



OBITUARY ROBERT REDFORD

# Cinematic giant

Actor, activist, director and godfather of independent film, dies at 89 B5

LOTTO

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# TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH 24 C | MAINLY SUNNY | MAP A18 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

FEDERAL POLITICS

## Freeland resigns from Carney's cabinet

Toronto MP to step into role advising PM on Ukraine

TONDA MACCHARLES  
ALEX BALLINGALL  
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA Chrystia Freeland, the longtime Toronto MP who played a central role in the previous Liberal government under Justin Trudeau, is quitting Prime Minister Mark Carney's cabinet and will not run in the next election, but will keep advising Carney on Ukraine.

Her exit triggered a hasty and brief late afternoon cabinet shuffle at Rideau Hall on Tuesday, where Carney handed off Freeland's duties as transport minister to Steven MacKinnon, who is also the Liberal House leader, and gave internal trade to Dominic LeBlanc, the intergovernmental affairs minister.

In a public declaration, Freeland rejected the usual political clichés of departing cabinet ministers.

"I am not leaving to spend more time with my family or because the burden of elected office is too heavy to bear," she wrote on X of her impending departure.

Instead, she described politics as a "privilege not a sacrifice" for her and her family, but after 12 years in federal politics she said she is ready to move on.

Freeland said she makes the move with "tremendous gratitude and a little sadness."

SEE FREELAND, A6

DEPARTURE CLOSES ANOTHER DOOR ON THE TRUDEAU ERA A6

## 'Gaza is burning'

Israel begins long-threatened ground offensive All



MENACHEM KAHANA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Israel unleashed a new bombing campaign on Gaza City on Tuesday escalating the Middle East conflict, sparking fears any ceasefire plan with Hamas could be derailed.

COURTS

## Thompson found not guilty in Muskoka sex assault

City councillor denied allegations from two women

BETSY POWELL  
COURTS BUREAU

MIDLAND, ONT. After he was found not guilty of sexually assaulting two women at a friend's Muskoka cottage three summers ago, a relieved Toronto Coun. Michael Thompson declared firmly, "I did not sexually assault anyone," and blamed the prosecution on unnamed "forces."

"This has been very political," he said, standing next to his lawyer, Leora Shemesh, as he claimed — without further explanation — that a group of "business people" who were "unhappy in terms of how I didn't help them."

"I've had to go through almost three years of hell, and I know God, at the end of the day, will deal with these individuals," he said.

"I will continue to stay strong and work hard at my job as a city councillor, and as a person."

Ontario Court Justice Phil Bissette acquitted Thompson on Tuesday afternoon after hearing evidence in courthouses in Bracebridge, Barrie and Bradford, before delivering his decision in this southern Georgian Bay town of 11,000.

When the trial got underway last October, Thompson, 65, pleaded not guilty to two counts of sexual assault against two women whose identities are protected under a publication ban.

Over a total of 21 days in court, the judge listened to 13 days of evidence that included testimony of the two complainants, a university student who was also a guest, and Thompson himself.

He was accused of molesting one woman while applying sunscreen and later forcing himself on her friend in the middle of the night.

SEE THOMPSON, A9

SCARBOROUGH BLUFFS

## Famous swan mourned after 'soap opera' life

Bird that captured hearts in moving TikTok video dies of lead poisoning

MARK COLLEY  
STAFF REPORTER

Mango was one of Toronto's most famous swans.

He captured hearts — and more than three million views — last year when he reunited with Charlotte, his mate, after a day away at the Toronto Wildlife Centre. He broke hearts months later when three of his and Charlotte's five cygnets died

after hatching and the other two developed a wing deformity.

His life, in the words of swan watcher Ann Brokelman, "turned into a huge soap opera." Now, Mango's life has been cut short.

The beloved swan who called the Scarborough Bluffs home was euthanized last week at the Toronto Wildlife Centre after developing severe lead poisoning that left him unable to stand or swim normally.

Worse, his former partner Charlotte is missing and presumed dead, Brokelman said.

Charlotte's new partner, Hamlet, died after being hit by a car earlier this year. And only one of Charlotte and Mango's surviving cygnets remains alive.

The last two years at the Scarborough Bluffs, Brokelman explained, have been "awful."

SEE MANGO, A9

FULL INDEX A2 ONO

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INSIDE

## Bichette out for regular season

No time frame for Jays shortstop, but signs point to playoff return Chisholm A14

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