

Cottage battle

Land deal with resort developer leaves some locals ‘betrayed’ B1

Getting closer

Talks focus on booze ban, dairy as new Trump tariffs loom A4

LOTTO

649

NEXT

GOLD BALL JACKPOT

\$44 MILLION

OR THE GUARANTEED \$1 MILLION

Play Smart

PROUDLY CANADIAN OWNED SINCE 1892

SATURDAY STAR

WEATHER HIGH 26 C | THUNDERSTORMS | MAP A18 SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

Prey for hate

Toxic online culture is radicalizing teen boys. A gaming community is pulling them out A12-13



CHAD HIPOLITO FOR THE TORONTO STAR

Aiden, whose parents asked for his last name to not be used for privacy reasons, is a 17-year-old gamer who said extreme content, including violent videos and images he saw on TikTok, influenced his views about life.

GORDIE HOWE BRIDGE

A walk into the ‘future’ amid U.S. tensions

Politician who helped oversee project sees symbolism in stroll over river

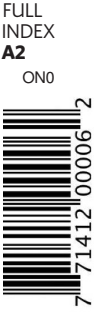
MARK COLLEY
STAFF REPORTER

WINDSOR, ONT. Standing under the towering grey piers of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, Dwight Duncan lays out the landscape below. There are the decades-old salt mines, which had to be mapped before construction could begin, and the vital transmission lines that had

to be moved. There, on the horizon, is the Detroit skyline. And in front of Duncan, spanning 2.5 kilometres from end to end with gleaming white cables rising nearly 180 metres above his head, is the bridge he helped get built. “Incredible,” Duncan said over the constant rattling of trucks carrying goods between Canada and the U.S. “It looks like something from the future. I guess it is the future.”

Duncan, Ontario’s former finance minister who for six years chaired the Crown corporation overseeing construction of the \$6.4-billion Gordie Howe bridge, crossed it for the first time Wednesday, when it opened to pedestrians and cyclists. But the celebration was overshadowed by the political storm swallowing Canada and the United

SEE BRIDGE, A3



SALSA ON ST. CLAIR

Two young men face first-degree murder charges

Police say one gun was fired in a targeted shooting

SHEILA REID
AND RAJU MUDHAR
STAFF REPORTERS

Police say two young men, but only one gun, are responsible for a mass shooting at Salsa on St. Clair that saw two killed and five injured, sending festivalgoers fleeing from the popular street celebration. Toronto police Chief Myron Demkiw announced the arrests of two 18-year-olds alongside Det.-Sgt. Stacey McCabe of the homicide squad at a press conference at police headquarters Friday morning. Police maintain victims Shaquan Quashie, 25, and Cesar Vernaza, 20, were targeted. Five others suffered non-life-threatening injuries. “Thousands of people who came together to celebrate their community witnessed an act of extraordinary violence and that’s what needs to be recognized and addressed,” McCabe said. The senior officer described how investigators navigated the chaos of the scene, including combing over hundreds of hours of video footage, speaking to witnesses and poring over forensic evidence. Officers found two firearms that forensics have determined were not fired, she said. After they first publicly hypothesized there had been an exchange of gunfire, McCabe said further investigation showed that wasn’t the case and the evidence showed one gun was fired. Despite that, both men — Jessiah Massaro-Gill, 18, and Lewis Downey, 18 — face two counts of first-degree murder. SEE SHOOTING, A6

CULTURE

Honouring the spirit of Rush

Canadian musicians weigh in on the rock legends’ influence and impact C4

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SOMETHING ROTTEN!



“Uproarious and ingenious”
Toronto Star



CRITIC’S PICK
“Mind-blowing”
The Globe and Mail

“Wildly funny”
Postmedia

STRATFORD
FESTIVAL