

## 'This means everything to the city', Toronto parties as Raptors *clinch* NBA title

After nearly 25 years of ambition *marred* by disappointment and frustration, the Toronto Raptors have brought the city — and country — its *first-ever* NBA championship. As Game 6 of the NBA finals ended and the team *hoisted* the *coveted* Larry O'Brien *trophy*, tens of thousands of Toronto residents poured into the streets, converting busy thoroughfares and city squares into temples of celebration.

clinch 确定；赢得；拥抱；扭打

mar 破坏；损毁

first-ever 首次的

hoist 升起；举起

covet 垂涎；觊觎

trophy 奖品

Fans in the city's downtown core scaled anything they could — including buses, buildings and traffic lights — as car *horns blared* and the night was lit up by *fireworks*. Police blocked off major roads to allow fans to celebrate until the early hours of Friday.

horn 喇叭

blare 鸣响

firework 烟火

bartender 酒保；调酒师

"This is an amazing crowd and such an amazing night," said Alex Zdravkovic, a *bartender*. "This means everything to the city. Everything."

Much of what fuelled the energy was a belief that Toronto had been unjustly *overlooked* by analysts and the broader basketball community. Even though the Raptors *methodically* dispatched elite teams one-by-one, the cognoscenti of the NBA had *Golden State*, the *reigning* champions, as the favourites.

overlook 忽略；俯视

methodically 有方法地

Golden State 加州

reign 统治；支配

“This puts us on the map. I feel like we were never really respected as a sports town before this. And now we’re No. 1, ” said Rory Cohen, a fan since the *franchise* first came into existence in 1995.

franchise 特权; 赋权