

Red card

Anti-scalping law fails to deter markups on World Cup tickets **B1**

Tragic loss

Vancouver-born NBA player Brandon Clarke dead at 29 **A13**

LOTTO 649
NEXT GOLD BALL JACKPOT
\$44 MILLION
OR THE GUARANTEED \$1 MILLION
Play Smart

PROUDLY CANADIAN OWNED SINCE 1892

TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH 14 C | LIGHT RAIN | MAP A16

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

MURDER ON MT. OLIVE

Lawyers say verdict was based on racism, hearsay

Chris Sheriffe has always maintained he was wrongfully convicted in 2012

KEVIN DONOVAN
CHIEF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

The jury at Chris Sheriffe's trial was never supposed to know about the "hearsay" gang evidence a pair of confidential informants allegedly told a junior Toronto police officer. The judge had already excluded that information from Sheriffe's trial — but then the jury heard it anyway.

According to the top Toronto law firm now representing Sheriffe, that revelation, plus what they characterize as "anti-black racism," amounts to the "miscarriage of justice" at the heart of why the former soccer star has spent the last 14 years in prison for murder.

"We believe that he was wrongfully convicted," said Samara Seter, a partner in Addario Law Group. She and lawyer Rebecca Amoah have spent a year digging into Sheriffe's case, prompted by a Toronto Star investigation and podcast. They have taken the case pro bono and are in the process of drafting a special application to the federal justice department.

Sheriffe was convicted in 2012 of first-degree murder for driving the "getaway" car for the daylight killing of furniture maker Bishen Golaub. Sheriffe is now in his 14th year of a life sentence, serving his time in Collins Bay Institution near Kingston.

"They are amazing lawyers," Sheriffe said in a recent telephone interview. "I really appreciate what they are doing. It may seem like a small thing but when I call them, they know my case right off the top of their heads. That's not something I experienced before with other lawyers."

Golaub, 34, was shot dead in August 2009 as he leaned over a low fence on Mount Olive Drive in north Etobicoke to ask barbecue guests if the food was ready.

SEE MOUNT OLIVE, A8

OUT OF ORBIT

Demolition crews begin dismantling McLaughlin Planetarium at U of T



ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORONTO STAR

The University of Toronto plans to construct a new six-storey building that includes a recital hall and space for several faculties.

AUDITOR GENERAL

Report urges Ontario to boost funding for special education

Schools diverted hundreds of millions to cover costs

KRISTIN RUSHOWY
SENIOR WRITER

Dozens of Ontario's school boards are spending almost \$400 million more on special education than the province provides, says a new report from the auditor general that urges the government to address long wait-lists for assessments as well as create consistent levels of care for kids.

The report, released Tuesday morning by auditor Shelley Spence, notes that of all 72 boards, 46 spent an additional \$397.9 million on special education, which includes children with behavioural, intellectual

and communication issues as well as those with physical disabilities.

At the same time, 26 boards spent less — \$51.2 million in total, or about seven per cent of their funding.

"School boards have allocated funding to special education programs from other budgets because they have identified this as necessary to try to meet the needs of this vulnerable population," the report states. "This can negatively affect other education programs and services, impacting the daily lives of students, parents, guardians and teachers."

SEE SPECIAL EDUCATION, A4

Of all 72 boards, 46 spent an additional \$397.9 million on special education ... at the same time, 26 boards spent less — \$51.2 million in total

CITY COUNCIL

Complaint last summer spurred probe into councillor

OPP investigating politician accused of soliciting money from developers

BEN SPURR
CITY HALL BUREAU CHIEF

The complaint that appears to have prompted a police investigation into a Scarborough city councillor was referred to law enforcement last summer, according to Toronto's ethics watchdog.

The office of integrity commissioner Paul Muldoon confirmed Tuesday that it received a complaint about Coun. Parthi Kandavel on July 8, 2025. The watchdog said it passed the file to the Toronto Police Service two weeks later, on July 22.

Toronto police haven't confirmed when they were made aware of allegations against Kandavel, but have said they referred the matter to the Ontario Provincial Police in order to avoid any perceived conflict of interest. The OPP's investigation is ongoing, according to the provincial force.

SEE INVESTIGATION, A6

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Erskine-Smith appeals nomination loss

Liberal candidate points to several concerns about race he lost by 19 votes

ROB FERGUSON
QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU

Nate Erskine-Smith is appealing last weekend's high-stakes Liberal nomination vote in Scarborough Southwest, which he lost by 19 votes, citing "serious irregularities."

The 11-year Liberal MP for neighbouring Beaches—East York filed the challenge with the provincial party's arbitration

committee on Tuesday.

Later in the day, Erskine-Smith set a timeline for his plan to quit federal politics and softened his interest in running for leader of Ontario's Liberals, leaving his political future unclear.

"I'm going to resign over the summer one way or another," he told host Vassy Kapelos on CTV's "Power Play," noting he does not expect any review of Saturday's provincial

nomination vote to point to a "clear-cut" winner.

"What they will find is that the outcome can't stand," he predicted before addressing a question about his leadership plans.

"I would say it's certainly less likely than it was heading into the weekend," said Erskine-Smith, whose campaign did not grant an interview to the Star.

SEE LIBERALS, A3

FULL INDEX A2 ONO

