



Imprint

Your Stories, Your Voice

June 2025
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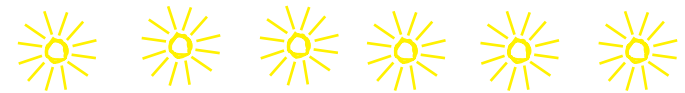
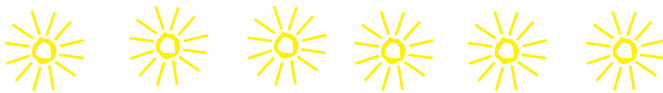
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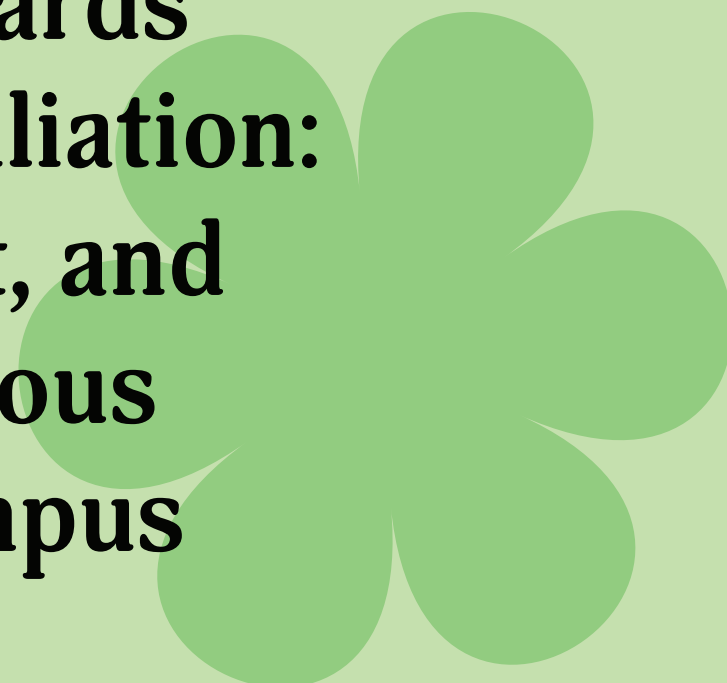
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Imprint acknowledges that the University of Waterloo is situated on the traditional territories of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee Peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Therefore, Imprint recognizes and respects this land that it is situated upon.

Taking steps towards truth and reconciliation: The past, present, and future of Indigenous initiatives on campus



Ananya Muralidharan, Contributor

Many of us have heard the phrase “truth and reconciliation.” Perhaps it was in a classroom as we were growing up or in conversations with peers. Maybe on the TV news channel, or the radio, or even social media.

But, what exactly is “truth and reconciliation?” And how can we strive towards it?

According to Jean Becker, associate vice-president of the Office of Indigenous Relations (OIR), engaging in truth and reconciliation means “learning the true history of this country, understanding the place of Indigenous Peoples in this country, and understanding themselves as treaty people. This is the foundation for reconciliation.”

It represents an opportunity to acknowledge the historical harms enacted upon Indigenous people in Canada, through residential schools and systemic cultural genocide, and work towards preventing future abuse of Indigenous communities in Canada.

For non-Indigenous people, the first

step towards truth and reconciliation lies in educating ourselves to understand the harm caused in the past towards Indigenous Peoples.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action is a great place to start. Published by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, this is a comprehensive document that outlines the modern day effects of Canada’s history on Indigenous communities, and the recommended policy changes to permanently dismantle the systemic racism that exists towards said groups.

Perhaps a more local way to strive towards truth and reconciliation is taking the time to learn more about the Indigenous Peoples whose land UW’s campuses are situated on. For UW, much of our work takes place on the Haldimand Tract, which contains the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee. There are also various Indigenous initiatives that are taking place all across campus. “Faculty, staff and students can support us by attending events we sponsor and

learning from the Indigenous people we bring to campus. All are invited to visit our office in EC5 to connect and get to know us,” Becker said.

With June being National Indigenous History Month, now is the time to take a step back and review the efforts that the UW has implemented towards truth and reconciliation on campus.

The OIR plays a key role in promoting the Indigenization of UW, through awareness and inclusion. “We do a lot of the higher [administrative] work surrounding education and events on campus,” said Emma Smith, manager of Indigenous Student Experience at UW and an Indigenous person themselves. “We aim to really support Indigenization efforts on campus, through the Indigenous Strategic Plan.”

The Indigenous Strategic Plan, which spans from 2023 to 2028, is a set of goals, missions, and steps set forth by a collaboration between the OIR and UW. It is another great resource available for UW students to learn about the vision of Indigenization for UW.

You might have seen the large outdoor gathering space outside SLC. You might be surprised to find out that the new gathering space is actually the work of the OIR. The official name of the structure is Skén:nen Tsi Nón:we Tewayá'taróroks, translating from Mohawk to mean "where we all gather together peacefully." The goal with the gathering space is to bring people together for Indigenous events and to increase awareness through the design of the structure. To add onto that goal, the path connecting South Campus Hall to the new gathering space, originally called the Main Path, has been renamed the Two Row Path. The new name is multidimensional, representing the Haldimand Tract and working to integrate respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous folks.

UW Athletics is another group that has been making commendable efforts towards truth and reconciliation. Just in February, an Indigenous version of the athletics logo was unveiled. Roly Webster, the director of Athletics and Recreation, had this to say about the logo initiative: "We wanted to take the platform of sport and utilize that to bring education and awareness to have a better understanding of our relationships with Indigenous people and our history in this country."

The Indigenized logo was created by Kyle Joedicke, an Indigenous artist, who included traditional aspects of Woodland art while still preserving the legacy of the original logo. "We also wanted to provide a brand that welcomes our Indigenous people, that makes them feel seen and safe," Webster said.

Other initiatives include the hiring of Sarah Connors, a naturopathic doctor whose work focuses on com-

New UW Athletics logo



Via Waterloo Warriors

bining Western medicine with Indigenous healing for students. Connors, being on campus once a week, works primarily through UW Health Services and can be reached through their office or by phone. There's also an Indigenous inspired collection at the W Store, whereby a portion of the funds goes towards the Indigenous Student Development Fund.

What effect have these recent initiatives and changes had? Have they been harbingers of positive change and

awareness within the student body?

Take the new Indigenous outdoor gathering space outside SLC for example. "I actually didn't know [what] it was when I saw it first being constructed," said Kevin Jose, a fourth-year engineering student, when asked about whether he has noticed the space since it was built. "It's nice how the sculpture was built right next to SLC. No matter what, every Waterloo student goes through SLC at one point, so having it there is a great way for students to be

Indigenous outdoor gathering space outside SLC



Paul Sherk

curious and learn more about the Indigenous culture and history.”

It is clear that UW has been taking major steps in the last year to bring more awareness to Indigenous Initiatives on campus. Looking at this progress brings into question what the planned steps are for the future. What does the university have in place to further the aim of truth and reconciliation on campus?

According to Becker, the OIR is currently working towards establishing an Indigenous Futures Research Network for Indigenous-led academic work, as well as Indigenous student services and a student space, both set to operate out of Needles Hall. There are also a number of events occurring in June in honour of National Indigenous History month, listed below.

UW Athletics, in addition to having worked on the new Indigenous logo, has

also acted as a host for the Waterloo Regional Powwow for the last couple years. The next upcoming Powwow is set to occur on Sept. 27, 2025, where members of the public are encouraged to attend. Furthermore, in the upcoming sports season, UW Athletics has also taken the opportunity to do Eagle Feather raising ceremonies prior to the start of games, especially during those scheduled to bring in a large audience. “We’re trying to maximize the impact of fans in the stands, and to cause conversation around these events. That’s what’s really powerful.” Webster said. “There’s lots of ignorance out there, and ignorance is worse when left unanswered. I think you want to cause those questions and conversations to hopefully then help with a better understanding.”

As National Indigenous History Month dawns upon us, hopefully we can all take a step back, and examine

the ways in which we are supporting the efforts of truth and reconciliation on campus. Next time you walk through the Indigenous gathering space outside SLC or pass by the new UW athletics logo, take a moment to acknowledge the intentions behind these changes. Take some time to read through the 2023-2028 UW Indigenous Strategic Plan, and attend events hosted by the OIR on campus, such as the various talks and the upcoming Powwow in September. By doing so, not only are you contributing towards a future where Indigenous People are celebrated and respected, but you are also opening the door for further awareness in the ongoing path towards reconciliation. “There’s a lot of potential for a great reciprocal relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous folks,” Smith said. “All of us as individuals can contribute to reconciliation.”

Indigenous History Month Events that you can get involved with

**Registration required to attend, which can be completed through the OIR website.*

An Afternoon with Kai Potts

June 18: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

A discussion with Kai Potts, an Indigenous youth advocate, public speaker, and content creator. The Two-Spirit identity will be explored, as well as how we can support more inclusive spaces for Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day!

June 19: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A joint event between the OIR and WUSA in celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day. This event will consist of ceremony and reflection, filled with music, art, and food in the Indigenous Outdoor Gathering Space outside SLC.

Inuit Identity – Who Is Resilient Inuk by Resilient Inuk

June 19: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

An exploration of the Inuit culture and identity with Vanessa Brousseau, a multidisciplinary sealskin artist, advocate, and content creator.

100 years of the Iron Ring: What it means to students and staff at UW

Thea East, Senior Editor




This year marks the centennial anniversary of the Iron Ring, an important Canadian engineering tradition that students and graduates participate in each year. The anniversary is being celebrated across the country and acts as a reflection on how far engineering has come as a profession in Canada over the last century. Universities all over the nation are participating in the commemoration, and as Canada's largest engineering school, UW has taken their own spin on the celebrations. For many at UW, this anniversary is not simply a reminder of the importance of the Iron Ring, but also an opportunity to appreciate the significance of the profession they are dedicating their lives to.

The origin of the Iron Ring and the Obligation Ceremony, which graduates must participate in to receive their ring, comes from the collapse of the Quebec Bridge in 1907, which killed 75 people. Among the dead were workers from the surrounding communities and the Kahnawake Mohawk community near Montreal. This tragedy was found to occur due to avoidable mistakes and failures in the engineering of the bridge. Following this, it was clear that the engineering profession needed to employ high technical and ethical standards in its practice to ensure that no such tragedy would occur again. Herbert Haultain, a Canadian mining engineer, was a pioneer in regulating engineering practices and was the first to have the idea to create a meaningful ceremony that would

instill these high ethical standards in all Canadian engineers. Haultain also saw the ceremony as a way of creating a unique community, setting apart the engineers of Canada from the rest of the world. The first Obligation Ceremony was held in 1925 in Montreal and has continued ever since.

The Obligation Ceremony is conducted and organized by The Corporation of the Seven Wardens, named after the original seven engineers who were tasked with designing and executing what the proposed ceremony would be. The Corporation operates through individual camps across the country, which host the ceremony for all the graduating engineers in that region. Camp numbers are given out chronologically, with Toronto being Camp 1. There are a total of 28 camps across Canada, with UW's associated camp being number 15. There are often local engineering artifacts displayed at the ceremony, along with an infinite metal chain running up and down the seats of the graduates, which they hold while participating in the ceremony. During the Obligation, they must make a promise to uphold integrity, competence, and accountability in their work. After this, the engineers will receive their Iron Ring, which they wear on the pinky finger of their working hand, as a constant reminder of the promise they have made.

Along with the 100th anniversary, this year's Obligation ceremonies are also significant because they mark the first



Public lecture held by the UW TRuST Network: The Iron Ring at 100 – Trust, Transformation, and the Future of Canadian Engineering. From left, Molly Thomas, Hamid Arabzadeh, Stephanie Hazelwood, Ashley Melenbacher and Mary Wells.

year when the new modernized ceremony will be put into practice. Since 1925, the ceremony has not been updated — however, the engineering profession has grown and changed with time. “One hundred years ago, engineering was a male profession, and, you know, it was mostly practiced by white males in Canada, and that was the reality,” said Leonard Shara, Chief Warden of The Corporation of the Seven Wardens. “Today, we have a vastly different demographic in Canada, and that’s reflected in our ceremony and in our candidates, you know, people from all over the world, and every possible background: race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, whatever, everyone is welcome, always has been, but it’s a much more inclusive thing now, and that’s reflected in the ceremony.” Not only have the demographics within engineering changed, but the scope has also broadened to include many new branches of the discipline. A century ago, the main forms of engineering were limited to civil, mechanical, and chemical — however, now, multiple new areas of study encompassing computers, medicine, and AI exist within the profession. “When we think about today, where we’re at, you know, we’ve got new fields of engineering, biomedical engineering, software engineering, engineering science and nanotechnology engineering. And there’s been almost a convergence between science and engineering to a certain degree,” said Mary Wells, Dean of Engineering at UW. All of

these changes in the engineering profession have now been represented in the new modernized ceremony.

Another recent change to the ceremony allows friends and family of the graduate to attend the Obligation as well. In previous years, the ceremony was restricted to only graduates and engineers being present. The reason behind the privatization had not previously been widely communicated, allowing the public to only assume what was really happening at the ceremony. Wells explained that the main idea behind the private nature of the ceremony was rooted in the spirit of humility. “They didn’t want to advertise, they didn’t want big fanfare, they wanted it to be a kind of ceremony filled with humility. And for the engineers to feel and sense that humility,” she said. While the ceremony still aims to achieve that level of modesty by discouraging photos during the ceremony, Wells feels that opening it up allows the public to gain a better understanding of what it all means. “It got, I would say, misinterpreted over time in terms of what was going on behind closed doors. Was it like some type of initiation thing, and, you know, I’m glad we’ve opened it up. I think it was the right decision to make as part of the modernization, so that more and more people have a better understanding of what engineers do in Canada, what it means to be a Canadian engineer, and our obligations, so we can be held to account in terms of the decisions we make and how we go about our lives

and our work,” Wells said.

Garv Arora, a second-year engineering student at UW and the president of the Engineering Society, discussed how important it is for incoming and first-year students to understand the significance of what they are studying and, if they earn their ring, the influence they would have to impact people both positively and negatively. “You hold a lot of responsibilities that you might not even think about, like, as a first-year, you might not even think that could happen or that could fall on your plate. Like, if a bridge collapses, people actually die because of it, and you were the one who signed off on those documents,” Arora said. The Engineering Society president went on to describe the connection between understanding the significance of the work an engineer does and the ring that they wear when he said, “It has an immense power, and you have an immense power in your hands, and you have immense responsibility. And [the Iron Ring] is just a reminder for that. Strive for that, work hard for that. At the same time, but keep [the Iron Ring] in your mind.”

UW has organized multiple events to commemorate the Iron Ring anniversary which have been distinct to the school while still celebrating the nationwide event. The most unique centennial celebration has to be the “Ring Road Lager,” a canned drink brewed by Elora’s Brewing Company which was founded by UW engineering alum Jim Murphy. The drink features the engineering faculty colour, purple, and UW’s unofficial mascot, the goose, on the front. Additionally, a small percentage from the proceeds from any purchases of Ring Road Lager will come back to support UW engineering students in the future. UW also hosted a public lecture presented by the UW TRuST Network. According to Wells, the lecture explored and discussed the topic of “trying to better understand the past 100 years, but maybe more importantly, the future. How do we continue as engineers to engender trust from the public around the technologies that we design as engineers and deploy and unleash on the public, and to better understand from the public’s perspective, what are those things that go into creating trusted technologies?” The event was held at E7 and was free to attend for anyone who registered. In addition, a limited-edition, commemorative coin which

celebrates Canada’s engineering legacy has been released by The Royal Canadian Mint, in collaboration with Engineering Deans Canada, also chaired by Wells.

Mohammed Irfan



Grad class toast with Dean of Engineering Mary Wells on the right.

The traditions and practices of engineering in Canada have often been perceived as an enigma, leaving the public to perceive these ceremonies and responsibilities as a mystery to anyone not a part of this unique community. However, it has become a common sentiment within Canadian engineers that this disconnect between society and the engineers within it, can only foster mistrust and confusion, and needs to be opened up. Instead of viewing the Iron Ring and its Obligation Ceremony as a symbol of the disconnect between the

public and engineers, it should instead be seen as the connective tissue which fosters a sense of trust and binds them to the public through their responsibility and obligation to them. The Iron Ring, in essence, is the lighthouse which guides Canada’s engineers through the practice of their profession.

“I’ve never taken this ring off. I’m left-handed, so it’s why I wear it on my left hand. And,

you know, there’s many times when I have to make a difficult decision about something and I find myself touching it, thinking about it, and reflecting on what my own value system is. So I found it’s been a way to ground me and my value system and know what are the most important things, especially as you have to make decisions,” Wells concluded.

“I’ve never taken this ring off. I’m left-handed, so it’s why I wear it on my left hand. And, you know, there’s many times when I have to make a difficult decision about something and I find myself touching it, thinking about it, and reflecting on what my own value system is.”

— Mary Wells, UW Dean of Engineering

Waitlist out, wellness in: Understanding Counselling Services at UW

Carla Stocco, Staff Writer

Wellness, specifically mental wellness and health, has become a much more openly discussed topic over the past several years. From the widespread anxiety and social isolation we faced during the COVID-19 pandemic to the ongoing stress of simply scrolling through today's breaking news, staying mentally well remains a priority. At UW, the Campus Wellness team has been working hard to improve student access to services and innovating the way they offer care. We've chatted with Goldi Gill, executive director of Campus Wellness, and Melissa Strachan, associate director of Counselling Services, to learn more about recent developments in how students can get access to the care they need.

A waiting game: From waiting for care to getting help when you need it

Counselling Services recently reported a major milestone – the elimination of a waitlist for students seeking counselling. Strachan confirms that the waitlist “had been in existence for years” and by the time she joined the team in 2022, it had become clear that the waitlist system required a revamp. Students participating in virtual counselling due to COVID-19 restrictions continued to pursue virtual counselling despite leaving campus for the spring term, meaning counselling services struggled to get new patients in to receive help. As the waitlist grew, so too did the wait time, averaging around seven months. In spring 2023, Gill joined the team and shortly after, Campus Wellness hired a process improvement specialist to address the waitlist dilemma. Strachan underscores that “having somebody look at [their] processes and find out where the bottlenecks were, what was getting in the way, helped [them] tremendously.” Once roadblocks were identified, such as the need to improve the process of accepting incoming patients, the counselling services team shifted how they scheduled incoming student appointments, gradually resulting in the elimination of the waitlist. Now, when students contact counselling services and come in for an intake appointment, “they are leaving with an appointment to see a counsellor, [rather than] going on a list and waiting to be called back.”

Counselling Services frequently asked questions

FAQ: How many counsellors does Counselling Services have?

There are currently 24 counsellors available to support

students, not including intake specialists and directors. Counsellors receive ongoing professional development opportunities to support them in understanding different student needs and experiences. Strachan shared how neurodivergency training was recently provided to counsellors to further training and improve services.

FAQ: What kind of counselling is offered?

Counselling Services offers three key appointment types: brief counselling, single-session counselling, and crisis appointments.

Brief Counselling

Brief counselling is the kind of counselling that most often comes to mind when students consider pursuing counselling. Brief counselling appointments are typically 60 minutes in length and are offered in-person, by phone, and video call. You'll be able to book an appointment with a counsellor and work on personal well-being goals over a longer period of time and through consecutive sessions with the same counsellor. These sessions aim “to provide needs-based, solution-focused counselling to support your mental health and well-being.” Whether you are struggling with feelings of anxiety, depression, trauma or relationship difficulties, these sessions can help promote your well-being and recovery. Brief counselling is offered at no charge to registered UW students on both study and co-op terms. If you are interested in an appointment with a counsellor of a certain identity, lived experience, or if you have specific needs you would like addressed, the counselling team will aim to accommodate your request when you contact them to book your appointment.

Single-Session Counselling

Do you have a pressing concern that's been taking up too much headspace and just need a single session to work through it? Or are you looking to get a feel for what counselling appointments are like before diving into brief counselling? If so, you'll be interested in pursuing single session counselling, a one-time 90-minute appointment that enables you to meet with a counsellor to address an immediate area of concern or difficulty. These appointments are currently offered in-person or via video call with a counsellor. With your counsellor, you'll set one or two goals tied to your concern and develop "a solution focused approach" that aims to aid in the development of good coping skills. You'll leave your session better equipped with skills and strategies and more confident in your ability to handle the concern.

Crisis Appointments

University life can get overwhelming and major life events and stressors do happen. If you're experiencing severe levels of distress or are struggling to feel safe, crisis appointments are 60 minutes in length and are available every weekday. You will be able to speak with a counsellor for an immediate appointment (within 24 hours) or an urgent appointment (scheduled within three to five days).

FAQ: Are same-day counselling appointments still being offered?

Counselling Services no longer offers same-day appointments. Strachan shared that the elimination was due to students being unable to attend sessions booked on the same day but still hoping for single sessions, leading to the retention of single-session counselling appointments.

FAQ: How many counselling sessions can I attend?

Although many students still cling to the belief they are

limited to six to eight counselling sessions, in reality, the number of sessions depends on individual student needs. Strachan shared that it is about "working with each individual based on what they're coming in for" and emphasized they've moved away from imposing a set limit. Although the counselling offered remains brief and a student cannot be seen continuously for years, UW's counsellors work with students to transfer them to community counsellors and mental health supports. The aim of campus wellness is to recognize individual student needs and offer support that meets them where they are. Gill further encourages students not to mentally tick off the number of sessions they attend or believe that after eight sessions, for example, their counselling is over, because flexibility and recognition of individual needs remain at the forefront.

FAQ: How do I book an appointment?

You can book an appointment by calling 519-888-4096. For those unable to call due to accessibility needs, you can email counselling@uwaterloo.ca and indicate that you are unable to book by phone. Please note that the email option is not monitored 24/7 and urgent requests cannot be accommodated via email.

FAQ: Are there any other support resources to keep in mind?

Open 24/7, 365 days a year, Empower Me is a free, confidential mental health service. Services offered are multilingual including Hindi, Punjabi, Spanish, and Italian, to name a few. Empower Me is culturally sensitive, faith inclusive, gender-inclusive, and has a close relationship with the UW Campus Wellness team. Aimed at promoting a resilient study community, students can also choose to consent to allow campus counsellors and an Empower Me counsellor, to exchange information to improve case management and further decrease wait



Carla Stocco



Alex Green, via Pexels

times. They can help with any kind of issue, from disordered eating to career counselling. Key advantages include appointments being scheduled in less than 24 hours or the next day, immediate crisis counselling being available, and live virtual coaching being offered.

Here's how to get connected:

1. Create an account at www.studentcare.ca/dialogue
2. Enter the email, name, and date of birth that UW has on file for you
3. You're set up to get help and improve your mental health!

FAQ: How can I get involved with Campus Wellness and share my suggestions for improvement?

If you're interested in serving as a student voice and learning more about new and ongoing initiatives within Campus Wellness, consider joining their student advisory committee. Gill shared that last year, over 120 students applied to join the committee and that it is the student interest and feedback that has helped pave the way for more meaningful service.

FAQ: What's the Be You @UWaterloo Initiative about?

Formerly called Thrive, the Be You mental health campaign aims to recognize and celebrate the individuality of every UW student. Back in 2023, as Gill was speaking with students on the student advisory committee, she learned that

the term Thrive was not resonating with the student body. The name Be You emerged and the campaign was rebranded as a direct result of students voicing their opinions through the advisory committee.

Taking the next steps towards wellness

Choosing to seek support when you need it and acknowledging how good mental health reflects on every aspect of life takes both courage and self-awareness. Yet the benefits of counselling and developing healthy habits and coping skills are truly endless. Asked to speak on these benefits, Strachan emphasized how students often come to counselling "feeling like an impostor or worried about their grades, or what's going to happen, and having the opportunity to talk to somebody who's objective and can hear them out and give them tips on how to manage [has proven] helpful." She further highlights how other students who felt socially isolated before have been supported in developing social skills and connected with other students better, as a result of coming into counselling. Some students, she underscores, thrive by simply attending counselling sessions, "[coming] in as an individual individualised, and then they find themselves through coming to counselling." Proud of their achievements and the milestones they've reached, students often return to visit a former counsellor prior to graduating to share their accomplishments. Strachan shares that this remains a meaningful, full-circle moment and an "opportunity to celebrate the growth that [students have] experienced over their time at university."

The sculptures and statues across campus

Ray Wang, Contributor

Walking across campus, you'll come across plenty of iconic landmarks such as the towering white cube that is Dana Porter (DP) or the ultra sleek and modern E7 building. However, what you may or may not notice are the plethora of statues and sculptures dotting the paths, fields, and interiors of its many buildings. These art pieces share deep and interesting stories — from relocations, to funny pranks, to kidnappings — and they're worth taking a peek at if you're curious or if you want to (responsibly) contribute to their legacy.

Break, MC

Starting out near MC, Break is a sculpture created by Bruce Watson and first installed in 1971. It features what appears to be a large egg-shaped stone with its top sheared off and a big crack down the middle. Despite its very rock-like appearance, the sculpture was actually constructed out of fibreglass, and its shape earned it the nickname of the MC Egg. The sculpture also features a fountain, which in the early days was subject to pranks, where detergent was put in the water so that the fountain foamed.

Quasar, MC

If you ever find yourself walking through MC's second-floor entrance under the QNC bridge, you'll be greeted by the wall-mounted wooden sculpture named Quasar. Created by Walter Redinger and also unveiled in 1971, this sculpture comprises six wooden squares with an intricately carved bulge near the middle. The beautifully curved and abstract shapes perhaps accentuate the creative thinking that encompasses the research and lectures within MC. Or perhaps the bulge is more reminiscent of everyone trying to break free from their 8:30 a.m. statistics class.



Quasar, located under the QNC bridge

Triad, *B1*

Taking a stroll down the path towards the Arts Quad, you'll spot the towering metal sculpture known as Triad outside of B1. One of the earliest installed sculptures, it was created by artist Ron Baird in 1965. Not much is known about its history, but the unique twisting metal beams certainly make it a recognizable landmark. It's just a little unfortunate that this beautiful work happens to be right next to a trio of trash cans.

Porcellino, *ML*

Sitting outside the main entrance to ML is Porcellino, a bronze statue of a boar and also the arts faculty mascot. Originally donated by former math professor Henry Crapo in 1978, the statue was cast by Marinelli of Florence in 1962 from a seventeenth-century mould based on an ancient Greek marble sculpture. The original sculpture currently sits in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy. There have been many copies of the sculpture made, which can be found spread across Canada, the U.S., Europe, Australia, and Japan.

First placed inside the ML foyer, Porcellino was kidnapped in 1991 by engineering students and dressed up as a dog. After this, a more permanent site was decided upon, and in 1994, Porcellino was moved to his current home — with a celebratory pig roast to mark the event. However, just recently in June 2022, Porcellino was once again kidnapped by engineers and placed in front of E5 for about three months before being returned to his pedestal outside of ML. It makes you wonder how these engineers keep managing to steal the solid 700-pound statue — probably with black magic. Or a forklift.

Walking Girl, *ML*

Also outside ML, but on the basement level across from EV1, is another bronze statue of a walking girl. Aptly named Walking Girl, this sculpture was created by artist Almuth Lütkenhaus in 1972 and was originally erected as a memorial to Muriel DeGre, who played a large role in the acquisition of public works for UW. The statue features a small pool that surrounds the figure of the girl, in which she spent an unfortunate couple of days during the face-plant incident of 2001. This was not actually an act of vandalism, but rather the result of bad weather and rusting on the statue's feet. After she was discovered to have fallen face down into the pool, the statue was promptly repaired.



Porcellino, located outside main entrance to ML

Man and Woman, *PAS*

Going inside PAS, hanging from the ceiling of the main atrium are two fibreglass statues of, as the name suggests, a man and a woman. Also created by artist Almuth Lütkenhaus, the statues were installed in 1973. There isn't much known in terms of the history of the statue, but they do elegantly decorate the unique skylight-lit atrium of PAS and are worth seeing — assuming you don't get lost in the maze of hallways trying to find them.

Pickle Forks, *PAS*

Standing tall and proud, the Pickle Forks sculpture can be seen on the field outside of PAS, directly across from Ring Road. Officially named A Sculpture Garden (although even the artist refers to them as Pickle Forks), it was created by Ron Baird in 1970 as a series of tall, colourful abstract metal shapes. Originally, this arrangement of the sculpture was placed in the HH courtyard, but it had to be removed to make way for the building's expansion in 2015. After this, it was eventually installed outside of PAS, with its arrangement modified to resemble a Swiss army knife, as each separate metal shape was attached to a single concrete pillar.

Early Morning Dream, *DWE*

Moving away from the Arts Quad and heading to the engineering buildings, outside of DWE and across from CPH stands the Early Morning Dream sculpture. Created by artist Krystyna Sadowska in 1972, this abstract series of steel shapes is often painted over by engineering students in creative and colourful ways. Done in the dead of night, the group known as Non Existent Action Committee (NEAC) will periodically get to work transforming the sculpture into something new. Currently led by the Engineering Society president, Garv Arora, he says that the painting of the sculpture “is a tradition considering it has been painted over and over since 1972.” As of now, the sculpture features bright multi-coloured stripes and patterns to celebrate Pride Month this June. Sporting the same rigid structure, but with a constantly shifting appearance, it always seems fresh, yet still familiar — kind of like an early morning dream.



Goose Statue, located in the small park outside of PAC

Goose Statue, *PAS*

Completed just last year, the small park outside of PAC is now graced by the statue of a goose spreading its wings as it's about to take flight. With proposals for the statue taking off in 2023 and massive support from the student body, the art was commissioned by WUSA with a total cost of around \$33,000. Although the flying goose statue does not yet have an official name, it still stands as a symbol of the soaring heights that Waterloo students can achieve (and of the loud honking birds heard across campus that we all hate to love).

The sculptures that are no longer

Although we've finished our tour of the current statues and sculptures that live on campus, there are still many that were once here and with stories worth talking about.

First up, there is the sculpture known as David of Sassoun that used to be outside of MC and was removed to make way for QNC. First installed in 1977, the sculpture was a twisting sheet of painted metal that, when viewed from the right angle, looked like it spelled out the letters "CS." However, this was likely not intended by the artist Armand Buzbuzian, who instead modelled the twisting shapes to look like an abstracted view of a man on a rearing horse, relating to the ancient Armenian hero whose name the sculpture derives from.

Next is Convolution, which was a twisting, worm-like sculpture made of red-painted fibreglass that sat outside the Physics building. First created in 1968 by artist Ed Zelenak, the sculpture was damaged by vandals in 1975 and subsequently repaired and put back in its place. Then the sculpture was once again vandalized in 1976, but this time with explosives (which makes you wonder who disliked the sculpture that much). After that dramatic act of sculpture terrorism, it was permanently removed as repairs were impossible.

Finally, outside of SCH, there used to be a sculpture of two concrete figures raising their arms that was first installed in 1971. Created by artist Theodore Harlander and named Joy, the sculpture used to be part of a small tradition where graduating engineering students would put an iron ring on the pinky finger of one of the statue's hands. In 2004, the sculpture was seemingly vandalized when it was found smashed into pieces with a spray-painted message, stating: "engineers are grrrrreat." Many theories sprang up about arts students committing the act, perhaps as a retaliation for the famous kidnapping of Porcellino. The truth? A large delivery truck accidentally backed into the sculpture, and some opportunistic students likely spray-painted the message as a joke afterward. It has since been completely removed from the site.

Behind the scenes of being a campus influencer

Shania T. W. Scotland, Contributor

Why more Canadian students are becoming influencers

You might scroll through TikTok and see a “day in the life” vlog of someone grabbing coffee before class, getting ready for an exam, or showing off a cute outfit on campus. It looks simple, but behind that 30-second clip is a lot of hard work of editing, cutting and adding music to the background. They’re doing more than just posting for fun.

So why are more students choosing to post in the first place? They are doing it to build personal brands, connect with others, and even earn income while sharing their university experiences.

What is a “university influencer”?

A university influencer is someone who shares their student life and insights online, often having a significant following of people who follow and watch their posts. Some also work with brands or groups that pay them or give free items to talk about a product, service, or event. This includes snippets from campus days and study tips as well as what they wear and how they spend their weekends. It’s not about being perfect — it’s about being real. These creators mix school with personal interests like fashion, wellness, beauty, or travel.

“I loved watching university vlogs,” says Summer Mehdi, a commerce student at Queen’s University who runs @sewsewsummer on TikTok. “I wanted to be that influencer for someone else. Someone they could look to for advice, especially when they’re just starting out.”

Q How does it start?

For many, it starts out simple, where they are just sharing what they were already doing.

Achchala Deepan, a management engineering student at UW, has more than 600 followers on TikTok at @achchala. She has amassed more than 38,000 likes across her videos and typically gets thousands of views per post. She says, “I started posting clips from co-op, travel, and daily life. It was just a fun way to capture memories, but I realized other students could relate too.”

Amritha Kanna, a life sciences student at McMaster, started posting when she moved away from home. Her handle is @amritharkanna, with more than 700 followers on TikTok, almost 4,000 on Instagram, and more than 28,000 likes across her videos. “I was already making wellness content. But I figured, why not use my new environment at Mac and help future students who were just like me last year, unsure about where to go?”

Why it's harder in Canada

One big difference between U.S. and Canadian student creators? Money.

Creators in the U.S. can join the TikTok Creator Rewards Program and earn cash just from views. The program is eligible for accounts with at least 10,000 followers and 100,000 video views over the last 30 days. It is also an option for creators based in the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, South Korea, France, and Brazil, but not Canada.

Instagram offers features like gifts and subscriptions that also let creators earn money through their content as well in the U.S. In Canada, that program isn't available which changes the motivation behind posting.

"Every penny counts when you're a student," Kanna says. "In the U.S., if your video goes viral, you'll probably make something. Here, we're stuck waiting on brand deals, and those mostly go to big creators."

Deepan agrees, "It's hard to stay consistent without any reward system. A lot of Canadian creators are figuring out how to grow without the same support."

So, is it worth it?

For some yes because, it's about building a future side hustle.

"I'm still working toward monetizing," Medhi says. "But I see a lot of chances to grow. There are so many students who want this kind of content; it's like a support system."

Kanna adds, "It can feel tough when brands only want big names, but that doesn't mean your work isn't valuable. You just need to stay true to your why."



Advice from the creators



"Post everything! You never know what will do well."

- Summer Mehdi



"Don't overthink it. No one cares as much as you think. If you're being real, people will connect."

- Achchala Deepan



"Start now. Don't wait. Don't be scared of what others think. Just keep going."

- Amritha Kanna

Is your professor really checking for AI?

Khalid Safdar, Contributor



It's the night before an assignment is due. Your fingers hover over the keyboard. You've done the readings and attended the lectures but the blank page glares back deep into your soul. Maybe, just maybe, you could open ChatGPT. A prompt here, a reworded answer there. You tweak the phrasing, shuffle the structure, and soon enough, three flickers later, the essay takes form.

Sound familiar?

As AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini become more integrated into academic life, students across campus are navigating a new kind of grey zone. It is not cheating exactly, but not all students are writing entirely original work either. The lines are blurry, the boundaries are undefined, and the stakes feel high — very high at certain times, perhaps 11:59 p.m. on a weekday.

Meanwhile, professors are facing the same tools from the other side of the desk. Do they crack down on AI-aided writing, revert to traditional assessments featuring in-person presentations, or adapt to a new era of learning altogether? Do they actually want to strike up a Policy 71 allegation every time they sense the use of AI tools? Is that even feasible?

Some already have.

Others aren't even trying.

Many don't even care.

"I've used AI for nearly every written assignment this past term," said a third-year environment student, who asked to remain anonymous. "It's definitely helpful in brainstorming or rephrasing ideas but why bother when it can pretty much get it over with in a minute. Honestly, it's like Grammarly on steroids."

Their approach isn't unique. The use of generative AI for idea generation, outline-building, and sentence rewriting has quietly become the norm for many students. The key difference? Some treat it as a word counting software — others treat it like a ghostwriter.

In this shifting landscape, many students are left wondering: are professors actually checking?

"Plagiarism was the big fear when I was in first-year," said Jason Li, a fourth-year biology student. "Now, it's all about AI — but honestly, I don't think most profs have a reliable tool to catch it."

He's not wrong. Tools like Turnitin's AI detection, once hailed as a solution, are facing their own expiration date. With Turnitin sunsetting its AI detection feature by September 2025, universities are being forced to rethink their reliance on external policing. That leaves a vacuum, and in it, a quiet tension brews: will students get bolder, or will professors get wiser?

So far, the answer seems to depend on the professor.

"I teach first-years, and the writing is often too clean," said one UW professor from the faculty of arts, who asked not to be named. "Sometimes it reads more like a blog post or a product review. You can't always prove it's AI, but it doesn't sound like a student." Upon asking the frequency of assignments their course requires, they stated around five to seven on an average term.

When asked how they respond, the professor admitted, "I don't act on suspicion alone. I might ask them to explain their argument in person, but that's rare. We don't have the bandwidth to police every sentence."

Some instructors are adapting by shifting assignment formats entirely — oral presentations, handwritten exams, and in-class essays. Others double down on authenticity, asking students to include personal anecdotes, classroom references, or drafts of their work.

"You can't always prove it's AI, but it doesn't sound like a student."

- UW professor from the faculty of arts

But while faculty navigate how to uphold academic integrity in the AI age, students are quietly adapting too.

“It’s almost like an unspoken rule,” said a second-year economics undergraduate. “Everyone knows someone who uses AI — maybe everyone is that someone. But you just make sure it doesn’t sound too AI. Keep it casual. Add some typos if you’re really paranoid.”

For many students, using AI isn’t about laziness — it’s about efficiency. Tight schedules, overlapping deadlines, and mounting expectations make AI feel less like a cheat and more like a lifeline. But there’s still fear: of getting caught, of being misunderstood, of crossing an invisible line.

Even students who write everything themselves sometimes run their work through ChatGPT — not to generate, but to polish. Fix the grammar, reword the clunky parts, restructure the awkward transitions. The result? Assignments that sound cleaner, but less like the student.

And professors can tell.

“A huge chunk of my job now is asking, ‘Does this sound like them?’” said a sociology professor. “You get to know your students’ voices — and suddenly, they’re writing like bloggers.”

She doesn’t always confront them. Instead, she’s begun assigning more open-ended prompts and real-time responses. “If you’re talking about a personal experience or applying a concept in your own words in a class discussion, AI can’t really help you there.”

So, are your professors really checking for AI?

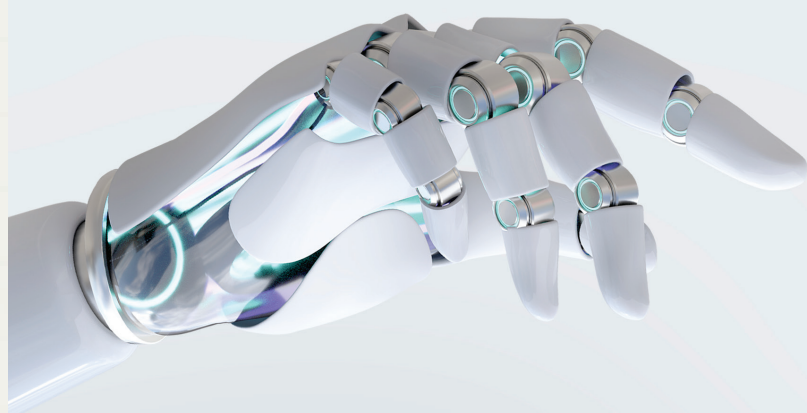
Some are. Some aren’t. And some can’t.

What’s clear is that we’re in a tricky transition period. The rules— if they even exist yet — are still being figured out, not just by schools but by the students and professors in the thick of it. It’s especially hard for many: for students to realize where to draw boundaries and for instructors who feel like they’re constantly playing catch-up. Academic integrity isn’t just about copying someone’s work — it’s about where we draw the line between getting support and giving up ownership.

AI tools are now part of the learning process, whether we acknowledge them or not. They’re not flashy — they just slip into the background. So maybe the real issue isn’t whether professors are detecting them — maybe it’s whether we’re all ready to talk about how education is changing, together.

“A huge chunk of my job now is asking, ‘Does this sound like them? You get to know your students’ voices—and suddenly, they’re writing like bloggers.’”

- Sociology professor



Via Freepik

A summer day in Uptown Waterloo

Sophie Smith, Contributor

Welcome to a complete guide to soaking in some of the best eats and entertainment Uptown Waterloo has to offer. Here is what I recommend to make the most out of a summer day in the city.

10 a.m.

Start your day with coffee (\$2.95) and fluffy buttermilk pancakes (\$12.50) from Seven Shores Community Cafe.



11 a.m.

Now for some of Uptown's best independent shopping. Head across the street to Old Goat Books and enjoy the cozy atmosphere as you browse its great selection of new and used books for a summer read.

When you're ready to continue down King Street, make your way to Lost Vessel Vintage. Take the elevator up to this tucked-away spot and step back in time at this nostalgic streetwear treasure trove best known for its vintage tees.

Next, stop by the Princess Cafe for a refreshing drink (\$3-5) to keep hydrated and while you're there, check out Truth Beauty. Mindfully curated with natural, locally made and sustainable home and beauty products, it's the perfect place to restock on your summer sunscreen and any other skin and body care essentials.

As you continue down King Street, take a stop to browse Carry-On Comics — an iconic Uptown staple and the best place to find vintage and new comics and collectibles.

For even more great vintage finds, don't miss Luster and Oak. This quaint consignment store is filled with perfectly worn-in denim and summer dresses to add to your wardrobe.

Speaking of gems, discover — or rediscover — new music while browsing new releases and old favourites at Orange Monkey Music.

Now, just across the train tracks, stop into Harmony for the best delicate, everyday jewellery.

And finally, if you've made it this far, end your stroll with one last great independent bookstore: Wordsworth Books. Be sure to take a look at the thoughtfully-chosen staff recommendations shelf — it has yet to steer me wrong!

2 p.m.

Now that you've worked up an appetite from all that shopping, keep heading down King Street towards Vincenzo's for a well-earned lunch. Order a custom sandwich (\$8) from the deli counter and for a little sweet treat of course, a scoop of gelato (\$3) at the cafe.

3 p.m.



To recharge for the afternoon, stroll around among the beautiful works at the Canadian Clay and Glass gallery (free), catch a film at the Princess Cinemas (\$15), or play a round of pool at the Huether Hotel (or all of the above)!

6 p.m.

For dinner, head to Gourmet Pizza (\$15-20) and then over to Waterloo Park for a lake-side picnic. And, if you still have energy after a full day out on the town, bring along your game of choice (football, spike ball, cards — whatever you like) and a few friends.

8 p.m.

For dessert, swing by the park's ice cream stand — or, if you're up for a little more walking, return to the street where your day began and stop at Crumby for some delicious cookie dough (\$4).



Ansh Dhingra

potato Leek Soup

Ingrid Au, Contributor

This month's recipe is a hearty, rich, and flavourful dish, which also celebrates the vegetables and herbs of spring, such as Swiss chard, thyme, and leeks. Truly, I cannot think of a better way to honour the harvest of spring.

Ingredients:

4-6 cups of Yukon Gold potatoes, 1-inch diced (number of cups varies depending on potato size)
2 leeks, thoroughly rinsed and chopped
6 cups of pre-made vegetable broth
1 bunch of Swiss chard, thoroughly rinsed and chopped
½ cup of heavy cream
2 sprigs of whole fresh thyme
1 sprig of whole rosemary
3 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
2 tbsp of olive oil
Salt
Black pepper

Tools:

Soup pot
Ladle

Instructions:

1. Prepare your vegetables and herbs. For leeks, you can use the entirety of the leek or only the white and light green parts, as the dark green parts tend to be more fibrous. Similarly, you can omit the stems of the Swiss chard or cut them into smaller pieces so it's not too tough.
2. In a large pot, heat the oil over medium-high heat, and add your garlic, potatoes and leeks. Season with salt, thyme, rosemary and pepper. Stir occasionally for six to eight minutes or until the leeks turn bright green and the potatoes are semi-softened.
3. Add the vegetable broth and let the mixture simmer until the potatoes are fully softened — this should take 30 to 40 minutes.
4. Once simmered, add the Swiss chard and cook until it has wilted.
5. Slowly pour in the heavy cream and stir. Season with salt and pepper to your preference.

I hope this soup brings you comfort and warmth as spring continues. Make a huge pot of this soup and it can last in the fridge for about a week. Enjoy!



June crossword

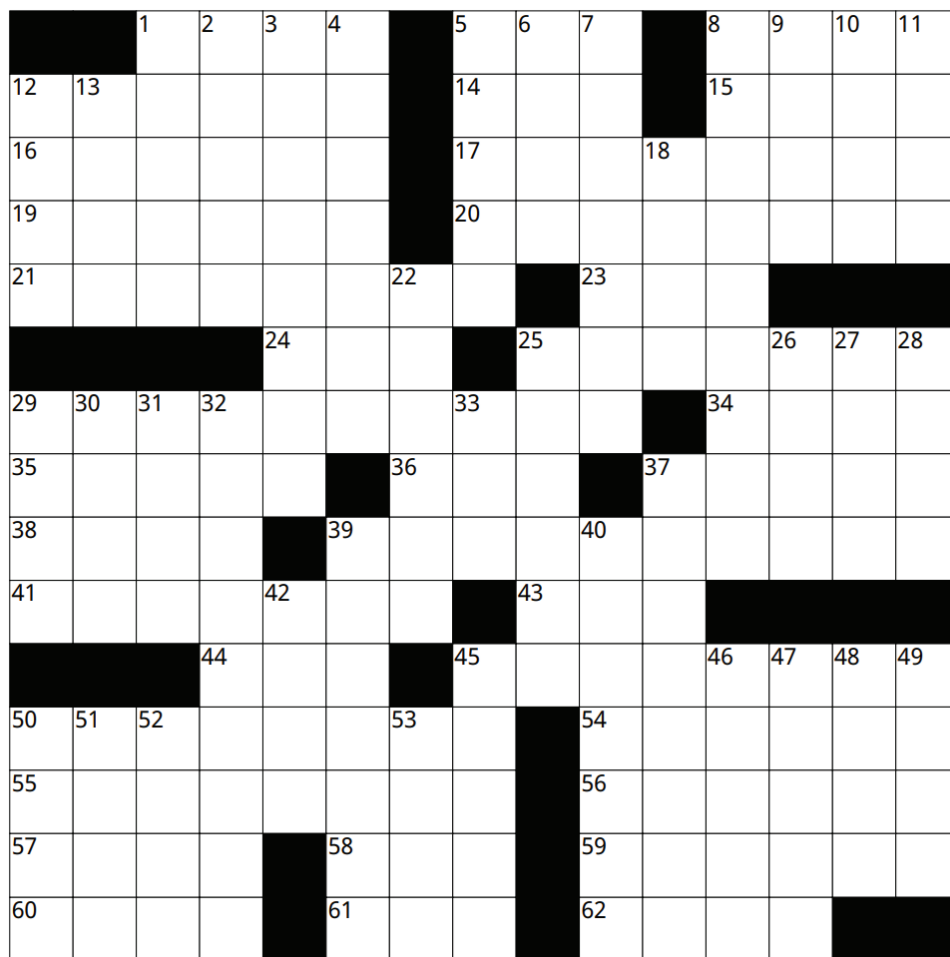
Zoe Cushman, Contributor

ACROSS

- 1 Fall event sometimes featuring a midway
 5 Hashtag for celebrating female partners, mentors, or role models (abbreviated)
 8 Common antidepressant type (abbreviated)
 12 Wall-mounted candle holder
 14 "Eureka!"
 15 Female sheep
 16 Changes lanes
 17 Drool
 19 Draw in
 20 Switch 2
 21 Wi-Fi alternative
 23 Former Middle-Eastern sovereign state (abbreviated)
 24 GPS calculation (abbreviated)
 25 Goes after
 29 Acrobatics-like sport
 34 Singer Simone
 35 ___ ipsum dolor sit amet
 36 Historical period
 37 Stage performer
 38 Take ___ at (insult, two words)
 39 Events with sprints and relays
 41 Stonework
 43 Fury
 44 Mai ___ or ___ chi
 45 Minnow or stickleback (two words)
 50 With respect
 54 Religion with over 100,000 public shrines in Japan
 56 Traffic cones 57 Text message status
 58 ___ lalero ___ lala (brainrot phrase)
 59 Odeon IMAX competitor
 60 Spoil, with "on"
 61 Paddle
 62 Kitchen___ or cigar___

DOWN

- 1 Back and ___



- 2 Author Thomas of *The Hate U Give*
 3 Sweet summer treat (two words)
 4 Holds a grudge against
 5 Never happened
 6 Spiced beverage
 7 Waldorf salad ingredients
 8 AppleTV show based around a fictional surgical procedure of the same name
 9 Graceful waterbird
 10 No longer working (abbreviated)
 11 Italian commune
 12 Hook's henchman
 13 Penny
 18 "Take ___ face value" (two words)
 22 Diner or bistro
 25 Gum-yielding tree
 26 Quote
 27 Carrick bend or clove hitch
 28 Early 2000s outbreak (abbreviated)
 29 Glittery rock genre
 30 *Star Wars* mentor
 31 Hospital scans (abbreviated)
 32 Bargain
 33 Needles of UW history
 37 Purple quartz
 39 Give it a shot (two words)
 40 Rice ___ square
 42 1 and 20, in D&D
 45 One way to get somewhere (two words)
 46 ___ mignon
 47 Hole-___ (two words)
 48 Subway stops (abbreviated)
 49 Hydrant attachment
 50 Many a survivor's struggle (abbreviated)
 51 A crossword constructor's favourite cookie
 52 Dryer detritus Old Italian coin
 53 Old Italian coin

Crossword solutions are published on uwimprint.ca

Glow Together All in for Pride!

Featured Events

- June 1** Family Pride at THEMUSEUM
- June 3** Flag-raising ceremony
- June 7** Glow @ Tri-Pride KW Summerfest
- June 17** Queer Life Fair
- June 29** Toronto Pride



For full event details, visit:
wusa.ca/glow

Disclaimer: Events are subject to change.
Visit wusa.ca/glow for details.

