding with their South Korean neighbors. In that same campaign, they mentioned that South Korea should be considered the North's "primary foe."

This came as a surprise since North Korea has treasured and promoted national unification as the country's top priorities for well over seven decades. With a steady increase in its nuclear capabilities, such a drastic change could cause heightened tensions between the North and the South.

## Iran's interest in the Middle East

By deploying militias across various Arabic nations throughout the years and their pursuit of a nuclear program, Iran has been working toward becoming a powerhouse in the Middle East.

While on the verge of another revolution with the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement, the Islamic nation's partnership with Russia favors them with supplies of advanced weaponry to improve its defenses against Israel. In light of the same sanctions imposed by the West, China has also become the number one importer of Iran's oil.

## China's interest in Taiwan

For about two years, China has set its eyes on reunifying with Taiwan, its former colony, either

through peaceful means or, if necessary, by force. The strategic importance of Taiwan, which is an island situated in the middle of US-friendly territories such as South Korea and the Philippines, is one of the reasons why China wants to own it.

Taiwan also plays a crucial role in the world's electronics, and most computer chips that are used in phones and electric cars are made there. According to the BBC, over half of the world's market in the semiconductor industry belongs to a single Taiwanese company, the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC). Despite insisting that its intentions are peaceful, U.S. Admiral John Aquilino, head of the Indo-Pacific Command, reports of China's increased military

spending of more than \$223 billion and believes that Xi Jinping is set to invade Taiwan by 2027.

The United States has been arming its allies, such as Israel, Ukraine, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan, to obstruct these four countries from expanding their influence. A developing alliance between Iran, China, North Korea and Russia would be based on common opposition to Western dominance alongside a mutual need to survive despite the various sanctions aimed at weakening them.

Although the partnerships between the four countries are transactional and more or less on the surface level, their leaders have been meeting each other more frequently while signing more agreements.

# Trump, Harris & everyone in between

*The debate that highlighted two potential futures for the United States*

**Acacia Carol**

Contributor

As the debate opened Sept. 10, moderators David Muir and Linsey Davis laid out the conditions of the debate: 90 minutes broken by two commercial breaks, each candidate allotted two minutes to answer and one minute for clarification or responses. No audience would be present.

Although many issues were covered and responded to by both candidates, the main points of discussion were: the economy, abortion, immigration, policy changes, peaceful transfer of office, foreign policy and climate change.

Muir posed the first question, asking Kamala Harris if Americans are economically “better off” now as opposed to four years ago.

“I believe in the ambition, the aspirations, the dreams of the American people. And that is why I imagine and have actually a plan to build what I call an opportunity economy,” Harris said.

Harris outlined concerns about the housing crisis and went in depth on two of her policies, which proposed tax cuts of up to \$6,000 for young families and a \$50,000 tax deduction for small businesses.

Donald Trump’s opening statement refuted “an incorrect statement” and further clarified that a large portion of his economic policy would rely on tariffs.

“Other countries are going to finally, after 75 years, pay us back for all that we’ve done for the world.”

Trump described inflation as “a disaster” before commenting on how his immigration policy would focus on deportation, with an added emphasis on individuals who are “at the highest level of criminality.”

Davis questioned Trump about his abortion policy and why American women should trust him.

Trump responded with concerns about late term abortions and post birth “executions.” He later clarified that he believes in exceptions in cases of rape or incest.

Davis clarified that there was

no state that allowed the killing of a baby after birth before getting Harris’ response.

Harris pointed out that current “Trump” abortion bans do not make exceptions for rape and incest.

“I pledge to you,” Harris promised, “when Congress passes a bill to put back in place the protections of Roe v. Wade as president of the United States, I will proudly sign it into law.”

Muir guided the debate towards the issue of immigration, asking Harris if she would have handled Biden’s asylum restrictions differently and questioning the time it took to implement those restrictions. Harris responded by touching on a border security bill she supported which was later “kill[ed]” by Donald Trump and further commenting that supporters left Trump rallies “out of exhaustion and boredom.”

When asked to comment further on his immigration policies, Trump first responded to allegations about his rallies before sharing concerns about the “millions and millions” of immigrants entering the United States and the potential safety risks.

“In Springfield, they’re eating the dogs. The people that came in. They’re eating the cats. They’re eating—they’re eating the pets of the

people that live there. And this is what’s happening in our country.”

Muir reiterated that a city manager from Springfield, Ohio, verified that there were no credible reports of immigrants harming, injuring or abusing pets.

Davis moved the topic of debate towards Harris and her changing stance on fracking, buyback programs for assault weapons and decriminalizing border crossings.

Harris examined each policy that has changed throughout her campaign before stating that “[her] values have not changed.”

Trump responded by questioning Harris’ reasoning for changing a significant amount of her policies before directly criticizing her motives as a future president.

“She did things that nobody would ever think of,” he stated. “Now she wants to do transgender operations on illegal aliens that are in prison.”

The next item for discussion centered around former President Trump’s ability to peacefully transfer power, citing the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Trump’s response included references to his speech that day, calling Harris a “border czar” and finally stating that former speaker of the house, Nancy Pelosi, was “responsible.”

Harris responded by further condemning Trump’s reaction on Jan. 6.

The debate turned to foreign policy, specifically the Isareal and Hamas War, and how either candidate would handle ceasefire negotiations. Harris reiterated Israel’s right to self-defense.

Trump stated that no war would’ve started if he was president before claiming that Harris “hated” Israel.

The convoluted conversation continued on foreign policy, with heavy critiques from both candidates on the others ability to govern on a national stage.

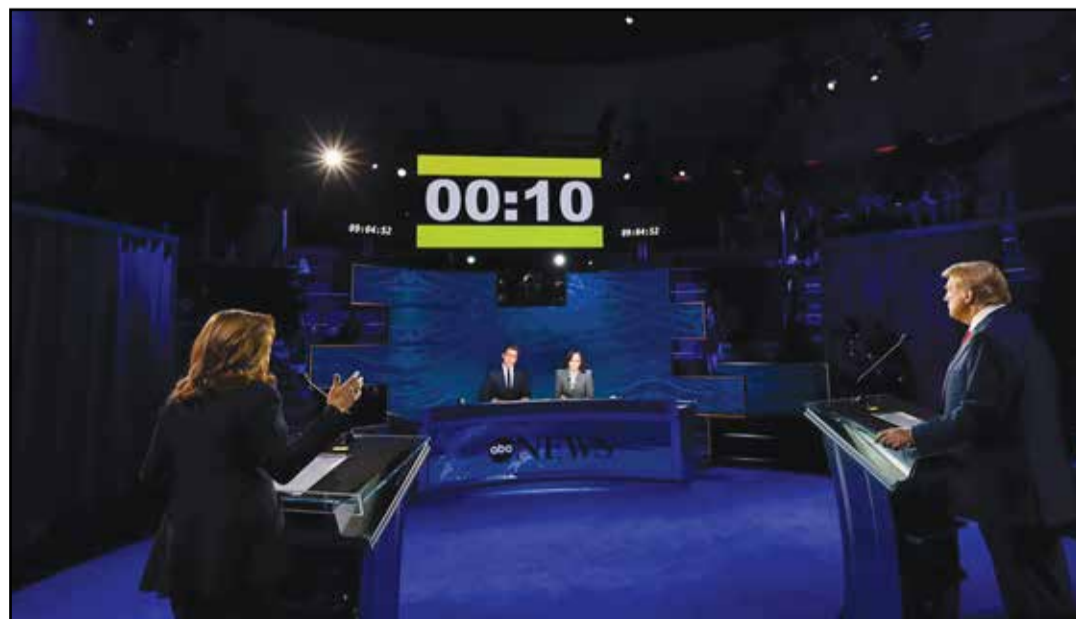
Finally, the candidates provided their closing statements.

“I’ve only had one client. The people,” Harris concluded. “As a prosecutor I never asked a victim or a witness ‘are you a Republican or a Democrat?’ The only thing I ever asked them, ‘are you okay?’”

Trump used his closing statement to reiterate his concerns about Harris before finally culminating that America is “not ready” for a Harris presidency.

“We can’t sacrifice our country for the sake of bad vision.”

Those interested in reading the full transcript of the 2024 Presidential Debate can read it on ABC News.



Donald Trump and Kamala Harris at the 2024 Presidential Debate. Photo courtesy of ABC News

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## Falling into fall: Hiking and happiness

*With fall just around the corner, here are some fun activities you can enjoy!*

### Manveet Kaur Waraich

Contributor

September comes with an array of changes. The back to school rush signals the end of our summertime highs and carries a heavy feeling of getting ready to lock in and spend hours inside striving for those A's. However, we forget that our collective recluse back indoors isn't as fast or as dreary as it seems. Here's a quick guide on how to escape Lana Del Ray's foretold end-of-summertime sadness, and enjoy the outdoors for as long as possible.

The Canadian Rockies spring to life in summer attracting hordes of Canadians into the great outdoors to swap the buzz of the city for the beautiful buzz of bees. Hiking could be considered as a close competitor to our national sports—it is three quarters of Canadians' top choice for outdoor activity. Even though the Rockies are an international treasure, we tend to abandon them at the first drop of temperature—clearing the trails for hikers in the know. But let me clue you in—hiking in the fall is just as spectacular—if not more than the sunny season.

### Larches

A sight to behold. Imagine trees of gold overtaking entire forests and valleys of pine—a golden fire ablaze rocky mountain scenery. A hike inside this fleeting cinematic marvel will be sure to bring back the pep in your step and stave off the winter blues. It also makes for an impressive Instagram pic that'll grab the attention and jealousy of everyone stuck indoors #unfiltered #slay #periodsis. Now to get a little technical and nerdy: larches are deciduous conifers. They are the only needled tree that does not stay evergreen all year round. Dropping its needles after a quick spur of green to yellow, all within two to three weeks of

late September. You'll have to move fast to catch this spectacular display—but luckily the hike itself does not need to be.

Here's a curated list of hikes ranging from easy to challenging, with all the necessary details for you to confidently take on the larches this fall.

### EASY

#### Ptarmigan Cirque

**Distance:** 3.4km

**Elevation:** 241m

Incredibly popular and for good reason. Accessible to all experience levels, this loop takes you up and out of an alpine meadow at an average time of about one and a half hours.

### MODERATE

#### Chester Lake

**Distance:** 10.2km

**Elevation:** 300m

The picturesque reflection of the larches and mountain peaks on the surface of this lake will make for a great return on your investment of time, sweat and energy. A must do.

### DIFFICULT

#### Larch Valley and Sentinel Pass

**Distance:** 9.3km to Larch Valley + 2.4km to Sentinel Pass

**Elevation:** 544m + 169m

Take a shuttle bus up to Moraine Lake to begin this route. Be prepared for crowds as this is a quintessential larch hike due to the stunning scenery. You can choose to continue up another 1.2km to sentinel pass and get overarching views of the golden valley.

### Hiker beware

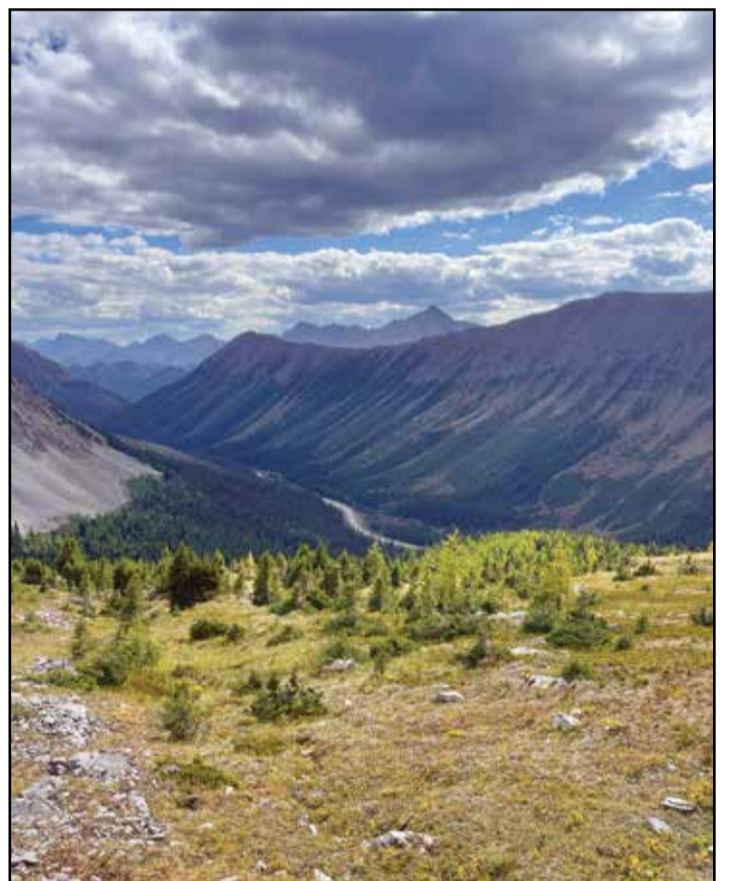
Before you lace up your hiking boots and sprint up a mountain, keep in mind safety is a top priority! The weather can fluctuate much faster in the mountains at this

time of year, so layers will be your best friend. Ensure you have waterproof or water resistant boots and top layers. A makeshift garbage bag poncho can really come in handy in a pinch! It'll also grab a lot of attention on trail and make onlookers smile. And whether you're a traditionalist with a trusty paper map or an AllTrails enthusiast, having a reliable map of the trail you've chosen can save you from a future headache. Lastly, don't forget to bring bear spray and research whether you may need a park pass!

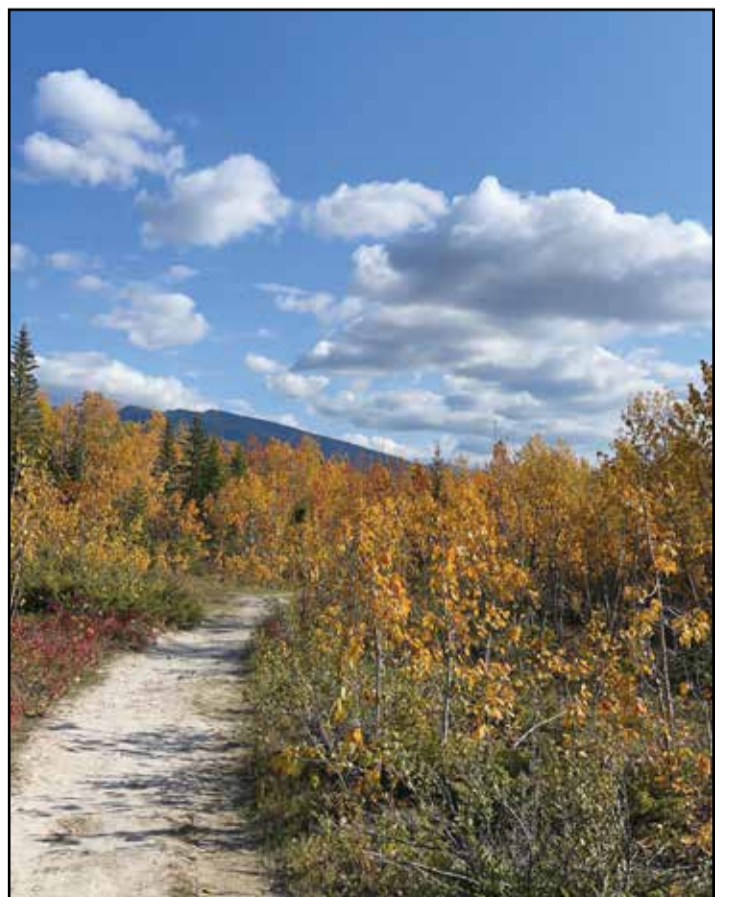
### Fall fun in the city

If that doesn't make you yearn to spend hours trekking up a mountain and working up a sweat to get your fall fill of the outdoors, you've got options within the safety of our city. Coming in hot with a never-ending list of attractions that will keep you entertained for hours: Cobb's Adventure Farm! Quite fittingly for the fall season, Cobb's delivers the perfect pumpkin patch backdrop for your fall photoshoot—a must see for couples, families, and friends alike. And let's not forget our friends from the outback—source your happiness from a kangaroo's hoppiness at their petting zoo. You won't feel even an ounce of summertime sadness as you visit their adorable sugar gliders, furry alpacas, bouncing bunnies, or baby doll sheep. Drift around in pedal carts, speed down giant hill slides, get hopelessly lost in a maze, catch someone's (bull's)eye throwing axes, and so much more. It takes only \$23 to gift yourself this September serotonin boost.

Whether it's at the top of a mountain or the centre of a bullseye, fall into happiness this fall and forgo the winter blues.



Larches in the Rocky Mountains. Photo by Liam Rockliffe



Leaves falling make for great views while hiking. Photo by Liam Rockliffe



# Exploring the untold opportunities in MRU Programs

**Manveet Kaur Waraich**

Contributor

Mount Royal University (MRU) offers a wide range of degree options for students across various majors. However, many of these degree possibilities are not clearly explained early in a student's journey. This article takes a deep dive into a few of these possibilities.

## BUSINESS

### JMH LaunchPad

The ultimate student pitch competition with over \$70,000 in prizes on the line. Aspiring entrepreneurs spend their winter semester coached by experienced mentors to bring their ideas to life and to learn the art of the pitch. Whether or not you win the competition, this is a standout career builder. The best part? Participants get a \$1000 stipend. Applications open in January, so start thinking about your future startup – open to all.

### Case Competitions

Case competitions are an incredible opportunity to put your skills to the test and win big by solving real-world business challenges. These competitions allow you to collaborate in teams, think critically and present innovative solutions to industry professionals. This is also a fantastic chance for networking and getting connected to future employers. Case competitions run all year round, some hosted by clubs, some by MRU itself, and some externally where an MRU team competes together. They range from local to global, and topics vary from the energy sector to food systems and circular economy. Although primarily aimed at business students, anyone attending MRU can compete and even have an edge over others as interdisciplinary knowledge is extremely important.

A few to keep an eye out for include: MRU's Annual Sustainable Business Case Competition, ANPA's Alberta Non-Profit Case Competition, JDC West, HSBC's Innovation in the Workplace, and IXL Olympics.

### MRU-ESSCA Exchange

Dreaming of studying

abroad? The MRU-ESSCA exchange lets business students spend their fourth year in France at the ESSCA School of Management. Not only will you gain international experience, but the year also counts toward a Master's degree at ESSCA—perfect for future leaders with global ambitions.

## BIOLOGY

### Alberta Innovates Summer Rersearch Studentships MRU

Want to dive into the world of research? These paid summer studentships provide hands-on experience in cutting-edge health and innovation projects, giving you the chance to work alongside MRU professors while making real contributions to science. There are three terms; 16 week awards (\$7500), 12 week awards (\$5625), and 8 week awards (\$3750). Once applications open in March, you'll get access to a list of research projects that you can apply to.

### Sustainable MRU

Get involved in creating a greener campus! Sustainable MRU brings together students from all disciplines to engage in environmental initiatives that promote sustainability on campus and beyond; Whether it's to start your own initiative, or support others such as at the Annual Sustainability Fair, this is a great chance to network with staff and faculty and boost your leadership experience.

### HealthTech Challenge

If you're interested in combining technology and healthcare, the HealthTech Challenge is your avenue. Hosted by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE), a team of computer science, business, and biology students will brainstorm, research, and develop a hardware innovation for communities in need. Supported by award-winning MRU experts, you will spend six to eight hours per week over the course of four months to bring your product to life. It may require

a serious time commitment, but those who complete the challenge will be financially compensated \$2,000 and gain valuable networking opportunities with accredited industry professionals. If you have any questions you can book a meeting with an advisor at IIE, but act soon because online applications have already opened for Winter 2025.

## INTER-DISCIPLINARY

### Innovation Sprint

A unique experience students can add to their resume is the Innovation Sprint, facilitated by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Participants will be rewarded with \$600 for five weeks of real-world work experience alongside industry leaders as well as the chance to expand their professional network. By assisting a leader in tackling a complex business problem with a diverse group of students from across campus, Innovation Sprint promises to equip students with transformative tools that create positive change and teach them valuable career skills. The program returns in October 2024, applications are open online

and all sessions take place at the Slate Innovation Lab in the Bissett School of Business.

### Career Services ePortfolio

Students questioning how their degree will shape their future can help define their professional journeys with MRU Career Services' ePortfolio program. By creating their portfolio, students can develop storytelling and presentation skills, conduct interviews, network and collaborate with industry experts, as well as access support from MRU's career studio. The deadline to apply for the program, which takes place from Oct. 15 to Nov. 29 this year, is on Oct. 1 and those who complete all components of the program will be rewarded with \$1000.

### Map the System

Is there a societal issue that keeps you awake at night? This is the program for you. Map the System is a global competition that gives students the opportunity to deeply research, present, and offer innovative solutions to systemic problems related to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals ranging from poverty to food insecurity, injustice, and the environment. Participants will research any topic of interest, learn and apply globally renowned systems-

thinking skills, and have the chance to travel and compete at the national competition. Winners of this will take part in a global competition and all participants will receive the support of the Institute for Community Prosperity's team, alumni and other faculty. Registration for students opens up on Nov. 1, 2024 with the application deadline set for Jan. 31, 2025, and remains open to alumni within one year following their graduation.

### Catamount Fellowship

With one part community-partnered research and one part transformational learning, the Catamount Fellowship explores social innovation frameworks, provides experiential learning, and collaborates with the community to find the root causes of ecological, social, economic and cultural issues. Through the program, students will examine real-world challenges faced by Calgarians and those living across Treaty 7, develop a "changemaker mindset," build impactful connections and gain community-engaged research experience. Fill out

**Continues on Pg. 7**



The Bissett School of Business at Mount Royal University offers many opportunities for students outside of their classes and degrees. Photo by Liam Rockliffe

**Continued from Pg.11**

their online form to declare your intentions to participate in their 2025/26 program.

**ConnectFirst Social Entrepreneurs**

The MRU Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship's ConnectFirst Social Entrepreneurs give students access to economic tools that "tackle tough social

issues head on." With the help of seasoned social entrepreneurs and changemakers, students are given complex challenges to develop real-world skills and improve their resume in the field of social innovation. Social enterprise fills in the gap left by non-profit organizations when it comes to tackling societal issues properly with a for-profit model that is driven by the mission to make a positive social impact. Join the

waitlist online to be first to know and take advantage of this opportunity.

**Ideas Lab**

For students who already have an idea or budding business primed for growth, look no further than the eight-week-long Ideas Lab program at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Participants earn \$1000 for completing the program and receive expert advice on how to turn their good ideas into great ones, mastering

essential entrepreneurial skills alongside nine other student teams. Applications for Fall 2024 are now open online and sessions run on Thursdays from Oct. 10 to Dec. 5 at the Slate Innovation Lab from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**SAMRU Experiential Learning Fund**

Need funding for development opportunities outside of your academic experience at MRU? The ELF can fund students'

participation in conferences, trade shows, foreign exchange programs, field schools, and more. Total funding is capped at \$1000 per academic year and can be put towards meals, transportation and accommodation. The program is currently accepting applications for experiences before Dec. 31, 2024 and the deadline to apply and get approved is set for five days before the experience in question.

# Furry fix

## *How to get your furry fix without the responsibility of ownership*

**Sarah Palmer**

Contributor

For many young adults, the pursuit of a post-secondary education often sparks the beginning of a life phase defined by change, notably in regard to their living situation—as was the case for 18.2 per cent of Canadians aged 15 to 24 who moved away from home to attend university in 2023, according to Statistics Canada.

Establishing one's individuality apart from their family evokes bittersweet emotions that extend beyond human relationships. Many people also face the challenge of parting with their childhood pet as well.

Having the absence of a pet might lead some to consider adopting one of their own. But between the skyrocketing rental market and recent prevalence of no-pet housing, today's young adults might not have that choice.

Last year, 82.1 per cent of Canadian young adults rented their place of residence. Deterring them from getting their own pet, some provinces, including Alberta, have legislation permitting landlords to prohibit tenants from having a pet—hinting at the reason why 33 per cent of the nation's renters surrendered their pet in 2023.

"No pet housing is the biggest reason that people are bringing their animals to us," said Suzanne Fletcher, Manager of Admissions and Foster at the Calgary Humane Society. "It's heartbreaking."

For both current pet owners and those hoping to attain an animal of their own in the future, pet-friendly housing is slim pickings for today's young adults. However, volunteering at an animal shelter can satisfy one's craving of having a furry

companion.

Established in 1922, the City's first animal welfare organization, the Calgary Humane Society (CHS) offers volunteers endless puppy eyes and purring all without the personal and financial burden associated with pet parenthood.

Having experienced a drop in participants during the COVID-19 pandemic, the CHS team currently manages over 650 active volunteers who collectively contribute over 200,000 hours annually—a stark increase compared to the 10,000 hours logged in 2020.

Each volunteer works as one of the 25 different roles pertaining to either the cat or dog sector of the shelter. Volunteers are expected to assist the shelter for a minimum of two hours per week for no less than six months consecutively.

Positions become available based on what is in demand at the time of application, which must be done prior to being considered for an interview. Little mandatory qualifications officially exist, but a personal history of owning or assisting with the responsibilities of having a domesticated animal are considered assets.

"It's always good that you have a genuine interest and care for animal welfare," said Bree Piotrowski, Manager of Volunteer Resources at the CHS. "[That's] what I look for in all volunteers."

Once a candidate is selected, the CHS's Peace Officer staff undergo a screening of personal records to ensure that someone does not have a history of disturbing an animal's well-being, among other offenses posing as "red-flags."



**The Calgary Humane Society, established in 1922 as Calgary's first animal welfare organization, manages over 650 active volunteers and provide pet-less people with plenty of puppies to play with. Photo by Bella Coco**

Accepted volunteers engage in a two to four week long training program involving a combination of online tutorials and in-shelter orientations.

Kicking off a shift in the cat section, volunteers start by reporting to the shelter's animal care department for instruction before coordinating cuddles and delivering purrs—a combination of play and pampering with the intention of "providing exercise and enrichment," said Piotrowski.

After the feline fun, volunteers must feed the cats for not only nutritional purposes, but to distract them from their shift's final chore of scrubbing kennels and sanitizing linens to maintain overall cleanliness and protect against disease.

More of a dog person?

Not to worry. A volunteer in the dog section orchestrates behavioural activities from tricks like sitting and shaking. While tails are wagging and tongues are lolling, volunteers then harness-up the pups and take them on a 30-minute walk around the property—repeating the procedure until all of the scheduled dogs for that shift complete their walk.

Investing time into training their volunteers is one of the CHS's priorities, and as Piotrowski sees it, this is not just because they want to ensure that the volunteer is a beneficial asset to the shelter—but to also offer them with a well-rounded education about what it takes to be a responsible pet owner.

"There's been a lot of times where our volunteers will

adopt somebody that they fell in love with because of their volunteer role," said Piotrowski. "It's a great way to prepare someone that may have little to no experience with animals."

For young adults, volunteering at an animal shelter not only supports the organization but it can help to fill a pet-less void caused by the turbulence of starting a life apart from family and to also equip someone to be prepared for when they get a pet of their own once they're in a more stable phase of life.

"Animals are one of those things that almost everybody in the world loves and cares about," said Piotrowski. "It's such an easy thing to connect people with."



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# Open mic lifts Kensington community to a Higher Ground

**Mia Smith**  
Contributor



Crowd applauding young artist at Higher Ground, 2024. Photo by Mia Smith

## Giving a platform to the unheard

Sean Leechild, a weekly regular, has been playing violin since he was about three years-old.

Leechild, who is legally blind, finds comfort in the community he found to express his music and grow a social circle every Tuesday.

He is passionate about performing and the crowd loves when he steps up and transcends you into a five-star restaurant with his bewitching art.

“We have a beautiful violin artist people would pay big money to see,” says Baba.

There is a speech about a child prodigy who comes and strums his guitar every now and then and impresses the crowd.

The open mic ranges from all ages and demographics, and anyone is welcome to get up on stage.

They welcome all styles from original songs and freestyle rap to crowd singalongs.

## Getting involved

Baba hosts a number of other open mic events around the city.

He hosts at S’more Please Cafe every Thursday as well as Kingfisher Seafood every Saturday.

Baba performs himself at Salt & Pepper every Friday night with a group.

From beginners to veterans, everyone is welcome to display their talents and make new friends every Tuesday at Higher Ground.

A secret community of artists brew every Tuesday night at Higher Ground Cafe in Kensington.

From the hours of 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., everyone is welcome to join and display any talent they would like in front of the open-armed community.

It is easy to find comfort in expressing yourself through music, but it is the community that is built behind the scenes that has people coming back week after week.

Higher Ground Cafe is located right in the heart of Kensington, located across from downtown next to the Bow River. The area is known for its quaint charm within the community acting as a place for locals to grow their businesses in their own way.

Along with coffee, Higher

Ground serves fresh food, beer, wine and cocktails, as well as gelato for anyone who craves a sweet treat after dinner.

The cafe does a lot of work with the community, and promotes local artists and musicians while also maintaining a positive ecological footprint.

“We are passionate about enhancing our community,” written on the Higher Ground website.

## Setting a warm, inviting tone

Open mic organizer, Aqy Baba, shares the excitement that he feels when seeing new faces join the event community every week.

“My favourite part is newcomers coming and really trying,” says Baba.

The weekly event is an opportunity to meet new people and foster friendships in a cozy and warm environment.

According to Baba, who has been hosting the open mic night for two years, half the same people are usually there every week, and half are newcomers.

The regulars spoke openly about the impact that Baba makes on the event.

“The energy, it is very welcoming and Baba, he has become a close friend after all this time,” attendee Cara Orr states when speaking about her experience with the event.

Orr and her group of friends say that they come almost every week when they can make it.

Baba is known for asking almost everyone who walks

into the cafe to write down their name on the list and sing a song.

Higher Ground first timers and music duo, Rylan Sampson and Caelan Thain, say that they will most definitely be back.

The duo, who regularly play in Airdrie, are hoping to break into the Calgary scene and step away from the country music scene that they have grown accustomed to.

The pair expressed that the open mic environment is a breath of fresh air in comparison to the older crowd that they regularly get. They are able to play what they want in front of a younger and more youthful audience.

“We loved it, we will for sure be back next week,” shares Thain.

## OUT'N ABOUT

### Hot Air Balloons Galore

Back for their eighth consecutive year, the Heritage Inn International Balloon Festival is returning to High River from Sept. 25-29. Night Glow is the peak, taking place on Sept. 27, where people can see international hot air balloons up close, meet the pilots, walk through vendors, and see a sky filled with light as they fly away.

### Fahr Oktoberfest 2024

Bratwursts, Sauerkraut, and Beer, Oh My! Come to the Grey Eagle Casino on Sept. 20 and 21 to celebrate this year's Fahr Oktoberfest. With traditional German bands, food, and beer, there's much to be seen and celebrated. Tickets start at \$35 and are available on the Grey Eagle Casino website.

### Spark Interest at Beakerhead

Fusing science and art, Beakerhead is bringing a new wave of steam-inspired experiences to the Telus Spark Center from Sept. 20-22. With two nights and three days filled with performances and activities, attendees are sure to leave with their minds blown. Tickets start at \$32 and are available on the Spark website.

### Calgary International Film Festival

Grab your popcorn and get ready for Alberta's largest film festival. With over 175 films of any genre you could think of, there is something here for everyone. Browse the showtimes on their website and grab your tickets for any time between Sept. 19 and 29.



# Goodbye, Gambino

*A look into the retirement of Donald Glover's widely loved persona*

**Emma Marshall**

Arts Editor

Donald Glover set out on "The New World" tour this year to perform an international closing ceremony for his rap-alias, Childish Gambino. With 58 shows booked-out across the globe, fans were quick to score tickets to see Gambino perform for the last time.

However, this ongoing tour was interrupted after Glover announced the postponement of the remaining North American dates. In a post on X, Glover wrote that he has "to postpone the rest of the North American tour to focus on [his] physical health for a few weeks." He is set to resume the tour in France in early November.

Later this month, Glover was slated to take the stage in Western Canada with concerts lined up in Vancouver, Calgary, and Edmonton. Though he promised fans that all tickets will be permissible for the rescheduled dates, he failed to offer any further information on when that may be.

## The history

Glover first mentioned the retirement of Childish Gambino back in 2017 after a dispute with Glassnote Records. During a live performance at the Governors Ball Music Festival, he told fans his plans to withdraw from the stage name. In an interview with HuffPost, he further explained that his music career no longer felt "necessary" and that, "there's nothing worse than a third sequel."

During this time, fans anticipated his final albums, but the artist was hard at work with other projects. From 2017-2019, Glover moved on-screen, developing projects like the second season of "Atlanta," as well as working on roles in "Solo: A Star Wars Story," "Spider-man: Homecoming," and "The Lion King."

It wasn't until earlier this year that Childish Gambino made a bitter-sweet comeback. In May, he re-released his pandemic project, now titled *Atavista*

and told fans this was one of the last works of Childish Gambino.

Soon after, he dropped his fifth and final studio album, *Bando Stone & The New World*, accompanied by the long-awaited news of his final tour.

## His fanbase

His consistency with music over the past 10 years has procured Childish Gambino a dedicated fan base alongside four certified-platinum records and over 25 million monthly listeners on Spotify. His top song "Redbone" from his third studio album currently sits at over 1.5 billion streams.

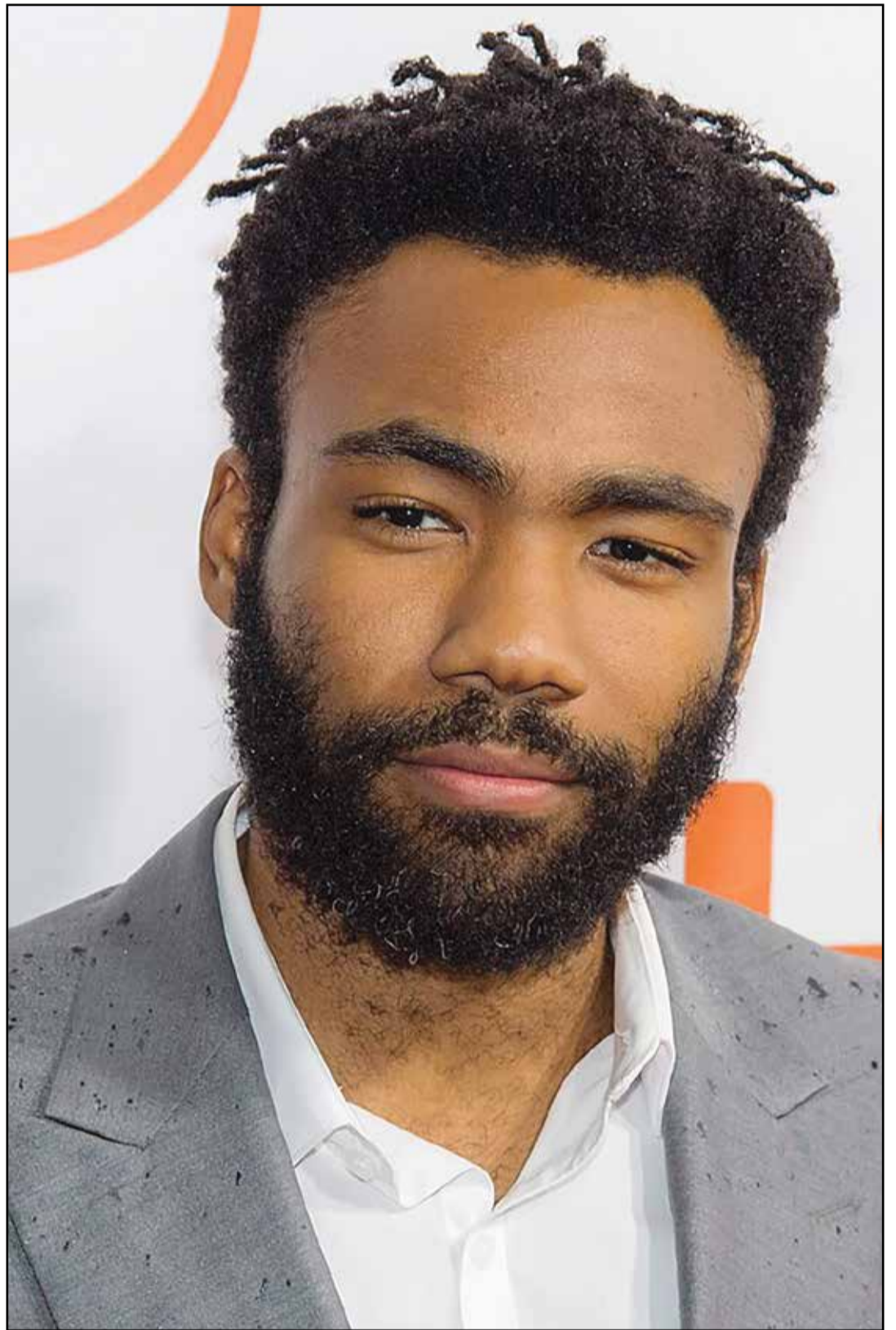
Childish Gambino's music is loved by fans not only because of his musicality, but also because of the messages he embeds in his work. Glover has been a voice for anti-racism in the USA, with one of his major hits being "This is America"—a song about the unglamorous realities of being black in the USA.

The video he released alongside the song made waves all over the world, with scenes of societal unrest juxtaposed by his upbeat dancing and cheery demeanor throughout the piece. Glover includes depictions of riots, looting, and gun violence—all issues that are increasingly prevalent in modern America.

Glover's career is littered with double-entendres. Exemplified through his TV productions and music, this satire is most evident in his performances and overall rap persona.

Vigilance is rooted in his stage name—Childish Gambino. Though sources online say Glover found the name from a Wu-Tang Clan Name Generator online, there are discrepancies in this claim and it has yet to be proved entirely true.

Gambino is an Italian surname dating back to one of the five families controlling organized crime in the USA. Going by "Childish Gambino" means Glover is coining himself a criminal of sorts, going against the pop culture grain



Donald Glover's retirement of Childish Gambino has left fans eager to attend his final tour. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

to speak on the sensitive underbelly of American politics in a wildly reckless, or "childish," way.

By using his stage platform to shed light on the problems in American politics, Childish Gambino became both a musical star and political advocate. This traction means that for fans, his music is a safe-place of recognition and understanding as they navigate their own difficult situations.

This responsibility cannot be carried lightly, and his

actions as Childish Gambino in recent years seem to sell himself short.

To fans who find solace in his music, this abandonment runs deeper than Spotify streaming, and bleeds into the very real and inescapable realities of life in the USA and beyond.

A figure that once gave unto fans his sermons is now pulling the plug while these political issues continue to spark around the globe. Many of his fans feel he is needed now more than ever.

We cannot deny Donald

Glover his humanity, and the need to prioritize his own health above his career. He is highly decorated for good reason, and his significant strides cannot be overlooked.

Though Glover feels he completed what he set out to do with Childish Gambino, this breakup is felt on many levels and remains harrowing to dedicated fans. The love for his art runs deep, and those of us in North America wait patiently for his humble return.



# Night Light shines on Victoria Park

## Calgary's biggest light festival returns to Victoria Park

**Rylie Perry**  
Contributor

Night Light is set to take over Victoria Park from Sept. 26 to 28. The celebration is free to attend and encompasses five blocks of Victoria Park including District Market, Trans Alta, BLVD Park, and Central Memorial Park. With 12th Ave., acting as the festival spine, attendees are encouraged to explore the illuminated streets of Victoria Park from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. every night.

Produced by Victoria Park Business Improvement Area (BIA) – and partnered with What's Good Calgary, Social Studies Lab, and B!g Art – the festival will be bigger and brighter than last year.

Transforming Victoria Park

with curated light, art, and live performance, Night Light creates a platform for the next generation of artists. The three day celebration features light-art installations, projection mapped architecture, live music, and other creative works provided by local and international artists.

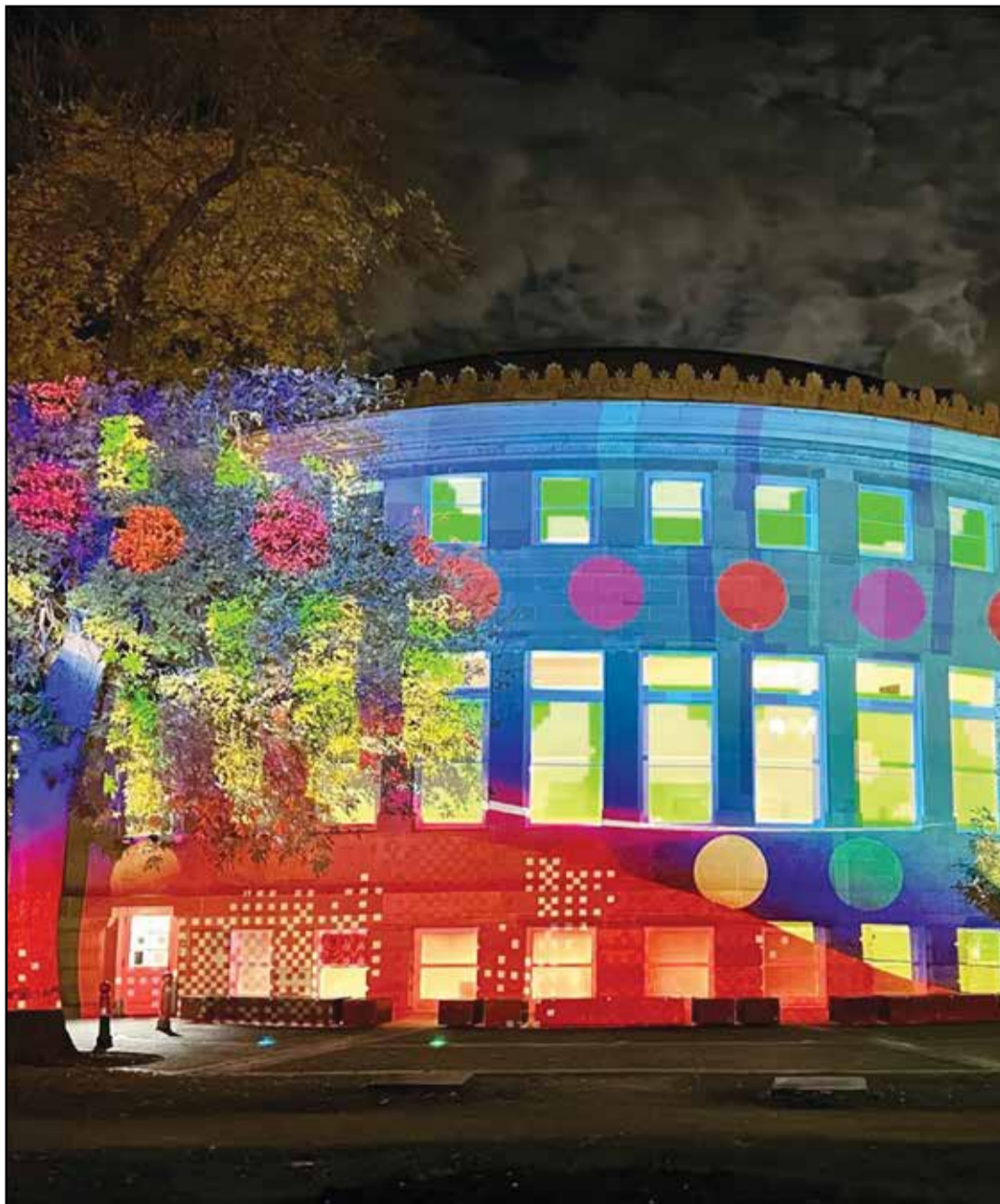
Founded in 2023 by David Low, Night Light enables local and international artists to cultivate a passionate community of creativity, expression, and growth. The festival encourages artists to take risks without fear of failure.

“Really important driving forces behind creating Night Light were that we want to

create an engine, an incubator, and a playground to grow the talent for emerging artists and anyone that is interested in doing this,” said David Low in Emerging Light, a documentary produced by What's Good Calgary.

This year, B!g Art is set to return with numerous installations across the city, such as the TUNNEL at Central Memorial, the DOME at Haultain, and the TOTE(s) at multiple locations. Studio Luma is also set to return

**Continues on Pg.12**



Calgary's Victoria Park Night Light sparks a neon night out. Photo courtesy of Victoria Park website/victoriapark.org



In *The Alexander Technique* by Rex Orange County (Alexander O'Connor), Rex gives an intimate yet broadly unremarkable insight into his struggles as an artist and an individual.

The title of this album is a double entendre. The “Alexander technique” is a physiotherapeutic method to reduce stress. At the same time, it references the artist's first name, making the album semi-self-titled, as well as giving the listener a first read at what the album intends for itself. An attempt at intertwining the artist and his struggle. Despite this lofty goal of self-introspection, the album often falls flat in its mission. The lyrics often feel surface-level, frequently missing their target and never quite reaching the listener in a significant way.

Whenever the lyrics do find their footing, Rex's bedroom pop-y vocal style often robs them of any weight they were intended to have.

Poetic and vocal dullness aside, the album does find a significant strength in Rex's trademark melodies. The breadth and variety of its instrumentals are truly remarkable. From folk guitar to R&B drum tracks to baroque string orchestras, Rex's musicianship and compositional skills are on full display throughout the album.

Overall, an album with a few key strengths, but too many inconsistencies that prevent it from being truly effective.

– Ryan Montgomery



In her studio album *empathogen*, Willow Smith demonstrates her musical tact through the skillful maneuvering between many disparate genres.

An immediate point that stands out about this album is its diminutive length, that is to say, it's short. The whole album clocks in at 32 minutes, which for an album of lesser musical ambition might not stand out as much. However, *empathogen* is not an album of low ambition. Within those 32 minutes, WILLOW jumps between half a dozen genres, many within the same song. The amount of tracks with borderline movements to them is staggering for an LP with an average song length of around two minutes. The most impressive aspect of the album is that despite this musical volatility, each song feels consistent as part of the whole.

negative is that some of the tracks are more forgettable, which would usually be looked over in most cases. However, in an album of this length, a few mediocre songs do have a bigger impact than in a longer LP. Minor negatives considered, *empathogen* is still an album that truly has something for everyone.

– Ryan Montgomery

The only thing in this album that could be considered a



Continued from Pg.11

with projection mapped architecture along Central Memorial, and Sarah Johnston with luminous murals, Blossoms of the Night, at multiple locations.

Along with returning installations, new artists are brightening the streets of Victoria Park. This includes Devin Giles with Ghost Cruiser, Cat Lipiec with Radiant Clay, Kira Hunt with Diatom Lanterns, Rawry and Pohly with Gallery in the Park, and many more.

A collaborative effort, Night Light artists are also transforming the District into an engaging environment for kids, featuring art installations, projections, and activities catered for a family-friendly experience.

Since its inaugural debut in 2023, Night Light has partnered with Calgary-based teams and communities to spotlight artists of all skill levels. The festival aims to not only bring artists to Calgary, but also bring Calgary to artists.

“I get asked all the time why we don’t have more things like this in Calgary,” said Low in Emerging Light. “The answer is quite simple, it’s because we

don’t have the depth of cultural assets and resources that other cities do, and the only way to get that is to provide the opportunity and space for them. If we don’t do it, then nobody will.”

It is Calgary based communities and organizations that sustain

the platform that Night Light provides for the next generation.

“What’s important about Night Light is this is a platform. Without these platforms we will not have visual artists that are in this medium or in mixed media for this specific scale,” said Paul Magnuson, a partner

with B!g Art, in Emerging Light.

Centered around the autumnal equinox, this festival aims to bring light to the dark prairie winters. While a main goal of organizers is to showcase local artists, they also heavily depend on people coming to see their finished

work.

This year’s festival is expected to be bigger than their showcase last year. With this trajectory, Night Light could transform into a tradition for Calgarians, igniting a path of hope, wonder, and inspiration as the community gears up for the winter seasons.



Night Light artists demonstrate creativity and innovation through inspiring projects. Photocourtesy of Night Lite website/Nightlightvicpark.ca



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# Cougars soccer teams destined for dominance in 2024

Noah Wilson, Contributor & Zafir Nagji, Sports Editor

Since joining USPORTS in 2012, the Mount Royal University Cougars have just one national championship and two conference championships. The 2023 women's hockey team secured USPORTS and Canada West gold medals, while the same year's men's soccer team secured their first Canada West gold medal on their home field.

Now in 2024, the men's and women's soccer Canada West seasons are underway, and both Cougars teams are looking forward to improving on last season's performances. For the men's team, this means going back-to-back in Canada West championships and securing their first ever USPORTS gold medal. For the women's team, it means maximizing their new talent, combining it with their veteran leadership and improving on a disappointing 2023 campaign to qualify for the Canada West playoffs.

Sit down for a good read, Cougars fans, as the athletes themselves tell you why you should pay attention to the football pitch in 2024.

## Women's Soccer

After a tough 4-7-3 record in 2023, the women's soccer team has returned to the football field with a slew of skilled rookies and returning veteran talents. This deadly combination of elements has transformed their projected trajectory from ranking 10th overall in the 2024 Canada West Preseason Poll to being the fifth most proficient goal scoring team in the conference. Their seven goals scored in just four games have made them the pluckiest underdog in the

conference, punching up at some of the best teams in the country.

One of those returning veterans is fourth-year, Calgary-born forward, Catriona McFadden. McFadden went through a year and a half of injury struggles. And including multiple concussions, tearing her hamstring, labrum and MCL, and sustaining a stress fracture on her foot, McFadden finally made her return to the pitch in the Cougars' second game of the 2024 season.

"I was in a boot for the last three months and then they let me out of it just to play [against UNBC]," McFadden said. "It was just such a series

[of injuries]. I was just like it would be cool if I ever get to play again."

McFadden was a standout performer in her first game back though, tallying a goal and an assist on the Cougars' path to a dominant 4-0 win. This earned her Players' Bench Cougar of the Week honours but to her, it was about being grateful to do what she loved most again.

"I just felt lucky, like it feels unreal because I missed playing so much," McFadden said. "Part of the fun is winning and scoring goals and whatever else... I'm just feeling super lucky to be back."

A true leader of her squad, McFadden still found a way to

humbly credit her teammates for their instrumental role in orchestrating such a remarkable performance.

"It's fun this year because we have so much talent on the field," McFadden said. "My team put both of those opportunities on a platter for me. I didn't have to do a whole lot of work to get there."

McFadden may have missed the majority of the 2023 season, but that gave her a unique perspective to share on what the team struggled with most on their way to an underwhelming record of four wins, seven losses and three ties.

"I think culture has a huge part to play in it. I think that

last year was a lot of just like, 'oh, I have to be here, I have to do this,'" McFadden said. "This year, I felt like I've never been on a team that's loved each other this much. Obviously we have a lot of first year players so it's crazy that we've kind of built that culture so quickly."

McFadden attributes that bunsen-burning chemistry to team captain, Isabella Chirico, and her ability to unite each member of the squad.

"[Chirico] is all about bringing each other in and demanding more from each other in a positive way. And I

**Continues on Pg.14**



Brooklyn Stiles (left), first year player on the women's soccer team and Miguel Da Rocha (right), returning after a championship season with the men's soccer team, are both clawing the Cougars into contention with their stellar play. Photos courtesy of Aaron Hilson

# #S

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1, goal scored by MRU's Men's Soccer Team, thanks to Miguel Da Rocha

7, goals scored by the Cougars Women's Soccer team in their first four games



## Continued from Pg.13

think that last year we might have been a little bit scared to step on each other's toes, but this year we're really comfortable demanding more from each other and pushing each other to be better."

Chirico, McFadden, and the rest of the women on the team have completely transformed the energy of the squad and with the influx of young talent, the team has a much deeper roster than it did in 2023. It's not one or two changes that have led to this newfound swagger, but rather a wholesale shift giving way to new beginnings.

"It's hard to pick out one thing because I think it's just night and day, like we have so many new pieces," McFadden said. "We have a lot more depth this year in every single position, if you make a sub, it's not going to change the level on the pitch."

"That's huge because in past years, especially in my first year here, if we would make a sub, it would just change the energy on the pitch. This year we have a lot of players that play similarly in the same positions. And so it's like if Dany comes out, Dezirae Funfer is really playing that dynamically as well. We have four extremely strong center backs and it doesn't make a huge difference if one gets subbed."

McFadden's enthusiasm about the rest of the season is impossible to hide, and she wants Cougars fans to know that this team is going to be worth watching all year long.

"I don't know if I've felt this excited to play soccer in a long time," McFadden said.

The women's soccer team is currently 1-2 at the time of writing, headed into a four-game road trip where they will face the University of the Fraser Valley Cascades, Trinity Western University Spartans, University of British Columbia Okanagan Heat, and Thompson Rivers University Wolfpack before returning to Mount Royal Field 2 for a Sept. 27 matchup against the Spartans.

## Men's Soccer

Last season the men's soccer team was able to accomplish something incredible.

By winning the 2023 Canada West championship, they were awarded their first-ever gold medal on their home field and were recognized as the #1 soccer team in Canada at the U Sports National Championship in which they placed fourth.

Although they did not reach their ultimate goal of the nationwide championship, they had a spectacular journey to get to that stage which featured so many new heights

for the squad.

Cougars' star Miguel Da Rocha elaborated on how much this experience meant to his team.

"Well, it was just a surreal feeling," said Da Rocha. "It's what we were working on. We wanted that. That was our goal. So actually achieving it, at least for me after being here for so long, it felt amazing."

The 2023 Cougars squad proved they could compete with the best and set the bar for what the 2024 men's squad will want to replicate.

Heading into this season, the team will be without a few key acquisitions that were instrumental to their success in 2023.

This past offseason, the Cougars lost star players, David Schaeffer, to the Victoria Highlanders of the Canadian Premier League, and Niko Myroniuk who signed with our very own Calgary Calvary.

Schaeffer and Myroniuk were dynamic scoring pieces that helped fuel the Cougar's offence all of last season.

Myroniuk in particular played so great that he was awarded with Canada West's First All-Rookie team.

The impact of these players will be forever missed as they broke records, won games, and most importantly, dominated the pitch.

This departure of key players has opened the door for new players to step up to fill these holes in the lineup.

For Da Rocha, as a fifth-year veteran this grants him an opportunity to take on a role he's never had in his career, to be a leader the team relies upon.

"It's a good experience to have that feeling of now I have to embrace this new role," Da Rocha explained. "And give what I was given, like what other leaders gave to me when I was one of the younger players. I'm trying to portray that to our new players. We have so many rookies this year. A lot of them are seeing minutes, which is huge. So just managing them and making sure they feel comfortable with what they're doing, I think is pretty important."

He is also mindful of the departures but is optimistic the team will be able to overcome them.

"There were definitely some hard losses from last year," Da Rocha said. "But I mean that's that's every team right? Every team has players that graduate and move on. So you just have to adapt and keep doing your best."

With all that being said, the 2024 team will not be without its share of studs, and players looking to build on last season's success.

Team captain Caden Rogozinski had an amazing 2023 season. He was awarded

the Canada West Defensive Player of the Year Award, the Cougars MVP award, and was named to the First-Team All-Canadian and First-Team All-Star squads.

This plethora of awards from the Cougars captain was a testament to the kind of aggressive play he provided all season long for MRU.

On top of that, MRU is also home to the reigning 2023 Male Rookie of the Year, Aidan Dumoulin who will also be looking to continue his dominance in goal for the Cougars after coming off a sensational rookie year. Once fully healed from his injury, look for Dumoulin as one of the Cougars' biggest factors for 2024.

When looking at some of the Cougar's top performers from last season, mid-fielder Da Rocha had a generational playoff performance last season. As they progressed through each game of the Canada West Playoffs, Da Rocha elevated his game to a higher and higher level.

This offensive surge from Da Rocha continued in the National Championship as he was the only Cougar to score throughout those games. That put him and the

Cougars on notice for this upcoming season and he will be relied upon as one of the Cougars' most dangerous threats heading into 2024. However, opposing defences now know to hunt for Da Rocha more fervently, but he and the coaching staff have been preparing innovative strategies to combat that.

"It's not been easy, especially because we're playing in our training field, with less space," Da Rocha said. "It's a bit more crowded. It works for those teams to cut off those spaces in the middle for me to work with."

"I'm not really getting the ball with those areas that I would want to. But, you have to adapt. And then like I said, [the coaches] give us the tools and then we need to make the decisions on the field."

The Cougars kicked off their season on August 24th with a windy matchup against the University of Lethbridge where the teams drew at a 0-0 tie.

Mount Royal then followed this game up with a 2-1 victory versus the University of Saskatchewan Huskies men's soccer team, then rounded out three hard-fought battles against the Dinos, Griffins,

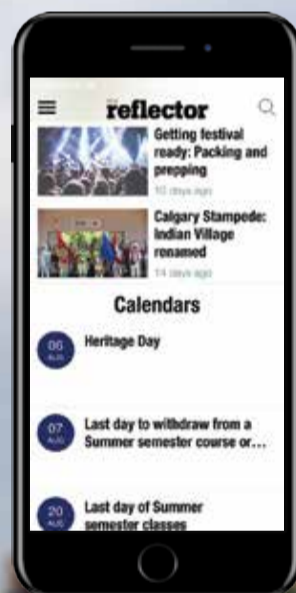
and Golden Bears, all resulting in 1-1 ties.

The Cougar's record now sits at 1-0-4 with their next two games on the road against the Trinity Western University Spartans and Thompson Rivers University Wolfpack before returning to Mount Royal Field 2, to host the University of Northern British Columbia Timberwolves on Sept. 20.

For the men, this season will feature some growing pains, but also some incredible opportunities for many players on this roster. This season will be one of redemption for the squad, with the ultimate goal being to finish the job this time around and win a national title for the first time in Cougars history.

Both teams have lofty goals to achieve, but neither squad is backing down from the pressure. Canada West is a competitive conference to battle in, but as McFadden and Da Rocha are indicating to Cougars fans, MRU will do their best to claw its way to winning seasons and bring home championship jewelry. Home games take place on Mount Royal Field 2 and all games are available to stream on Canada West TV.

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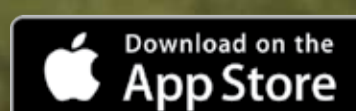


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# Golfing for a cause

*The 14th Annual Charity Classic boosts support for Alberta's seniors*

**Zafir Nagji**

Sports Editor

Sports have become a huge facet of the global entertainment industry. From team sports like basketball to individual competitions like tennis, athletics garner interest from a diverse group of fans and gross huge revenue figures on the biggest stages. However, it's important to take a break from the corporate world of mainstream sports entertainment and be reminded of the value that local sports present in bringing a community together.

That aspect was exemplified at the 14th Annual Mountain View Seniors' Housing Foundation (MVSHF) Charity Golf Classic, hosted by the Carstairs Community Golf Club (CCGC) on Sept. 12, 2024. Intended to raise funds for Mountain View Seniors Housing (MVSH), which supports over 500 individuals across Mountain View County, the tournament holds a strong place in the hearts and minds of community members in Carstairs, Cremona, Didsbury, Olds, and Sundre.

Joyce Wicks, who resides in the Sundre lodge and has been involved with MVSHF since its inception in 2003, believes their role is quintessential in caring for the older population.

"I was here in 2010 when [the tournament] was being hosted in Carstairs and at the time, I had three relatives in Carstairs and Didsbury lodges," Wicks said. "MVSH has been a solid organization for many years and the housing body has been supporting seniors in our communities since the early '60s. What a wonderful difference it made for our senior residents to have the support of nutritious meals. Their health often improved because of the nutrition, socialization and safety."

In 2023, the 13th iteration of the event raised a record \$30,000. MVSHF has raised more than \$230,000 cumulatively through their annual tournament to fund exciting activities and provide specialized furniture and equipment to foster safe, homestyle environments for Albertan seniors.

Stacey Stilling, chief administrative officer of MVSH, felt grateful for the

incredible show of support displayed at last year's event and was overwhelmingly excited about the growth of the event this year.

"This is our 14th year, last year was our most successful and we broke every record we ever set last year," Stilling said. "We had the most golfers last year, we sold the most Mulligan tickets, we sold out of our 50/50 tickets, and we also had the most volunteers last year, although I think we've now surpassed that this year... Seeing the community come together to understand what it is we do, how we do it, and how we use the money, it's really nice to see that they want to support it."

Providing appropriate care for the senior population in Alberta is of utmost importance as, according to the MVSH website, they will account for 25 per cent of the projected 6.4M people in the province. Resident of the Didsbury lodge, Laura Krebs, expressed her own gratitude for the organization's relentless efforts to take care of the elderly population.

"[MVSH] are working, supporting and helping us," Krebs said. "I really never golf, but it's so good that everybody does pitch in and help and sponsor us."

Krebs came to know about MVSH at a crucial time in her life and has never looked back since.

"I had got COVID and I was quite sick and was able to get into the lodge and they just take wonderful care of me... You're never eating alone and there's always activities to do and people to visit with."

The forecast initially indicated a warm end-of-summer day for golfers to enjoy, but a rainy weather system found its way onto the course. Still, smiles shined all over the course in lieu of the absent Alberta sun. Participants from all ages, backgrounds and skill levels toughed it out in jackets and ponchos to raise money for the MVSHF.

Sundre Mayor Richard Warnock was in attendance to help host the putting competition, where contestants competed for some high-value prizes. However, Warnock was most

impressed by the strength of the competitors enduring those trying conditions.

"This is Alberta. We can get weather like today, rainy and cold, and we still have that spirit from the people that come out," Warnock said. "I think everyone knows we look after our seniors in our community in Mountain View County, and if you've got a chance to come out and play in this tournament, have some fun and visit with us, we'd welcome you."

Hyperinflation has led to a rapidly rising cost of living across the nation. Finding an affordable place to call home is almost impossible for seniors in Alberta, according to MVSH director of operations, Susan Read.

"I think we all know there's a housing crunch at all levels of society in Canada, in this province, in this county and we're only going to see that increase as baby boomers turn 65 and up," Read said. "We just want to provide a safe, affordable, comfortable home-like environment for those individuals today and in the years and weeks to come."

Executive assistant of MVSH, Chayla Bjorkman, was the star of another minigame as she dressed in an eagle costume for the Hole 16 Eagle Challenge. Teams were tasked with getting their ball into the Par-4 hole in just two strokes to win some free drinks. Bjorkman's passion for supporting the senior population kept her eagle suit warm in the damp, windy conditions.

"It's just been an honour to work with this company for just over half my life," Bjorkman said. "It's really rewarding work knowing that we're making lives for our seniors a bit better in their new homes and making nursing homes and senior's homes not so industrial and make them look more like a home, somewhere we would want to be."

With a great cause to play for, the golfers mounted their carts and carried their clubs out onto the course, competing to achieve the most holes in the least swings.

Mount Royal University's own Josh Dick and his squad fought through the tough

conditions and eked out the win, taking home prize bags and a spectacular trophy.

"The wind is going to have an effect on your ball no matter what and the rain causes your ball to not go as far as you're used to seeing when playing in ideal weather conditions," Dick said. "It was definitely tough out there but we made it work... We really cleaned up tonight, all of us, bringing home one thing or another. I was excited for all three of us with the prizes we brought home tonight."

"My mom's boyfriend Gary Morris, my uncle Dan Stilling, and I have been playing tournaments together for the last three years and we haven't won until now. It's a huge victory for all three of us and we'll definitely have to come back next year to defend our title."

Dick's team also won the CIP Office Technology accuracy challenge. Contestants on Hole 7 were encouraged to aim their driving shots at a large plastic container 207 yards away from the men's tee or 137 yards away from the women's tee to win a Fujitsu scanner worth over \$2,000. The scanner appeared at four different golf tournaments

this year with no golfers able to claim it, but CIP's Melissa Jones was relieved to award their scanner to Dick's uncle.

"It felt good because it's extraordinarily heavy, so we were getting a little sick and tired of packing it up and taking it around with us," Jones said with a laugh. "It was really awesome to see somebody hit it. His accuracy was incredible, he was taking into consideration the wind, his slice, the rain played a factor as well, so that moment was pretty special."

The 14th Annual Mountain View Seniors' Housing Foundation Charity Golf Classic lived up to and exceeded the expectations set by the incredible turnout of 2023, bringing in a record number of volunteers and testing the commitment and weather resistance of participants. Rotating to different towns in the Mountain View County each year, the tournament is projected to be held in Sundre next year. MVSHF hopes to continue building on the burgeoning legacy of their tournament and provide the senior population of Alberta with the support and care they need and deserve, one putt at a time.



**Chayla Bjorkman doing her best eagle impression to commemorate the Eagle Hole challenge at the MVSHF Charity Golf Classic, where golfers were tasked with completing a four-par hole in just two swings to earn free drinks in the pouring rain. Photo by Zafir Nagji**



# Will Aston Martin “Stroll” their way back to the top of the grid?

**Zafir Nagji**

Sports Editor

Formula One fans were treated to a silly season of the ages, with Carlos Sainz, Lewis Hamilton and Esteban Ocon all moving to new teams. However, drivers are not the only ones influencing the future of the sport. Choosing the right engineers and key staff members can mean the difference between entering the season with a rocket ship, like McLaren did this year, or a tractor, like Kick Sauber have had to field this season. And the biggest fish in that ocean of capable engineers and designers, Adrian Newey, has now found his new home after deciding to leave the once-dominant Red Bull Racing team.

So, just who is he and why does he matter so much?

## Who is Adrian Newey?

Born in 1958, Newey is arguably the greatest and most impactful engineer and designer the sport has ever seen. After graduating with a first class honours degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Southampton in 1980, Newey took on any roles he could find in motorsport. Working as the Chief Aerodynamicist at Fittipaldi Automotive and Race Engineer at March in Formula Two, Newey eventually found his calling in designing race cars.

He achieved success early, designing the two time IMSA GTP-winning March 82G GTP in 1982 and following that up with an IndyCar so fast that it won two seasons of the Championship Auto Racing Teams in a row. The aerodynamic advantage the 82G had with its Venturi tunnels, fed by a gaping hole between the front fenders, kept it glued to the racetrack and his March 85C IndyCar dethroned one of the most successful engines in the sport's history.

That gave Newey the opportunity to climb into the world of Formula One. Beginning under legendary engineer, Ross Brawn, at the FORCE F1 team, Newey wouldn't design another car until rejoining the March team in 1988, where his Leyton House-liveried March

881 F1 car proved to be the fastest naturally-aspirated car on the grid. Good enough for sixth in the Constructors Championship that season, Newey then hit a rough spell in following years and was eventually fired from the team.

He wasn't on the market long, though, as the Williams F1 team snapped him up and immediately made him chief designer. Under team owner Frank Williams and technical director Patrick Head, Newey designed his first truly legendary car, the Williams FW14. Winning seven races in 1991 and 10 in 1992, Nigel Mansell and his FW14 were the only real challengers to the legendary Ayrton Senna and his dominant McLaren MP4/6. Newey's designs would net him his first Constructors Championship victory in the 1992 season, followed by two more consecutive titles.

However, in 1994, Senna, who had moved to the Williams team, tragically died in a high-speed collision at the Imola Grand Prix in the Newey-designed FW16. This resulted in a manslaughter case involving numerous members of the Williams squad, including Newey and Head. While they and the rest of the team were acquitted of any charges, the debacle left a stain on the two Britons' relationship and eventually led to Newey's departure from the team.

Newey's Williams cars registered 59 race victories, 78 pole positions and 60 fastest laps in 114 races from 1991 to 1997. Moving onto McLaren briefly before settling into a long stint at Red Bull Racing, Newey was most famous for turning the Austrian team into a world-beater with his revolutionary rocket ships. His racecars earned six Constructors Championships and seven Drivers Championships in the hands of Sebastian Vettel from 2010-13 and Max Verstappen from 2020-23.

## Why is he leaving Red Bull Racing?

Newey's role slowly became smaller as the energy drink empire bolstered its engineering team. Even

though he was officially the chief technical officer, the team gravitated towards the direction of technical director Pierre Waché. Soon, Newey became a glorified advisor to the team and wasn't even at every race weekend, more so providing expertise in a consulting role. Newey expressed a desire to be more involved in the day-to-day operations of a team and wanting a new challenge in the sport, and Aston Martin's team owner Lawrence Stroll made him an offer he simply could not refuse.

Newey is still contractually obligated to provide his technical expertise on the RB17 hypercar project, Red Bull's street-legal exotic car meant to celebrate their dominance in Formula One. He'll officially start work for Aston Martin when the design phase for the 2026 racecar begins, where he will be tasked with penning an innovative design to tackle the new rule changes being introduced. The new legislations include an allowance for movable front and rear body parts, otherwise known as active aerodynamics. This increased freedom for aero design should help Newey keep up his dominant streak and could potentially launch Aston Martin into the top tier of teams in the sport, but there is one key issue the team must resolve if they have serious intentions of winning titles.

## The Canadian elephant in the room

In order for a team to have success in the Constructors Championship, they need both drivers to perform at the highest level. For example, Scuderia Ferrari's Charles LeClerc scored 206 points in the 2023 season and was further bolstered by his teammate's 200 points, helping Ferrari secure second place in the Constructors Championship. The difference in prize money earned for each finishing position is in the millions of dollars. Because of the high costs that come with entering and remaining competitive in the sport, every team is fighting tooth, nail, tire, and wheel for each available point.

Aston Martin has the perfect lead driver in Fernando Alonso. As the oldest pilot on the grid, with 32 wins and 106 podium finishes in 393 races (and counting), Alonso provides the experience and stability the team needs to continue developing winning habits and racecars. He is paired with Lance Stroll, son of the team owner and arguably the least proficient racer on the grid.

Stroll caused almost \$3M in damages to his car last year and has consistently placed in the top 10 for total damage dollars inflicted. His recklessness, lack of awareness and unrefined racecraft are even more detrimental when taking into consideration the sport's newly introduced budget cap; the more damage Stroll causes to the car, the more money the team has to spend on repairs and the less they have available to bring upgrade packages.

So, while other teams have become significantly faster between 2023 and 2024, Aston Martin has gone from a top-three car on the grid to a stone-cold average. They currently stand fifth in the 10-way Constructors Championship battle and Alonso has not been able to put the car on the podium in any races so far. At 74 points on the season, they sit 218 points behind the Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 team and 40 points in front of Red Bull Racing's junior squad, Visa Cashapp RB. This is despite them being one of the

few teams capable of spending the maximum allowable amount under the budget cap.

## What will it take for the team to truly achieve success?

Aston Martin signing Newey is a huge step in the right direction on their quest to F1 dominance. When the rules change in 2026, the field will once again be open for any of the 10 teams and 20 drivers to establish their places. With an engineer of Newey's caliber combined with the deep pockets of Stroll Sr. and the driving talents of Alonso, the team is partially poised for success.

However, if Stroll Sr. truly values getting positive results, he will have to make the extremely difficult decision to let go of his son and replace him with a more competent driver. Valtteri Bottas, known for his excellence in the secondary role next to Lewis Hamilton at Mercedes, is still available on the open market. Sergio Perez's spot on Red Bull seems less secure after each of his disappointing race weekends, but he still brings home better overall drives than Stroll Jr. and has raced under Stroll Sr. before at Racing Point BWT. Time will tell if Aston Martin's team owner is truly dedicated to doing whatever it takes to win, even if it means making the hardest possible choice and firing a family member.



**Fernando Alonso (left), and Lance Stroll (middle left), bantering with Aston Martin's new technical managing partner and shareholder, Adrian Newey (middle right), with team owner, Canadian billionaire Lawrence Stroll, (right). Photo courtesy of Instagram/ @astonmartinf1**