

{ TEL AVIV }



## ISRAELIS RETURN TO SEMBLANCE OF NORMALCY

Green Pass system gives vaccinated people greater freedom

EMILY ROSE TEL AVIV

A recent Thursday night in Tel Aviv feels like a glimpse into the future – and perhaps a reminder of what life was like before the pandemic. A group of twentysomething men are sitting at an outdoor table at a bar in Dizengoff Square in central Tel Aviv, to celebrate their friend's engagement.

In this city on the Mediterranean beach – a nightlife hub before the pandemic – lines of young people pour out onto the streets, drinking from glass beer bottles as they wait for a table outside popular bars and restaurants.

"It gives me goosebumps," reveler Nili Elner

says, yelling above the music. "It's been like a jail, but now we can finally go out." Israel's rapid vaccination campaign kicked off in December and more than 5.1 million of its 9.3 million residents have already received at least one dose. The Green Pass system, launched last month, is encouraging everyone to accept the shot. Green Pass holders, who have been fully vaccinated or recovered from the virus, can enter gyms, hotels, pools and other indoor facilities. The certificate, which can be downloaded through a phone app, has a barcode that can be scanned at entrances and is valid for six months, starting one week after the second dose of the vaccine.

■ TEL AVIV, A9

The Green Pass is a game-changer for Tel Aviv's service industry. Restaurants and bars have resumed indoor service with distance between tables. EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Canada expelled eight foreigners for terrorism or spying in 2020

ROBERT FIFE  
STEVEN CHASE OTTAWA

Eight foreigners suspected of espionage, subversion or terrorism were removed from Canada last year, according to the federal government.

The department of Public Safety would not reveal the countries that the individuals were acting on behalf of, citing privacy laws, nor the specific nature of their activities in Canada.

"However, we can tell you that in 2020, the CBSA [Canada Border Services Agency] removed eight individuals deemed inadmissible on security grounds," Public Safety spokesman Tim Warmington said in a statement.

"Removal on security grounds may include persons who are found inadmissible for espionage, subversion, terrorism and/or for membership in groups involved in such activities."

The Globe and Mail had asked the government how many foreigners were expelled for espionage in 2020 after Australia's spy director, Mike Burgess, revealed last week that his country had removed or rendered inoperative a "significant number" of foreign spies in 2020.

"I'm talking about a number in the double figures," Mr. Burgess told Australian news media.

Mr. Warmington said Public Safety "cannot give information regarding specific removals, including confirming or denying if a specific person has been removed."

Andy Ellis, a former assistant director of operations at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, said that in his experience, the nationalities of individuals removed for espionage tended to be Iranian, Chinese, Russian or Pakistani.

"But I've seen North Koreans. I've seen others as well," Mr. Ellis said.

"Ones [whose nationality] you would be very surprised at."

■ SPIES, A5

## Multiple Amazon facilities face scrutiny from Ontario for COVID-19, other health and safety concerns

TAVIA GRANT

Ontario's Ministry of Labour has five active investigations at Amazon facilities in the province, in addition to one recently completed at a company warehouse in Brampton that the local public-health unit shuttered after 617 workers tested positive for COVID-19 since October.

Two of these investigations are at Amazon locations in Bolton and another Brampton facility, on Steeles Avenue, the ministry said Tuesday, in response to questions from The Globe and Mail.

Those probes are related to COVID-19 protocols.

Three further investigations are under way – related to occupational health and safety – at Amazon locations in Concord and Scarborough.

The investigations show scrutiny over health and safety issues at other Amazon facilities, beyond the Brampton one on Heritage Road, which Peel Public Health effectively closed on March 13, ordering all its nearly 5,000 workers to self-isolate for 14 days in what is believed to be the largest shutdown of its kind in Canada.

The unit said it had determined that

high-risk exposure to COVID-19 for everyone working at the Brampton facility "cannot be ruled out." As of Friday, the case count had risen to 622.

In addition to Ministry of Labour investigations, The Globe has learned of COVID-19 cases at other Amazon facilities in Ontario. The company's warehouse in Bolton had more than 100 workers test positive for COVID-19 as of the end of last year, freedom of information requests show. There have also been cases at its Mississauga facility, the mayor's office said.

■ AMAZON, A9

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835 DAYS THAT MICHAEL KOVRIG AND MICHAEL SPAVOR HAVE BEEN JAILED IN CHINA

| [tgam.ca/jailed-canadians](http://tgam.ca/jailed-canadians)

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# LIFE & ARTS

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## The internet can help sate your wanderlust

Interactive experiences are more tangible than looking at photographs and videos of areas

CATHERINE DAWSON MARCH

The old photograph that filled my screen took my breath away, even choked me up a little. It was a restored image of the grandfather I'd never met and knew little about — but the face! It could have been my father, my brother, my son.

Genealogist Lorna Maloney paused a moment to let this sink in. She's used to these kinds of reactions as the in-house genealogy expert for Dromoland Castle in County Clare, Ireland. I'd asked for her help tracking down the lesser-known Irish side of my family, but I was also drawn to the majesty of the historic five-star castle hotel with roots to the 16th century. At this point in my travel-less life, I'm long past looking at photographs and videos — what I need is something more tangible and concrete to sate a never-ending wanderlust.

For my one-on-one genealogy session, Maloney worked with the scant names and dates I provided and did her research, bringing me a colourful online presentation complete with records and photos and family lore I never knew before. The 45-minute session (usually held over tea and scones in one of the castle's grand rooms) gave me a lot to go on as I now plan trips to seek out my ancestral stomping grounds in Ireland and throughout the U.K. I may be from "downstairs" stock, but I'll definitely be wandering the grounds of Dromoland Castle as soon as I can. Maloney's genealogy offering (for €220) is one of many ways would-be travellers can interact with a destination before they can actually be there.

### EUROPE

From Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, a Belmond Hotel in Oxford, England, you can buy two-hour cooking classes with top chefs. Shopping and equipment lists help you get ready, and a chef's apron and a copy of Raymond Blanc's book  *foolproof French Cookery* are mailed out. Guests can join a larger group at €90 per person or book a private session starting at £1,000; ship-



Lorna Maloney is the in-house genealogy expert for Dromoland Castle in County Clare, Ireland. The genealogy offering is one way would-be travellers can interact with a destination before they can actually visit.

ping to Canada is available. (belmond.com/lemanoir)

Local tour guides who normally shepherd Intrepid Tours guests around their cities now welcome them into their homes online with everything from cooking lessons to a Bolivian cocoa leaf reading ceremony. An hour-long Polish pierogi cooking class from Krakow, for example, begins with a list of ingredients to buy before the session starts. The guide cooks along with you in English, slipping in Polish phrases and facts as you work, and then you and your host enjoy the meal together. From \$36 per person. (urbanadventures.com/online-experiences)

The majesty and opulence of the Tudor court is explored by curators and academics at London's Hampton Court Palace. The free hour-long talk includes an early look at the museum's upcoming exhibition *Gold and Glory: Henry VIII and the French King*, noted for unveiling a rare tapestry of the period. March 24, donation suggested. (hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/whats-on)

Art history classes from Victoria & Albert Museum in London are thoughtful time fillers that also help you prepare for your next gallery visits overseas. Expert-led courses on European

masters in art, Islamic art and glassmaking are on offer. Start dates run through April, with fees starting at £120. (vam.ac.uk/whats-on/programmes/course)

Jamie Oliver's Cookery School in London has moved online. There are over 30 live classes, from all-day master classes to quicker hour-long lessons in all sorts of cuisines and meals. With all the home cooking, perhaps by now you could use their Knife Skills class? From £59. (jamielivercookerschool.com)

### AFRICA

Bespoke 90-minute bird-watching "walks" and safari "drives" can be booked with &Beyond. Wing-clipped travellers can watch at home as guides wander through the bush or head out on daily jeep drives through Ngala and Phinda Private Game Reserves, Djuma Private Game Reserve, Tswalu and Karongwe (Pridelands) Game Reserve. Guides can respond to your questions to try to fulfill animal-viewing requests. Bespoke live tours from US\$250 (with links for six devices). Note that spotty WiFi and time-zone issues can mean some tours are edited from the day's exploration. But you can also watch highlights from past safaris

online. (andbeyond.com/andbeyond-tv/wildwatch-live)

Wander the markets of Marrakesh with your own personal shopper, who also happens to be an expert guide. Sweden-based Local Purse is working with Intrepid Travel tour guides and local retailers to help homebound travellers get their retail-therapy fix. Looking for a Berber rug? Or just the right spice? Find them in the souks — in real time — and meet the artisans as they explain their craft. From €80, shipping and duty costs for purchases are not included. (localpurse.com)

### THE AMERICAS

Exclusive wine tastings from Napa Valley, anyone? Import a case from Hall winery and it comes with a half-hour live tasting session with a senior wine educator. The winery also helps guests choose the wine and sets up the online sessions. (hallwines.com/bespoke-tastings)

Auberge Saint-Antoine in Quebec City offers Zoom en Cuisine. Culinary classes and meal kits with farm-fresh ingredients shipped to your home — if you live within a 20-kilometre radius of the hotel. If you don't, you'll receive an ingredient list and online link so you can still cook

with head chef Alex Bouchard from the hotel kitchen. Saturday workshops in snow crab, lobster, parent and child pastry sessions and Easter brunch are on the schedule. (saint-antoine.com)

Inspired to paint away the COVID-19 blues? From his Mexico City studio, an Intrepid Travel tour guide and artist teaches watercolour classes inspired by Frida Kahlo. Work with your own paints while he talks about her wild life and times; lessons are offered in English or guests can work on their Spanish. Classes for all ages and skills. From \$38 a person. (urbanadventures.com/online-experiences)

Talaysay Tours takes guests into Vancouver's Stanley Park for an Indigenous history lesson, but also into Squamish and along the Sunshine Coast for more live storytelling and cultural immersion, such as totem pole art talks and how the forest has long been used for medicine, food and technology. From \$30 a person. (aboriginalculturators.com)

Macaws, tapirs and jaguars, oh my! The Belize Zoo is offering live zookeeper walks. Staff will answer your questions and take specific animal requests. Half-hour, US\$50; 90 minutes, US\$100 for up to groups of 20. A recording of your Belize Zoo Live tour is also included. (belizezoo.org)

## Indigenous-led TV team aims to tell stories both beautiful and traumatic

JOHANNA SCHNELLER

BIGGER PICTURE

Tania Koenig-Gauchier and Shirley McLean have spent the past 20 years promulgating necessary but all-too-familiar narratives about Indigenous Canadians: residential schools, the 60s Scoop, the modern-day child welfare system, murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls. As current affairs producers in Vancouver and Whitehorse, for CTV, CBC, Northern Native Broadcasting and Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), "we told a lot of heart-wrenching stories," McLean said in a joint Zoom interview recently.

"We're touched by those stories," continues McLean, who is of Tlingit and Tagish descent from the Daklaweid Killer Whale clan, and is a member of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation ("in the real Yukon," she says, laughing). Koenig-Gauchier is of northern Alberta Métis (Cree) heritage. "We have lived experiences with those stories. But we're not all wrapped up in trauma. We also have beautiful stories to tell."

Such as the story of Dr. Savannah Howse-Smith, a Métis veterinarian who looks after rural Alberta's animal population while learning about her Métis bloodline. Or the story of Anthony Johnson and James Makokis, who in 2019 became the first Indigenous, two-spirit couple to compete on — and win — *The Amazing Race Canada*. Or home renovation

stories, survival stories, stories about the paranormal.

So recently, they launched their own B.C.-based production company, Wapanatahk Media, in partnership with Great Pacific Media (which makes the APTN docuseries *Queen of the Oil Patch*). Wapanatahk (pronounced Wap-na-tuk) is Plains Cree for "morning star." Koenig-Gauchier says, "The morning star is the first light in the sky. It signals the dawn of a new day. This is what we see right now, a positive new dawn for our communities and our people." (That first series I referred to, *Dr. Savannah: Wild Rose Vet*, will go to camera in April. Wapanatahk has signed Johnson and Makokis to a project, but they can't talk about that one yet.)

I mentioned that Koenig-Gauchier and McLean "recently" founded their company, but they would say "finally." The friends began nurturing their dream for two decades, ever since they met in the Native Communications program at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton (now MacEwan University). They would become producers, they promised each other; they'd make television that told Indigenous stories from an Indigenous perspective. ("Nothing about us, without us," Koenig-Gauchier says.) Ordinary people doing extraordinary things. And they'd hire, train and nurture Indigenous talent in all aspects of production, from writers and directors to crews, story editors and business-affairs experts.

After graduation, though, their careers pulled them apart and back together like a Slinky. They



Dr. Savannah: Wild Rose Vet, a new TV series from Wapanatahk Media featuring Métis veterinarian Dr. Savannah Howse-Smith, will begin shooting in April.

worked as production assistants and story producers, on independent fare and for networks. They each started families. But when they found themselves working together again in Vancouver at Great Pacific Media, they knew it was now or never.

"There's more of a push for gender inclusion and diversity within the industry as a whole now," Koenig-Gauchier says. "The CRTX has its first First Nations commissioner, Claire Anderson. She's of the Taku River Tlingit, just south of where Shirley is from." There have been missteps, such as the recent cancellation of the CBC series *Trickster*, after a controversy over the heritage of its showrunner, Michelle Latimer. "But things are changing for the better."

"As a kid, the only Indigenous person I saw on TV was Jesse on *The Beachcombers*," McLean says, giggling. That mattered to her;

that's why her goal is mainstream hits, but with an authentic voice. The duo's children are First Nations. They go to powwows. McLean travels the world with her Tlingit dance troupe, who tell stories and sing songs that are 10,000 years old.

"We're not on the outside looking in," Koenig-Gauchier says. "We're living it every single day, and that's important." But they also want to reach "Canadians who haven't met Indigenous people in their everyday lives," who only know the kinds of hard news stories the producers cut their teeth on.

"We want to bring all kinds of Indigenous people to the fore front of Canadian television. Métis, First Nations, Inuit, on reserve, off reserve. People who can tell a good story, a good joke, because for us, that's currency."

Of course, they won't give up on social-justice stories entirely. There are still too many that need to be told, McLean says. "We're working on a doc series on sex trafficking in Canada. Half of all sex-trafficking victims are of Indigenous heritage, and we want to explore why that matters for all Canadians. We want our leaders to take notice, and we want things to change."

Many people made space for them to learn their business, the pair take care to mention. There are still too many that need to be told, McLean says. "We're working on a doc series on sex trafficking in Canada. Half of all sex-trafficking victims are of Indigenous heritage, and we want to explore why that matters for all Canadians. We want our leaders to take notice, and we want things to change."

broke ground with her film *Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief*, Jeff Barnaby, the *Mikmaq* director, Georgina Lightning, the Cree filmmaker, Loretta Todd, the Métis Cree director and activist, Alanis Obomsawin, the Abenaki documentary maker, Brenda Chambers, a fellow MacEwan alum, who lobbied for the creation of APTN.

"And the chiefs who went to Ottawa to negotiate a land-claim agreement for the Yukon in 1972," McLean adds, "who said, 'There are three pillars of oppression against Indigenous people: the Canadian government, the RCMP and the media.'"

Now that these two are the media, they're determined to pay that assistance forward. They know their steady upward rise is an anomaly in their business. They rattle off by heart dismal statistics from a 2019 report prepared by the non-profit Women in View. Of the 1,637 publicly funded film contracts issued in Canada between 2015 and 2017, only 12 were given to Indigenous women; of the 24 television series created in 2017, none had an Indigenous woman on staff.

"I have this desire in my heart," Koenig-Gauchier sums up. "We all want our little lives on this Earth to matter, to affect another person in a positive way. I can see myself walking into networks and pitching ideas that feature Indigenous characters and narratives. And selling them. And having audiences all over the world loving them. I can see it. I can visualize it. And we want to take all our people along with us."

Special to The Globe and Mail