

“I never start a novel until I have a predetermined and predestined ending. I’m something of a plotter that way — a plotter and a plodder.”

AUTHOR JOHN IRVING ON HIS 16TH NOVEL, QUEEN ESTHER. FP10

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Published by National Post, a division of Postmedia Network Inc. Return undeliverable Canadian copies to 300-365 Bloor St. E., Toronto, Ont. M4W 3L4



Publication Mail Agreement Number 40069573



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VOL. 28 NO. 32

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

‘Early on, it was very lonely,’ wife says of Bruce Willis’s decline



Emma Heming Willis, wife of actor Bruce Willis, speaks Tuesday at the Women's Brain Health Summit in Toronto. She wrote *The Unexpected Journey* as a memoir of her experience as her husband's "care partner."

Time for fresh climate thinking

Pipeline pact beats activists' scare tactics



KELLY MCPARLAND
Comment

In the run-up to the recent 30th annual United Nations "global climate action" gathering — this one in Brazil — former Liberal environment minister Catherine McKenna declared the crisis far from over. "Climate isn't going away ... it's getting worse all the time," she said in an interview marking the release of her third and final report as chair of the grandly named United Nations High-Level Expert Group on the Net Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities. "Once again, the past year broke temperature records," McKenna noted in the report. "Too many countries have failed to deliver on the promises they made in Paris, and emissions continue to rise, making it more likely we will overshoot the 1.5 C target. Around the world, we are witnessing the devastating impacts of climate change and an accelerating biodiversity crisis driven by deforestation." Elsewhere, she pointed to the latest Canadian summer of wildfires: "What about everyone in Canada who cares about climate? Eighty-five thousand people were evacuated from their communities this summer." What indeed? McKenna is a climate change warrior, and each of her assertions may be entirely accurate. What's up for grabs is her conclusion: that now, more than ever, the world needs to forge ahead with the same battles, along the same lines, using the same tactics that have been followed for decades now. See MCPARLAND on A8

Emma Heming Willis tells a Toronto conference about the day Bruce Willis was diagnosed with dementia and the decision to move him out of the family home

JOSEPH BREAN

It was the return of Bruce Willis's childhood stutter that gave his wife Emma Heming Willis her first hint that something was wrong. "Never in my wildest dreams did I realize that was a symptom," she told an audience in Toronto on Tuesday. Bruce Willis, 70, had long since overcome the speech impediment that once saw him tagged with the mocking schoolyard nickname "Buck Buck" in 1960s New Jersey. But this returning stutter, which coincided with other communication problems in his late sixties, was a sign of the progressive aphasia, or loss of language, that would later be diagnosed as a form of dementia. In 2022, Willis announced his retirement after a singular Hollywood career as a classically hunky leading man and top-tier action star, from Moonlighting through Die Hard, Pulp Fiction and The Sixth Sense. Soon after, he was diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia, the most common type of early onset dementia. It was such a life-changing moment for his wife, as well as for Willis, that she refers to it as their diagnosis, a terrible new knowledge that put an unwieldy scientific name on the constellation of cognitive symptoms that have slowly robbed Willis of his language and his independence. "I left with a diagnosis I didn't understand. I couldn't pronounce it," Heming Willis said. She had no resources, no hope, just a clinical acronym and a followup appointment. "Early on, it was very lonely. I carried a lot of grief. I continue to." In the few years since, Heming Willis, 47, has fashioned for herself a public advocacy mission as a caregiver to an action hero, and an inspiration to other people caring for loved ones with dementia, Alzheimer's and other progressive brain diseases. See ADVOCACY on A2



Bruce Willis



WORLD
AN ESTIMATED 35,000 CANADIAN CITIZENS LIVE IN ISRAEL. FOR THEM, TALKS OVER NETANYAHU'S FUTURE ARE 'COMPLICATED.' A3

OTTAWA'S CALL TO KEEP LID ON DEAL: STELLANTIS

REDACTIONS

‘Someone is not telling us the truth,’ MP says

CHRISTOPHER NARDI

OTTAWA • Auto giant Stellantis says the government, not the company, insisted on redacting copies of a controversial agreement with Ottawa worth hundreds of millions of dollars requested by a Commons committee. A letter sent to the House Government Operations Committee by Stellantis appears to contradict testimony by top government officials last week that redactions to the agreement sent to MPs were requested by the auto giant. In response to the letter, Industry Minister Mélanie Joly told National Post Tuesday that her department would finally release the unredacted agreement to the committee after repeatedly refusing to do so. "I received the letter (from Stellantis) earlier. There's no problem, we'll remove the redactions and send it to the committee," Joly said. But the contradictory claims about who requested the agreement be redacted raises a new question: Who might have lied to MPs? On that question, Joly demurred. But Conservative and Bloc Québécois committee members said both Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and Stellantis will have to explain themselves to Parliamentarians, beginning with the company on Thursday. "I'm shocked to receive a letter like that from Stellantis," Conservative MP Kelly Block said in an interview. "Someone is not telling us the truth, and now we have to get to the bottom of it." See REDACTED on A6

38% of non-citizens missed in last census: StatCan

TRISTIN HOPPER
Comment

In the latest example of Ottawa having sketchy figures on the number of non-citizens in the country, Statistics Canada has confirmed that it likely missed several hundred thousand non-permanent residents in the most recent census. The term "non-permanent residents" refers to anybody living in Canada as a student, a temporary foreign worker or an asylum seeker. A new report estimates that 38 per cent of non-permanent residents were "missed" by the 2021 census. The report does not attempt to estimate the precise number of people this represents, and even cautions that "missed rates cannot be interpreted as a certain number of individuals who should be added to the census figures." See HOPPER on A6

Cornered Liberals play pretend

Courts lenient with criminal immigrants

CHRIS SELLEY
Comment

In Canada, if you commit a crime deemed worthy in court of six months' imprisonment or longer, the law says you should be deemed inadmissible to the country "on grounds of serious criminality." And then, in theory, you should be sent home. Again in theory, that should include a 47-year-old non-citizen, living in Bradford, Ont., who recently pleaded guilty to various charges with respect to sexually abusing a young girl — including once when he was on bail for charges of sexually abusing the same girl, whom he reportedly impregnated twice when she was no older than 13. News outlet BarrieToday reports the accused was at one point during his trial "permitted an adjournment to explore the effect his eventual guilty pleas would have on his immigration status." Which is, obviously, insane. Because this is Canada, however, and we can't ever let anything be simple, the 47-year-old's immigration status has become something of a controversy in Ottawa. I don't have empirical data before me, but I suspect deportation would not strike most Canadians as an intemperate or unjust punishment for Mr. 47-year-old Child-Impregnator from Bradford. It's neither lenient nor draconian; it's just common sense. It's pretty hard to get a six-month sentence in this country, after all. The absolutely vast majority of Canadians, regardless of where they're born, manage to avoid imprisonment for their entire lives, and they hardly even have to break a sweat avoiding it. I think that's a reasonable expectation of immigrants as well. Alas, some of us don't like this rule, or at least we feel honour-bound not to like it. See SELLEY on A6