

FOR THE RECORD

A MONTHLY MEDIA LITERACY RESOURCE FROM TORONTO STAR CLASSROOM CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2022

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ANNIVERSARY OF THE TORONTO STAR

In the digital age, still grounded by yesterday's values

In November, the Toronto Star turns 130 years old. A lot has changed since we started back in 1892. The journalists who founded the Star would no doubt be shocked at the world we live in. Today, news seems to come from a firehose—it's everywhere, 24 hours a day, and never-ending.

Thanks to the algorithms that put information into our news feeds, readers are in digital news "bubbles." With every click and like we get more of the same until we begin to think that everyone thinks the same way we do.

A hundred and thirty years ago the key skill needed to understand the news was the ability to read, to be literate. Today, we also have to be "media literate." Readers must be able to figure out what's accurate and avoid what's fake.

Readers are challenged to burst their information bubbles, to seek out points of view that are different from their own; to get the whole story.

One thing has not changed. Today—just like 130 years ago—the media are central to democracy. The information they provide help us vote and help us make sense of our world.

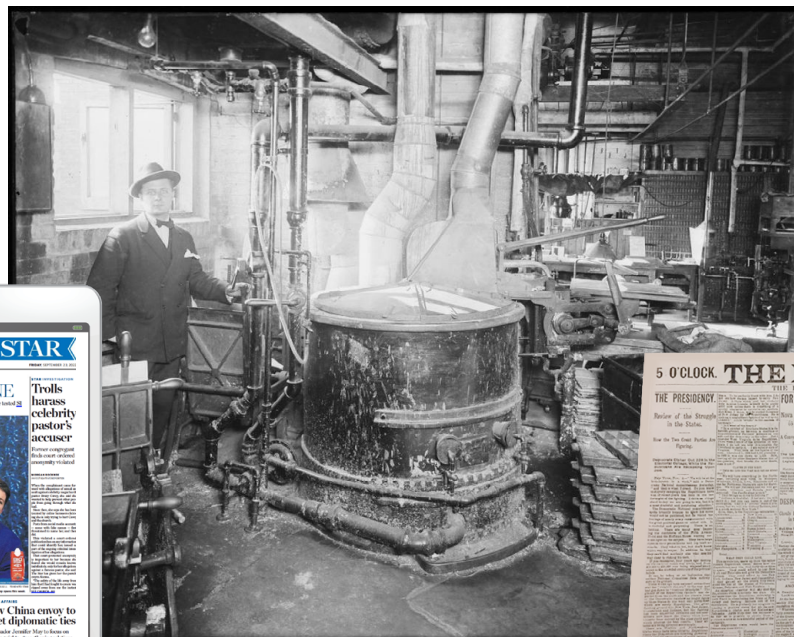
When The Star began, back on Nov. 3, 1892, Toronto was home to just 200,000 people—

served by six newspapers. The price? One cent for a four-page paper. Today, journalism can no longer be measured by the number of newspapers or the price of a page.

News isn't just printed, it's broadcast and published online via countless apps, often for

and where it fits into the news spectrum. What does the Star offer readers today that no one else does?

To answer this question, the Star's editors and managers look back 100 years—to the Atkinson Principles, a set of beliefs held by one of the paper's first publishers, Joseph E. Atkinson. He said newspapers must contribute to society and help it to become better. He believed the Star had a duty to fight against injustice, be it social, economic, political, legal or racial. To stick up for people's freedoms. And to



The Toronto Daily Star's printing room, seen in this 1923 photograph. Roughly 30 years earlier, a group of locked-out printers at The News began publishing the Evening Star—which later became the Daily Star, then The Toronto Star. CITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES

free. Social media brings us the news instantly, not just in Toronto but from anywhere and not just by professional journalists but by bloggers, influencers and pretty much anyone who has internet access and a smart phone.

Every professional news organization, including the Toronto Star, must know what it does best



uphold the rights of working people.

In today's firehose of a news world, people read the news and interpret it any way that suits them. They try to use it to showcase their own views and often to influence others.

Journalists—130 years ago and today—must remember that their job really hasn't changed. To gather the facts, seek out diverse points of view and present the news in a way that will help people understand what is going on in the world.

A PICTURE IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS

This saying means that it is often easier to show something in a picture than to describe it with words. Read more about this photo [HERE](#).

ACTIVITY: Look at the image below and write a headline to describe what you think is happening.



PHOTOGRAPHER: JEFF GOODE

DID YOU KNOW?



NO EMAIL? NO PROBLEM!

Star journalists used a series of tubes to deliver messages and news articles between buildings.



LISTEN UP!

In 1922, the Star became a pioneer in broadcasting by establishing its own radio station. The Star sponsored the first public demonstrations of radio in Canada and a Star truck carried the first portable radio.



DIGITAL NEWS

In 1996 the Toronto Star launched thestar.com, which grew into one of the most-visited news websites in Canada.

WE WERE THERE

NOVEMBER 3, 1892 –
NOVEMBER 3, 2022



The Toronto Star's reporting team has covered thousands of big events during its 130-year history. Match the event with the time-span in which it happened. Click on the arrow for the drop-down menu to make your choice. Answers at classroomconnection.ca/puzzle.

- Canadian Women's Hockey Gold
- Canadian Women Get the Vote
- Halifax explosion
- Spanish influenza epidemic
- Stock market crash/great depression
- Japanese Canadians interned
- Hundreds of unmarked graves found at Saskatchewan residential school
- Viola Desmond dragged out of Nova Scotia movie theatre
- Toronto Maple Leafs win first Stanley Cup
- Lincoln Alexander appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
- New Canadian flag adopted
- Viola Desmond appears on Canadian \$10 bill
- Paul Henderson's Goal in Moscow
- Terry Fox run starts
- Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Canada Act passed)
- People with intellectual disabilities granted right to vote
- Blue Jays win MLB finals (first year)
- Blue Jays win MLB finals (second year)
- Frederick Banting and Dr. Charles Best discovery of insulin
- Y2K
- Raptors win NBA championship
- First COVID-19 case in Canada
- Comic superhero Superman co-created by Canadian-born artist, Joe Shuster



BRING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

These headlines are problematic. They were written in a different era—they would never pass our editors today. Can you update them to reflect today's values?

MARCH 23, 1937

Crippled Indian Girl Rescued By Missionary From Torture

SEPTEMBER 2, 1941

FOURTH LADY DOCTOR JOINS ROYAL COLLEGE



Dr. Dorothy M. K. Mann, of Peterboro, has become the fourth lady doctor in Canada to be named a member of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, in England.

MAY 8, 1951

NAZIS 'BULLY' JAPS TO WAR NATION SEETHES INTERNALLY

The editors at the Star have long and frequent discussions about how to ensure we reflect the world and the people in it in a way that is compassionate and sensitive to the experiences of our diverse readership. We don't always get it right, but when we don't, we try to fix it.

We also listen to our readers. For instance, when Les Couchi, a member of the Nipissing First Nation, reached out to us about our representation of Indigenous peoples we asked him to write an article for us about it. Read it [HERE](#). And you may be interested in this column by Shree Paradkar, who wrote about the "Crippled Indian Girl" article. Read it [HERE](#). A lot has changed in the 130 years since the Star began. In 2022, ensuring that everyone feels seen and heard by our reporters is a responsibility we don't take lightly.

AUGUST 24, 1929

PRETTY GIRL STUDENTS MAKE POTATOES POPULAR

O.A.C. Director Aims to Increase Use
of Domestic Product