

# **Titan Tribune Issue 1**

*November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

## **Editor's note**

Welcome to the first issue of the Templeton newspaper! This issue features current events reporting, opinion pieces, and club interviews. I would like to thank our producer, Ms. Vadacchino, and all our great writers. If you would like to submit an article, poem, or drawing to the newspaper, please email it to [temptribunenewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:temptribunenewspaper@gmail.com). Also, check out our Instagram account @templeton\_newspaper.

Happy reading!

Anna Segelken

Chief Editor

## **Current Events**

### **Sim City: Why Ken Sim Won, and What We Can Expect From Him as Mayor.**

By Amelia Kondor

Even if you weren't following the municipal election closely, you have hopefully heard by now that we have a new mayor: Ken Sim. The latest election took place on October fifteenth, and while there were many candidates running for mayor, there were only two candidates who

stood a legitimate chance: Ken Sim and Kennedy Stewart. In the previous election, Ken Sim lost by less than one thousand votes. This election, he won by over thirty thousand votes. Why the change?

There was one main factor: his party switch. Last election, he ran with the NPA (Non-partisan association), while this election he ran with ABC. In addition to him winning the mayoral race, every person running with ABC won their race. He formed ABC with three incumbent city councillors, Lisa Dominato, Sarah Kirby-Yung, and Rebecca Bligh, who all of whom won seats on the council again. Switching parties was a good call, as the NPA fractured, and he had the support of many incumbent councillors. The seven city councillors with the most votes were all from ABC. There were some other aspects that helped Sim win the election, such as his advertisement, and name recognition from the last election. The biggest factor, however, was his party switch.

Ken Sim won the election and made several promises to Vancouverites along the way. His party was mainly focused on public safety and affordability. One of their main public safety plans was to hire 100 new police officers and 100 new mental health nurses. In terms of affordability, he plans to speed up the permitting process so that buildings can be developed faster.

## **“Food is a human right!”**

By Miranda Simanca



(Ubysssey)

By now most people have noticed the increase in prices these past couple of years. Whether paying for gas, living, or food costs, being a human is getting very expensive. If you have a stable job and work full time you can manage these extra expenses, but many people, specifically young people, are being hit very hard financially. University students, who spend most of their time in school and studying, are struggling to make ends meet. At UBC (University of British Columbia), its food bank has seen an 495% increase in use since 2022. Earlier this month the school made the controversial decision to cut funding for food security. This act led to a school walkout spearheaded by students on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

They marched in front of the union building to have their message heard. They made speeches, screamed chants, and waved signs to get the attention of the university. They talked about how they were “hungry for change” and they “[didn’t] want sleep for dinner tonight”. The protest carried on for hours, late into Friday night. They posed the question “how can the university expect us to study and work if we can’t eat?”

Following the protest Andrew Parr, the associate vice president of student funding, said that they would increase funding for food security by 500,000 dollars. They would split this

money between AMS food bank, Sprouts, and the meal-share program. Though some students feel that this was just “hush money” and won’t make any real impact, many others are happy with the results and feel that it was a successful protest. With inflation still rising as well as the cost of student loans, it seems this problem will persist for a while longer.

## **Opinion**

### **In Iran, Teenagers Are Helping To Bring About A Revolution**

By Uy Pham

About a month ago, as the protests in Iran began to garner global attention, a short video emerged on Twitter, shared by a journalist working for the BBC. It showed a teenage girl standing on a stage, dressed in a black T-shirts and pants. Her friends could be heard cheering her on as she held up a microphone and started to sing. There was not anything necessarily remarkable about the video itself; young people having fun is not exactly news.

That teenage girl was Nika Shakarami. On September 20, she was filmed standing on a garbage bin in the middle of the street. This time, she held not a mic, but a burning head scarf – the symbol of Iranian women’s defiance – in her hand, before tossing what remained of it onto the ground. There was no more singing; instead, she shouted chants for the crowd around her, which cheered in response. It was a powerful image: A young high schooler standing against a regime known for its brutality.

This clip was recorded just hours before she was detained by state security forces. Eight days later, her family was asked to identify a body. It was Nika.

Iranian authorities are still denying responsibility for her death, just as they have denied murdering Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old woman who was detained by police for allegedly not wearing her hijab (head scarf) properly.

But no amount of denying will change what has become apparent: The young people of Iran are angry, and that anger is not going away. Since the death of Amini, which ignited nationwide protests over a month ago, they have been at the forefront, fighting for change. Social media is flooded with images of students marching on the streets, chanting the now iconic cry: “Women – Life – Freedom”. They have even brought the fight to their schools: In one video filmed in a classroom, a group of girls stamped on a portrait of Ayatollah Khamenei, the “Supreme Leader” of the Islamic Republic. The message is clear: This is no longer just about the mandating of head scarfs. They want the regime gone.

Nika Shakarami, along with Amini and many others, is representative of her country’s new generation, full of energetic people who see a better future for themselves and are willing to fight for it. To quote Sarina Esmailzadeh, a 16-year-old YouTuber: "We ask ourselves why aren't we having fun like the young people in New York and Los Angeles?"

The risk is immense. Sarina died after being beaten to the head with batons while protesting. She and Nika are among the 234 people, including 29 children, who have been killed during the Iranian state’s violent crackdown against protesters. But despite the brutal repression by the regime, the movement is showing no signs of wavering. It seems violence and fear can only do so much against those who are hopeful and fearless.

Whatever may happen next, one thing is clear: Iran will never be the same again, and its young generation helped make that happen.

# Climate-Friendly Agriculture

By Anna Segelken



This module at CubicFarms harvests about 9,500 heads of lettuce per month. (CBC News)

Agriculture currently generates 19-29% of total greenhouse gas emissions globally, making it one of the greatest-emitting sectors in the world. Some agricultural practices lead to habitat loss and deforestation. Fields are doused in herbicides and pesticides that can be toxic in large quantities, not just for animals, but also for humans. These chemicals pollute waterbodies through runoff, where water runs over farmland and into waterbodies, carrying some chemicals with it, and harm ecosystems through bioaccumulation. Bioaccumulation occurs when animals ingest small amounts of chemicals, and then larger animals eat these animals (and the chemicals inside them), which causes the chemicals to build up inside certain species or ecosystems over time. Furthermore, “with a global population expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, there’s a need to increase food production by 70% in the next 30 years to ensure enough food for everyone and avoid further food insecurity”, according to the UN. Evidently, this is a problem that needs to be solved. But how?

One solution is to look back on older methods of farming. Organic farms (farms that do not use synthetic herbicides or pesticides, and rotate fields), cover crops (crops that are grown to protect the soil, not be harvested) and fields with more than one type of crop, such as intercropping (growing multiple types of crops together to maximize resources) and companion planting (growing certain crops together that help each other thrive) These farming systems have been in use for decades and are methods that preserve soil health, prevent runoff, and decrease the need for pesticides.

Another option is to build indoor farms. This negates the need for pesticides and herbicides, and these farms are easily climate controlled, which is useful during heat waves and cold snaps. This allows them to have year-round operations. This method of farming uses less water than conventional farming methods, and the crop yield is much more reliable so it can help with food security issues as well.

Cell fabrication of meat is also a possible way forward. Cells are extracted from live animals, and then they are grown until there is enough volume for a full cut of meat. As this is still meat made from animal proteins, it is a great source of protein. This method of meat production reduces greenhouse gas emissions and antibiotic use, in addition to being far better for animal welfare.

There are many routes we can take to address climate change and, more specifically, the role agriculture plays in it. If this is going to be economy driven, then we need to keep researching and innovating, as new technology will be the answer. If this is going to be community-focused, with grass-roots organizations, then the emphasis should be on going back to the old ways of farming. Either way, we need the government to encourage these new innovations, and we need the public to embrace them.

## **The Impact of Electric Vehicles**

By Lia Low & Hiona Oyama

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in Vancouver is planning to have a zero-waste future by 2040. To achieve this goal, electric vehicles (EVs) are a likely part of the journey. EVs

have been in the making for decades, with the first handful of them being produced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Within more recent years, they have had a spike in popularity due to increasing gas prices. Nowadays, one of the more significant goals for EVs is to assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, but not all car owners are fully on board with the transition.

One of the more common reasons many people are reluctant to purchase a hybrid or electric car is the affordability, along with the accessibility to EV charging. Despite many EV chargers already being free to use, not having to pay for gas may not be enough for car owners to switch vehicles. The CleanBC program is working hard to make sure that EV charging stations are more widely available. This October, they announced thirty-nine new Fast and four new Level 2 charging stations across BC, bringing the total number of EV charging stations in the province above 3,000. A Level 2 charging station allows for faster charging than a Level 1 charging station, averaging up to eight times faster. This makes it easier for drivers with tight schedules to get their vehicles fully charged, which may help quell some drivers' worries about running out of charge while on the road.

Another issue around hybrid and electrical cars is the batteries being used. When recycling these batteries, the lifecycle carbon emissions are often something that is overlooked. There have already been billions of dollars spent nationally to research ways to reduce the cost of manufacturing and recycling EV batteries, but there isn't a concrete solution. BC is taking one of the first big steps in this by planning to add EV batteries made of lithium ions to the provincial recycling regulations in 2023. The programs and processes to ensure correct recycling of the batteries are planned to be completely operational by 2026. This is a crucial part of BC's plan to have only carbon-zero vehicles for sale by 2040; it is estimated that there will be more than 2.5 million electric vehicles on the roadways by that time.

However, recycling isn't the only concern that people have about EV batteries. As more people buy new electric vehicles, more batteries will need to be produced. This means that more minerals like lithium, cobalt, manganese, nickel, graphite, and other alternatives will have to be mined. Currently, these mining practices are plagued by human rights violations. There are an estimated 40 000 children in cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, lithium mining in Chile is crowding out the agricultural sector and contaminating soil, and fishers in



Indonesia say that fish are disappearing from their traditional fishing grounds because of nickel mining in the area.

## **Interviews**

### **Backstage: A Self-Interview**

By Uy Pham

*Writer's notes: This is not an actual interview, but rather a self-reflection on my experiences with the Theatre Temp program. Looking back, I think I'm very lucky to have fallen in love with the stage, and so it would only be right for me to share a bit of my story with others. I love theatre, and it would be wonderful if I could get more people to feel that love.*

#### **Would you like to tell us a little bit about yourself?**

Yeah, of course. My name is Uy Pham, and I'm a grade 12 student at Templeton. I moved to Canada from Vietnam with my family in 2020. I have been part of Templeton's theatre program for a year and have acted in a couple of shows.

#### **I guess we should start from the beginning. What sparked your interest in theatre?**

Well, I for sure didn't intend for it to happen. Before going into grade 11, I thought I was going to take a different elective art course, but it was canceled. My counselor then put me in a Drama 11 class, because that was my alternative course, and I just didn't really care enough to change it. I had never acted before in my life, plus I have always been a shy kid who was terrified of doing things in front of people, so I didn't come into the class with many expectations. But my friends and Ms. Zambrano, our acting teacher, helped me out a lot, and I eased into it pretty easily. It didn't come right away, but after doing a few acting assignments, I started thinking: "Hey, maybe this whole thing about being on stage isn't that bad after all."

#### **So how did you join Theatre Temp?**

I actually hesitated quite a bit before deciding to join Theatre Temp, even though I was beginning to get more comfortable with theatre. I guess I wasn't quite comfortable enough yet. It took some persuading from my friends for me to start coming to the theatre company meetings on Mondays after school.

**Did you start acting in shows right away?**

No. My first job was being part of this group called the front-of-house crew for a show called "Check Please". Ok, so I think I should explain how Theatre Temp works. There are many different departments that are in charge of different things when we do a show. You have people in charge of costumes, hair & makeup, set, lighting, sound, props, etc., and the cast has stage managers to help with schedules and to make sure everything's on track during rehearsals. Anyways, the job of front-of-house people is to basically greet the audience when they come in on show nights, hand out programs, show them where the washrooms are, those kinds of things.

**So when did you start acting in shows?**

I joined Theatre Temp a bit too late to audition for "Check Please". Besides, I was still really scared of acting in front of people. But after "Check Please" was done, we started work on the next show, "Impact", and I found enough courage to audition for that show. I was cast in a small role and we began rehearsals. It was such an enlightening experience. I was introduced to how the process works, from the first read-through to the dress rehearsal and opening night. We were lucky to have a professional director come in to do the show with us, and I learned so much from my castmates.

**And then you were in another show after that, right?**

Yeah. It was called "Boxed: The Play". That show was, um, a bit unconventional, but in the best way possible.

**I know you've probably been asked this by other people, but what does standing on stage feel like?**

Well, it's actually a lot less scary than I used to think. The really bad freak outs come backstage, right before I have to go up for my scenes, but once I'm up there, my mind would be too focused on the character for me to feel really nervous.

**What do you think is the most important thing you've learnt from Theatre Temp?**

It's hard to say. There are so many valuable things I've learnt from my time in Theatre Temp, but one thing that I think stands out is how much creative power we have as a group. And I do mean as a group, because what you see on stage is only the tip of the iceberg. Behind that is a whole lot of people who've dedicated tremendous time and effort to theatre. None of our shows would be possible without them, and to see all of that hard work come to fruition is just incredible. Same goes for acting too. Before getting involve in theatre, I used to think acting was a one-person game, that the most important thing was to take the spotlight for yourself. Now that I have done some acting, I know I was horribly wrong. Acting is very much a team effort. The only way to make a scene believable is to really interact with your scene partners and connect with them, because that's how it works in real life. Doing great theatre means giving your energy and creativity to the common goal of making art, and that's beautiful.

## Band Interviews

By Megan Wong

Interviewed by Anna Segelken



The Templeton music program offers a variety of opportunities for students. It is run by Ms. Yau. Beginner band is open to anyone who wants to learn how to play an instrument with a group of people. Concert band is the more advanced program for those who have taken beginner band or already play a band instrument.

Ms. Yau is the music teacher at Templeton. She decided to become a music teacher because she really enjoyed the music program when she was in high school and continued with it in post secondary. Her favorite instrument is the piano, and it is also the first she learned to play. Her favorite part of band is working with the students and she likes being inspired by everybody.

Megan Cheng has been in band for two years and plays the clarinet and the alto saxophone. Her favorite part of the program is being able to joke around in class because everyone is so close and friendly. She's most excited about the Whistler trip in the spring and the

possible trip to Disneyland in her grade 12 year. Her advice to people who are trying to learn a new instrument is to keep practicing and to be patient with yourself.

Tiffany Vo has also been in band for two years, and she plays the flute. Her favorite part is the craziness of the class because it makes it more fun. She is most excited for the band trips this year. Her advice to people who are learning a new instrument is to have interest in it and to not force yourself or else you won't have any motivation to learn.

Anica Gorlick is a beginner trombone player and joined the program this year. Her favorite part of band is playing a song and it coming together as the melody, harmony, and base. She's most excited about playing for people at concerts later this year. Advice she would give to people who want to play a new instrument is to do your best and keep practicing and to join band because it's fun and a good experience.

Francis Reyes currently plays the trumpet and the alto saxophone in concert band. His favorite part of band is playing music and watching other people improve. He is most excited about seeing the band improve. Advice he would give to someone who is learning a new instrument is not to see it as a task or a job and just have fun with it.

Luca Siracusa is in grade 9 and plays the drums for concert band. His favorite part of band is when everyone plays together and becomes one whole band. He is most excited about the concerts coming up because he knows we will play well. His advice to people learning a new instrument is to keep moving forwards and try your hardest .

Mattias Wong is in beginner band and he plays the tenor saxophone. His favorite thing to do in band is play his instrument. One thing he is looking forward to is playing the saxophone in Whistler. Advice he would give to someone who is learning a new instrument is to keep practicing.

## **Film Club Interview**

By Megan Wong

Afterschool Film is Templeton's advanced film program where students pitch, write, direct, and edit their own films. The class meets off-timetable, usually in the drama classroom or

in the auditorium. Students put over 200 hours into the class working on their films with mentors. Ms. Browne, the film teacher and sponsor for the program, runs workshops for different roles in film. She also reaches out to Templeton graduates who now work in the film industry to ask for their help in mentoring directors and running workshops. After the films have been completed, they are screened at the Templeton screening.

Before becoming the film teacher at Templeton, Ms. Browne was a community-engaged artist who worked in Film and Television. She suggests joining after-school film if you are interested in learning about filmmaking. She also recommends taking a film class on-timetable first before committing to making a film outside of school. During the first few years in the club, students often take secondary roles such as arts department, assistant camera, or lighting, but in grades 11 and 12 students usually take major roles such as director and cinematographer. Some of Ms. Browne's favorite parts of film are pre-production, when students are brainstorming ideas and coming up with stories, and the editing in post-production, where the stories come together.

Bracken Hanke joined afterschool film last year when she was an actor on *Vermillion*, directed by Calla Berube. Her favorite part of pre-production is all the excitement and positive energy that comes with getting into groups and planning a film. This year, she is acting and directing her own film, which is called *Anemoia*. She is excited to learn how to make a film for the first time and to watch her story materialize. Bracken's advice to people who want to join film is to talk and collaborate with people and explore roles you're interested in. She also recommends pitching a film, even if it doesn't get chosen, because creating and brainstorming ideas is a lot of fun.

Felix Stockner directed his first film, *Heir*, last year in afterschool film. His favorite parts of pre-production are discovering new things and developing a story. He is directing his second film this year, and he is excited about working with his friends. His advice for people who want to join film is to make friends and get involved with things.

## **Caleb – Robotics Club Interview**

By Anna Sadarangani and Leo Watt

**Why do you think the robotics club is an important addition to our school?**

It really supplies kids with a lot of opportunities that they otherwise would not have, such as learning to market oneself as well as hands on [learning]. Also, I think it's a great opportunity to put [our learning] into the real world.

**Why should students join their robotics club?**

Because it's fun. Well, first of all, it's awesome. We get to build stuff that's sweet, you know. People should join because it's a great learning opportunity and it's just a lot of fun.

**What's your favorite part of the club?**

Honestly my favorite part is building stuff and I get to work with a lot of cool parts that I've never seen before. I get to learn a lot of cool topics; you know that I otherwise would not have.

**What does an average year look like in robotics?**

Around early March we go to Victoria for a competition where we compete against other team's robots in a game. But before that there's a lot of things that go into it. We have to organize ourselves, recruit people, and teach them. And that usually goes from the start of the year until January, and then after winter break we get told what the challenge for that year's competition is going to be. From there we have a limited amount of time to build a robot, which we use to compete at the competition, and that would be a typical robotics year for us.

**What was the competition like last year?**

It was very stressful. All the work that we put in and all the parts that we had to deal with, every single thing that could have gone wrong went wrong, and you couldn't just put something to the side because we had such a limited amount of time. Many things didn't work, and every single second that we weren't actually competing we were trying to fix something or make something work, so it was very stressful. But it was a lot of fun, and it was a great learning opportunity to show that it is not a good idea to put things off. Yeah, so time management.

**How has this club impacted you personally?**

Many kids have used the robotics club as a great opportunity to find people with like minds and common interests. But for me the most important thing is it's been something to commit to,

having a schedule, having something to work for. We manage many different aspects and are able to create a cohesive working system.

**Why was the club originally started?**

I think it was originally started by a student a few years ago as a means to get more hands-on experience. They had seen a lack of that experience throughout the school, and wanted to create a place for students to really dive into these topics that they were so interested in.

**What experience or knowledge have you gained as part of?**

I've learned a lot. I've learned how to market myself, how to talk professionally with other people, how to talk to the younger kids who may be more nervous, and all of these things are skills that I've learned in the robotics club that had nothing to do with building an actual robot. Obviously, there's the skills, really applied skills, like how to wire, how to program, and how to solder metal together. So yeah, so I think there's a lot of skills that I've learned.

**What would you say to somebody who was thinking about joining the club?**

I would say totally, totally join. And if you come for the first year but it's not your thing, you don't have to. You don't have to pay- it's free, and we want everyone to come. We want people to learn so I would say 100% join. Try it out, see how it is, how it fits you.

**Mika – Theatre Interview**

By Anna Sadarangani and Leo Watt

**What is your favorite part about theatre?**

My favorite part about theatre is you get to meet a bunch of people who are also passionate about creating interesting and exciting art pieces and you meet a lot of friends that way, because you have similar interests. And it's really exhilarating, not necessarily to be on stage, because I'm not on stage, but to just be in that atmosphere where people are excited to go on stage.

**Have you been in any of the shows ever, and which ones?**



So, I've only ever acted in one of the shows. I acted in "Check Please" last fall. And since then, I've just been doing stage manager.

**What do you do as a stage manager?**

It varies a little bit depending on how many other stage managers there are, or what the production is like. But it's a lot of organizing actors, letting them know when they need to be where, making sure they are there when they say they'll be there. And then, when you get to the actual show you do something called "calling the show". So, I tell people when the sound goes and when the light goes. And that all happens through something called "cue to cue," which is when I learn basically my version of lines, which is when I have to do light and sound.

**Why do you think this club is an important addition to our school?**

Our school isn't, super well known for sports, or anything, really, and I think theatre has allowed our school to have a very diverse range of kids, because theater, and film, are both very good ways to express yourselves. It definitely creates a good community and gets you involved in your school.

**What experience or knowledge have you gained being a part of Theatre Temp?**

Oh my gosh, so much experience like in time management specifically and organization. You really have to be on top of it because you're at school all the time working on theatre. So you get a lot of organizational skills and time management skills which you kind of have to, not only because you're telling people when they have to be where and making sure everyone knows their lines and knows they're blocking, but also because you don't have as much time to be at home doing homework. You sometimes have to miss a day of school for rehearsal during crunch time. You sometimes have an all-day rehearsal, so you know you definitely have to get time management skills down.

**How has this club impacted you personally?**

It has definitely given me somewhere to put a lot of my creative energy into. It is really empowering to start a show from scratch, like a lot of our shows haven't even been written when we cast them to then end up with a full piece that has the sound, lighting, props, costumes,

everything. And that's really fulfilling, you know, it is just very stressful at times. But it really is worth it because. You learn a lot and it's fun and exhilarating.

### **What would you say to someone who was thinking about joining theatre?**

Try it out. You can join for one show of the year and you don't have to do the rest and that's OK. And if you do one show you love you can get so into it. You can literally do anything you want. There's hair and makeup, costume, set, deck crew, front of house. All these different things that require different skills or different approaches so there really is something for everyone, so try it out. If you like it, that's awesome and we'd love to have you here. No, that's OK, we would. Like we're happy to have you for just one show or even one meeting.

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### **“Food is a human right!”**

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### **In Iran, Teenagers Are Helping To Bring About A Revolution**

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## **Climate-Friendly Agriculture**

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