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Defence spending, Trade ties, Crossing guards, Sip Learn, Academic lectures, Black Friday, Turkey giveaway, Santa parade, GTA weather, Grand Theft Auto, Entertainment news, AFC Toronto, Hockey trades, Curling finals, Domestic violence

SPEAKERS

Evan Perry, Shaya Rahmani, Ethan Clarke, Rudy Heath, Ali Safaverdi, Speaker 1, Speaker 3, speaker 2, Speaker 5, speaker 3, speaker 10, Speaker 7, Tarun Paul Singh, Speaker 2, Speaker 6, Speaker 8, Husam Khder-Chikhalhadadin, Ethan Corpuz, Speaker 4, Meriem Nour

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S **Shaya Rahmani** 00:12

The Pentagon criticises Canada's defence spending amidst growing trade ties with China.

R **Rudy Heath** 00:17

Ontario helps pay for crossing guards previously funded by speed cameras.

S **Shaya Rahmani** 00:21

An event series sees Toronto professors lecturing over cocktails,

R **Rudy Heath** 00:24

and hundreds of 1000s of Torontonians come out to celebrate Saint Nick. Good afternoon. Thanks for joining us today. I'm Rudy Heath,

S Shaya Rahmani 00:44

and I'm Shaya Rahmani. On Tuesday, November 24, the Pentagon criticised Canada's military spending, questioning the country's ability to contribute to North American defence. Canadian Defence Minister David McGuinty downplayed the criticism, stating that military cooperation between the two countries remains unchanged, despite indications from American officials that a trade agreement could be within reach. Negotiations between Ottawa and Washington continue, with disagreement over tariffs and Canada's growing economic relationship with China.

R Rudy Heath 01:17

Toronto crossing guards are expected to receive provincial funding of 29 million to help fill the gap left by the ban of speed cameras, pending an approval of a final business plan. Last year, Mayor Olivia Chow asked the province to compensate this cost, warning that 1000s could lose jobs due to the ban. Prior to the promise, traffic fines from the speed camera programme funded crossing guards and traffic safety police.

S Shaya Rahmani 01:43

Have you ever thought about learning something outside your field of study or profession while enjoying good food and drinks? Sip and Learn brings all three together through an initiative that makes learning a social experience. More on the story is reporter Meriem Nour.

S Speaker 1 02:00

So let's try that again. Happy Wednesday, everybody.

M Meriem Nour 02:05

People gathered at Toronto Bar to explore the science of lying, including why detecting deception is difficult and how children develop the ability to lie.

S Speaker 1 02:13

Everyone, please give a warm sip and learn round of applause to Dr. Karina.

S speaker 10 02:21

Thank you very much, David. It looks.

M Meriem Nour 02:25

University of Toronto Professor Kang Lee shared his research and inviting attendees to rethink what they know about dishonesty. The lecture is part of SIP and Learn, a Toronto initiative that brings academic discussions into socialist spaces, giving people a chance to explore new subjects outside traditional classrooms, founded in June 2025, Civil Learn arrived in Toronto when the founder came across a similar concept during a trip to Washington D.C.

S Speaker 2 02:52

The goal is always to spark conversation. A lot of the topics are something that will make you think, "Huh, I didn't know that," or "I want to have a discussion about that." Something that will start a conversation, make people want to talk about it, or something that is currently affecting our society, like keeping up with current affairs. So, for example, we we had a lecture recently on fraud and how people do fraud, which is in line with the movie on Netflix that came out,

M Meriem Nour 03:21

Sip and Learn takes place once or twice a week in a relaxed setting. Each session features a 45 minutes lecture followed by a 15 minutes Q and A. Professors and experts lead discussions on a different topic each time,

S Speaker 1 03:33

and they feel a little bit more at ease. I know in the lecture halls that I've been in, it's it's the morning, and I'm like trying to keep myself up, and I feel like in those contexts, the information you're getting, the way it's going into your brain is, I have to remember this for a test. I have to remember this to be able to regurgitate it back in a week or so. Whereas here, you chose to be here. You actually paid to be here, so you're more relaxed, and you're trying to get the information because you sought it out, as opposed to you have to.

M Meriem Nour 04:07

For attendees, step and learn isn't just another night out at a local restaurant or bar.

S Speaker 3 04:12

It's a good way to get people together, friends together, family together over a meal, a couple of drinks, and also just to be able to learn something new, maybe, and it might be something that they're studying currently, or there's something that they have no idea about.

S Speaker 4 04:27

I think these kinds of initiatives opens the door to higher learning in a way that is very accessible and in a fun and non-threatening environment.

M Meriem Nour 04:40

Step on Learn is expanding across Canada, with Vancouver set to be its first new stop, followed by Montreal. Organisers say Sip and Learn gives people a chance to explore topics beyond their field of study or professions, while connecting with others who share an interest in learning. The series aims to make a. Discussions more accessible by bringing them into everyday spaces. For On The Record News, I'm Meriem Nour.

R Rudy Heath 05:09

Black Friday is just around the corner for university students looking to stretch their budgets ahead of the holiday season. That could offer a way to save money. This Friday, November 27th, shoppers can expect discounts on everything from electronics and clothing to household appliances, both online and in stores. But shoppers should be mindful of impulsive purchases and compare prices before taking advantage of advertised deals.

S Shaya Rahmani 05:35

Discount store Honest Ed's Turkey Giveaway is back after 11 years. Starting in 1987, this giveaway helped ease some holiday financial pressure for 28 years before its closure in 2015. The giveaway takes place on December 13th as part of a weekend event with Ali Holiday Market, giving families gifts and food from local businesses. A number of Toronto-based food companies are helping to ease some financial pressures of the season by providing turkeys and vegan alternatives.

R Rudy Heath 06:08

Massive crowds packed downtown streets this past Sunday for the annual Toronto Santa Claus Parade. From towering floats to festive music, the city officially welcomed the holiday season as mr. and mrs. Claus made their 122nd grand entrance. Reporter Evan Perry has the story.

E Evan Perry 06:32

It's a Toronto tradition that's been running for more than a century, and this year's Santa Claus parade drew 1000s of spectators and Christmas cheer to families across the city,

S speaker 2 06:42

I think it brings the community together, and it's just a fun activity.

S Speaker 5 06:46

It's great because it brings a spirit of togetherness. Everybody comes to see it, and it brings up the Christmas spirit. Everyone is in a cheerful mood, and it's great for Toronto.

E Evan Perry 06:58

Starting at Christie Pits and then travelling through the downtown core, the parade finished at St. Lawrence Market, where crowds of families waited in suspense for a chance to see Old St. Nick. When the parade wrapped up and Santa drove out of sight, families headed home with new memories, wishing each other happy Christmas to all and to all a good night. Evan Perry, OTR News.

S Shaya Rahmani 07:23

Now for more entertainment news. Here's Ali Safaverdi with what's happening this week.

A **Ali Safaverdi** 07:29

Thanks. The long-awaited Grand Theft Auto 6, released on November 19th and has gone on to become the biggest entertainment launch in history. A Take Two Interactive press release states that the game has achieved day one sales of three point $79 billion. This makes it the most profitable entertainment product across any medium on day one. Wednesday, November 25 marks the release of Fincher directed Tarantino written the further misadventures of Cliff Booth, a sequel to Tarantino's 2019 Oscar-winning film *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, the Brad Pitt vehicle has come under fire recently after audiences found out generative AI was used in different flashback moments of the film. This seems to follow a trend of Fincher embracing AI, much to his fans' dismay. After AI was used in the 4K remaster of his critically acclaimed film seven on the issue, Fincher said, "Well, it exists. Should we not use it?" In the music world, we've seen new releases come out from a variety of popular artists, including Phoebe Bridgers, Conway the Machine, Suicide Silence, and more. In upcoming Toronto shows, we've got a stacked week. Doja Cat and Suicide Silence are all performing Wednesday night. On Thursday is the International Indigenous Music Summit and the Exclaim Holiday Karaoke Party. Friday sees metalcore band Under Oath performing in Etobicoke and local noise rockers Cute at the Monarch Tavern in Toronto. Shiv and the Carvers are hitting up the garrison on Saturday, and Sunday we'll see Turnover performing at history, you've got plenty to choose from. So get out there and see a band. That's all for entertainment. Back to you.

R **Rudy Heath** 09:09

Fans gathered at City Hall to welcome AFC Toronto home after a historic championship win in Ottawa. Right after winning their first Northern Super League title, the players brought the cup to downtown Toronto. Prime Minister Mark Carney sent a letter to congratulate the team, and Mayor Olivia Chow officially named November 19th AFC Toronto Day. Reporter Ethan Clarke has the sights and sounds from the celebration.

E **Ethan Clarke** 09:37

A year after losing the final to Vancouver, Toronto beat Montreal 1-0 in Ottawa to win the Diana B. Matheson Cup. The win was long awaited for one season ticket holder who was in the stands for both games.

S **speaker 3** 09:47

Oh, I was so excited! I was there too in Ottawa, and we were just jumping. I was right with the supporters' spirits. We had the flags going. We were jumping up and down. It was amazing.

E Ethan Clarke 09:55

For club leadership, getting back to the final was all about determination.

S Speaker 6 09:59

We fell short. In the final last year, we won the supporter shield in 2025, but fell short in the final. So we're excited to get the redemption this year and take the trophy home.

E Ethan Clarke 10:10

17-year-old Olivia Chisholm scored the winner. It was her first pro goal. She reflected on what this victory means for young girls watching the league. I think this is just a great

S Speaker 7 10:19

representation of what this league can bring and what it can mean for young girls, and I think it means everything for women's sport. It proves that young women can do it, and that city of Toronto can do it, and that this league is just so great for all those things. And it's really important.

E Ethan Clarke 10:34

Jacob Garland is part of the Vermilion Vanguard, the team supporters group, and has supported ASU Toronto since day one. He celebrated the win in Ottawa and joined fans in Toronto.

S Speaker 8 10:44

It means the absolute world, and it's just it's just the beginning. And everybody here today played a part in the start of a journey that's going to be here for a really long time. The

E Ethan Clarke 10:56

players I spoke to already want a new trophy next season, and the fans I spoke with here at City Hall, hope crowds like this keep showing up for women's soccer season after season. For On The Record, I'm Ethan Clarke.

S Shaya Rahmani 11:07

Now, with some more sport updates, here's Ethan Corpuz.

E Ethan Corpuz 11:14

Thanks. The Montreal Canadiens have gained a new member in Dylan Larkin, former captain of the Red Wings. This comes after a trade where the Canadians sent Kirby Doc, Sam Montembo, and Michael Hage in exchange for Larkin. The Canadians have been searching for stronger talent for some time now, including attempting to acquire current Blue Jackets player Matthew Nyes. Larkin has proven his effectiveness with his 649 points since Detroit drafted him in 2014. Larkin's debut game for the Canadians was just last Monday against the Los Angeles Kings. On the subject of hockey, some good news for the Leafs fans as the Toronto Maple Leafs have finally broken their nine-game losing streak. They walked away with a four-to-two win against the New York Islanders on Monday. Forward Gavin Mackenna scored the game-winning goal, finishing out with a two-point lead. The Leafs are set to play the Boston Burns on Friday. Taking a look at curling, Canada's Brad Jacobs has defeated the top-ranked Switzerland player Yannick Schwaller four to three during the Grand Slam of Curling's finals. Jacob got the winning single during the eighth end, breaking the tie between the two teams. This marks Jacobs' first Grand Slam of Curling title in six years. Pivoting to soccer, James Johnson, the commissioner of the Canadian Premier League, recently commented on CF Montreal and the Vancouver Whitecaps potentially relocating to the United States. He said that the shift is an eventuality and opportunity for the CPL. Johnson brought up clubs that could benefit from the departure of the two teams and face backlash from fans. Some have pointed out that the two clubs Johnson brought up have been trained by and are still learning from the Whitecaps and the CAF Montreal. That's all for sports. Back to the desk.

R Rudy Heath 13:19

Now let's hear from the newsroom, and look at other stories from this week and what's to come. Husam Khder is standing by live. Husam, what do you have for us this week?

H Husam Khder-Chikhalhadadin 13:32

Thank you. OTR reporter Molly Simpson looks into recent Statistics Canada figures showing that rates of men reporting domestic and intimate partner violence have risen faster than those of women since 2018. Simpson explores the challenges that male victims face when seeking support and the limited availability of shelters for men. Only one year after the Ontario government banned speed cameras, reporters Meriem Nour and Calan Pittis speak with residents and experts about growing road safety concerns and call to bring the cameras back into play. Reporters Chris Harrison and Ethan Corpuz covered the TMU Bolt performance at the Brock Fencing Open this past week, where Erica Dominguez earned gold in women's foil and Cedric Bo took home silver in men's sabre. You can read these stories on our website at ontherecordnews.ca. Here are some stories that we are currently have in development. Reporter Aaliyah Nguyen will be examining equity in Ontario University athletics and what progress has been made since the release of the last Joseph report from two years ago. Reporter Yuna Cho will be exploring concerns surrounding Google's smart glasses and the potential bans, speaking with experts in education and AI security as well as students. Reporter Ali Savadi is working on a story about childcare deserts in in Scarborough, where he will be highlighting the experiences of an early childhood. Educator, a parent, and a community organisation. As always, you can find all these stories and more online at ontherecordnews.ca. Back to you in the studio.

S Shaya Rahmani 15:11

Thanks, Husam. Before we come to the end of today's segment, Tarun Paul Singh has more on this week's weather.

T Tarun Paul Singh 15:20

Thanks. It's great start across the GTA. Here's what to expect for the drive home and the weekend. Around the region, Brampton and Mississauga reach six degrees. Toronto and Oshawa hit five, and Barry tops out at four. Looking at the five-day forecast, Toronto get a mix of sun and cloud this Wednesday, with a low of three tonight. Thursday gets windy with high of five. Light rain is expected Thursday afternoon, picking up all through the night with possible wind gusting to 50 kilometres an hour and the temperature drops to three overnight. Friday stay wets with a high of six. If you're trying to squeeze in a walk, Saturday morning looks like your best bet for a little sun. We'll hit seven with a chance to afternoon showers. Sunday reaches eight with a light rain in the afternoon. That's all for the weather. Back to you at the desk.

R Rudy Heath 16:14

That's all for On The Record today. I'm Rudy Heath

S Shaya Rahmani 16:17

and I'm Shaya Rahmani. Thank you for tuning in.