

Looking back on the Games

Our time in Italy was marked by triumph, loss and even protest
Full Coverage: Closing ceremony A5, Special section MI-6



 PROUDLY CANADIAN OWNED SINCE 1892 

TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH -2 C | FLURRIES | MAP A16

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Heartbreak and regret

Canada gave everything in men's gold medal game loss to United States



BRUCE ARTHUR
 OPINION

MILAN They will see the moments flash in their minds for years: open nets, open ice, a chance to win gold for their country. In the first best-on-best men's Olympic hockey final in 12 years, Canada

knew what was riding on this and was the better team, and should have won. Instead, it hurt. "You guys can be the judge of who the better team was tonight," said Nathan MacKinnon after Canada's 2-1 loss to the United States. "But they won. We lost. "It just wasn't meant to be, felt like." That's what it felt like. The U.S. is the perennial underdog and Canada the under-pressure favourite,

and Sidney Crosby was out with a knee injury. The Americans scored first when Matt Boldy walked between Cale Makar and Devon Toews like they were stuck elevator doors and six minutes in it was 1-0. The Americans looked fast. At period's end, the shots were 8-8. And then this Canadian team played their best game of the tournament, but couldn't score. Connor McDavid ran out of room and was **SEE ARTHUR, A3**

Team Canada players stand with their silver medals after losing 2-1 in overtime.

DARRYL DYCK/
 THE CANADIAN PRESS

STAR EXCLUSIVE

Metrolinx, city spent nearly \$100M on unrealized stations

Two SmartTrack stops cut due to project cost

BEN SPURR
 CITY HALL BUREAU CHIEF

Toronto and Metrolinx sank nearly \$100 million into a pair of SmartTrack stations that may never be built, the Star has learned. The stops at King-Liberty and Finch-Kennedy were part of former mayor John Tory's signature transit plan. But they were indefinitely deferred in December 2024, as ballooning costs forced the once-sweeping proposal to be pared back to just three stations. A public report that went to council at the time didn't include details of how much had already been spent on the ill-fated stations. The plan is being mostly funded by the city, but it's under the control of Metrolinx, the provincial transit agency, which is in charge of building the stations and has kept cost figures classified. But a confidential attachment to a report debated by the city's audit committee earlier this month contained the figures. The document, which has not been made public but a copy of which was viewed by the Star, shows that just under \$50 million was spent on each shelved station, for a total of about \$97 million, according to 2025 estimates. The city was responsible for roughly \$43 million of those sunk costs. Tory pitched SmartTrack in his 2014 election campaign as a 22-stop, 53-kilometre transit line that **SEE SMARTTRACK, A6**

PUERTO VALLARTA

Canadians urged to shelter in place after cartel leader killed

ALEXA MACKIE AND SADEEN MOHSEN
 STAFF REPORTERS

A military operation in western Mexico that killed the country's most wanted cartel boss set off a wave of violence Sunday, triggering armed roadblocks, fires and flight cancellations that left thousands of

vacationing Canadians stranded under shelter-in-place orders. Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes, known as "El Mencho," the founder and top leader of the powerful Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) was killed early Sunday, a massive blow to what has become Mexico's most dominant drug organization. The operation, carried out

by Mexican special forces with "complementary intelligence" from the U.S., thrust swaths of the nation into chaos. Cartel supporters lit fires across the region, targeting supermarkets, banks and vehicles, turning the region's major city Guadalajara into a "ghost town." **SEE MEXICO, A2**

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UNITED STATES

Man fatally shot at Mar-a-Lago

Armed intruder killed by U.S. agents after illegally entering Trump's resort **A10**

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