

Latest tragic news show increasing dangers from climate change impacts



A drone view shows the Guadalupe River and damage from flooding near Camp Mystic in Hunt, Texas, on July 5. (PHOTO: Evan Garcia/Reuters) Eighty nine (89) campers are reported to have lost their lives when flash floods hit their camp and some are still missing or unaccounted for.

What happened in Texas on July 4 is just one of various examples of tragedies that the warming of the planet has dangerous impacts on everything on earth. News reports are not yet clear whether or not a proper weather warning was issued and if this tragedy was caused by the various cuts of the current government. The latest reports indicate that the Texas

flood death toll has risen to at least 134, with 101 people still missing. The flooding primarily impacted the Texas Hill Country, including Kerr County. Search and rescue operations are ongoing, but have been hampered by further heavy rains and difficult conditions.

Meanwhile, authorities leading the search for victims of the

devastating flooding in Texas deflected intensifying questions on Tuesday about who was responsible for monitoring the weather and warning that flash floods were barreling toward camps and homes.

Local officials in Kerr County, where searchers have found 87 bodies, said their priority is finding victims, not reviewing what happened

in the hours before the floods inundated the state's Hill Country.

During a sometimes tense news conference, officials faced questions about how quickly they responded and who was in charge.

"Right now, this team up here is focused on bringing people home,"

See Page 2 Latest tragic news

Quebec adds \$540 million back to schools after nationwide protests



Quebec Education Minister Bernard Drainville has faced an outcry from school boards, staff, and parents in recent weeks over his decision to impose budget restrictions for the coming school year. The government will add \$540 million to the school system, but with certain conditions. (Christinne Muschi/The Canadian Press) See story on page 2

Sponge parks to be established in Montreal against flooding



A garden and bed of rocks next to the splash pad at Montreal's Dickie Moore Park, one of the city's new sponge parks, act as a drain during periods of rain. (Verity Stevenson/CBC) See page 8 for news about recent flooding in Montreal.

From Page 1 Latest tragic news

said Lt.-Col. Ben Baker of the Texas Game Wardens.

The head of a Christian girls' camp in Texas, where 27 campers were killed during flash flooding, waited more than an hour after receiving a severe flood warning to begin evacuation proceedings, according to the Guardian.

Richard Eastland, 70, who ran Camp Mystic with his family since the 1980s, was among those killed after the camp was overwhelmed and devastated by powerful floodwaters on July 4. The camp was located beside the Guadalupe River.

A family spokesperson for the destroyed camp, Jeff Carr, told the Washington Post that Eastland received an emergency message on his phone from the National Weather Service at 1:14 a.m., alerting him of life-threatening flash flooding. Carr said Eastland didn't make the decision to begin evacuations until 2:30 a.m., and by that time, heavy rains had begun and water levels had risen significantly.

At the time of the disaster, almost 700 girls were boarding at the camp. Two teenage counsellors had previously revealed to The Guardian that staff and campers were made to hand in their phones for the duration of their stay, meaning none of them had received news of the flood warnings.

According to Carr, Eastland spent some time after receiving the alert conferring with family members about what course of action to take, some of whom lived on the 725-acre grounds. The Washington Post said the emergency alert did not contain an evacuation order — a procedure that falls under the local government's jurisdiction.

Carr explained that staff



A search and rescue volunteer holds a backpack and a T-shirt with the words Camp Mystic on it on July 6, 2025. The volunteer found the belongings along the Guadalupe River near Ingram, Texas.

communicated over walkie-talkies until Eastland decided the situation had become critical, particularly for the dormitories closest to the riverbank, which housed Camp Mystic's youngest attendees.

Eastland was killed while trying to evacuate a group of young girls in his truck, Carr said. Many of the counsellors in charge of the dorms were teenagers and were left to make life-altering decisions without the guidance of adults, the Washington Post said.

Carr said his family decided to share the details to silence speculation about the turn of events.

"It will be important to go through this process and avoid sharing information on a piecemeal basis," he told the media outlet after a family meeting on Sunday.

While some decisions made by camp staff have been explained, questions remain.

The Post reported that the

Hunt volunteer fire department, despite being the closest emergency response unit to Camp Mystic, did not receive any calls for help from the camp.

Meanwhile, families of some of the campers said they did not receive any notification from staff about the

situation until an email shortly before 11:30 a.m.

In some areas, searches for the missing were paused on Sunday and Monday over fears of more rain and flash flooding.

During a Kerr County commission meeting on Monday, officials shared new details about the scale of the disaster.

"We've heard accounts of trailer after trailer after trailer being swept into the river with families in them. [We] can't find the trailers, we don't know how many of them there are," the county judge, Rob Kelly, said, adding that one trailer was found buried in gravel 27 feet below the surface of the river.

Crews are using sonar to search the river and local lakes for more vehicles, and are draining two reservoirs connected to the river as part of the search, officials confirmed.

According to CNN, the Kerr County sheriff, Larry Leitha, told reporters that recovery efforts could take up to six months.

With files from Global News, July 15, 2025, ABC, The Guardian.



Community residents grieve and pay their respects at a memorial on Friday in Kerrville, Texas. Photograph: Brandon Bell/Getty Images

Quebec adds \$540 million back to schools after nationwide protests

July 16, 2025 - The Quebec government is adding hundreds of millions of dollars to the education budget for the upcoming school year after coming under fire for announcing cuts that would have amounted to \$570 million less in funding.

The sum of money announced on Wednesday amounts to \$540 million.

When announcing the budgetary restrictions last month, Education Minister Bernard Drainville said it was up to school service centres and school boards to respect the budgets they were given.

Since then, teachers, parents, unions, school staff and school boards have heavily criticized those budgetary restrictions, arguing that student success and services would be affected.

Across the province, there were protests and news conferences to draw attention to their concerns.

In a statement on Wednesday, Drainville said the government had listened to people's concerns and was



Mélanie Laviolette is the head of Quebec's parent committee federation, the Fédération des comités de parents du Québec. (Flavie Sauvageau / Radio-Canada)

taking action for students.

But the funding comes with conditions.

Protests and petitions as calls grow for Quebec to backtrack on education cuts

"All the money invested must be used for direct student services, not for anything else. Let's be clear: this is not an open bar," read Drainville's

statement.

"Of the \$540 million announced today, \$425 million will be paid into a dedicated envelope. To qualify, each [service centre] will have to demonstrate that it has made efforts to reduce its administrative expenses." He hopes that a spending review already underway will continue and lead to savings.

Decision offers some comfort, but some are still cautious. Mélanie Laviolette, head of the Fédération des comités de parents du Québec, Quebec's parent committee federation, says the news brings a "certain relief."

But Laviolette remains wary. She hopes the money will be allocated entirely to student services — including field trips, summer courses, tutoring and professional support for students.

"It's going to require a certain amount of vigilance to ensure that these sums are well invested," she told Radio-Canada.

Liberal MNA Madwa-Nika Cadet welcomes the decision and says the citizen mobilization paid off. But she says she still has questions about how "in tune" Drainville is with the school network.

"We've known ever since the

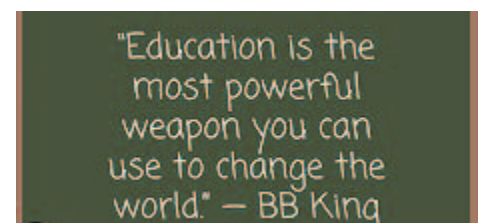
budget was announced last March that the sums allocated were insufficient to meet the rising costs of the system. So how is it that now, in the last month, the minister has turned on the lights?" she asked.

"We're not opening a bottle of champagne today because, for me, a minister who needs such a mobilization of citizens to reverse a decision that was obvious from the start ... it raises certain questions."

Parti Québécois MNA Pascal Bérubé, sponsored a petition launched on the National Assembly website to oppose these budget cuts. It gathered over 157,000 signatures.

He says while this update is "good," it is important to not "take any chances."

"Let's keep signing this petition so that it reaches a record level this fall. There is no confirmation yet that all the measures taken in the school service centres will be cancelled," said Bérubé





FROM THE
PUBLISHER'S DESK

The two sides of
the debate about
genocide in Gaza

Zenaida Kharroubi

The question of whether or not Israel can be accused of committing genocide in Gaza is a very controversial topic. Perhaps, the opinions of newspaper editors, reporters and advocacy groups, both Jewish and non-Jewish, have strong arguments to support their points of view, however, for many people who read the news or watch TV, the daily death tolls and starvation happening in Gaza are difficult to ignore as they appear to be instances and examples of genocide.

The word genocide originates from Greek, *genos* which means race, and *cide* from Latin which translates to killing. A Polish Jewish lawyer, Rafael Lemkin, introduced genocide as a crime in international law and was responsible to have it recognized to be included in an international agreement in 1948 among 153 states that included the U.S. and Israel.

As the Al Jazeera newspaper pointed out, *"Officials, experts and activists have used various terms to describe Israel's destruction of Gaza. But what do they mean?"*

"For all of the condemnation of Israel's actions, there is also strong opposition to Israel's actions being labeled a genocide. Where does this push back come from? ...The opposition is from Israel, which has never accepted claims that it has committed atrocities—claims which have been made for decades for its actions as an occupier of Palestinian territory—and repudiates charges of war crimes and genocide. Israel has

almost unconditional backing from the United States, and has military and other support from the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and a few other Western states. The United States and the United Kingdom have condemned claims of genocide against Israeli leaders, including the orders of the ICJ and the ICC seeking arrest warrants."

Since the day Hamas made a surprise attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, killing 1139 Israelis and abducting more than 200 hostages, news reports on the civilian casualties and the destruction of homes, hospitals, schools are explained by stating that Israel has a right to defend itself and that Hamas is using hospitals as a cover and using civilians as their shields.

United Nations expert Francesca Albanese has slammed the decision by the United States to sanction her as "obscene", saying she is being targeted for calling out Israel's genocide in Gaza. Albanese, who serves as the UN's special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory, said she would not be cowed into silence by the US move against her.

While announcing the sanctions on Wednesday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio charged Albanese with waging a "campaign of political and economic warfare against the United States and Israel."

The UN rapporteur hit back on Thursday, noting that the atrocities being committed in Gaza were not just down to "the unrelinquished territorial

ambitions of Israel" and the backing of its supporters but also "companies who are profiting from it." This statement is related to a local protest group that sent a press release to this paper, citing the fact that they are against the investment of a big Quebec corporation in Israel's war in the Gaza strip.

The sanctions against Albanese by the U.S. government are considered a "dangerous precedent" by Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. According to the Guardian, "The US sanctions are the culmination of an extraordinary and sprawling campaign of nearly six months by the Trump administration to quell criticism of Israel's handling of the deadly war in Gaza. Earlier this year, the Trump administration began arresting and deporting faculty and students of American universities who participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations and other political activities."

With these news reports, it is quite worrisome for journalists to even

discuss genocide in Gaza but it seems necessary to voice our concern on what is going on in that small part of the world where its citizens are suffering.

UN rapporteur Albanese has given us an example not to be silenced by power but our conscience should lead us not to stand idly by. Instead concerned people must voice their opposition to what this continuous bombardment of Gaza means. We do not wish to let history repeat itself when the world stood by as the Holocaust was happening in Nazi Germany between 1933-1945 when millions of Jews were exterminated. It was the Philippine Commonwealth President Quezon who showed his humanity to allow 1200 Jews to settle in the country when no other country wanted to offer them any refuge from their persecutors.

As UN human rights experts pointed out, we are in a moral crossroads - "do we all agree to do something to end the unfolding genocide or watch it end life in Gaza?"

Countries that joined
South Africa in the case of
genocide against Israel

South Africa: filed the case on December 29, 2023

- 1) Cuba: joined January 11, 2024
- 2) Brazil: joined January 15, 2024
- 3) Belgium: declared intention to join on March 11
- 4) Colombia: applied to join on April 5
- 5) Turkey: declared intention to join on May 1
- 6) Libya: applied to join on May 10
- 7) Egypt: declared intention to join on May 12
- 8) Maldives: declared intention to join on May 13

- 9) Mexico: applied to join on May 24
- 10) Ireland: declared intention to join on May 28
- 11) Chile: declared intention to join on June 2
- 12) Palestine: applied to join on June 3
- 13) Spain: declared intention to join on June 6

Several other countries and organizations have welcomed South Africa's case amid a global chorus for a ceasefire in Gaza.



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Historical notes of current events

While the term "Palestine" has been used to refer to the region for centuries, it did not exist as a sovereign nation-state prior to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. The area now known as Israel and Palestine has a long and complex history with various empires and populations holding sway over it. Here's a more detailed explanation:

Ancient History:

The land was known as Canaan in ancient times and later as

the Land of Israel by the Jewish people.

Roman Era:

Following the Jewish revolts against Roman rule, the region was renamed "Syria Palestina" by the Roman Emperor Hadrian.

Medieval Period:

The area was under various empires, including the Byzantine, Islamic (Rashidun, Umayyad, Abbasid, Fatimid, etc.), and Crusader periods, before becoming part of the Ottoman

Empire.

Ottoman Rule:

The Ottoman Empire controlled Palestine for centuries, until its dissolution after World War I.

British Mandate:

Following World War I, the League of Nations granted the British a mandate over Palestine, which included the territory of what is now Israel, Jordan, and the Gaza Strip.

Establishment of Israel:

In 1948, the State of Israel was

declared, and the British Mandate ended. This event is often considered the start of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Palestinian Identity:

The modern Palestinian national identity began to form in the 20th century, particularly after the 1967 war. The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed in the 1960s, and the State of Palestine was declared in 1988, but its territory remains disputed.



A map showing the evolution of the State of Israel from ancient times to the present century as well as important events - [1888 - 2023] Evolution of Israel / Palestine borders from the Ottoman Empire to independence. Source: reddit

At least 20 killed in Gaza stampede

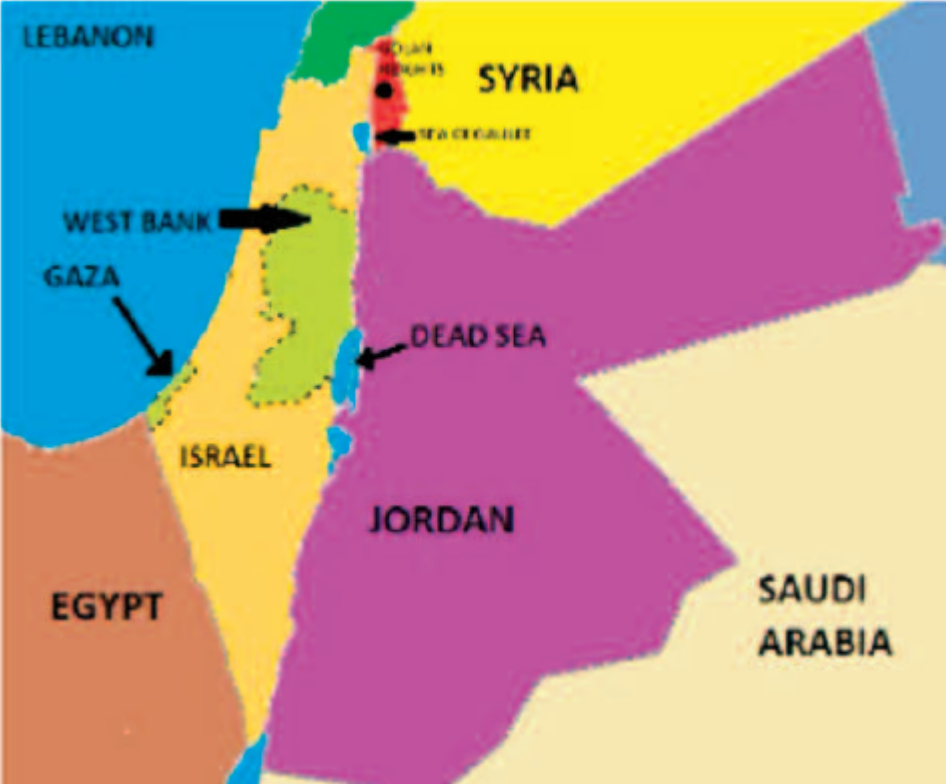


Palestinians mourn for their relatives those who lost their lives in Israeli airstrike towards US aid supply distribution point in Gaza Strip on July 16, 2025. Credit - Abed Rahim Khatib—Anadolu via Getty Images

Callum Sutherland
Wed, 16 July 2025 at 11:23 am GMT-
At least 20 people were killed in a stampede at an aid distribution site in Gaza on Wednesday, according to Gaza health officials and the U.S.-backed aid group operating the site.
The incident is the latest in a series of deadly events near aid hubs

run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a U.S.-based organization operating with Israeli support. GHF was designated lead distributor of aid in Gaza in late May amid international pressure over Israel's months-long blockade, which

See Page 12 At least 20 killed



Map showing the neighboring countries of Israel

There are many countries surrounding Israel. Israel is a small country and has many other small bordering countries around it. All these countries are part of Arabian Peninsula and is notorious for war and geopolitical posturing.

There are Five Neighboring Countries of Israel - Egypt (Sinai Peninsula), Jordan, Palestine (West Bank and Gaza), Syria, Lebanon.

Israel came into being in 14th May, 1948 after the Jewish people returned and settled in areas they claimed as Jewish motherland. Israel has territorial conflict with Palestine. Half of Palestine is on the West Bank of Dead Sea and has been named as West Bank. Gaza Strip is on north-western boundary of Israel. It is bordered by Mediterranean Sea on North, Israel on south & east and Egypt on west.



Monthly News

By John Leo Lete

Local Journalism Initiative

National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada

Dollard-des-Ormeaux Finalizes Zoning By-Law

The City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux has officially adopted a significant revision to its Urban Planning Programme and Zoning By-law, marking the most comprehensive update to its urban development strategy in decades.

The revised Urban Planning Programme (By-law R-2024-190) came into effect on April 24, 2025, while the



The flags of Quebec, Canada, and the city of Dollard-des-Ormeaux wave above the city hall building on a bright spring day in this Montreal suburb. Photo from Wikiwand.com

new Zoning By-law (By-law R-2025-199) was enacted on May 16, 2025. The update introduces modernized guidelines for land use, sustainable development, transportation, and residential zoning, all aimed at shaping the city's future while preserving the character of its neighborhoods.

"This update reflects years of careful planning and extensive community engagement," said Mayor Alex Bottausci. "It's a blueprint for responsible growth that puts residents first."

A Collaborative Process

The changes are the result of a long-term public consultation process that began in 2019, involving surveys, webinars, public consultations, open houses, and review panels. Community feedback played a central role in shaping both by-laws, reinforcing the city's commitment to transparency and citizen involvement.

Residents expressed priorities around traffic flow, green spaces, building density, and the preservation of the suburban character of Dollard-des-Ormeaux. In response, the final plan emphasizes balanced urban development, improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and controlled densification in targeted

areas.

Key Changes in the Urban Plan

- Updated Land Use Designations: More clarity and flexibility in residential, commercial, and institutional zones.
- Sustainable Mobility: Support for walking, cycling, and public transport infrastructure.
- Environmental Considerations: Pro-

tection of green spaces and integration of eco-friendly development principles.

- Architectural Standards: New guidelines for construction aesthetics, height limits, and neighborhood consistency.

New Zoning By-law in Effect

The Zoning By-law, which translates the planning programme into enforceable rules, includes updated zone maps, building regulations, and usage definitions. Developers and homeowners must now follow the new standards for any construction, renovation, or land use changes.

Planning Director Jean-Philippe St-Arnaud noted that the zoning reforms provide "the regulatory foundation to ensure the urban plan's vision becomes a reality."

What's Next?

The city has made both documents publicly accessible on its official website. Information sessions and resources will also be offered to help residents and developers understand how the new regulations apply to them.

"With these tools now in place," said Mayor Bottausci, "we are better equipped than ever to guide growth, protect our environment, and enhance quality of life."

Simple Plan Honored with Key to Pierrefonds-Roxboro

Pierrefonds-Roxboro, July 1, 2025 – In one of the most joyous homecomings this Canada Day, Montreal's beloved poppunk band Simple Plan was officially presented with the Key to the Borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro,

following a highenergy, free concert in their native West Island community.

At 8:30 PM, Simple Plan took the stage at Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School to perform a nostalgic, crowd-pleasing set—including hits like "Welcome



Fans lit up the night with phones and cheers as Canadian band Simple Plan delivered an electrifying performance during the Canada Day celebrations, lighting up the stage with energy and patriotism.

to My Life," "Summer Paradise," "Jet Lag," and "I'm Just a Kid." The show, part of the band's global tour, lasted approximately 90 minutes and was met with boundless enthusiasm. During the first encore, Mayor Dimitrios (Jim) Beis took the mic to honor the local stars with the ceremonial key, a symbolic gesture acknowledging their cultural impact and roots in the borough.

The Canada Day celebration itself drew a record breaking crowd of over 20,000 residents and visitors, transforming the evening into a truly unforgettable community event. The festivities featured a vibrant morning parade, thrilling rides at the "Fun Show," diverse food trucks, and ended with a dazzling fireworks display that

illuminated the night sky. Mayor Beis shared heartfelt remarks "What an incredible day for our borough! From early morning, hundreds of families joined us for our festive and colourful parade. In the evening, we came together to sing and dance with an iconic band that, despite their global success, has never forgotten their roots. Seeing the crowd united under the fireworks was simply magical."

For Simple Plan—comprising Montreal natives who rose to international fame in the early 2000s—this return to roots was especially meaningful. As locals, Pierrefonds-Roxboro has long been their hometown,

See Page 7

Simple Plan

Ross Baisas Carving Ice, Forging Legacy

From Laguna to the Global Ice Stage, Ross Baisas, hailing from the famed woodcarving town Paete, Laguna in the Philippines, has emerged as one half of an internationally renowned ice sculpting duo.

Alongside his brother Antonio, he has transformed freezing blocks into breathtaking masterpieces—earning recognition across Canada, the world, and within the Filipino diaspora. Breaking Ground at Ice on Whyte and Beyond, their breakthrough came at Edmonton's Ice on Whyte Festival in 2018, where the Baisas

Brothers won 1st place, Judges' Choice, and People's Choice for their piece titled "Alliance."

That victory opened doors to further honors at Winterlude in Ottawa and Saint Jean, Port Joli in Quebec—all within the same competition season. A 2019 Alberta Filipino Journal feature described their fearless artistry: "Their design was the riskiest ... a skeletal tyrannosaurus ... They executed the design ... with flying

See Page 7

Baisas Carving Ice



Ross Baisas proudly displays his gold medal and certificates after taking first place at the 2025 IC Alaska Championship, with his stunning ice sculpture on display in the background.



ONTARIO Filipino-Canadian Community News

Tony A. San Juan, OCT

Month-long Filipino Heritage Celebrations

June is a very special and busy month for people of Filipino ancestry in Canada. Officially, June has been declared "Filipino Heritage Month" across Canada. As tradition dictates, people of Filipino descent, numbering 957,355 in Canada (according to the Canadian Census 2021), celebrate "Ang Buwan ng Hunyo" with much fanfare, festivities, salient Philippine cultural themes and historic events which are generally the communities' means of commemorations from coast to coast to coast.

In Ontario, where 363,655 Filipinos live, they have been celebrating three important events in the same month - on June 12th, Philippine Independence Day, on June 19th, the anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal's birth, and the end-of-school-year summer break for school children. These traditional activities, since the Filipino diaspora in the 1950s, have been organized, expanded and delivered in different modes of celebration. Remarkably, the events have evolved from a "past single, coordinated and big tent gathering" to numerous independent, separate but focused and related public celebrations in various cities and towns in the province.

Upon several official proclamations of Filipino Heritage Month in the City of Toronto in November 2017 (via Councillor Neethan Shan and the late community leader Paulina Corpuz' proposals), across the country in October 2018 (through Motion 155 by MP Salma Zahid), and the province of Ontario in May 2021 (Bill 217 by MPP Doly Begum), June became a month-long celebration involving multi-events and festivities engaging Filipinos and non-Filipinos by highlighting the vibrant Filipino culture, heritage and history including Filipino contributions and achievements in the socio-economic landscape of Canada.

In the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), several high-profile community organizations and entities celebrated June 2025 in various historic, purposeful and meaningful activities. These events included:

The Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT), on June 1, 2025, held its "Pistahan Sa Toronto" at the FCT site with FCT President & CEO MaryAnn S. San Juan, Board Chair Efren de Villa and Board Director Philip Beloso leading the festivities. Minister and MPP Raymond Cho, MPP Aris Babikian, MP for Agincourt Jean Yip graced the day-long celebration, together with other Fil-Can community members and their families.

PIDC kicked off on June 7, 2025, with a salo-salo morning picnic at Earl Bales Park, North York and wreath-laying at the statue of the Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, in celebration of his 164th birth anniversary. Those who attended were MP and Minister Rechie Valdez, Philippine Consul General in Toronto Angelica Escalona, MP Roman Baber, MPP and Solicitor General Michael Kerzner,

Philippine Consul Rodney Sumague and CMC-AO President Tulsi Dharel. The event's lead organizers were Tom Tan, Agnes Miranda, Ben Corpuz, Karen Binaday, and Melinda Manlapaz, assisted by other PIDC officers and volunteers.

On June 7th and 8th, PCCF hosted its "Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show" in celebration of its 15th anniversary at Albert Campbell Square, 150 Borough Drive, Scarborough. With numerous business & media partners, community sponsors and vendors. PCCF and its President Rosemer Enverga proudly delivered its theme of "Maki-Saya, Maki-Fiesta at Maki-Tulong!" Philippine Kapuso Star Max Collins was the featured artist, as well as some local talents and performers, including the JDL Performing School alumni & students.

In the City of Mississauga, members of the Fil-Can community celebrated a historic milestone with the official renaming of "Max Ward Park to Philippine Park" on June 11, 2025. The Philippine Park, located near the Kalayaan Centre, is a community-led initiative which received support from Mississauga Mayor Carolyn Parish and key City Councillors.

Members of the Federation of Filipino Canadians-Ontario (FFCO), led by the mother-and-daughter tandem of Monina Lim Serrano and Michele Serrano, organized the annual flag-raising and 127th Philippine Independence Day commemoration at Queen's Park, Ontario Legislative Building on June 12, 2025. The three-hour ceremony was attended by the Philippine Consul General in Toronto, Angelica Escalona, Ontario politicians and Fil-Can community and business leaders. Earlier in the day, the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, together with the Consulate staff and members of the Philippine Independence Day Council, held the flag-raising at City Hall.

The Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre, Salma Zahid, the major proponent of "June as Filipino Heritage Month in Canada," hosted a "Filipino Heritage Month and Community Forum" on June 13, 2025, at Victoria Park Hub, Scarborough. Among the attendees were Mary Ann S. San Juan, Rolly Mangante, Philip Beloso, Tony A. San Juan, and other community leaders. Members of the Toronto Police Services participated in the Public Safety topic of the forum.

In commemoration of the 164th birth anniversary of the Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, on June 19, 2025, the officers and members of the Order of the Knights of Rizal-Canada Region laid wreaths at Rizal's statue at Earl Bales Park, North York. The Knights of Rizal also held a tribute ceremony and dinner at the Park's community centre in the early evening.

Filipino-Canadian visual artists and other members of the Philippine Artists Group (PAG) held their Annual Arts Exhibit with the theme: "Bintana ng Nakaraan, Pintuan ng Bukas" (Window of the Past, Door of the Future) in celebration of the

127th Philippine Independence Day Anniversary and June Filipino Heritage Month on June 21, 2025, at the Neilson Park Creative Centre, Etobicoke, Toronto. In the late afternoon, the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT), hosted the "3rd Biennial Outstanding Filipino Canadian Seniors Awards" with Dr. Eileen de Villa as guest speaker.

In Niagara Falls, Ontario, the seventh Rizal Monument and its historical marker were unveiled on June 21, 2025. The unveiling was attended by officials from the Canadian government, the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, the Philippine National Historical Commission and members of the Niagara Fil-Can community. Also on the same day, the Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians, led by sculptor Mogi Mogado, MFFC officers, and City officials, commemorated and paid homage to Dr. Jose Rizal with mid-morning ceremonies in Markham.

On June 28, 2025, the Toronto Fiesta Extravaganza celebrated a two-day

Philippine Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Geese Project Inc. Forge Strategic Partnership

The Philippine Canadian Chamber of Commerce (PCCC) has entered into a significant partnership with Geese Project Inc. (GPI), marking a new chapter for leadership development and workforce upskilling within the Filipino-Canadian community. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed on June 12, 2025, in Toronto, is designed to enhance the leadership capabilities and professional skills of Filipino-Canadian professionals and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

This collaboration will see PCCC

"Festival of Smiles" with Sining, Sayaw at Saya at Wilson Avenue and Bathurst Street, North York. Thousands of revellers joined the street festival.

Migrante Ontario, a progressive and social advocacy organization hosted a Salu-Salo Heritage Month gathering at Thompson Memorial Park in Scarborough on June 29, 2025.

Other significant Filipino Heritage and cultural celebrations were conducted by Filipino-Canadian associations in the Greater Toronto Area and neighbouring cities like Barrie, Brampton, Hamilton, London, Markham, Mississauga, Pickering, Vaughan, and Windsor.

Indeed, the Filipinos and Filipino-Canadians continuously experience and productively share, promote and propagate their proud heritage through their well-admired and recognized warmth, hospitality, and "Bayanihan" spirit not only during the month of June but also through out the four seasons of the year in their adopted homeland.

emphasizes teamwork, mutual support, and shared leadership - a philosophy aimed at empowering Filipino-Canadian entrepreneurs, community leaders, and emerging professionals to thrive in Canada's competitive business environment.

Steve Pagao, President of the Philippine Canadian Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the broader impact of this initiative: "This partnership with the Geese Project will empower Filipino professionals and entrepreneurs across Canada. It's more than just access



Steve Pagao, President of the Philippine Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and Richard Caballero, Founder of Geese Project Inc., at the MOU signing ceremony in Toronto, June 12, 2025.

and GPI working together to introduce innovative leadership development programs to PCCC's growing membership. These offerings include the Geese Mentality Leadership Workshops and Webinars, the GP Leadership Assessment Test, and the GP Leadership Institute's e-learning courses. The GP Leadership Institute, a Canadian-developed platform, provides over 120 curated courses covering human resources, sales, marketing, operations, customer support, management, and leadership. Its subscription-based model offers unlimited, on-demand access, making continuous professional development more accessible and affordable for Filipino SMEs.

The partnership is anchored in the Geese Project's culturally grounded "Geese Mentality" leadership model, which

to training - it's access to a future where Filipino professionals and Filipino-Canadian SMEs can build stronger teams, close skill gaps, and lead confidently in a competitive global economy".

Richard Caballero, Founder of Geese Project Inc., added, "This MOU is just the beginning of a movement to build the next generation of global Filipino leaders, starting here in Canada with a community that reflects the values of resilience, integrity, and collective growth".

This agreement represents a noteworthy development for the Filipino-Canadian business community, positioning both organizations as leaders in advancing professional excellence and leadership capacity nationwide. (Julian Baricuatro/ TSJ)

BALITA SA WIKANG Tagalog

ni Zenaida Ferry-Kharroubi

Patuloy ang inbestigasyon at paghahanap sa mga sabungero



Ang Taal Lake ay isa sa mga popular na lugar na binibisita ng maraming turista. Ayon sa isang suspek at nagsumbong (whistleblower) na si Julie "Dondon" Patidongan, dito inilibing ang 35 sabungerong pinatay noong 2021-2022. Sinabi niya ito sa interbiyo sa kanya noong Hunyo 2025 at binanggit ang dalawang pangalan na may kinalaman dito na si Gretchen Barretto at ang komersiyanante na si "Atong" Ang na hindi umamin sa pagbibintang sa kanila.



Mga "divers" ng Philippine Coast Guard ang nagpapatuloy maghanap sa labi ng mga sabungerong umano ay ibinurol sa Lake Taal sa Batangas nitong 12 ng Hulyo 2025. (PCG)

Kahit kaylan, ang mga balita tungkol sa krimen o patayan ay hindi ko nais na ilagay sa diaryo nguni't sa isang banda, ang pangyayaring ito ay may kinalaman sa maraming bagay na dapat matuklasan ang mga dahilan upang maputol ang mga masasaming ugali - pagsusugal, pagsuhol (corruption), at pagkilala sa mga tanyag na taong may masamang ginagawa dahil sa mabilis na

pagkita ng maraming salapi na karaniwang nag-uudyok sa isang tao upang gumawa ng masamang paraan.

Ang kasong ito ay matagal na nangyari pero hindi nalutas hanggang ngayon. Aabutin seguro ng anim na buan ang paglilitis na gagawin. Ang mga pamilya ng mga sabungero ay naghihintay at uma-asang mabigyan ng liwanag at hustisya sa kanilang

malungkot na karanasan, at pagkawala ng kanilang mga minamahal sa buhay.

Ayon sa balita, panahon ng pag-ani ng tawilis na makukuha sa Taal Lake, pero maraming mga taong hindi gustong bumili nito dahil sa nangyari.

May 18 pulis ang isinumbong ni Tadiongan na inilagay sa kanyang affidavit nang siya ay pumunta sa opisina ng Napolcon sa Quezon City noong

From Page 5

Simple Plan

and their performance was widely anticipated as the highlight of Canada Day celebrations.

Setlist Favorites: This includes "Addicted," "Shut Up," "Perfect," and covers like "All-Star, Sk8er Boi, Mr. Brightside." Frontman Chuck Comeau even crowd-surfed during "I'm Just a Kid."

Symbolic Presentation: The Key to the Borough, presented just prior to the encore, celebrated the band's contributions to local pride and culture.

Historic Attendance: With more than 20,000 attendees, the event set a borough record and underscored the strong bond between the band and their community.

Attendees captured magical moments on social media, including the surprising appearance of a double rainbow as Simple Plan hit the stage—

From Page 5

Ross Baisas Carving

colors." Over 14 hours carving marathons, using 15 ice blocks, they sculpted "Roarr!!!"—a dinosaur with sepulchral bones and sweeping lines. Despite part of the tail collapsing just before judging, the work still won third place, Artist's Choice, and later the People's Choice Award.

The Apex: Ice Alaska 2025 In February 2025, at Ice Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska

Ross, Antonio, Angelito Baban, and Victor Dagatan captured 1st place in the MultiBlock Competition with their sculpture titled "Summon to the Queen".

The piece, celebrated for its delicate finesse and fierce presence, embodied a narrative both regal and powerful. GMA's Global Pinoy of the Week spotlighted Ross for clinching three first place awards at Ice Alaska—winning across multiple competition categories in the same event.

Craftsmanship, Culture, Community - Ross and Antonio's art is rooted in Paete's woodcarving heritage, yet ice presents entirely new challenges. Their

Hulyo 15 kasama niya ang ilang pamilya ng mga pinatay na sabungero. Kabilang sa 18 na pulis ang mga miembro ng "death squad" ng dating Pangulong Duterte. Ang estimadong namatay sa "drug war" ay 12,000-30,000. Hanggang sa ngayon, si Duterte ay nasa Hague dahil sa pagkadakip sa kanya noong Marso 12, 2025.# Balitang galing sa GMA Network at Inquirer.net

adding a surreal, almost cinematic touch to the night.

The Key to the City (or Borough) is a time-honoured tradition in Canada, awarded to outstanding individuals or groups who have made a significant impact. While Montreal has bestowed this honour on global figures like Céline Dion and William Shatner in the past, this ceremony marked a heartfelt homecoming for a band that grew up in Pierrefonds-Roxboro and never forgot where they came from.

Canada Day 2025 in Pierrefonds-Roxboro will go down as one for the books. It wasn't just the live music or the fireworks—it was the connection between a hometown band and their community, culminating in a memorable tribute: the ceremonial key. For Simple Plan and their fans, it was a night of music, nostalgia, and hometown pride that truly felt like coming full circle.

success rests on passion, patience, and an ability to enjoy the process. In one early interview, Ross stated, "Be passionate about it, be patient, and have fun." They're known not only for their elite competition wins but also for their humility and generosity.

The pair often lend tools to fellow sculptors and engage with FilipinoCanadian communities at events and festivals. Impact and Inspiration For a duo that once struggled to fund travel to competitions, their accolades represent more than trophies—they symbolize devotion to craft and national pride. Their global wins have placed them front and center within the Filipino diaspora, inspiring aspiring artists from Paete to Alberta and beyond.

While future competition plans remain uncertain, often pending financial and schedule constraints, Ross and his brother continue carving opportunities out of ice. Their artistry has earned them a reputation for bold technical design, seamless execution, and cultural storytelling.#

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Floods in Montreal will happen again. Maybe soon. What can we do about it?

'Annabelle Olivier · CBC News ·
Posted: Jul 16, 2025

Eva Szymkowiak was among the Montrealers starting the week dealing with the aftermath of a storm that dumped more than 70 millimetres of rain over the city in just a few hours.

For the second time in just under a year, the longtime resident of Montreal's Saint-Laurent borough, says her building's parking garage on Thimens Street was completely flooded.

Last year, she says both their vehicles were ruined in a flood. But on Sunday, Szymkowiak says they saw the water accumulating from the storm and she luckily had time to move her car and warn others in the building.

One neighbour described seeing the manhole covers on the street being blown off and the water making its way into the building through the indoor garage. "Somehow this street doesn't absorb [...] huge amounts of water," Szymkowiak said.

Szymkowiak and her neighbour are hoping the city steps up to fix the problem. Faced with repeated flooding across multiple boroughs, officials are attempting to find long-term solutions — some even introducing bylaws designed to mitigate flood risk and exposure.

'Every neighbourhood, every street is different,' says mayor Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante visited those impacted by flooding in the city's Ahuntsic-Cartierville borough on Monday.

"There isn't a unique solution for the entire territory," she said. "Every neighbourhood, every street is different."

She pointed to various initiatives being carried out by the city to reduce the impact of flooding, including overhauling the sewer infrastructure in high-priority areas and building green infrastructure, such as sponge parks and retention basins.

Maja Vodanovic, the executive committee member responsible for water, said several criteria help determine which areas are high priority, including the number of people affected in an area, whether it's in a low-lying area or prone to flooding.

Overhauling sewage network not the solution, says expert

Jean-Luc Martel, a professor in the construction and engineering department at the École de technologie supérieur in Montreal, said there is often a lot of emphasis placed on the need to redo the sewer network.

But retrofitting the sewage network as a whole would be expensive, he says. In some cases, putting in bigger pipes would just displace the problem by moving the water downstream.

"It's not a question of the size and the capacity of the sewer network.



Crews worked to clean up a parking garage in Montreal's Saint-Laurent borough after heavy rains caused widespread flooding on Sunday. (Melissa François/CBC)

They're not designed to deal with those events," said Martel. "That's not [its] job."

Are basement living spaces a good idea in Quebec after widespread flooding?

That can include using waterproof materials like ceramic tiles in flood-prone basements, or installing watertight garage doors, says Maja Vodanovic, the executive committee member.



After several floods in Quebec, the borough of Saint-Laurent has decided to allow property owners to level up their inclined driveways. It's also put in place a measure that prohibits basements to be used for certain purposes.

To mitigate flooding, boroughs have to look at what's happening at the surface, says Martel, and reduce the amount of runoff making its way into storm sewers to avoid overwhelming the network.

Green infrastructure can help. He says homeowners can also do their part by having rain gardens and disconnecting gutters to allow the water to be absorbed by the lawn.

Ultimately, though, Martel says the main issue are basements.

"We need to really question ourselves as a society. Do we need basements?" said Martel.

"After the sewer is full, the water stays on the surface and then it goes with gravity. It goes to the lowest point," he said.

Mitigating flood risk and exposure

With the intensity and frequency of extreme rain set to increase, the City of Montreal says it wants to make it easier for homeowners to make changes to create a more resilient home.

neighbourhood, or borough, the city of Montreal said its RénoPlex program, for buildings with one to five dwellings, provides financial assistance to homeowners for renovations or flood protection work on their property.

The borough of Saint-Laurent has taken action and adopted a new bylaw last month which will allow homeowners to level up downward sloping garage entrances.

It also outlines conditions for parking lot layouts and states that new driveways should be designed in a way to prevent rainwater from flowing onto private property. But the borough isn't quite ready to remove basements from the equation.

Citing the ongoing housing crisis, it said in a news release, the borough will continue to allow for dwellings in basements, even in new constructions, provided "flooding risks are reduced to a minimum."

Borough Mayor Alan DeSousa, says basement usage for daycare centres and seniors' residences will be limited.

"If kids are in the basement doing activities and water comes very quickly those kids are vulnerable," he said.

What on Earth? How pretty, spongy public gardens make way for more housing

Other boroughs have different rules.

Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie, is taking a tougher stance and is not allowing the construction of 100 per cent basement dwellings anywhere on its territory, except through special exemptions for large-scale projects that benefit the community and meet criteria ensuring resiliency.

Homeowners, however, will be allowed, under certain conditions, to expand the living area of their home by developing an underground living space. Basement use will continue to be allowed for things like garbage storage, laundry rooms, and parking areas.

"We want to make it more simpler for those kind of projects to go through. We are working on changing our regulations to streamline those projects," Vodanovic said.

Regardless of the



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58th ASEAN summit held July 8-11, 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 58th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) was held on 9 July 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by Malaysia under the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability".

The Meeting was opened by The Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia. In his remarks, Prime Minister Anwar highlighted ASEAN's strength in its habits of cooperation and its willingness to keep engaging. He emphasised that ASEAN is a region that charts its own course deliberately, coherently, and with purpose. Prime Minister Anwar underlined the principle of Centrality as ASEAN's guiding principle, which is crucial for maintaining the region's role as the primary anchor for dialogue and ensuring external partners continue to find value in engaging with ASEAN. In line with the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future, he called for greater synergy across pillars and sectors, and proposed for ASEAN Foreign Ministers and ASEAN Economic Ministers to move in concert in facing challenges. He underscored the importance of fortifying ASEAN's internal foundations,

by increasing intra-ASEAN trade and investment and advancing integration across sectors. the first in-person talks by the countries' top diplomats since President Donald Trump returned to the White House in January.

Neither of the diplomats nor their delegations spoke to journalists as they posed for photos at the top of the meeting, but Rubio called talks "positive" after they finished. What did Rubio say after meeting Wang?

"I thought it was [a] very constructive and positive meeting," Rubio said.

Rubio and Wang are in Kuala Lumpur for a meeting of foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN.

The meeting between the two marks one of the highest-level engagements between the US and China since President Donald Trump returned to office in January.

Tensions remain high between Washington and Beijing, as the two nations clash over a range of issues, including Taiwan, trade and emerging technologies.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio meets with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi during the 58th ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting and related meetings at the Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur on July 11, 2025. MANDEL NGAN/Pool via REUTERS

On Friday, Rubio said there was a "high probability" that Presidents Trump and Xi Jinping would meet face-to-face to discuss such issues; though he gave no time frame, only saying there was "strong desire" for such a meeting to take place.

China has agreed to sign a Southeast Asian treaty banning nuclear weapons, Malaysia's and China's foreign ministers confirmed, in a move that seeks to shield the area from rising

global security tensions amid the threat of imminent United States tariffs.

The pledge from Beijing was welcomed as diplomats on Thursday gathered for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers' meeting, where US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is also due to meet regional counterparts and Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

With files from Al Jazeera, July 11, 2025



Donald Trump (right) has spoken with Mark Carney two weeks into the latter's tenure as Canadian prime minister. Composite: Canadian Press, Rex/Shutterstock, AFP via Getty Images

Most countries will likely have to accept some baseline tariff rate on their goods by the United States, Prime Minister Mark Carney signalled Tuesday morning, on his way into a meeting with his cabinet on Parliament Hill.

"There is not much evidence at the moment — from the deals, agreements and negotiations with the Americans, for any country or any jurisdiction — to get a deal without tariffs," Carney said in French, when asked whether he believes it's possible to have the levies removed entirely.

Canada, he added, is uniquely positioned to have effectively free trade with the United States.

A slate of stacked U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods, as well as Canadian countermeasures, have been in place for months.

Following the G7 summit in Kananaskis, Alta., last month, Carney signalled he and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to iron out a trade deal before July 21. But, in a letter addressed to Carney and posted to Truth Social last week, Trump said he'll be hitting Canada with 35 per cent tariffs on Canadian products starting Aug. 1. Carney subsequently revised the deadline to reach a deal to that date.

Carney also told reporters before Tuesday's cabinet meeting that he expects talks with the United States will "intensify" in the next few weeks.

"At the same time, we need to recognize that the commercial landscape globally has changed," he said. "It has changed in a fundamental manner, and we will continue to focus on what we can most control, which is

Carney says a U.S. trade deal without some tariffs is unlikely

building a strong Canadian economy. It's part of what we'll be discussing at cabinet today."

The prime minister added that the situation needs to be "stabilized," especially for the sectors that are particularly affected by Trump's tariffs.

Carney is also set to meet with Canada's premiers in Huntsville, Ont., next week.

In a post on social media Tuesday afternoon, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre criticized Carney for conceding that a fully tariff-free deal with Trump may not be possible.

Another unilateral concession from a man who said he would never back down to the U.S. president," he wrote.

Also in a statement Tuesday, NDP interim leader Don Davies wrote: "Conceding to a bully never ends."

"That is why New Democrats urge the Carney government to cease offering unilateral concessions without securing reciprocal benefits from the U.S.," he added.

Carney comments a 'wake-up call': trade lawyer

William Pellerin, an international trade lawyer with McMillan and former litigator for Canada in trade disputes with the United States, said Carney's comments on Tuesday can serve as a "bit of a wake-up call for Canadians and Canadian businesses that we might not get back to a place of no tariffs."

Speaking to CTV News, Pellerin said businesses should prepare for that to be the case.

Pellerin said there is "a lot of scenario planning" underway for Canadian businesses and industry, while Carney's comments could be "laying the groundwork or setting expectations" for Canadians.

"I think there's still quite a bit of optimism and hope that we will get to a reasonable place with the United States as our, by far, largest trading partner," he said. "But today might have been kind of the first opening, or the first time that we've really heard that we might not get there."

Speaking to reporters earlier on Tuesday, Carney indicated Canada has one of the lowest effective tariff rates compared to other countries. According to Pellerin, Canada is "actually not doing terribly."

He said while there are some sectors that have been hit with more punishing tariffs — such as steel and aluminum — the vast majority of goods being compliant with the Canada-U.S.-Mexico free trade agreement brings the average, or effective, tariff rate down.

"If Canada could get to a place where we have just a very low baseline tariff that applies only to a certain subset of products, I think we could be OK," Pellerin said. "But certainly, right now, the steel industry and others are really suffering."

With files from CTV news published July 15, 2025



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Plant-based recipes to try from breakfast to dinner time



Coconut Lime Tofu

This coconut lime tofu dish tastes like vacation in a bowl. With fragrant jasmine rice and a rich, tangy sauce, This recipe is the kind of dinner that feels indulgent but comes together in 25 minutes.

Ingredients

1½ cups jasmine rice, dry

For the tofu

375 gram extra firm tofu, 1 block, cubed

1 tbsp avocado oil, or olive oil, divided

1 tbsp soy sauce, divided

1 tbsp cornstarch

For the sauce

1 tbsp avocado oil, or olive oil

1 shallot, diced

1 thumb ginger, minced

3 cloves garlic, minced

13.5 oz full fat coconut milk, 1 can

1 tbsp soy sauce

1 tsp maple syrup

1 tsp paprika

2 limes, juiced

To garnish

1 handful cilantro, chopped

Equipment

Cutting board

Sharp knife

Baking Sheet

Parchment Paper or reusable silicone sheet

Large pan

Rice cooker or pot

Instructions

Cook the rice according to package directions.

Preheat the oven to 400F and prepare a baking sheet with parchment.

To a bowl, toss the tofu in one tablespoon of the oil, soy sauce and cornstarch until evenly coated. Bake for 20 minutes, until crispy.

In the meantime, to a pan over medium heat, add the other tablespoon of oil, shallot, ginger and garlic. Saute for 1 to 2 minutes, until

fragrant. Pour in the coconut milk, soy sauce, maple syrup and paprika, and stir.

Now add the cooked tofu, and lime juice. Finish with a handful of chopped cilantro. Serve with rice, as desired.



Banana Chocolate Chip Breakfast Cookies

Ingredients

2 very ripe bananas

¼ cup almond butter

¼ cup maple syrup

2 cups oats

⅔ cup almond flour

1 teaspoon vanilla

½ teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon baking soda

¼ teaspoon sea salt

¼ cup chocolate chips

Instructions:

Step 1 – Preheat Oven

Begin by preheating the oven to 350 degrees. Prepare a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Step 2 – Combine Wet Ingredients

In a medium sized bowl add bananas, almond butter, maple syrup and vanilla. Mix well, mashing the banana until all ingredients are fully combined. Set aside.

Step 3 – Mix Dry Ingredients

In a separate bowl add oats, almond flour, cinnamon, baking soda and sea salt. Stir well.

Step 4 – Combine Well

Add the oat mixture to the banana mixture, stirring until thoroughly combined.

Step 5 – Add Chocolate Chips

Now mix in the chocolate chips.

Step 6 – Scoop Cookies

Use a cookie scoop or spoon to scoop up cookie mixture and place it on a baking sheet.

Step 7 – Flatten Cookies

Press each ball with the heel of your palm to flatten the cookie out. We also sprinkled some flaky salt on top.

Step 8 – Bake

Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until slightly golden.

Storage

Breakfast cookies are best stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 5 days. Allow the cookies to

From Page 4 At least 20 killed had pushed the enclave to the edge of famine.

The death toll of Palestinians killed near GHF aid hubs has now reached nearly 700, according to United Nations figures released on Tuesday

The GHF claimed the stampede, which took place on its distribution hub in Khan Younis, was intentionally caused by agitators in the crowd. The organization reported 19 people were trampled and one person was fatally stabbed during what it described as a “chaotic and dangerous surge.”

“We have credible reason to believe that elements within the crowd – armed and affiliated with Hamas – deliberately fomented the unrest,” GHF said, adding that it recovered at least one firearm during the incident.

Gaza’s Health Ministry disputed GHF’s version of events of what prompted the stampede, calling the statement “false and misleading.”

“This crime claimed the lives of 21 martyrs this morning, including 15 who died from suffocation and six who were shot with live ammunition, in addition to many others who were injured,” the Health Ministry statement read.

The ministry also accused GHF of operating outside humanitarian norms, saying it “does not adhere to any professional or ethical standards of humanitarian work.”

The Health Ministry has alleged that GHF staff, which consists of armed private security personnel, and Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have fired directly upon people collecting aid.

TIME has reached out to the GHF and the IDF for comment. The Israeli military has declined to comment publicly on the incident, referring questions back to the

cool down prior to storing.

foundation.

Witnesses said guards at the site used pepper spray after locking the gates, trapping people between the gates and the perimeter fence. Other reports from the scene allege that access to the aid center was delayed or blocked, causing panic among those gathered.

“People kept gathering and pressuring each other; when people pushed each other...those who couldn’t stand fell under the people and were crushed,” Mahmoud Fojo told Reuters.” Some people started jumping over the netted fence and got wounded. We were injured, and God saved us. We were under the people and we said the Shahada (death prayers). We thought we were dying, finished,” the eyewitness continued.

In a response to the New York Times, the organization said it had used a “limited” amount of pepper spray, but “only to safeguard additional loss of life.”

GHF and its distribution sites have come under heavy criticism since operations began in May. The day after aid hubs in Gaza opened, one Palestinian was killed and another 48 injured, which appeared to be as a result of Israeli gunfire according to the U.N.

Critics have also raised concerns that the placement of GHF aid centers, mostly in southern and central Gaza, may be contributing to the long-term displacement of civilians from the north, where Israeli military operations have continued.

Despite the scale of distribution, the UN has warned that aid provided through GHF represents only a fraction of what is needed to stave off starvation for Gaza’s population of more than two million.

With files from Time Magazine

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Social Tidbits

Montreal Community News

Fely Rosales Cariño

Greetings to my loyal social tidbits readers! Happy, glorious summer! Yes, it's been scorching hot some days, but enjoy it while you can! Relax by your backyard, enjoy the poolside, or drive by Lakeshore Drive on the West Island and stop by the water. Bring folding chairs, cold drinks and snacks. It's barbecue season and if you've attended any Filipino event (especially Philippine Independence festivities) in Mackenzie King Park, Montreal, pork barbecue is a hot item. You can just smell the aroma around the park. Hopefully you're now in a good mood and let's see what's up with our community.

Flag Raising Ceremonies

June 12 is an important date to Filipinos. To be exact, it was on June 12, 1898 when Philippine Independence from Spain was declared. Filipinos all over the world have their own ways to celebrate. This year, the Filipino community paid tribute to the 127th Anniversary of our freedom at the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) Center at 4708 Van Horne Avenue, Montreal. This symbolic commemoration was staged in front of the FAMAS Center. Leah Baldelovar gave the opening remarks. The entrance of the different colors of the flags (Philippines, Quebec, Canada) started the parade followed by government officials, FAMAS members, Knights of Rizal (KOR), reigning beauties and the public. The national anthem was played as the Philippine flag was raised. There was a series of heart-rending recitation of Panunumpa sa Watawat by Adrian Dereje, Daniel Bongcayao, Sophia Danzil Gaudia and Prince NJ Dalit. Then the wreath-laying was led by FAMAS President Nida Quirapas and the invocation was read by Amy Manon-og (FAMAS Board of Trustees). Many community leaders were present such as Sir Rey Balansi (KGOR), Luzviminda Mazzone (President, Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec, FFCAQ), Sir Al Abdon (Chairman, Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal, FHSM), Sir Gerry Danzil (President, United Pilipino Seniors Association of Quebec, UPSAQ), Sir Darius Boco (President, Council of Canadian Filipino Association of Quebec, CCFAQ), Marvin Rotrand (Director General, United Against Hate Canada), Gloria Steinberg (President, Cummings Center) and Victoria McNeil (Program Manager, Cummings Center). The celebration concluded with lots of refreshments.

In the afternoon of June 12, another flag raising occasion was observed at the City Hall of Côte Saint-Luc at 4801 Cavendish Boulevard. FHSM Chairman Al Abdon and Marvin Rotrand led a contingent of Filipinos to witness this ceremony. MP Anthony Housefather (Special Advisor on Jewish Community

Relations and Antisemitism) rushed from Ottawa to be on time for the flag ceremony. The group was well received by Côte Saint-Luc Mayor Mitchell Brownstein and his council members.

Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs, FAMAS, Gala Night

On June 14, 2025 many Filipinos flocked to the Olympia Reception Hall on 3855 Blvd. St. Jean for a FAMAS double header – the 127th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence and the 62nd FAMAS Anniversary. These numbers are staggering; it is reason to celebrate! Filipinos everywhere pay tribute to the Araw Ng Kalayaan (Day of Freedom) when our forebears claimed their right to be free from centuries of Spanish rule. This right was obtained in Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898 and since then, June 12 is hailed as the Philippine Independence Day.

The amazing emcee, Cynthia Puray-Pacheo, eloquently related the struggles to achieve universal human rights and our right to sovereignty. With diligent research, she also gave a brief FAMAS history lesson. It started in 1963 as a social club of Filipino professionals (nurses, doctors, and teachers) from the Philippines who came here to Montreal to work. The rest is history.

Cynthia introduced the procession of colors (of the flags) with bearers Romeo Remegio (Philippines), Francisco Bernabe Jr. (Canada), and Romeo Talabucon (Quebec). She acknowledged title holders who are supportive FAMAS fundraisers: Gandang Lola 2024, Maria Grace Tambalque and Mrs. FAMAS 2024 Alma Ydeo Tablada with their princesses and the newly crowned Munting Binibining Pilipinas Montreal 2025, Her Majesty Queen Angelina Pereira Mazzone and her royal court. The FAMAS Executive board, led by President Nida Quirapas, was introduced. Then the national anthems were performed by the Panday Tinig Ensemble, followed by the recitation of Panunumpa sa Watawat by Sophie Maria Gaudia, Maria Angela Ramirez, Daniel James Dalit, Prince NJ Dait, and Reymer Montero. Panatang Makabayan was presented by the FAMAS Executive Board. Ako ay Pilipino, a special dance presentation, was performed by Her Majesty Queen, Angelina Periera Mazzone. Reverend Father Reginaldo Lavilla led the opening prayer and the blessing of the food.

Welcome addresses were given by Mrs. Corazon Remegio (Chairperson of this gala) and Glenda Lasaten (Co-Chairperson). FAMAS President Nida Quirapas gave her message and then several awards were handed out to: Tony Danzil, Antonio Peitrangelo, Joel Alden Pelardo, and Mr. Albert Redole in recognition of their precious time and effort to keep the FAMAS center in prime

condition.

Inspirational messages were given by notable leaders Anthony Housefather (MP, Mount Royal Riding) and Sonny Moroz (Councilor, Snowdon District). Both were described by Cynthia as not Filipinos by blood but Filipinos by heart! They continuously support all Filipino events. Ladies who also shared their messages were Stephanie Valenzuela, who holds the distinction of being the first ever Filipino elected (Councilor, Darlington District) and Ms. Chelsea Craig (Commissioner, English Montreal School Board). Special dance numbers were given by our beauties Alma Ydeo Tablada & friends and newly crowned Angelina Pereira Mazzone with her own choreography to the tune of Bora-Bora. Fantastic!

The traditional formal dance of the Philippines, the Rigodon, was deemed the evening's highlight. This dance was influenced by the Spanish settlers in the 16th century and thus carries with it the status of the elite. The dancers wore their barongs and ternos and performed with grace and great posture to the delight of the crowd. The eight pairs were: Merissa Lasaten Taclan & Norman Rigat, Raquel Trinidad & Armando de Mechele, Gemma Velez Lanoba & Ivan Keith Losloso, Grace Santiago & Airyl John Villanueva, Glenda Lasaten & Royland Sanguir, Ethel Joy Lasaten & Earl John Valerio, Alma Ydeo Tablada & Carmelo Tortolano, and Maria Grace Tambalque & Francisco Bernabe Jr. Thank you to these dancers who performed to their utmost though under short notice. And shout out to DJ Dennis Mayuga for his well prepared sets and to Raffy Lacaden (FAMAS VP External 2025) for his closing remarks.

Council of Canadian-Filipino Association of Quebec, CCFAQ

On June 15, 2025, CCFAQ celebrated the 127th Philippine Independence at Mackenzie-King Park on 4907 Avenue Saint-Kevin, Montréal. CCFAQ President Dario Boco had all the support of his executive board and its members and executed a well-planned day of activities. The motorcade parade around the borough signaled the start of the event led by Grand Marshall MP Anthony Housefather. The Philippine and Canadian national anthems were played and the invocation was by Alona S. Amano. President Dario Boco (KGCR, LM, Past Regional Commander) welcomed the crowd while Sir James Dela Paz (KGCR, LM, CCFAQ Founder and Administrator) introduced the guests. A roster of VIPs who graced the whole day of activities were Her Excellency Maria Andrelita S. Austria (Philippine Ambassador to Canada), Sir Anthony Housefather, Michelle Sitlakwe (MNA, Mont Royal), Elizabeth Prass (MNA, D'Arcy McGee), Mayor Gracia Kasoki Katahwa (CDN-NDG), Sir Marvin

Rotrand, Sonny Moroz (Councilor, Snowdon District), and Stephanie Valenzuela (Councilor, Darlington District).

The performers represented many dance groups: D'Easy, Children Heritage, Golden Maidens, Bisaya Women's Group (BWGM), Bibak, Mediterranean, I'm Barley Youth, and Hyper Trio. Vocal solos were rendered by Peach Chu, Joven Magbanua, Mau Yaranon, Michelle Lao, Johanne Luis, Jhun Ramo, Erica Nicole Tenorio, Raziel de Leon, Jonathan Santander, Sir Julius Abad, Jun Bonyog, Sir Alain Charbonneau, Walter Slosson, and Joy Gallego.

And let's not forget the float competition! The judges' criteria were: creativity, patriotic spirit, crowd appeal, and use of colors. The winners and prizes were: D'Easy Dance Group (\$200), BWGM (\$150), FAMAS with Alma (\$100), Maria Clara (\$75) and UPSAQ (\$75).

And let's give a big shout out to the 30-plus tents around the park. One can make a brief visit to see the interesting things on display, some available for purchase. Participating groups were: CCFAQ, BWGM, FHSM, FAMAS, KOR, AFSM, UPSAQ, Kababaihang Rizalista, Pangasinan Association, Bicol SarongBanggi, Samar and Leyte (SLAC). Other groups were: Alpha Kappa Rho(1973), Volleyball Tent, Truckers, Alpha Phi Omega de Montreal (1925, celebrating 100 years), and Chess Group. Religious organizations were Jesus is Lord (JIL), Mount Carmel 7th Day Adventist Church, and The Good News Christ's Church of Montreal. There were also tents for President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (PRRD) Supporters, D'Easy Dance Group, Salubong sa Isang Siglo ng Apo, and MP Anthony Housefather's tent. And special mention to the food tent vendors selling like hot cakes: Jr.'s Cafe, Oragon Cuisine, Poulet Fou, Le Bistro Restaurant, A&F 1017 Table, La Boite Bento Asiatique, Friends for Cause, Red Homemade, and Eropa Coffee Shop. If you're looking for Barongs, Filipinianas, dresses and other items, Les Artisans du Philippines is the place to go. For other things like sunglasses, purses, etc., Pilipinas Trend JM and Jennifer Parsian have a good selection. There are many other tents that offer a wide variety of goods. And would you believe Ice Barbershop? Yes, drop in for a haircut while touring the grounds!

And I wish to acknowledge one who gives the event a special touch, in the person of Sir James Dela Paz who ensures the annual presence of a special group, the Cannon Canadian Forces. This is unique among other celebrations. Ati-Atihan, courtesy of the Aklanon Association, also performed

And I want to express my gratitude to CCFAQ President Dario

See Page 18 Social Tidbits

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FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

KC Concepcion looks back on her life in Paris: 'Where I first fell in love'



KC Concepcion

After finishing high school in the Philippines, KC Concepcion chose to pursue her studies in Europe where she finished with a degree in International Communications from the American University of Paris in 2008. The only daughter of former couple Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion got nostalgic in an Instagram post last July 14 which is also known as Bastille Day, or the national day of France.

In her Instagram account, KC wrote, "Missing France a little extra today for Bastille Day. My home for 5 years, where I learned new languages, shopped the market streets nearly every day, cooked for myself and my friends, commuted with a map booklet, walked cobblestone streets in heels (even with a sprain), studied fashion, design, communication, and life... Where I first fell in love... with the world and the city that romanced me in return.

"I'd wander alone for hours, jewelry window shopping in Place Vendôme or Saint-Germain, daydreaming and becoming the woman I once only imagined □ From balcony hangouts to motorcycle

joyrides, and café catch-ups to kir royales in tiny kitchens with friends I haven't seen in forever... Paris gave me magic, chaos, and quiet growth.

"It was never about aesthetic photos ~ it was about growing up



abroad, learning how to live, love, and be as a Filipina in Europe. Bonne fête nationale, ma belle France

"BRB missing the OGs ~ Zain, Irina, Eric, Grace, Vica, and everyone not in this post

"We will always, truly, have Paris."

In her vlog last year, KC was able to visit her old apartment in Paris during a short two-day trip to the City of Lights. "Ever since I lived here, I fell in love na talaga. Paris is a core memory and will always be special to me. This is the first time I'm here in Paris when there's such a big event. Kasi usually, umaalis kami ng Paris to escape the crowd. Almost four years din ako tumira dito sa building na 'to and I live on the fifth floor. Sobrang saya ko kasi whenever I come home, whenever I come here to Paris and napapadaan ako dito, parang it feels like uuwi lang ako. Yan ang gustung-gusto ko sa Paris, halos walang nagbabago pero ang daming nagbabago. They tend to stick to their traditions and preserve kung anong mayroon sila."

The Avec Moi owner and jewelry designer also shared what she learned as a college student living independently in Paris with her own apartment after her graduation in 2008.

She wrote, "Forever thankful that my parents sent me away to Europe for university. 5 years of growing from a teen to a twenty-something. In a new home that hardly spoke English at all (I had to learn everything from banking to groceries to doctor's visits in French). I eventually grew into it, adapted to the culture, got molded by the places and people— that time remains to be an enormous part of who I am today. Funny thing is, I feel like I'm back there now, thrown into something new, something unfamiliar, something different... and succeeding in the situations you find yourself in... as we all learn so much more about how to do LIFE in these bewildering times.

"How to do things, how to feel things, how to stay disciplined, how to manage your emotions, how to empathize, how to support yourself, not getting it right all the time, but staying the course and picking yourself back up again. Not knowing what the next thing is gonna be, but going with the flow and just doing it. I'm back to the everydayness of life where there are ups and downs, scary times and then finding pleasure all around. My time as a university student and this time as a student of life (while on lockdown right now) feel the same in so many ways! There's inner work being done to each one of us as we lose our freedom and adapt to new normals." ■

Anne Curtis lives every fangirl's dream with Park Seo Joon



Anne Curtis with a fan and Park Seo Joon.

Actress-TV host Anne Curtis couldn't hide her kilig and excitement as she shared the stage with South Korean star Park Seo Joon during "Fit For Any Role: Park Seo Joon The Ultimate Fan Fest" held at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City last Saturday.

to the special moment between Anne and the actor.

"Best lucky fangirl talaga!" one user commented.

"Ay grabe parang lalahatin na ata ni Miss Anne. Tirahan mo naman kami baka naman po!" another quipped in jest.



Anne made a special appearance at the event as a brand endorser. She had the honor of welcoming and introducing Seo Joon on stage, to the delight of thousands of fans who packed the venue and erupted into cheers at the sight of the K-drama heartthrob.

"Mabuhay, Philippines! I'm so happy to be here. Let's (have) a great time. Thank you!" Seo Joon greeted his Filipino fans.

"Grabe, isang simpleng hello lang, grabe 'yung hiyawan ng Araneta!" Anne remarked, clearly just as thrilled as the crowd.

She also had a fun moment onstage with Seo Joon, who showcased his favorite dish using Century Tuna, much to the audience's delight.

The interaction quickly trended online, with netizens reacting

Anne, who is making her teleserye comeback in the Philippine adaptation of the K-drama "It's Okay to Not Be Okay," also shared photos from the fan meet, saying, "Welcomed Park Seo Joon to our @centurytunasuperbods fam as the global super bod. Been with them since 2012. This was such a fun (maybe a little shy) night with them. Till the next one. Thanks for having me."

Seo Joon, known for his roles in hit Korean shows like "What's Wrong With Secretary Kim," "Fight For My Way," "Itaewon Class" and "Gyeongseong Creature," last visited Manila in 2023 for a fan meet. The 36-year-old actor, who made his Hollywood debut in "The Marvels" (2023), also remains a fan favorite in the Philippines. ■

Jinkee Pacquiao emotional as family reunites after 4 years



(From left) Israel, Jinkee, Manny, Jimuel, Michael, Mary and Queenie Pacquiao

Media personality and former politician Jinkee Pacquiao couldn't help but be emotional as she shared a complete photo of her family after four years. On her Instagram account, the celebrity wife expressed how it's extra special seeing her children once more in Las Vegas.

Her husband, athlete-turned-politician Manny Pacquiao, is set to have an upcoming match with WBC welterweight champion Mario Barrios on July 19.

It's been four years since they were last complete since their son, Jimuel, has been training for his boxing career in the United States while their daughter, Mary, has been living in London as she pursues her education.

"Four years later, and together again at last. Our hearts are full. Every family reunion is a chapter on our story. This one is extra special after four years," Jinkee wrote in her caption.

All five of their children—Jimuel, Michael, Mary, Queenie, and Israel—are in Las Vegas to support their father. Included in the photos Jinkee shared is the rumored girlfriend

of Jimuel as well.

"Hilak gyud ko habang ga type ko sa caption ani nga picture nakahilak ko sa kalipay ug grabeng pasalamat nako sa Ginoo na kompleto akong pamilya. Mao lang gyud ang handom sa usa ka inahan nga naa tanan ang mga anak makauban ug makompleto mi pamilya," she added.

(I'm in tears while typing this caption. I'm crying with joy and I'm so grateful to God that my family is complete. This is the wish of any mother to have all her children with her and their family to be complete.)

Manny shared other photos of their family on his Instagram account as well to the delight of their fans all over the world.

"Nothing more important than family. So happy to be complete here in Vegas. Thank You Lord for this blessing," he wrote.

Meanwhile, Manny showed a glimpse of his final days of training prior to his upcoming match this July 19.

"Grateful for everyone who's been running with me these past few weeks. Your support means a lot," he wrote. ■

First for PH in 65 years: Lea Salonga to receive star on Hollywood Walk of Fame



Lea Salonga

Broadway star Lea Salonga is making history as the first Filipino to be given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in the US.

On Wednesday, July 3, the Tony Award-winning actress shared on her Instagram Stories a repost of a Billboard article. She expressed her gratitude towards the Manila International Film Festival for nominating her.

"Just now woke up to this bit of amazing news! Many thanks for nominating me to be part of the class of 2025-26," she wrote.

According to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce via Billboard, Lea is among the honorees for the 2026 ceremonies. She joins a roster of international stars including Miley Cyrus, Timothée Chalamet, Emily Blunt, and Rachel McAdams.

Dates for the ceremonies have yet to be finalized, but honorees have up to two years to schedule their star unveilings.

A celebrated figure in musical theater, Lea rose to global prominence through her role in Miss Saigon and lent her voice to Disney's Jasmine in Aladdin and Mulan. Most recently, she appeared in Stephen Sondheim's Old Friends on Broadway, earning a 2025 Drama League Awards nomination for Distinguished Performance. ■

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

Exes Ruffa Gutierrez, Yilmaz Bektas IG interaction bring kilig to fans



Filipina beauty queen-actress Ruffa Gutierrez and Turkish businessman Yilmaz Bektas were once married. The annulment of their marriage was finalized in 2012. They share two daughters.

Even their brief social media interaction still elicits kilig from their fans as the most recent exchange on Instagram of exes Ruffa Gutierrez and Yilmaz Bektas have shown.

The Turkish businessman posted a photo of him lounging in a shaded area with the beach on the background.

The Filipina beauty queen left three fire emojis on his Instagram photo carousel.

"Why are you still following my pictures? Thank you for liking it," Yilmaz replied to Ruffa's three fire emojis.

The interaction caused many fans to quip.

"Because you're still THE ONE, sir. :)... [peace sign emoji] Ms. Ruffa," one commenter wrote.

"Ang cute nyong 2," another one wrote.

Yilmaz and Ruffa have long been separated back in 2007. They tied the knot in 2003, with their annulment finalized in 2012. They share two daughters, Lorin and Venice.

Ruffa posted about her two daughters visiting Yilmaz in Turkey last summer. ■

Manny Pacquiao picks friend Mark Wahlberg to tell his story in a biopic



In a 2015 Facebook post, Filipino boxing champ Manny 'Pacman' Pacquiao posts his birthday greeting for his good friend, Hollywood actor Mark Wahlberg.

If boxing legend Manny Pacquiao ever decides to do another biopic, he says he would entrust its production to his good friend, Hollywood actor Mark Wahlberg.

Pacquiao, also known as Pacman, spoke to TMZ while training for his upcoming bout with Mario Barrios.

The American entertainment outlet asked him about the possibility of another biopic, following the 2006 film that starred Jericho Rosales and Bea Alonzo.

"Mark Wahlberg, he always watched my training camp here in

Wildcard, he knows almost all my life stories. Mark Wahlberg's my friend, he's a nice guy," Manny said.

As to who is going to play the younger him in the biopic, Manny picked none other than his own son. Among his sons, Jimuel has delved into acting and is a boxer himself.

Pacquiao is coming out of retirement to face Mario Barrios at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on July 19.

The 46-year-old boxer-turned-senator will reportedly not be alone in the ring, as reports say his son Jimuel might possibly fight in the Pacquiao-Barrios undercard. ■

Jessica Sanchez gets America's Got Talent's golden buzzer; reveals pregnancy



Jessica Sanchez

It was indeed a beautiful moment for Filipino-American singer Jessica Sanchez as she received a golden buzzer at America's Got Talent (AGT) and a standing ovation from show's judges Sofia Vergara, Simon Cowell, Mel B, and Howie Mandel.

In the show, Sanchez, 29,

shared that she was part of the hit show's first season.

She also shared to judges how her life has been after joining the first season, where she made it to the semi-finals.

"I was actually on the very first season of America's Got Talent,"

Sanchez said.

"Throughout the years I kind a fell out of love of music because I was really young, I was so swayed by what everybody wanted me to be, who they wanted me to be. And so, maybe it took me 20 years, but I know exactly who I am. And, I know exactly what I want. I'm excited to be back," Sanchez shared.

In the show, Sanchez also revealed that aside from being married, she is now pregnant with her first child.

"I found my lane and I'm married now and I'm actually, another surprising thing is I recently found out that I'm pregnant," Sanchez said.

She then wowed everyone with performance of Benson Boone's "Beautiful Things" and received standing ovation from the judges and the audiences.

'WORTH THE WAIT'

"I was saying earlier, the people that matter are the people behind us. I think they like you," Cowell said.

"Yeah, I got to say, wow, 20 years is a long time but well worth the wait. I'll tell you I love that song and you made that song your own, and you blew the roof off the place. You are so wonderful," Mandel said.

"Jessica, I'm so speechless. You've got a voice of a bloody angel. Beautiful. I'm lost for words," Mel B added.

"I think there's something very special happened on the stage with you. It's so amazing that we are on 20th anniversary, the 20th season of AGT. You are here again after 20 years, you are pregnant. So you are so beautiful, you are so ready to do all this... This was a special moment and I think that you deserve this," says Vergara before hitting the golden buzzer for Sanchez.

In 2012, Sanchez also joined the 11th season of American Idol where she placed second.

The following year, she released her debut album "Me, You & the Music." She also appeared in Glee. ■

End of an era: Showbiz media icon Lolit Solis passes away at 78



Lolit Solis



Manay Lolit and eldest daughter Sneezy

Award-winning actress Janine Lolita 'Lolit' Solis, a showbiz icon who led a colorful career as an entertainment columnist and talent manager of high-profile celebrities, has passed away. She was 78. Her demise was announced by her eldest daughter, Sneezy, who flew in from the US on Friday. Lolit is survived by her two daughters. The full statement:

'Our beloved Manay Lolit Solis has peacefully joined her Creator last July 3, 2025.

'Manay Lolit leaves behind a loving family and many friends who will

always cherish her memory.

'We remember Manay Lolit as a feisty and staunch loyal supporter, manager and friend.

'We love you our dearest Manay, you will forever be in our hearts.

'Rest well now in the loving embrace of our Lord.'

Interment details will be announced later.

Final post

In one of her final posts on Instagram, Lolit shared that she was hospitalized at Far Eastern University Hospital due to a kidney infection. She had also been undergoing

dialysis treatment for quite some time.

Lolit mentioned in one of her posts that she felt weak and sick. However, she accepted her condition and stated that she might pass away soon.

Although Lolit feels she has lived a full life, she had previously prayed to live longer so she could be more active.

Lolit was the talent manager for celebrities such as actor Bong Revilla Jr., Lorna Tolentino, Tonton Gutierrez, Alfred Vargas, Christopher De Leon, and Mark Herras.

Her first showbiz talent is actor Gabby Concepcion. 'We just had a falling out when the (MMFF) scam happened.'

Controversial figure

In 1994, Lolit became a controversial figure when she was

'God will help you in your obstructions.' She added: 'Pagkasalanan ko inaamin ko talaga. Hindi ko na realize ganun karami ang susuporta sa akin. Kahit na marami kang basher, may makukuha ka pa ring respeto. (If it's my fault, I admit it. I didn't realize so many people would support me. Even if you have a lot of bashers, you can still get some respect.)'

When asked if there was anything she wanted to do that she hadn't done, Lolit laughed and joked, 'Gumawa uli ng another scam. (To carry out another scam.)'

When questioned if she could still pull it off, the feisty talent manager confidently replied, 'Ako pa!'

Lolit was asked to identify the top 'marites' (a person who loves gossip) she had ever encountered in local showbiz. She named the late actor Rudy Fernandez, commenting, 'His network was so extensive, and he had an abundance of gossip.'

Life lessons

Lolit has recognized the importance of giving back, stating that the secret to living is generosity. 'You pay forward. Kung ano man ang natikman mong (sarap sa buhay). Patikman mo rin sa iba kung kaya mo. Pinaka-kawawa sa lahat yung nanghihingi ka,' she added.

Lolit added that she has learned from her past mistakes. 'Kung ano man yung mga mistakes na nagawa mo nun, nakadagdag yun sa wisdom mo ngayon,' she said. (Whatever mistakes you made then, those added to your wisdom now.)'

At media conferences, Lolit was always early to arrive. In showbiz gatherings, Lolit always reminded fellow young writers and editors to be punctual and not to fight unless they were the ones who started the trouble.

A certified dog lover, Lolit said that she loves watching K-dramas. She said that love songs and Christmas tunes make her cry. 'Kapag nakakarinig ako ng love songs at Christmas songs naiyak ako. Iyakin talaga ako.'

Lolit took up political science at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, but did not complete her college education. But before she became a showbiz columnist, she covered the police beat under popular columnist Ruther Batuigas. Then she joined showbiz under former talent manager Douglas Quijano, who Regal Films later hired.

Lolit gave a final full-length interview for Rolling Stones Philippines magazine in May. ■

MINI PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

By
Fely Rosales-Cariño



Angelina Pereira Mazzone

Here comes the queen, resplendent in her white bouffant gown and armed with the sweetest smile of the night. I'm talking about Her Majesty, Queen Angelina Pereira Mazzone, recently crowned Munting Binibining Pilipinas Montreal 2025. Angelina is the daughter of Robbie Mazzone & Stacey Pereira. Robbie met Stacey who is Portuguese at work. From good looking parents, Angelina is indeed blessed with beautiful genes. Robbie is Nico & Minda Mazzone's son. Minda is currently president of the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ), and is a recent Gawad ng Pagkilala awardee, 2025. It looks like the members of the Mazzone family are

trending!

Angelina is 9 years old and will be 10 in October. She has a six-year old brother Nico (a nod to grandpa!) and a ten-month old sister, Amelia. Angelina likes Italian pasta and her favorite Filipino food is pork adobo with rice. Yes! Her favorite singer is Post Malone and her role model is her mom. (Awww!)

Angelina is in Grade 4 and attends Clearpoint Elementary School in Pointe Claire. Artistic and creative, she loves drawing and painting. She loves animals and aspires to be a veterinarian in the future. There are two dogs and two cats in the Mazzone household where Angelina grows her love for animals.

remembered close to the hearts of the awardees and their families. The six honorees were: Thelma Castro de Jesus (Community Service in Social Services), Amelia Manon-Og (Community Service), Luzviminda Mazzone (Leadership), Svetlana Suarez (Special Events), Fruan Tabamo (Professionalism in Nursing), and last but not least, Ramon Vicente (Community Service). Their impressive resumés listed in the program brochure make it abundantly clear why they deserve to be awardees.

Thelma has a Masters in Social Work (McGill). She is an Animator for Seniors in the NDG Community Center & Holy Cross Housing Residents as well as

Every summer, Angelina joins the Cabaret Kids, a performing arts camp located in Pierrefonds Comprehensive High. They do theater every two weeks. Depending on the program, students memorize assigned poems and recite them as required. Angelina also loves to sing. At a young age, theater is helping her develop the potential to perform. She dances too. For her talent participation, she wore a Polynesian costume and danced Bora Bora, a traditional Polynesian dance. Guess who her teacher was? None other than her Tita Caterina Mazzone, herself the First Miss Munting Binibining Montreal in 1987. Beauty and grace run in the family. History in the making, I say!

I was in the audience when Angelina danced the Bora Bora. I was impressed with her grace and stage presence at such a young age. She was a guest performer last June 12, 2025 during the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) Gala Night held at the Olympia Reception Hall on 3855 Boul. Saint-Jean, DDO. Angelina, your stage career is off to a grand start. Soon you will be inundated with requests to perform at FAMAS and other association events.

Compliments to Robbie & Stacey for their firstborn now active in a community event, in the limelight, so to speak. This is a positive thing; public

the founder of Pinay and Filipino Association of Parents of Filipino Origin. She is a volunteer adviser, consultant and advocate to Filipino families.

Amy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (Central Philippine University). She has extensive experience at health institutions - Queen Elizabeth Hospital (30 years), CHSLD Bayview, and West Island Centre where she held different positions and was clinical educator. She served in Filipino associations such as FAMAS, FFCAQ, and the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec, FNAQ. She is co-founder of Kahirup (Hiligaynon) Association of Quebec and the Circle of Friendly Filipinos of Quebec. She was also Segment Host and Reporter of Mabuhay Montreal TV and a PAB instructor at Gilmore College International.

Minda holds Bachelor's Degrees in Science - In Nutrition (Philippine Women's University), in Education ((University of the East), and in Dietetics (McGill). She was a Food Supervisor at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Dietitian at the Montreal Children's Hospital. You can also call her an author; try to get a hold of her book 'Myths and Legends of the Philippines.' She is currently the FFCAQ President, FHSM Treasurer and the Recipient of B'nai Brith Leadership Award.

You mention Svetlana's name and you naturally think of beauty pageants. She was Miss Philippine Basketball Association of Montreal (1990) and 1st Runner-up FAMAS Binibining Luzon, Montreal (1991). It's easy to see why she's a valuable organizer of pageants: Munting Mutya/Hiyas/Lakan ng Pilipinas Montreal, Miss Pearl of the Orient, Miss Gay Montreal, and Mrs. Philippines Montreal. Yet she is equally at ease in civic endeavors. She was President of the Kapampangan Association of

exposure often builds self-confidence. As I watched her parade that night, I noticed a shining aura about her. I also watched her grandparents' (Nico & Minda) reaction as she danced. Priceless. They were caught up in the moment, feeling her victory as theirs, full of pride! Equally smitten were her proud parents with wide grins as they watched their daughter in the spotlight. Way to go, Angelina! And kudos to Santa Emmanuel of the Philippines who designed her coronation gown and to Donnie Salazar who did her makeup. For Angelina's parents, I pray that they will heed biblical advice that says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6) and to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4). For her grandparents, I encourage them with Proverbs 17:6, "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged/wise" where Angelina holds the crown. As for Angelina, I pray for her to "obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord" (Colossians 3:20) and to "honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise." (Ephesians 6:2).

I give thanks to God for His favor on you at this moment in time. May you remember His grace and may His blessings be upon you, and your family, Angelina!

Montreal and FAMAS Vice-President. She is currently Vice-President of Filipino Family Services of Montreal and Coordinator of Scholarship for the Philippine Benevolent and Scholarships Society of Quebec, PBSSQ.

Fruan holds multiple degrees - in Nursing (University of Victoria), in Philosophy & Theology (Lateran Pontifical University), and in Science (University of Western Ontario). He was the Assistant Director of Nursing at Donald Berman Maimonides Geriatric Center and is one of the advisers of the FNAQ. He is currently the Site Coordinator at Henri-Bradet Residential Centre.

Ramon's business acumen was no doubt honed through his degree in Science of Business Administration (University of the East) and in Certificate Management and Traffic Transportation (McGill). He held leadership positions in FFCAQ, FAMAS, and the Filipino-Canadian Association of West Island, FCAWI. He was also an advisor to the FNAQ. He is currently the President of the Filipino Family Services of Montreal.

Congratulations to our awardees. Thank you for your pioneering spirit and for being exemplary role models to those around you. Mabuhay!

In closing, in the spirit of independence and kalayaan (freedom), I thought it fitting to share some verses that may be helpful to you. Here are some: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. (Galatians 5:1) If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36), And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32). You may also ask of the Lord for personal petitions: Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered and set me free.' (Psalm 118:6)

Until next issue and God Bless!

From Page 13 Social Tidbits

Boco and his executive board for their continuing confidence in us, Ed Vasquez and yours truly, as the event emcees. We're looking forward to next year's independence celebration.

Better Late Than Never: Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM)

On March 22, 2025 the FHSM sponsored the 3rd Awards Night, Gawad Ng Pagkilala to honor six awardees for their selfless commitment to the Filipino community. Held at the Palace Centre de Congres on 1717 Le Corbusier, Laval, the formal gathering was sure to be



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Presentation of proficiency certificates in French 1 and 2, Sunday Class, February 2019. These students also reached Levels 3, and some took level 4. Levels 1 and 2 are beginners, 3 and 4 intermediate, 5 and 6 are advance levels. Written French is recommended after successfully completing Level 6, Advance French. (See Page 11 for programs, courses and services).

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July 2025 Pictorial News



Calgary Stampede - Prime Minister Mark Carney, right, walks on stage with Stampede Princess Breanna Correia as he attends the Calgary Stampede in Calgary, Alta., Friday, July 4, 2025. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jeff McIntosh)
This year's stampede just fell short of breaking last year's record. 121,704 people passed through the gates on Sunday, bringing the total attendance to 1,470,288 — about 7,000 fewer than in 2024.



Canadian environmentalist David Suzuki made headlines last week when he said in an interview with iPolitics that humanity has lost its fight against climate change. "We're in deep trouble," Suzuki told the outlet. "I've never said this before to the media, but it's too late." Though he made it clear that he hasn't entirely given up, Suzuki says that rather than getting caught up in trying to force change through legal, political and economic systems, we now need to focus on community action. Photo: Janice Williams (David Suzuki Foundation)

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