

# DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

NORTH AMERICA'S OLDEST CAMPUS NEWSPAPER, EST. 1868



TIKTOK IS GROWING QUICKER THAN ANY OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM. WHAT'S ALL THE HYPE ABOUT? (PHOTO BY GEOFFREY HOWARD)

## TikTok generation

The global pandemic has only helped the rise of this addictive app

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

## We stand united against hate

*Editor's note and trigger warning: The following letter contains discussion of a violent attack.*

Dear reader,

On behalf of the *Dalhousie Gazette* staff, we write the following words with heavy hearts:

In the early hours of Sept. 18, Stephen Wentzell, a 23-year-old University of King's College student, was horrifically attacked by his neighbour. Wentzell says he had called the police on Aug. 31 to report his neighbour in an alleged incident of domestic abuse. In retaliation, Wentzell's neighbour brutally assaulted him.

On his Twitter page, Wentzell described how his neighbour repeatedly kicked him in the face while yelling homophobic slurs and included a graphic audio recording of the attack.

Wentzell is a talented journalist and has written several stories for the *Gazette*. What happened to him should never happen to anyone. Although the police are not investigating the incident as a hate crime, we cannot ignore the violent, homophobic language Wentzell's attacker used during the assault.

We do not know the details of the alleged domestic abuse incident Wentzell reported, but our thoughts are also with that person, and all people, who are victims of domestic violence.

Wentzell's horrifying experience is part of a larger story. Violence and hate are a pandemic. Hundreds of hate crimes are reported in Canada every year. The Black Lives Matter movement has shone a light again on police brutality and racial violence. Recent reports have shown domestic abuse has risen since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. These issues are not all the same, but they all involve violence related to hate and inequality.

It's not enough to simply say these words, but we want to state this: We vehemently condemn violence, abuse and acts of hate.

If you have the means to support Wentzell as he recovers from his attack, please visit his GoFundMe page ([gofundme.com/f/cwucd-recovery-from-hate-crime](https://gofundme.com/f/cwucd-recovery-from-hate-crime)). We can all take steps to educate ourselves further on the discriminatory violence that exists in our society.

-The *Dalhousie Gazette* staff

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EST. 1868

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### THE FINE PRINT

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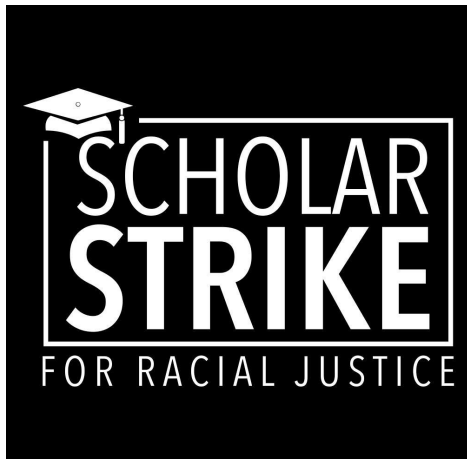
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# Dal scholars strike for change

Professors at Dal cancelled classes and adjusted syllabi as a part of nationwide strike

BY GOKCE ON



THE SCHOLAR STRIKE IS AN ACADEMIC STRIKE TO PROTEST ANTI-BLACK, RACIST AND COLONIAL POLICE BRUTALITY IN THE U.S., CANADA AND ELSEWHERE. (IMAGE CREATED BY TORY NEAL)

Joining more than 500 post-secondary institutions across the country on Sept. 9 and 10, Dalhousie University professors took part in Scholar Strike Canada. The strike was held to protest anti-Black police violence and support racial justice.

“The Scholar Strike was inspired by similar large-scale actions aimed at removing highly visible forms of labour at a critical moment in order to focus public attention on the issues of structural racism in our society, more specifically anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism in Canada,” said Ajay Parasram, a professor of international development studies at Dal. Having the strike take place early in the school year was important because it allowed those involved in the strike “to set an unforgettable agenda for the academic year,” said Parasram.

As part of the strike, many professors cancelled their classes. While one class can seem insignificant, “cancelling a class is never [done] lightly. In this case, if a professor cancelled a class, that would be a form of education: the Scholar Strike is about raising awareness and encouraging action, and cancelling a class raises awareness and hopefully encourages the students in that class to educate themselves about the issue and take action,” said Shannon Brownlee, a professor of film and media studies at Dal.

Some professors like Parasram also adjusted their syllabi “to reflect the spirit of the strike throughout the year,” Parasram said.

## The trouble with cancelling classes

While some instructors cancelled all their classes for

Sept. 9 and 10, other professors didn’t feel they could.

“I am precariously employed so I didn’t cancel classes. I continued to work and just did extra work,” said El Jones, a journalism professor at the University of King’s College and activist, who was recently chosen by the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners to write a proposal outlining how to defund the police.

Jones said not being able to cancel classes was likely a position shared by many Black women in academia. Jones isn’t on a permanent contract in Nova Scotia. She said there are many Black and Indigenous researchers, academics and instructors who are often undervalued in the academic world and aren’t being credentialed. Their “labour is so often exploited and not rewarded and recognized,” she said.

## Campus calls for Dal to do better

At Dal, students had the chance to take part in the strike in different ways.

This included signing the Scholar Strike Canada statement of support, attending the in-person “Be Heard: Black and Indigenous Voices” event or joining a virtual teach-in for Black lives.

The Be Heard: Black and Indigenous Voices event took place in the Studley Quad. It was an open mic event to elevate the voices of Black, Indigenous and other racialized persons through speech and performance. The event was also live-streamed.

Jones spoke at the event and said she’s been asking herself how Dal as an institution met this moment.

“The university completely failed to meet every

other moment,” Jones said. “[They] claim dominion over all knowledge and expertise. [They] are the ones that credential you,” but they still can’t “keep up with major intellectual developments in the world,” Jones said.

Where should Dal administration go from here? To start, as “listed on the Scholar Strike website, recruiting Black and Indigenous students, staff and faculty, and supporting them properly once recruited, and ensuring that education is affordable and accessible,” are a few steps Brownlee noted.

According to Parasram, Dal should “invest and reallocate where necessary, the financial resources necessary to make structural changes to how our university operates.”

This could take many forms, Parasram said, such as “cluster-hiring career-stream professors and administrators, properly valuing the under-recognized work that racialized professors do by giving [them] more time and support, supports to do that work

“The university completely failed to meet every other moment.”

through hiring more diverse faculty and offering course releases to overworked existing faculty.”

However, Jones says diversity hiring at Dal can have issues.

“The university will hire Black people. But the question of diversity isn’t just a question of diversity of race. It’s also diversity of views,” said Jones. She continued to say Dal “is happy to hire people that the university perceives as not rocking the boat. They’re happy to have Black heads of senates and Black members of the board of the governors and Black vice-presidents, as long as [they] don’t challenge the institution.”



A BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTEST EARLIER THIS SUMMER ENDED WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE PROTESTING IN FRONT OF THE HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON GOTTINGEN STREET. (PHOTO BY BREA WAGNER)

# BIPOC share their love of ecology

## Dal grad students launch secondary school program to provide ecology field experiences

BY LANE HARRISON, NEWS EDITOR



DIVERSITY OF NATURE OFFERS AN IN-CLASS WORKSHOP ON SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION, WHICH ALLOWS SCIENTISTS TO COMMUNICATE INFORMATION IN WAYS PEOPLE CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND, SAYS MASSEY. (OIL ON CANVAS BY MELANIE DUC BO MASSEY)

In early June, two Dalhousie University graduate students were walking their dogs. Melanie Duc Bo Massey and Suchinta Arif were thinking of ways they could help combat institutional racism.

The Black Lives Matter protest movement was at its highest level at the time after George Floyd and Breonna Taylor were murdered by police.

As Massey and Arif walked, the PhD candidates discussed the systemic issues within their own field of scientific academia where, as racialized students, they've often felt isolated amongst white peers and professors. An hour later, as Massey and Arif's dogs tugged for more walking and their respective partners pleaded to go home, Diversity of Nature was born: a program where scientists, who are Black, Indigenous and People of Colour

(BIPOC), help racialized secondary students become interested in science.

### Funding the project

Diversity of Nature is currently led by Massey, Arif and Catalina Albury. Albury, who is a master's of science candidate at Dal, joined the team soon after the initial dog-walking brainstorm.

"There was a need for this program and we wanted leadership from BIPOC individuals, and obviously, that's not going to happen at a higher-up level because most professors are not BIPOC. So it needed to kind of come from this middle area," Arif said. "In an ideal world, there wouldn't be a need for this program. But given

where we are at today, we definitely saw a need."

Three months later, the project has hit its crowd-funding goal of \$12,500, which unlocks another \$37,500 in funding from the Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network's (MEOPAR) Fathom Fund: a federally funded program that allows the community to decide if a project should be awarded funding by having researchers crowdfund 25 per cent of their costs.

MEOPAR became aware of Diversity of Nature when one of Arif's friends, a professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland, tweeted at MEOPAR about it.

"I just think it was a no brainer," said Allison Saunders, the communications and marketing



manager at MEOPAR. “With everything that has been happening across the world, across North America in the last few months, people really connected with this immediately.”

Once fully funded, the program will take two forms: traditional classroom workshops, and a four-day overnight field trip where students will complete workshops in coastal ecosystems, bird identification and more. The team has two classroom workshops planned: one to help BIPOC students apply to universities and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs specifically, and another in scientific illustration targeted toward younger students.

“The purpose of this program is really us taking a field that we are in and working to make it more actively anti-racist,” Albury said.

The field-trip portion is currently planned for August 2021 and the group is hoping to begin the in-school workshops this winter.

### BIPOC leadership is essential

“When I was growing up, I went to a BIPOC heavy school, which had a lot of value, and as I became more successful and as I climbed the academic ladder, it just became more and more white,” said Arif. “At first I was proud of that. I was like, ‘Oh, look at me, I’m the only person of colour here. It must mean that I’m at a certain successful level.’ But even that understanding of it — this is like when I was much younger — is very skewed and very wrong,” Arif said.

Massey, Arif and Albury all agree that for young BIPOC students to develop an interest in science, they need leaders who are reflections of themselves. This is equally important beyond the introductory level. BIPOC leadership is crucial to keeping BIPOC students in science programs when they reach higher levels of academia, they said.

“There have been times where I’ve experienced racism from mentors in STEM. There have been times where I’ve been made extremely uncomfortable by my peers or my mentors,” said Massey, who recalls once leaving a field research site to visit her family home in Toronto’s East Chinatown. When she returned to the field, she brought with her some mangoes and lychee fruit, “and my co-workers were like, ‘What are these?’ Like they’d never seen them before.”

While facing microaggressions like these, Albury said, BIPOC students are unfairly forced to assess the validity of their feelings.

“It’s hard to know whether you can speak up or not because you have no one to relate to you. You sort of second guess yourself. You go like, ‘Am I being too sensitive right now? Is this a real, actual

issue, or is it just in my head?’ And that’s the nature of a microaggression,” she said.

According to Asif, Massey and Albury, a large part of helping BIPOC students become involved in STEM is helping them navigate the university application process.

**“The purpose of this program is really us taking a field that we are in and working to make it more actively anti-racist.”**

Many BIPOC students struggle to apply to undergraduate and graduate programs, Massey said. When students have made it past the application process and set foot on campus, many struggle to become involved, unaware of when they should be volunteering or begin-

ning lab work.

“[BIPOC students] don’t [always] have family members who went to university recently, or we don’t have that mentorship necessarily coming from an academic sphere,” Massey said.

“My parents are always asking me like, ‘What’s the letter for the next thing that you’re going to do? Is it a PhD?’” Albury said. “I have to describe what’s happening, because they really don’t [know]. That’s not a part of their world.”

The program leaders of the university application workshop won’t just be volunteering in a teaching capacity. They’ll also be mentors who students can reach out to during the entire process.

Because of the lack of BIPOC in the sciences, Arif said racialized students are forced to figure out their interests by themselves.

“For me, when I decided to go into biology in Grade 12, that took a lot of introspection for me to figure out that was the right path for me. If I had a program like this, that was localized, that was available to me during high school, I would have realized that much easier,” Arif said.

### Making science more inclusive

During the four-day overnight trip, students will be introduced to organisms and perspectives they won’t encounter at school. This will be done by practicing two-eyed seeing and studying decolonized science.

Two-eyed seeing refers to examining something using both the strengths of Indigenous knowledge and Western knowledge. The term was created by Mi’kmaw Elder Albert Marshall.

Diversity of Nature plans on hiring Mi’kmaw scientists to lead workshops on Mi’kmaw science and scientific thought.

“Objectivity is kind of impossible in a field where humans control what we study,” Albury said. “A field can’t be very objective if only one kind of person is the person doing the science.”

“One of the perspectives is our colonial or settler science, the scientific method, that sort of stuff. And the other perspective is Indigenous science and understanding that the land is for everyone

and that we are also a part of the land and that everything is connected,” Albury said.

Looking at science while practicing two-eyed seeing will also be new for the leaders of Diversity of Nature.

“I’ve only ever been introduced to Western science,” said Massey. “So in part of training for this camp, I have to learn a lot more about [Indigenous science] and I’m excited to be learning from Indigenous ecologists about what that is and let them take the lead.”

### Community impact

Massey spent time working as a high school biology teacher while completing her PhD at Dal, so she knows an opportunity like this for students is something teachers and principals are on the lookout for.

The group is hopeful students will return to their communities with an excitement to share what they learned from the trip, and to engage in the environment with friends and family.

Once Diversity of Nature finishes its first year, the trio will survey participants and publish their results. This will include the effectiveness of intersectional marine science education and the effect of BIPOC programs on youths’ perceptions of BIPOC scientists.

“We’re hoping that it can inform other initiatives like this. It would be really lovely to see that this is a successful program,” Massey said.

Albury, Arif and Massey are open to feedback and criticism from communities or parents who are interested in the program.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MELANIE DUC BO MASSEY, CATALINA ALBURY AND SUCHINTA ARIF. THE THREE DAL STUDENTS CREATED DIVERSITY OF NATURE. (PHOTO BY CAROLINA ANDRADE, PROVIDED BY MEOPAR)

# A guide to Halifax's 2020 mayoral candidates

## Surprise: they're three white men

BY LANE HARRISON, NEWS EDITOR



THE THREE MAYORAL CANDIDATES, MIKE SAVAGE (LEFT), MATT WHITMAN (TOP RIGHT) AND MAX TAYLOR (BOTTOM RIGHT), FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTION IN HALIFAX DURING THE STREAMED SEPT. 16 DEBATE. (PHOTOS BY DOWNTOWN HALIFAX)

### Matt Whitman

Councillor Matt Whitman is the second most experienced candidate in the race. He was elected to represent the municipal office of District 13 Hammonds Plains-St. Margarets in 2012. In 2015, his colleagues elected him as deputy mayor for a one-year term. He was born and raised in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and graduated from Saint Mary's University in 1992.

### Campaign promises:

1) Policing: Whitman is a supporter of the Halifax Regional Police (HRP). When the question of defunding the police was raised at the mayoral candidates' debate on Sept. 16 he said, "If you don't stand with the police, stand in front of them."

At the same debate, he said police should wear body cameras and the smoking-ban, which makes it illegal to smoke or vape outside of designated smoking spots in the municipality, should be more

widely enforced.

2) Indigenous issues: At the Sept. 16 debate, Whitman was asked how he'll work with Indigenous people considering his past stance to keep the statue of Edward Cornwallis in Cornwallis Park. (Cornwallis was a former governor of Nova Scotia and once issued a proclamation to expel all Mi'kmaw people from the peninsula.) Whitman remained steadfast and said the municipality should have more statues.

3) Climate change: Whitman would like to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles on the road while improving Halifax's transit infrastructure. He has no specific plans outlined as to how to do this.

4) Poverty and affordable housing: Whitman plans to improve affordable housing by speeding up the permit process, which will allow developers to create affordable housing projects faster. The process will be expedited by "reducing red tape," according to his website. He is opposed to rent control as it sacrifices a free-market system.

5) COVID-19 recovery and local business: Whitman says he will focus on "protecting your tax dollars," according to his website. As mayor, he says he'll immediately freeze his salary for as long as he is mayor in hopes that other departments will be inspired to tighten their budgets.

At the Sept. 16 debate, Whitman criticized the city government's decision to waive street parking and transit fees for a period during the pandemic. He also said Plexiglas should have been installed on busses immediately.

#### What else you should know:

While serving on Halifax regional council, Whitman's tenure has been among the most controversial especially in the last four years.

In 2017, Whitman uploaded a video to his YouTube channel that sparked controversy. In the video, Whitman and a passenger are sitting in a car when Whitman yells "Chinese fire drill." He and the passenger then run around the car before re-entering and sitting in different seats. After people began tweeting that Whitman's remark was racist, he removed the video. In October 2017, Whitman used the word "Negro" in a televised interview on CTV Atlantic News, which sparked much criticism.

In 2018, Whitman once again placed himself in the spotlight by retweeting a post by white supremacist group ID Canada, which denounced the municipal government's decision to remove the statue of Edward Cornwallis from Cornwallis park. Whitman claimed to have no knowledge of ID Canada's white supremacist views prior to the backlash toward his retweet. He then deleted the tweet and blocked ID Canada from his account.

Later in 2018, Whitman was removed from all city committees for three months for breaching the code of conduct.

### Mike Savage

The incumbent, Mayor Mike Savage was elected to his office in 2012 and 2016. Prior to that, from 2004 to 2011 he was a member of parliament for the Liberal Party of Canada. Born in Belfast, Ireland, Savage was raised in Dartmouth and graduated from Dalhousie University. His father, John Savage, served as premier of Nova Scotia between 1993 and 1997.

#### Campaign promises:

1) Policing: Savage supports the Black Lives Matter movement and recently established the HRM's Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office.

He recently redirected funds used to purchase a HRP armoured vehicle to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the non-police Public Safety Office, with remaining funds to be directed toward municipal programs and services to counter anti-Black racism.

Savage wants to improve the inclusion of African Nova Scotian and Black voices in the decisions made at city hall. He would like to see the Wortley report at council and within the HRP. The Wortley report, released in March 2019 by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, showed a Black citizen was six times more likely to be street checked in Halifax than a white citizen. The report includes multiple policy recommendations for improving the relationship between the police and the African-Nova Scotian community.

2) Indigenous issues: Savage wants to increase the amount of Mi'kmaw history, culture and art visible in public spaces throughout the city. He plans to implement recommendations from the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History in consultation and partnership with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs. He would like to support a new Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre in the city.

3) Climate change: Savage wants to implement HalifACT: a climate change strategy with targets for 2050. He would like to work with the province in creating a new coastal protection act. He wants to ensure the boundaries of the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Park, a proposed urban park, "reflect the potential of that space," according to his website.

4) Poverty and affordable housing: Savage wants to expand the HRM's Affordable Access Program. (People can apply to the

program to get subsidies for buying transit passes or paying for children's recreation programs.) He says he will take action to ensure the HRM pays its employees a livable wage. He wants to create new and refurbished affordable housing through partnerships with local developers.

5) COVID-19 recovery and local business: Savage wants to continue adapting Halifax community spaces to accommodate social distancing, such as expanding sidewalks. He would also like to figure out ways to capitalize on Atlantic bubble tourism in the short term. He wants to continue fostering start-ups and scale-ups.

#### What else you should know:

Though there's still time for Mayor Savage to cement his legacy in Halifax, he may be best remembered for the removal of the Edward Cornwallis statue.

In 1993, Mi'kmaw historian Daniel Paul brought attention to Cornwallis's racist views and actions through his book *We Were Not the Savages*. Paul lobbied for Cornwallis's statue to be removed, as well as to change the name of Cornwallis Street, Cornwallis Park and Cornwallis Junior High School. The school was renamed in 2011 as Halifax Central Junior High. The decision to remove the statue was finally considered in 2017 when protesters reportedly planned to tear down the statue, causing concern for public safety within council. After a 12-4 vote in 2018, the statue was officially removed.

### Max Taylor

A late entry to the race, the 22-year-old Taylor announced his candidacy on Sept. 8. He has no experience in public office, but he is popular on TikTok, where he has more than 650,000 followers.

#### Campaign promises:

While Taylor gave genuine answers at the candidates' debate on Sept. 16, he has no campaign website, just a Facebook page. On the "About" section of the page, he writes that his platform is simply this: "I don't care who you vote for, I care that you vote."

#### What else you should know:

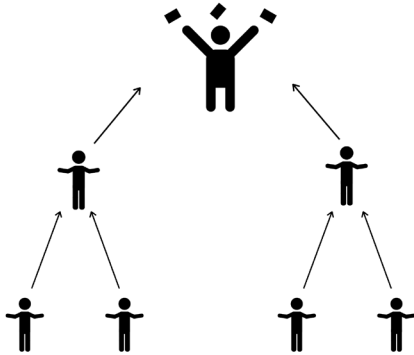
If Taylor wins, he wouldn't be the youngest mayor in Canadian history. That honour is reserved for Clayton Smith, who became the mayor of New Norway, Alberta when he was 19 years old.



# A not-so-fantastic business opportunity

## Why you should think twice about joining that MLM

BY ELIZABETH FOSTER



THE MORE PEOPLE THEY RECRUIT, THE MORE MONEY TOP MLM SELLERS EARN. (GRAPHIC BY GEOFFREY HOWARD)

We've all gotten that text, an out-of-the-blue Facebook message from a long-lost high school acquaintance. The person you were never really close with, but who has chosen you for a "fantastic business opportunity!"

More often than not, this fantastic business opportunity is an offer to join that acquaintance's multilevel marketing company or MLM. But what exactly is an MLM? Is it really a pyramid scheme?

### What is an MLM?

An MLM is a business strategy many direct sales companies use. Some common MLMs are It Works!, Amway, Arbonne, LuLaRoe, Scentsy, Monat, Younique and Color Street.

MLMs don't provide their salespeople (or distributors as they're often called) a typical salary. As an MLM salesperson, you rely on two streams of income: revenue from selling products and commissions when you recruit other distributors who buy products to sell themselves. The distributors you recruit are called your downline.

The line between MLM and pyramid scheme is often very thin, if not invisible. In fact, in 2017, Arbonne was faced with a lawsuit alleging it was a pyramid scheme. The same thing happened to LuLaRoe in 2019.

The biggest difference, aside from the fact pyramid schemes are illegal and MLMs are technically not, is while pyramid schemes rely solely on recruitment for money, MLMs claim to generate income based on the sale of products and services.

How exactly does an MLM work? Imagine you

take your high school acquaintance up on their offer and join their MLM that sells makeup. To start, you will have to purchase all of your own inventory out of pocket. Often these companies have starter kits, which cost roughly between \$50 and \$200. Bear in mind whenever you buy inventory, the person who recruited you gets a small amount of the money you spent.

It's then up to you to sell the makeup you bought and recruit people into your own downline so you can make money whenever they purchase inventory. When those downlines recruit people, you get a commission on their sales too. This is where most people lose money because often what you sell does not exceed what you initially purchased. The pressure to always keep fresh inventory in stock leads many people to lose money very quickly.

### The problem with MLMs

Most MLMs push the narrative of being your own boss, and promise perks such as working from home and bringing in thousands of dollars in additional income. Sadly this promise is not the reality.

Due to the structure of MLMs, many people end up making less than minimum wage. In fact, most people end up losing money in these schemes. According to a 2019 income disclosure statement from the MLM It Works!, entry-level distributors, who made up about 84 per cent of all active distributors in the company, made on average \$48 a month. The highest-level sellers, who made up only 0.07 per cent of active distributors, made on average \$24,466 a month. Put simply, only those at the top of the ladder made money.

Moreover, the recruitment strategies employed by MLMs are extremely predatory. For example, a number of MLMs push the narrative of female empowerment in order to recruit members. In fact, according to the Direct Selling Association, about 74 per cent of people involved in MLMs are women. However many of the products sold by MLMs, like skin and hair creams, body wraps and nutritional shakes, are designed to prey on people's insecurities — quite the opposite of fe-

male empowerment. To make matters worse, MLMs may use false or misleading information to advertise.

MLMs often promise extra income (six figures or more) obtained effortlessly from the comfort of your own home. Think about the groups of people for whom this would be most appealing: students, people with low incomes, the recently unemployed, struggling parents, etc.

Being involved in an MLM can endanger a person's already precarious financial situation. Imagine a student pouring money into a business that claims to be lucrative while trying to pay off student loans at the same time.

Multilevel marketing is now almost completely online. People use platforms like Facebook to sell to friends and families, and one large grievance against MLMs is how relentless some distributors can be. While being annoying online isn't as harmful as preying on insecurities and making false promises it is disappointing to have a friend or acquaintance start seeing you as nothing more than a potential customer or downline.

### What to keep in mind

Some people do join MLMs without the serious goal of making money. My parents have friends who host product parties as a social activity rather than a way to make money. Going back to the It Works! disclosure statements, "they indicate some people do end up making good money through MLMs." Though again, I can't stress enough how incredibly small a percentage this actually ends up being.

My advice to anybody involved in or thinking of joining an MLM is this: do whatever you want, but if your goal is to make a lot of money then an MLM is statistically not an effective way to do it. Create a spreadsheet, and keep track of every single dollar you put in and take out. Even if you don't intend to make money, or you want to join simply to enjoy the products, keep in mind you are still supporting and contributing to a predatory business model.

**"If your goal is to make a lot of money, then an MLM is statistically not an effective way to do it."**



# The TikTok phenomenon

The electronic embodiment of generation Z

BY MICHELLE WANG



UNITED STATES PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP HAS THREATENED TO BAN TIKTOK IN AMERICA. (PHOTO BY SOLEN FEYISSA ON UNSPLASH)

If you ask a group of friends their opinion of TikTok, I bet you'll get a wide range of reactions. There will be those who cringe, those who laugh and those who say the app is a security concern. While these are all valid responses, I believe TikTok is the best thing to happen to generation Z.

When I first heard of TikTok, my instinct was to avoid it. The app seemed like a new, scary world where 15-year-olds who were more attractive than me got famous for making faces. But during the dark, lonely months of quarantine, I changed my mind about TikTok. I downloaded the app and never looked back.

## What is TikTok?

TikTok is an app that allows users to create and share less than a minute long videos using a combination of clips, filters, sounds and text. With a variety of functions, TikTok has become the perfect platform for our generation's creative and digitally oriented minds.

When opening the app, users are met with the "For You" page and a video instantly plays. To watch more, the user swipes up on their screen and with each swipe a new TikTok video curated to your interests appears. A lot of content can be consumed in a short amount of time. This factor is key in making the app addictive for our generation's short attention span.

Due to these features, TikTok has been the subject of comparison to Vine, a now dead app that used a

similar format. Vine captured the same weird humour, but TikTok is more versatile and accessible. The effective app design and algorithm are to be credited. The swiping function means users do not actively decide what to watch, making it easy to mindlessly scroll through everything from fashion to food to a llama dancing to a Russian cereal commercial song and Willy Wonka doing the WAP dance.

## A creative outlet

What sets TikTok apart from other social media apps is the content. Unlike Instagram, where posts are often refined and curated, TikTok is full of people being funny, showing off their personalities and not taking themselves too seriously. There's a place for everyone to put their own spin on the latest trend.

Through TikTok, young people can showcase the open, expressive generation we are. Shelby Brady, a recent Dalhousie University graduate, began uploading to the app during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I was inspired to make TikToks because of how fun and lighthearted these videos were," Brady says. "TikTok gave me a break from the overwhelming stress [of the

pandemic]."

The app has approximately 800 million monthly users with 60 per cent being gen Z (those born between 1996 and 2015).

TikTok is also a place that represents the diversity

of interests amongst young people. Distinct genres of the app have formed and are humorously known as the different "sides" of TikTok. There is everything from the popular "Straight" vs "alt TikTok," as well as more niche communities like "Harry Potter TikTok."

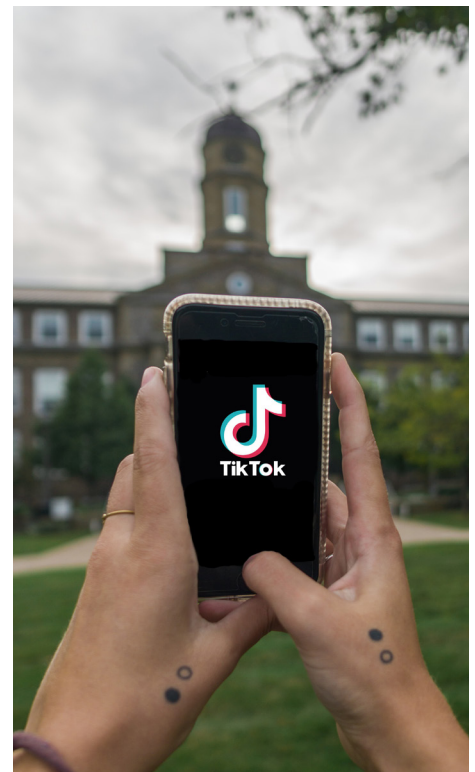
TikTok encourages people to express themselves in ways that may not be mainstream. It gives a voice to many talented people, who may not reach the same level of success using other platforms ruled by traditional celebrities. It makes you feel like you're watching your friends goof around because that's essentially what it is.

"I personally just really enjoy it," says Brady.

## The future of the app

While Brady notes, "society today is so full of such heavy topics. . . TikTok gives you a break from that," the political context of the app cannot be ignored. U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to ban new downloads in the United States leaves the future of the app unclear.

Whatever happens, it is certain TikTok has changed the social media game and asserts our generation's growing influence on the world, even if we're doing it through viral dances and memes.



TIKTOK HAS SURPASSED TWO BILLION DOWNLOADS WORLDWIDE. (PHOTO BY GEOFFREY HOWARD)



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# On being home, mental health and reconnecting

Dal and King's students reflect on the emotional toll of returning to their hometowns

BY GOKCE ON



IN MARCH 2020 GOKCE ON WAS FORCED TO RETURN TO HER HOMETOWN IN ZMIR, TURKEY BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. (PHOTO BY GOKCE ON)

Back in March, Dalhousie University announced all classes would be online for the rest of the winter 2020 semester. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the university asked students to go home. For me, it almost felt like I was being deported.

Moving back home meant flying all the way back to Turkey. Everything happened too fast for me to process. Now looking back, my reaction to the events were like a condensed version of the stages of grief: starting with strong denial, slowly moving to a very aggressive state of constant bargaining and lastly, a bittersweet acceptance of how things were.

## Adjusting to home life

The word “home” may sound comforting to many students. A couple of my friends were more than delighted to be going back home earlier than they thought they would, despite the condition the world was in.

As for me, I never really liked home. Opening the front door of my house, I get that melancholic, “it’s back to reality” feeling. So, to be frank, I was not thrilled. In my mind, I conceptualized being back home as being trapped. Mentally, it’s not the best place. Within this specific context of being so abruptly taken away from my friends and the new-found freedom that came with living away from home, there were definitely challenges to readjusting.

## Living with family

Although I didn’t know it at the time, I wasn’t alone in my difficulty of readjusting to homelife.

Natalia Tola, a second-year University of King’s College journalism student, talks about the challenges caused by moving back in with her parents and how even though her father tries to be empathetic,

he is “very unfamiliar with what it’s like to be a woman in 2020.”

Generational differences are bound to create obstacles between parents and their children. However, being in the same house as her parents 24/7 made this more evident than before to Tola.

“Family time grows more complicated as your life becomes separate from your family,” Tola says. “Likewise, quarantine makes you so aware of the people around you and the differences you have with them, since there’s so much free time to think and all.”

Even when everyone has good intentions, family can be very complicated.

Arianna Díaz, a second-year Dal engineering student, puts it this way: “My parents and other family members are great people, but they don’t really believe much in privacy or respecting their children’s time, so I don’t have 100 per cent control of my time anymore.”

Sare Yörükoğlu, a second-year Dal psychology student, delicately outlines how complicated her relationship is with her mother.

“[Me and my mom] miss each other a lot, but we also break each other a lot when we [are together], like constantly. And mentally, that makes me really tired,” Yörükoğlu says.

## Maintaining connections

Even without taking family into consideration, there are still many problems with not being able to go back to Halifax for the fall semester. During these past months everyone in the world had to, in some way, rebuild their lives according to the new set of rules they’ve been presented with. Having to be more mindful and finding ways to cope wasn’t easy.

Neo Ragsac, a second-year Dal marine biology student, admits, “I haven’t been taking care of [my well-being] for a couple of months. I have been sleeping too much, which affected my health and my relationships.”

This might be a scenario many students are familiar with: feeling disconnected from this new reality and the friends we have in various parts of the world.

On trying to stay connected with friends, Ragsac says, “Hearing their voices is still a blessing, [but] it’s not enough since I’ve formed strong connections with these people.”

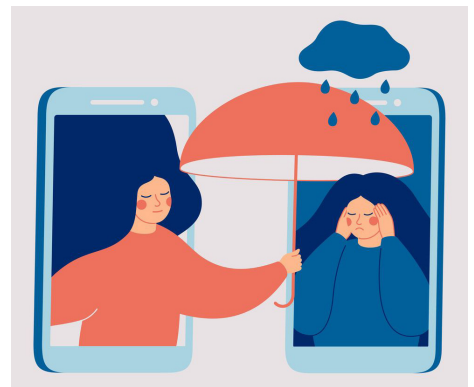
Now with classes starting again, some students have been hit with another wave of realization.

“Personally, studying at home makes me realize how being in charge of your own schedule and your own things makes a difference,” says Tola. She goes on to say having meals prepared and laundry done for her feels “a little too comfortable,” and highlights how she misses “having space to grow into [herself].”

## A different kind of homesickness

There are many different versions of home. Sometimes it’s a physical space, and sometimes it’s a person’s comfort zone. Personally, returning to my family home made me realize I had unknowingly created another home for myself, intertwined with so many other people’s lives. While they both feel wildly different, they’re both spaces for me to keep evolving.

Díaz puts it best when she says, “When I was in Halifax, I was happy, but I got homesick from time to time. However, now that I’m back, I feel like my ‘homesickness’ isn’t really gone.”



STAYING CONNECTED WITH FRIENDS VIRTUALLY CAN HELP EASE THE FEELINGS OF ALIENATION, BUT IT ISN'T THE SAME AS BEING THERE. (PHOTO BY MARIA PONOMARIOVA ON GETTY IMAGES)



# Dylan Menzie is lost in dreams

P.E.I. musician's new podcast focuses on art, life and dreams

BY ELIZABETH FOSTER

Dylan Menzie starts every episode of his podcast with the same question: "What do you dream?"

Menzie explains why he asks this: it's a very broad opening question and a good way to get an idea of who he's interviewing.

"They could talk about their worst nightmares right off the top or something they're very passionate about in their dreams. . . you never really know, and that's kind of why I start it that way." He adds, "This podcast is called *Lost in Dreams*, so let's start it out talking about dreams."

## Celebrating art

Menzie, a singer/songwriter based in Prince Edward Island, began *The Lost in Dreams Podcast* back in late August 2020. He'd released an album of the same name in May and, like countless other musicians, knew he'd have to get creative when it came to promoting it in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I thought, 'Well OK I can't tour anymore because of COVID, so what am I going to do to promote this release?' And I thought a podcast would be a really interesting way to promote a record and also talk about other people at the same time," he says.

Menzie hosts the podcast alongside bassist Joce Reyome. Together the pair interviews artists, musicians, photographers, writers and actors from all over Atlantic Canada.

"I wanted to have a very diverse group of artists from many different disciplines," Menzie explains. "So I'm talking to photographers but I'm also talking to songwriters and painters and comedians. I wanted it to be all over the map just to get a lot of different perspectives on what art is and what dreams are."

On the experience of hosting such a podcast Reyome says, "It's kind of opened my eyes a little

bit more to how [structured] conversations can still be creative, and still have that fluidity and inspiration."

Each episode includes a different guest and so far the first three interviewees were actor Jonathan Torrens, television writer Cheryl Wagner and photographer Patricia Bourque. Menzie and Reyome began recording episodes back in June, when social distancing guidelines on P.E.I. were beginning to loosen up, meaning if they spoke to

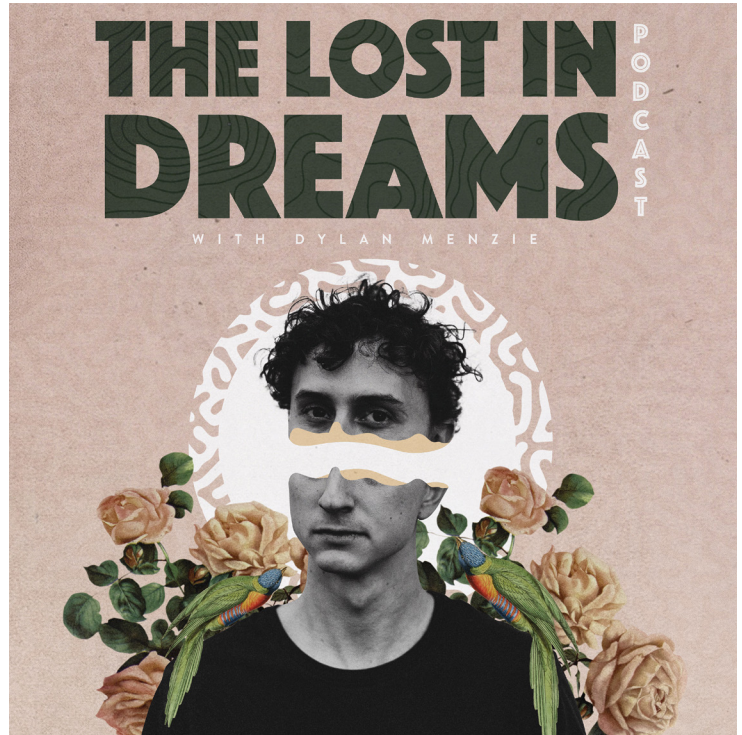
artists from the island, they could have the conversations in person.

## A musical background

Menzie, who was a full-time musician prior to the pandemic, has been singing and writing songs for as long as he can remember. He recalls playing music with his brothers growing up, and eventually went on to writing and performing his own songs.

"I did some ceilidhs around Prince Edward Island, grew up doing that kind of circuit, with old Irish jigs and reels and things. . . I've been playing music my entire life really, and I play about 10 or 12 different instruments now," he says.

His style is, in his words, a mix of indie, pop and Americana.



THE LOST IN DREAMS PODCAST, HOSTED BY DYLAN MENZIE AND JOCE REYOME, FEATURES INTERVIEWS WITH ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM ALL OVER ATLANTIC CANADA. (DESIGN BY NIYI ADEOGUN)

**"I thought a podcast would be a really interesting way to promote a record and also talk about other people at the same time."**

classes. They met Menzie through mutual friends and eventually began playing bass in Menzie's band.

"I thankfully have been able to work on my chops in live performance settings, and now I'm primarily bassist and that's pretty cool," they say.

## Creating the podcast

After Menzie came up with the idea for *The Lost*

*in Dreams Podcast*, he asked Reyome if they would like to co-host.

"We had this great rapport and their laugh is just so infectious. I asked them to be the co-host because I wanted that warm bright energy of Joce in the room," Menzie says with a laugh.

Then, Menzie came up with a list of artists to interview. He explains each interview is usually about an hour and a half long. The structure of the interviews is loose. After his regular first question, he lets the conversation flow from there.

While Menzie originally started the podcast as a way to promote his album, he says he would like to continue with it and expand to interviewing artists from all over not just Atlantic Canada.

When asked what he dreams of, Menzie says, "When I dream, it's usually very fantastical. I usually wake up having thought to myself, 'I don't know where that came from, but I had a good time.'" He adds he has a lot of flying dreams, which he enjoys.

Reyome says they dream every night.

"Usually it involves my close circle of friends and we're just on some sort of wacky adventure. I love it and I love dreaming."

# Skating in the slow lane

## All-girl skate crew aims to diversify skateboarding scene in Nova Scotia

BY CHLOË NGUYEN-DRURY



SKATE IN THE SLOW LANE, FOUNDED BY NOVA SCOTIAN SKATERS KATIE MOTT AND WILLOW STARR, IS A SKATE CREW OPEN TO GIRLS OF ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS. (PHOTO BY RAVEN STORM)

Close your eyes and imagine seeing a skateboarder. Are you picturing a white guy? Katie Mott and her group of gal pals are looking to change that narrative.

### Getting started

Along with her friend Willow Star, in spring 2019 Mott co-founded Skate in the Slow Lane, a skateboarding group for women and girls in Nova Scotia.

“We were just kind of joking around about how slow we were. We really couldn’t skate at the start,” says Mott referring to the name of the group.

Mott and Star began posting photos and videos on Instagram as a way to document their progress, but what started as a casual get-together between the two quickly developed into much more.

Mott’s first encounter with skateboarding was walking into Homegrown Skateboards, a skate shop in LaHave, N.S., where she says she was welcomed with open arms. Upon watching Homegrown regulars skate, Mott was hooked.

“I had actually seen a girl skate really good for the first time in my life, and I was like, I really want to do this,” Mott says. “I started skating everywhere, all the time, as much as I could with anyone I could find. It just exploded.”

Though Mott says her experiences with skateboarding have been nothing but positive, she understands that’s not the case for all non-male skaters. Mott credits Homegrown’s “grassroots, local scene” for making her feel at home, saying the male staff are “the most inclusive, supportive men [she’s] ever met.”

“I’m very lucky and I know it’s not like this for everyone ’cause I’ve talked to people who haven’t

been introduced to skateboarding the way I have,” says Mott.

Co-founder Star says some male skaters “would make fun or just constantly explain things” to her.

Star says, “I found most of learning to skate is just trying things, and so constant advice is often annoying and is often just a way for guys to hit on you, which is even more frustrating.”

### A skateboarding renaissance

In comparison with other sports, skateboarding is relatively new. The sport originated in the late 1940s and gained popularity in the ’70s. By 2001, more American kids skateboarded than played baseball. Recently, increased interest in skate brands like Vans, Thrasher and Supreme, along with an influx of skate movies (*Mid90s* and *Minding the Gap*), have jump-started a sort of skateboarding renaissance.

“Everything expands. The genre’s gonna grow, the scene’s gonna grow and it should, naturally. It should progress,” says Mott.

As the culture grows and the fan base diversifies, it creates more opportunities for underrepresented groups like female and nonbinary skaters.

“It’s important to have all different kinds of people skating ’cause it invites other people to join! I for sure felt intimidated by skating with only guys,” Star says. Star also designs and produces upcycled apparel and her latest collection is inspired by gender diversity in the skate scene.

“My most recent run of prints says ‘skateboarding has no gender’ because I feel it’s important not to assign a gender to skateboarding. It’s for everyone,” says Star.

Throughout the years, skateboarding has been

promoted as a male sport with mainstream media rarely highlighting non-male skaters. In the past few years, media representation has somewhat improved due in part to the Oscar-winning documentary short *Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You’re a Girl)* and teen drama *Skate Kitchen*, which both focus on female skateboarders. As Mott says, “It takes time, but it’s getting better.”

Mott points out The Berrics (a skatepark in California) as an example of the progressive changes in the skateboarding world. The Berrics has been featuring more female skaters on their Instagram page as of late. But even today, backlash exists, as evidenced by the hate comments on The Berrics’ page.

“These male skaters, their whole life, have had tools to help them,” Mott says. “Bros the whole way, cheering them on, showing them the way. Female skaters will show up, they have less support, less information, and they’re still doing it. . . I worked my way here just like you did.”

Similarly, Skate in the Slow Lane’s Instagram page has been making waves especially among Nova Scotia’s youngest skaters.

“Social media isn’t everything, but it has a lot of influence especially on younger generations,” says Mott. She recalls meeting a 10-year-old girl who, upon watching videos of the Slow Lane girls, was inspired to take up skateboarding.

“To actually have that influence in real life. . . is just insane,” Mott says.

### Open to everyone

Mott estimates there are around 30 skaters who regularly attend Skate in the Slow Lane events, with 10 core members in the group. Skill levels vary, and ages range from 15 to 35. Though the group has grown in size, they still maintain a casual, welcoming atmosphere for anyone who wants to drop by.

“There’s always someone starting. There’s always someone on your level,” says Mott. “It’s super motivating. . . We feed off each other’s energy.”

For anyone who wants to start skateboarding (especially those who might not see themselves represented in the sport and culture), Mott’s advice is simple:

“Show up! People are a lot nicer than you think and a lot more willing to help than you imagine. It’s intimidating for sure, but the payoff is amazing. . . do what you wanna do. Hold ground. Hold space.”

In true skater girl fashion, Mott recommends saying “Fuck you” to the haters.

“Don’t be afraid to just send it,” Mott says.

# Dalhousie poets: countdown and repeat

## Poems on love and desire

BY AUDREY XUAN

### countdown

the tick of her spine  
drives me forward  
like waiting and watching  
she schedules my next move  
I run my clock on hers  
her impeccable beat  
like pounding drums and hissing snares  
or calendars on Roman time  
syncing circadian rhythm with mine

### catch, release, repeat

tell me about your bloodlust  
hungry for the devil's touch  
to feel the wolf rip into flesh  
and skin and bone  
like bread  
and to feel your mind fall to dust

like it like red between your teeth  
cruel cold god,  
I like your tongues and nails and arteries  
I like the chase that makes my heart beat  
I like the catch and the release

catch, hold, bite, eat, tease, leave, release

and repeat

### east of June

in the north, the sun grins most afternoons  
but the air still has a bite to it  
I wash dishes in the six o'clock window so I can feel the warmth  
coming in from the west  
it washes over the city and then comes out in waves to us.  
the year's nearing its end so no one thinks too clearly  
instead we spit barbs through tight teeth  
and turn our fingers upwards and across the room when mistakes  
are made  
the sky's kind but cool  
we still have a ways to go

### the devil's chord

in the grey pain of suburbia  
through the unwashed windows  
spiced heavy with cloves and tea leaves  
wavering tritone chords drift by  
lost,  
weary,  
looking for a home or a host.  
they call to the girl in the yard,  
who spins around still barefoot,  
stepping in the icy evening dew and the rotting apples that decorate  
the ground  
she feels the tension in her tissue,  
the hollowness in her bones,  
the decay in her paper-flaky skin.

ah, yes. this pretty pastry will make a lovely nest.

*"Dalhousie poets" is a rotating column in the Gazette's Art & Lifestyle section featuring poetry by students on various subjects. Interested in submitting your verse? Email [arts@dalgazette.com](mailto:arts@dalgazette.com).*



(GRAPHIC BY VIJAY VERMA ON BLUSH)



# Kids jump back into action

## Dal Tigers' youth programs reopen for children

BY LUKE DYMENT, SPORTS EDITOR



SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS GET A THUMBS UP DURING THE 2019 SESSION. CAMPS STARTED LATER THAN USUAL THIS SUMMER. (PHOTO BY NICK PEARCE)

When COVID-19 shut down Halifax and the rest of the world in March, Jen LaPlante's children went from enjoying plenty of physical activity, especially with their local basketball team and running club, to virtually none.

After months of missed competitions, her two sons, aged 13 and 10, were finally able to return to the gym on Aug. 31. They were enrolled in a Dalhousie Tigers basketball youth program and have been for a few years.

"They were a bit overwhelmed at first and reluctant to go," LaPlante said about how her kids first felt about going back to sports. Another reason for their reduced enrolment numbers impacted how many of their friends would be there. But their reluctance soon turned into enthusiasm.

"Once they got there, it was fantastic. They were super sweaty on the walk home. They felt good getting exercise," said LaPlante.

### A different approach, but the same camps

Dal's summer youth programs started up later than usual this year. The first day of camps began on Aug. 4. Groups were limited to eight participants with a maximum of two instructors. Programs offered included basketball, volleyball and soccer camps, plus "Active Youth," "Youth Adventure" and "Youth

Leadership" programs.

Chris Keough, Dal's campus recreation coordinator, oversees the running of programs. He said the camps themselves didn't change, although their greatest challenge was planning around Nova Scotia's public health regulations that mandate minimal contact in sports.

"We did two-hour sessions for most groups and three for some [as opposed to full-day camps before]. It eliminated participants' need to eat here, minimized the amount of time they needed the bathroom and everyone brought their own water since fountains were closed," Keough said.

He said the summer programs ran smoothly. He hopes all will go well in Dal's fall youth camps too, which are new this year. Due to the suspension of Atlantic University Sport (AUS) fall competition and fewer team practices, Dal teams aren't in the

gym or on the field as much. So, there will be more openings in booking times at the Dalplex, Studley Gym and the other athletic facilities for these kids camps to use. The instructors at these camps are Dal Tigers coaches and athletes.

"[The fall programs] have been well-received from a registration point of view," Keough said. He added all but one fall camp sold out within an hour of registration opening. "The demand is there because minor sporting organizations aren't running right now. Players can't get into school gyms. They aren't

open. We're one of the few options available for people."

"Camps at Dal are really well-run without a doubt," LaPlante said. "The university coaches run the camps and they really push the kids to focus and try. This leads the kids to challenge themselves a little more."

### Importance of youth returning to sports

Sport Nova Scotia CEO Jamie Ferguson said sport is important for children's physical and mental health and having them gradually come back is beneficial for them. However, the timing must be right for each restriction to be lifted.

"Ultimately having sport activities, and the opportunity to play, back is important. It's also important that [they reopen] safely and we protect each other," Ferguson said.

"From talking to parents, they were very appreciative that we're able to do something [this summer]," Keough said. "We're happy that we can provide this for kids."

LaPlante said she is grateful Dal offers these programs, but despite their popularity and limited sporting options right now, a lot of kids still aren't back in sports.

"It's critical that these programs are here. Kids need to get back out and be challenged. The longer they're away from physical activity, they spend more time inside, become less social and don't recognize the value of exercise," she said. "There are very few opportunities right now and there's a big gap of kids that still aren't in programs or exercising."



PARTICIPANTS SHOOT HOOPS LAST SUMMER IN THE DALHOUSIE TIGERS BASKETBALL YOUTH PROGRAM. DAL PLANS TO HOLD NEW FALL PROGRAMS FOR THE FIRST TIME. (PHOTO BY NICK PEARCE)

# Return to play

## Dal's soccer teams lost their season, but work towards comeback

BY LUKE DYMENT



BACK BUT NOT DEFEATED, PLAYERS FROM BOTH SOCCER TEAMS EMBRACED NEW COVID-19 PROTOCOLS DURING SEPTEMBER AND TRAINED IN SEPERATE GROUPS OF UP TO 10. (PHOTO BY LUKE DYMENT)

Soccer leagues in Atlantic University Sport (AUS) will not attempt a regular season this year. Nevertheless, the Dalhousie University Tigers men's and women's soccer teams are back on campus to train.

The AUS has yet to determine whether winter competition for the other sports will go ahead. In a regular year, soccer and cross-country are the only two AUS sports that hold competitions in the fall.

In what could end up being around a 20-month-long AUS soccer off-season, both of Dal's teams have fully reunited with an emphasis on team building.

"Practices are fun. We're still working super hard, maybe a bit harder than we do in a regular pre-season, which is a little surprising, but it's been good," said Cat Guevin, a fourth-year student with the women's Tigers.

"[The team] is enthusiastic. You can tell they're really happy to be here training and seeing one another," men's head coach Alan Jazic said. "There are pretty tight restrictions, which make it challenging to deliver training sessions, but we're making the most of it. Dal is doing their best to make sure that students are still getting a positive experience."

"The talent on our team will come back next year even better. We have a ton of incoming players and fourth years like me are looking into a fifth year so we can play."

**Playing within restrictions**

At the time of writing, training sessions were limited to 10 players at a time, meaning the teams trained in

separate groups in separate areas or times. Nova Scotia set Oct. 1 as the date when up to 50 people could take part in a sports session or game. This could potentially open the door for exhibition games against other schools soon.

"I'm hoping for [games] in late fall. I'm optimistic it can happen. We could get a few games in before it's too cold," Jazic said. "In the winter months, hopefully we can rent facilities and have games. I, too, wish I knew how soon."

Women's player Riley Donovan said she's excited to be back and potentially play some games. She mentioned how Nova Scotia allowed a return to play

in soccer over the summer, unlike at her home in Ontario.

"That was tough, since I lean on soccer and play it every day in the summer. But I could still complete fitness training," Donovan said. "With the return, we just have to keep adapting and, with the restrictions, see what we can do."

The suspension of fall sports announced in June had a more profound impact on the soccer teams. Their season wasn't officially cancelled at the time, but the uncertainty around how the year would pan out was a concern. The women's team learned of the fall cancellations during a team meeting on Zoom.

"A lot of the girls got emotional. It's huge to be

training for so long [from the end of the previous season in November] and we were so fired up for this season," Guevin said. "For it to be thrown away was a letdown."

Jazic said the school has stepped to the plate to support student athletes impacted by cancellations. Dal has offered mental health services to the teams, along with their efforts to reopen facilities while maintaining safety protocols.

"It's been a great effort from the athletic department and the university to support student athletes the best they can. Also, Dal did a fantastic job [dealing with] students coming from outside the [Atlantic] bubble to isolate. It was impressive to see the guidelines followed by everyone," Jazic said. "It's nice that we're part of a university that gives our student athletes the opportunity to make the most of this situation."

### A prep year

Donovan said there is a lot to be gained this year despite the loss of the season, especially the chance to get stronger as a team.

"We've been doing so well in training so far. The talent on our team will come back next year even better," she said. "We have a ton of incoming players and fourth years like me are looking into a fifth year so we can play. We'll have a bunch of returning players too."

Jazic said his team is looking at the positives of losing their season.

"Rookies undergo a big transition from high school to university, especially when moving here from away. They can adjust to the academic side of university, and transition to living here and meeting new people. Throughout the year, they will grow physically and mentally, and will be a year more mature. That will be a big advantage for them moving forward," Jazic said. "The team is still practicing four times a week and next year, everybody will know what to expect. It's a prep year."

Despite the challenges, Guevin said her team has pulled together to work through any difficulties together.

"The motivational aspect has been more difficult. It's hard to not have something to look forward to with no season," she said. "Staying together as a team is super important right now. We're going practice-by-practice."



# How COVID-19 afflicted sports

A timeline of the biggest local and international sports events since March

BY LUKE DYMENT, SPORTS EDITOR

## MARCH

### March 7:

The 2020 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Women's World Hockey Championships, due to be played in Halifax and Truro, were cancelled. Both cities were then awarded the 2021 edition.

### March 11:

Utah Jazz player Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19 before a game in Oklahoma City. The NBA suspended the remainder of the season that night, becoming the first major league to do so.

### March 12:

Major League Soccer (MLS) suspended its season. The (National Hockey League) NHL paused its season. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) cancelled its men's Division I basketball championships, better known as March Madness, plus the rest of their winter and spring championships. Major League Baseball (MLB) suspended Spring Training games and delayed the start of the season due to start March 26.

### March 13:

The Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) and the rest of the Canadian Hockey League (CHL) suspended their seasons. U Sports cancelled its national hockey and volleyball championships, the final championships of the 2019/2020 season. The hockey championships, including the men's in Halifax and women's in Charlottetown, had been underway for one day before cancellations. Dalhousie University was set to play in the women's volleyball championships. PGA announced certain events, like the PGA Championship and the Masters, were postponed.

### March 23:

CHL officially cancelled its playoffs and Memorial Cup.

### March 24:

The 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, set to be held from July 24 to Aug. 9, were postponed until the summer of 2021. The Paralympics moved to Aug. 24 to Sept. 5, 2021.

## APRIL

### April 6:

PGA released new dates for major tournaments. The PGA Championship moved to Aug. 6 to 9, the U.S. Open to Sept. 17 to 20 and the Masters to Nov. 12 to 15.

## MAY

### May 26:

The NHL confirmed 24 teams would finish the season in two or more "hubs" without fans. These hubs were confirmed as Toronto and Edmonton on July 10.

## JUNE

### June 4:

The NBA approved the plan to resume their season at a bubble in Walt Disney World and included 22 teams within reach of playoff contention.

### June 8:

Atlantic University Sport (AUS) suspended fall sports and cancelled six national championships across four sports.

### June 24:

MLB announced a 60-game season to begin in July.

## JULY

### July 6:

Phase one of Dal Athletics' reopening plan began. The Wickwire Field and outdoor tennis courts reopened.

### July 23:

MLB season began without fans, but with some interesting cardboard cutouts in the stands instead. (Cutouts of Andrew Cuomo, Rush's Geddy Lee and Toronto Blue Jays superfan "Home Plate Lady" have appeared at Jays games this year.)

### July 26:

Twenty-four NHL teams arrived in the Edmonton and Toronto bubbles. Playoffs were set to begin on Aug. 1.

## AUGUST

### Aug. 4:

Phase two of Dal Athletics' facility reopening plan began. The Dalplex fitness hall and studios reopened on a limited, reservation-only basis. The Studley Gym also opened for youth programs and appointments.

### Aug. 17:

After weeks of delays, the Canadian Football League (CFL) cancelled its season. Phase three of Dal Athletics' facility reopening plan began. More Dalplex facilities, like the courts and pool, opened for appointments. Several student athletes returned to Halifax around this day or shortly thereafter.

### Aug. 18:

The NFL said it would become the first of the big four North American sports leagues to let fans into games since March. The Kansas City Chiefs were permitted to allow 22 per cent of Arrowhead Stadium's capacity into their Sept. 10 game, the season opener, against the Houston Texans. A fan tested positive for COVID-19 the next day.

### Aug. 25:

The Montreal Impact of the MLS played a home game in front of 250 fans, the first pro sports event in Canada since March to allow fans. (The MLS isn't considered part of the big four North American leagues.)



# Intramurals positioned to restart

## Clubs and leagues welcome non-varsity players keen to get in the game

BY DYLAN ALECK

With the school year underway and COVID-19 regulations loosening in Nova Scotia, many students are asking if or where they can play sports. Some organizations in Halifax are offering students that opportunity this year.

### Dalhousie intramurals

Dalhousie University's intramurals program will attempt to have programming for students this year despite classes being on-line. While intramurals have typically been open to people other than Dalhousie students, including Dalplex members, that won't be the case this fall according to Dalhousie's campus recreation coordinator Chris Keough.

"It will be 100 per cent students and that's the university's wish," Keough said.

COVID-19 protocols will be the same as at the Dalplex and will include screening.

The earliest in-person intramurals could return at Dal would be in mid-October, although no decisions have been made yet on exactly which sports will be played. With the Nova Scotia government's announcement that gathering limits for sports will increase to 50 players starting Oct. 1, any sport that's been played before could possibly return under public health guidelines.

### Halifax Sport and Social Club

Another organization that will have recreational sports taking place in the city is the Halifax Sport and Social Club (HSSC).

The organization will run its fall season from September to December. The winter season will begin in January 2021 and continue until April. All sports are coed, and all teams require both male and female players.

Sports that will be played in the fall season include curling, soccer, volleyball, floor hockey, softball and badminton among several others. They hold competitions at several HRM facilities. Some include the George Dixon Centre on Brunswick Street, the Canada Games Centre in Clayton Park and the East Coast Varsity Dome in Dartmouth.

The HSSC will enforce safety measures to abide by COVID-19 guidelines such as screening and sanitizing protocols. They mandate teams elect a team safety ambassador from their players who will

ensure all players on their team follow the safety measures throughout the season.

HSSC sports operations manager Nicole Carlson extended an invitation to Dalhousie students to join HSSC sports.

"The school year looks a lot different this year and other cities where we operate intramurals have definitely been impacted," Carlson said. "Any students who want to play sports, we'd love to have them out."

**"The school year looks a lot different this year and other cities where we operate intramurals have definitely been impacted"**

### LUG hockey

LUG runs recreational sports leagues across Canada and now includes Halifax. Its leagues are targeted at post-secondary students and while there is no age limit, players must be at least 17.

The league has been running a softball league in Halifax since Sept. 19, 2020. Teams in LUG leagues are scheduled to play seven or eight games. In an email to the Dalhousie Gazette, LUG said hockey is scheduled to begin the first week of No-

vember at the Scotiabank Centre and the RBC Centre in Dartmouth, although this is subject to change in the event a COVID-19 spike appears. LUG also administers e-sports competitions.

The hockey season is scheduled to run from November 2020 until March 2021 and will take breaks around the student schedules. Breaks include during exams, reading week, Christmas break, St. Patrick's Day and major events like the Super Bowl.

LUG will run three hockey divisions this season in Halifax: A division targets former junior/AAA level players, B division is for players who played competitively below the AAA level, and C division is for house league players, players who have played casually and beginners to the sport.

They will play 4-on-4 this season (four players on the ice per team, plus a goalie) to help follow COVID-19 protocols. LUG has stated it has rules in place to adhere to the provincial requirements, including no faceoffs and requires "chirping" (trash talking) to be done at a distance.

All three organizations said they will remove any team from their respective competition should they not follow the COVID-19 protocols put in place.



DAL STUDENTS PLAY SOCCER AND FRISBEE ON THE WICKWIRE FIELD. (PHOTO BY GEOFFREY HOWARD)