



November 2020

AFTERWORDS

Newsletter of Active Retired Members



AfterWords is the official publication of the Active Retired Members of OSSTF, Chapter 11 Thames Valley (ARM C11). Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policies of ARM C11 or OSSTF.

Anyone else afraid to open newspapers, TV stations, or email these days? Between COVID, the American election, and our own family worries - it can get overwhelming

- Check out the brilliant but soothing daily commentaries on the news by Professor Heather Cox Richardson <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/>
- Find out why The Conversation is one of the most trustworthy, generous sources of expert knowledge <https://theconversation.com/ca>
- Who is working hard in YOUR community to keep businesses afloat? Put on a mask and head to Old East Village. Discover what's available before Christmas to brighten your days
- For a sarcastic lift- play the "If Biden Gets Elected" game
- Be thankful for the coverage- and good advice- of our OTIP folks.

Awwww ... you see what happens when you don't write to tell me what your favourite sources of uplift, inspiration, and information are during this pandemic time? You get only MY assemblages and suggestions - even a picture of my front gate with my fall amateurish decorations!

SO I'm going to ask you again to share some sources that give YOU solace or energy during these confusing times. If you'd share a topic of interest, a quick book review- hey, even a craft or recipe that brings your household bubble some comfort or recalls holiday traditions of the past - send it on to

djanitis@gmail.com

- and your year-end "Afterwords" will be a whole lot more interesting!



If I could return to university - I'd study history at Boston College with Professor Heather Cox Richardson.

<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/>

Her specialty is American Civil War history- but her gift that keeps on giving is the "Letters from an American" she sends daily to my inbox. The professor reads a plethora of daily publications- and then comments on them (citing sources) in a style that is accessible, sane, and reassuring. From her recent writing, I'll share the very helpful letter about two words that Americans (and many others) misuse on a regular basis on social media.

American "socialism" is a very different thing than what Marx was describing in his theoretical works. Fear of it erupted in the 1870s, long before the rise of international socialism, and it grew out of the peculiar American context of the years after the Civil War. During the war, Republicans had both invented national taxation—including the income tax—and welcomed African American men to the ballot box. This meant that, after the Civil War, for the first time in American history, voting had a direct impact on people's pocketbooks.

After the war, southern Democrats organized as the Ku Klux Klan to try to stop Black Americans from taking their rightful place in society. They assaulted, raped, and murdered their Black neighbors to keep them from voting. But President Ulysses S. Grant met domestic terrorism with federal authority, established the Department of Justice, and arrested Klan members, driving their movement underground.

So reactionary whites took a different tack. The same people who had bitterly and publicly complained about Black Americans participating in society as equal to whites began to argue that their problem with Black voting was not about race, but rather about class. They said that they objected to poor voters being able to elect leaders who promised to deliver services or public improvements, like schools and roads, that could be paid for only by taxes, levied on property holders.

In the South of the post-Civil War years, almost all property holders were white. They argued that Black voting amounted to a redistribution of wealth from hardworking white men to poor Black people. It was, they insisted, "socialism," or, after workers in Paris created a Commune in 1871, "communism."

This is the origin of the American obsession with "socialism," more than 40 years before Russia's Bolshevik Revolution.



Since that time, Americans have cried “socialism” whenever ordinary Americans try to use the government to level the economic playing field by calling for business regulation—which will cost tax dollars by requiring bureaucrats—or for schools and roads, or by asking for a basic social safety net. But the public funding of roads and education and health care is not the same thing as government taking over the means of production. Rather it is an attempt to prevent a small oligarchy from using the government to gather power to themselves, cutting off the access of ordinary Americans to resources, a chance to rise, and, ultimately, to equality before the law.

It is striking that O’Donnell felt it appropriate to ask Harris if she is a socialist—and lots of people apparently think that’s a legitimate question—while no one seems to be asking Trump, who is currently in power, if he’s a fascist.

Fascism is a far-right political ideology born in the early twentieth century. At its heart is the idea of a strong nation, whose people are welded into a unit by militarism abroad and the suppression of opposition at home. While socialism starts from the premise that all members of society are equal, fascists believe that some people are better than others, and those elites should direct all aspects of society. To promote efficiency, fascists believe, business and government should work together to direct production and labor. To make people loyal to the state, fascists promote the idea of a domestic enemy that threatens the country and which therefore must be vanquished to make the nation great. The idea of a hierarchy of men leads to the defense of a dictatorial leader who comes to embody the nation.

Trump has certainly rallied far-right thugs to his side. At his first debate with Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, he told the far-right Proud Boys to “stand by,” and last week a study warned that five U.S. states are at risk for election-related armed violence by right-wing terrorists who have already threatened elected officials.

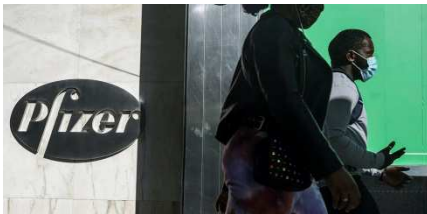
Today, Trump repeatedly attacked Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer at his rally in Lansing. Whitmer was a target of right-wing extremists who plotted to kidnap her and put her on trial for “treason,” and she has asked him repeatedly to stop riling up his followers against her. He has also weaponized government police for his own ends, sending them into the streets to bash peaceful protesters in a campaign he insists, in an echo of fascist leaders, will produce “law and order.”

Her work is worth your time ...



Another favourite of mine is ‘The Conversation’

This network of not-for-profit outlets was started in Australia in March of 2011. Since then, its mandate has spread the network to the UK, the USA, Canada, Africa, and Europe. Its articles are ALL written by academics and researchers who pledge their freedom from any political or financial influence. All content is published under a Creative Commons License - and currently, their influence extends to 40 million people who read and republish. If you go to <https://theconversation.com/ca> the variety, readability, and current interest of the articles you find there will earn this organization a welcome to your own inbox.



COVID-19 vaccine update: Pfizer may be the frontrunner, but Canada has hedged its bets

This article, for example, written by a virologist at the Universite de Montreal

Disclosure statement

Aïssatou Aïcha Sow receives a scholarship financed by the research funds of her research director and by Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS). She is a member of the Canadian Virological Society.

Pfizer and BioNTech have surprised the world, and given it hope, with the preliminary results of the Phase 3 clinical trial of their coronavirus vaccine.

They announced on Nov. 9 that the early analysis of the data from the Phase 3 clinical trial, which is still ongoing, showed the vaccine was 90 per cent effective. The unexpectedly high figure still needs to be confirmed in larger numbers and over time. The vaccine is simple to manufacture, but its storage is more complex (the vaccine must be kept at very low temperatures). Large-scale production is expected to begin shortly.

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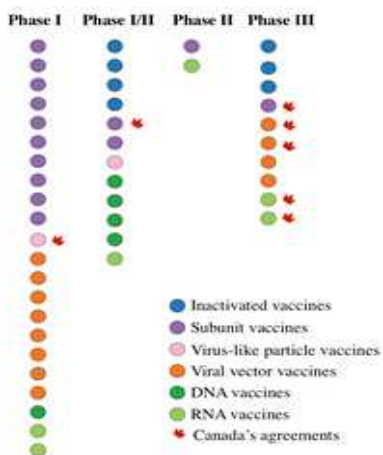
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Laboratories around the world are in a race to produce a COVID-19 vaccine. While the finish line is now in sight for Pfizer and BioNTech, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) lists 202 vaccine candidates](#), 47 of which are in human trials.

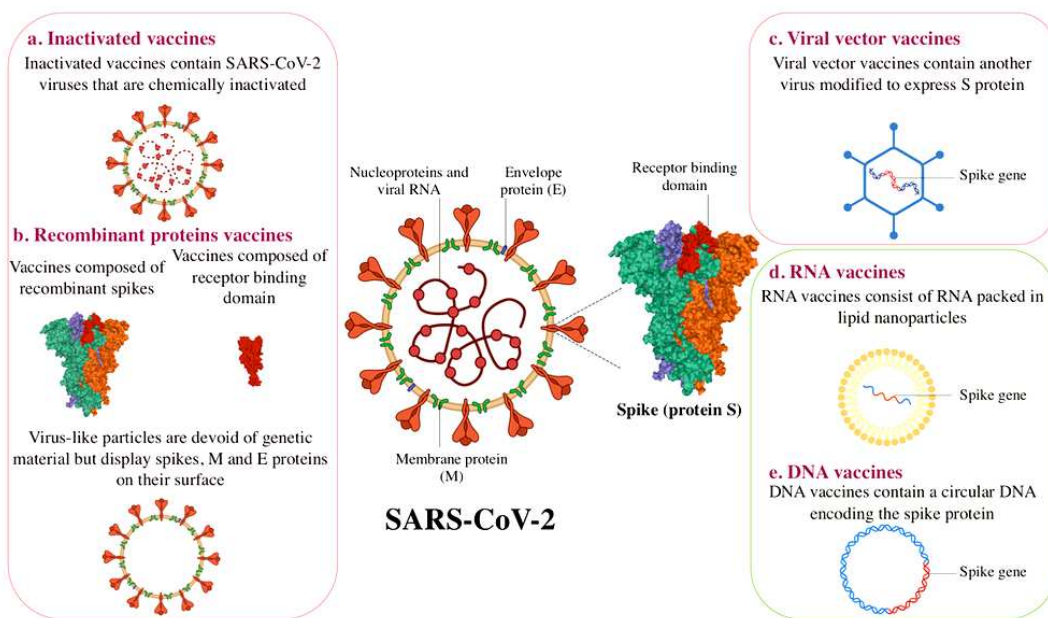
Canada has not put all its eggs in one basket in its plan to protect Canadians from the novel coronavirus. In addition to Pfizer and BioNTech, it has signed six other contracts: Moderna, Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Novavax, AstraZeneca and Medicago. Canada recently announced [it had reserved 56 million additional doses of vaccine](#) from Pfizer and BioNTech, on top of the 20 million doses it had already purchased, bringing its order to 76 million.



Overview of vaccine types in clinical trials, based on WHO Nov. 3 update. (World Health

Canada has secured access to a total of [414 million doses](#) of COVID-19 vaccines from different sources. More importantly, Canada has ensured that it has diversified the types of vaccines it will have.

Scientists are using different platforms to develop COVID-19 vaccines. Some vaccine candidates in clinical trials exploit mechanisms already used in other vaccines. Others are based on innovative approaches that have never been tested before. Here is an overview of the different types of vaccines.



There- that's a generous taste of the writing which graces "*The Conversation*" - but if you want to know more about the status of the Pfizer discovery, viral vector vaccines, recombinant proteins, and how Medicago is using plants - you will have to head over to <https://theconversation.com/covid-19-vaccine-update-pfizer-may-be-the-frontrunner-but-canada-has-hedged-its-bets-149962>. I guarantee it will be worth your time.

I was going to introduce "The Intercept" as well - but next time ,,,

For now, I'd like to recognize the people of our own community who are NOT retired yet- and are working imaginatively to keep their businesses afloat . What other BIA has been faced with as many challenges over the years as our Old East Village in London?



OEV Holiday Season shopping for... the Gastro Aficionado

This Holiday season, many of us are looking to shop small and support local. But, at times it can feel like a scramble to find the perfect gift for loved ones in your life. With different interests and different tastes, it's sometimes hard to know where to start. This year, however, we're confident you can find exactly what you're looking for, for everyone on your list, in London's Old East Village. From unique shops, delicious restaurants, salons and barbershops, craft beer and spirits, it's safe to say that there's something for everyone in OEV!

For the next four weeks, we'll profile some of the different giftees in your life along with all of the OEV shopping options that would make their season bright. This week, we'll look at any and all ways you can wow that foodie, the libation snob, or the self-proclaimed chef in your life as we explore what to buy for the Gastro Aficionado!

To start, let's talk food...



Check out [Bella's Acacia Catering](#) inside [Somerville 630](#) and take home some of her incredible vegan kimchi for a holiday dinner or gift it to those who boast a cultured (and health conscious!) palette. ([Construction Dollars](#) accepted)

Treat your loved one to breakfast or lunch at one of London's best Polish Restaurants, [Unique Food Attitudes](#) to enjoy authentic pierogis, cabbage rolls, soups and more. Or pick up some homemade European desserts that will wow anyone on your shopping list.)

Be sure to take that special someone down to [So Inviting](#) for unmatched Chinese dumplings, potstickers, noodles, and rice. Grab some hot food to go, pick up frozen dumplings to enjoy at home during the holidays or pick up a gift certificate so your foodie friend can decide for themselves! ([Construction Dollars](#) accepted)

If you're looking for some delicious and hearty items to spice up the holidays, head over to the [Hungary Butcher](#) for authentic Hungarian sausages, meats, take out foods, and grocery items. On top of this, here you'll find some of the best pepperettes in town! ([Construction Dollars](#) accepted)

Lastly, if you're looking to treat someone to a Saturday or Sunday (morning) on the town, head down to [The Market Western Fair District](#) (900 King Street) for take out foods from around the globe, incredible baked goods, cheese and butcher shops, or grocery vendors who can supply all the ingredients necessary to create that holiday feast!

Let's talk kitchen, glass, and dinnerwares...

For that everyday chef in your life, there's no better place to explore than [Russell Hendrix](#) (812 Dundas Street). They're a premier supplier to restaurants and caterers but have various retail options of the finest quality. You can find everything at Hendrix to complete the kitchen of that aspiring TikTok star, the mom who has everything, or that special someone who just needs some new ramen bowls. Check them out today and get ready to win this holiday season!



It's no secret that OEV is home to a grade-A variety of vintage and second hand stores where you can find beautiful house and dinner wares from years gone by. With such gems as [Old East Exchange](#) ([Construction Dollars](#) accepted), [Silk Road](#), Tracy's Treasure Chest, and [Back to the Fuchsia](#) ([Construction Dollars](#) accepted), there's no shortage of unique pieces from all decades that are sure to spark conversation at a friend's next dinner party.



Let's talk drinks...

When it comes to cocktail ingredients and offerings, there's no place quite like OEV to impress any certified spirits snob in your life. Take a peek at the hand crafted, small batch gins, whiskeys, and cocktail kits at [Union Ten Distillery](#) ([Construction Dollars](#) accepted). Or, [book yourself a spirits tasting or cocktail class](#) through [Paradigm Spirits Co.](#), they come to you! Or if you're looking for something a little more in the moment, head out to [the Mockingbird](#) ([Construction Dollars](#) accepted) a classic speakeasy with artisanal cocktails and delicious menu items.

Next up, for the craft beer lover in your life, look no further than OEV. With four breweries in one neighbourhood, you're sure to find just what you need, be it take-home cans/bottles/growlers, merch, food items, or gift certificates. Visit [Dundas and Sons](#) ([Construction Dollars](#) accepted), [London Brewing](#), [Anderson Craft Ales](#), and [Powerhouse Brewing](#), you'll see what you mean, there's something for everyone!



When we're talking about the finer drinks in life, we cannot forget about coffee and tea! People come from far and wide to OEV for the coffee and tea options so treat your special someone to the best of the beans at [Fire Roasted Coffee](#) ([Construction Dollars](#) accepted), [Asmara Coffee House](#), or [10Eighteen](#) ([Construction Dollars](#) accepted). And if it's loose leaf tea and accessories you need, check out [Wisdom Tea Shop](#) which boasts more than 146 varieties!

Okay, we've covered a lot of ground and have hopefully provided you with plenty of options to help quench that insatiable thirst for the Gastro Aficionado in your life. Be sure to check out [all the great shops and restaurants](#) in OEV this season and stay tuned for more perfect gifts for that special (and specific!) someone this holiday.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and check out our [website](#) for all the latest on what's happening in OEV!



Have fun with your favourite election result denier ...

What is your conservative fear-mongering slogan?

If Joe Biden wins,

will

FIRST LETTER OF YOUR FIRST NAME

- A** Antifas
- B** Witches
- C** Windmill cancer
- D** Homosexuals
- E** The transgenders
- F** Chi-na!
- G** Universal healthcare
- H** Socialism
- I** George Soros
- J** Anarchists
- K** Commies
- L** Left-wing facists
- M** Bisexuals
- N** Netflix
- O** Nancy Pelosi
- P** Legalized marijuana
- Q** Muslims
- R** Illegal aliens
- S** Black Lives Matter
- T** Taco trucks
- U** Puerto Rico
- V** The Clintons
- W** Globalization
- X** Ben & Jerry's
- Y** Organic produce
- Z** WAP

YOUR DAY OF BIRTH

- 1** Marry
- 2** Sniff
- 3** Devour
- 4** Abort
- 5** Eat
- 6** Eradicate
- 7** Tickle
- 8** Control
- 9** Wreck
- 10** Abolish
- 11** Kill
- 12** Vaccinate
- 13** Loot
- 14** Burn down
- 15** Sexualize
- 16** Cheat
- 17** Erase
- 18** Force sex changes on
- 19** Take away
- 20** Cancel
- 21** End
- 22** Desecrate
- 23** Overturn
- 24** Gut
- 25** Terrorize
- 26** Destroy
- 27** Ban
- 28** Overthrow
- 29** Censor
- 30** Touch
- 31** Repeal

LAST LETTER OF YOUR LAST NAME

- A** The children
- B** Babies
- C** The coal industry
- D** Chick-fil-a
- E** Christopher Columbus
- F** Abstinence-only education
- G** The American Dream
- H** Baby Yoda
- I** Stay-at-home moms
- J** The McRib
- K** Your guns
- L** Traditional masculinity
- M** Thomas Jefferson
- N** The suburbs
- O** My freedoms
- P** Designer dogs
- Q** Pick-up trucks
- R** Fox News
- S** Our savior Donald J. Trump
- T** Fossil Fuels
- U** Hobby Lobby
- V** NASCAR
- W** Your 401k
- X** Traditional values
- Y** My religion
- Z** Your private thoughts



How growing or using recreational marijuana may impact your home insurance

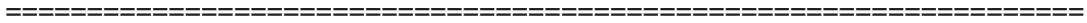


And now, helpful words from the insurers that take such good care of us!



The consumption, possession and growing of recreational cannabis was legalized in Canada in late 2018. While the legalization of recreational cannabis is still quite new, many Canadians are starting to wonder how this change may impact their home insurance premiums or their ability to secure coverage.

Learn more at www.otipinsurance.com/article86



Hydroplaning occurs when a layer of water comes between your car's tires and the road, causing your car to skid or slide across a wet surface. Even for the most experienced driver, this loss of steering and braking control can be a terrifying experience with potentially disastrous consequences.



Learn more at www.otipinsurance.com/article85.

