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Detroit Free Press Marathon runners sprint past City Hall Square in downtown Windsor on a rainy, humid Sunday. MILLAR HOLMES-HILL

## Funding boost to add border officers in Windsor

## Investment part of federal push to bolster national security efforts

MADELINE MAZAK

As part of Canada's ongoing effort to beef up national security, funding earmarked in the upcoming Budget 2025 will add new Canada Border Services Agency officers in Windsor.

While visiting Windsor's port of entry at the Ambassador Bridge on Friday, deputy government house leader MP Arielle Kayabaga (L — London West) touted Ottawa's \$617.7-million investment, distributed over the next five years, to hire 1,000 new CBSA officers across the country.

"In a more dangerous and divided world, now more than ever, it's time for us to stand up for Canadians," Kayabaga told reporters, "stand up for each other, and pro-

tect what matters most to Canadians and move forward in a safe and secure way."

While a timeline for adding officers locally has not been set, CBSA acting director Justin Morgan said the new recruits will not be stationed "on the front lines" at the Ambassador Bridge.

"They're going to our dedicated enforcement teams to work in those areas such as the postal courier environment, the rail environment, and the marine environment here in Windsor," said Morgan.

"Those additional officers that have been announced that are coming nationally are very much focused in on our enforcement piece, as well as our intelligence and our investigative aspect." Morgan said the investment will boost screening measures within Canada's postal and courier stream, which will help officers catch prohibited items — especially firearms — entering the country.

"Items will be sent across in the courier stream that are connected," explained Morgan.

"The biggest one we see is firearms. So what ends up happening for CBSA is that we may end up intercepting a firearm part. It's not the actual firearm itself. Individuals ship parts separately, get it across the border, and then assemble it, and that's a firearm that's on the streets."

the streets."

On Friday's tour, Kayabaga watched a CBSA K9 team swiftly locate illicit substances in a parked vehicle. A CBSA officer also demonstrated a large-scale imaging unit use X-ray technology to detect contraband hidden in

luggage or car tires. SEE **BORDER** ON **A5** 

### Film fest to screen documentary on local vigilante

#### TREVOR WILHELM

Despite a cease-and-desist demand from the main subject, the Windsor International Film Festival is forging ahead with screenings of a controversial new documentary about a Windsor "vigilante," the accused pedophiles he pursued, and the deadly fallout

Shamed follows the story of Windsor's Jason Nassr and some of the men he labelled as predators on his Creeper Hunter TV website.

Five of the men Nassr publicly shamed died of drug overdose or suicide after the videos were posted online. He was eventually charged and convicted on several criminal charges, including extortion, harassment and distribution of child porn.

Acclaimed filmmaker Matt Gallagher, a Windsor native, knows this one is going to be contentious.

"There are people who will not like this documentary," he told the Star. "It's a challenging watch. "But it's an important film, be-

cause it shows both sides of the story. This is a very difficult issue to deal with in terms of not only filmmaking, but just telling the story honestly and accurately."

Nassr, who participated in the documentary before sending filmmakers a cease-and-desist demand, could not be reached for comment. He sent the filmmakers a cease-and-desist demand in September after Shamed appeared at the Hot Docs festival in Toronto.

In Toronto. SEE **SHAMED** ON **A4** 

# Marathon highlights bond among border cities

MILLAR HOLMES-HILL

The rain came and went, but racer and fan enthusiasm never wavered — and a Windsorite was crowned this year's international-half champion.

From the Ambassador Bridge to City Hall Square, large crowds of spectators lined up along the Canadian portion of the 48th annual Detroit Free Press Marathon to cheer on thousands of runners on Sunday morning.

"I didn't expect to see so many people out in the rain, but the streets were packed," said Megan Boutette, a Windsor runner who braved the damp, humid conditions to cheer athletes on. "I can attest to the impact spectators have on racers. "A few seconds of positive interaction and energy a spectator brings can honestly change your race and give you the burst of energy and confidence you need to keep pushing."

Boutette's son, Brady, waved a homemade "power up" sign that runners could high-five as they thundered past him on Riverside Drive West.

"Multiple times we were told 'thankyou,' or 'I needed this,' "said Boutette, who estimated hundreds

of racers reached for the sign.
"Knowing we made a difference
in even one participant's race is
worth it," she told the Star.

Upwards of 26,000 runners participated in this year's events, among them the full and international-half marathons that includ-

ed a Canadian stretch. SEE MARATHON ON A4