



**TRAGEDY IN TUMBLER RIDGE**

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*'Just a great feeling'* **A3**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

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MacKinnon demanding of himself, teammates **NP8**



The Gordie Howe International Bridge is seen in Detroit on Tuesday. U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to halt its opening. **DAN JANISSE**

**Billionaire's lobbying behind bridge threat: ex-governor**

**Ambassador's owner fears losing business to Howe, Blanchard says**

**TREVOR WILHELM**

A former U.S. ambassador to Canada and Michigan governor says President Donald Trump's threat to stop the Gordie Howe International Bridge from opening is likely the result of lobbying by the billionaire owner of the Ambassador Bridge.

With his 97-year-old privately owned Ambassador Bridge, Matthew Moroun has a near-monopoly on commercial truck traffic at North America's busiest border crossing.

That monopoly will end with the anticipated opening of the new and modern Gordie Howe bridge this year.

"I think it was more a cabinet member or a staff member in the White House that was quite likely talking to the Moroun people,"

James Blanchard, a former U.S. ambassador and former Michigan governor, told the Star.

"I can't speak for the White House, obviously, or anybody else. I can speak for myself, but I can tell you I talked to our governor and our ambassador, and they're all working on this. They want to get this resolved."

The New York Times has also reported that Matthew Moroun met with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick on Monday, hours before Trump made his threats on social media.

The New York Times, which cited unnamed sources, stated that the U.S. Department of Commerce did not respond to a request for comment from the paper.

A representative of the Ambassador Bridge company did not respond to the Star's requests

for comment ahead of Wednesday print deadline.

Previously spearheaded by Moroun's father Matty, who died in 2020, the Ambassador Bridge company has fought for more than a decade to derail government efforts to build a competing publicly owned bridge connecting Windsor and Detroit.

The Moroun family, who are major Republican donors, spent millions of dollars and launched dozens of lawsuits trying to stop progress on the Gordie Howe bridge. In 2012, they spent about US\$30 million on a failed Michigan ballot proposal to block its construction.

"They lost every last one of them," said Blanchard. "The reality is the Ambassador Bridge is going to make money one way or the other. Yeah, they'll make less because they'll have a modern infrastructure a mile and a half away, but they'll still make money."

SEE **HOWE** ON **A2**

**Windsor to add cameras downtown to boost safety**

**TAYLOR CAMPBELL**

In a move heralded by chiefs of police south and north of the border, Windsor will soon have nearly 100 outdoor cameras keeping an eye on the downtown and monitoring passersby.

On Monday, city council voted unanimously to spend up to \$450,000 in pre-approved funding on Project Greenlight: commercial-grade surveillance cameras with real-time monitoring capabilities and security lighting, marked with a blinking green beacon.

The project, which began as a pilot with four cameras in 2023, will see as many as 90 cameras sprinkled throughout the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association.

Local businesses would have access to their own footage, and a security company can share footage with law enforcement, but the city wouldn't have access to any recordings.

"For evidentiary purposes, after the fact, especially with these high-def cameras — they're an invaluable tool when it comes to investigating violent crime, and any crime," Windsor police Chief Jason Crowley said Tuesday.

"People know that they're on camera 24/7, pretty much, anyway, but with those high-def cameras and the co-operation of the BIA in the city, it just makes perfect sense."

Businesses interested in participating will have to sign an agreement with Security One, the company the City of Windsor selected through a competitive process to manage the program.

SEE **CAMERAS** ON **A5**

**Trump privately weighs quitting CUSMA**

**JOSH WINGROVE**

United States President Donald Trump is privately musing about exiting the North American trade pact, people familiar with the matter said, injecting further uncertainty about the deal's future into pivotal negotiations involving the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The president has asked aides why he shouldn't withdraw from the agreement, which he signed during his first term, though he has stopped short of flatly signaling that he will do so, according to

the people who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe internal discussions.

A White House official, asked about the discussions, described Trump as the ultimate decision-maker and someone always seeking a better deal for the American people. Discussion about potential action amounted to baseless speculation before an announcement from the president, the official said.

An official in U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer's office said that a rubber-stamp of the

2019 terms was not in the national interest and the administration intended to keep Trump's options open and negotiate to address issues that had been identified.

Both officials spoke on the condition of anonymity and declined to directly address whether Trump was musing about an exit from the trade pact. Greer said Tuesday that the administration would hold separate talks with Mexico and Canada, arguing that trade ties with Canada are more strained.

SEE **CUSMA** ON **A4**

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