

TRAVEL
SPECIAL

OH, CA

Toonies, tuques, and tabarnak, oh my! As our northern neighbor fetes its sesquicentennial, we celebrate **150 Things We Love About Canada**—a veritable A to Z (or “Zed” across the border) of the country’s most intriguing people, places, and things. Turns out the kingdom of cold was cool all along, eh?

NADA

ENVIRO. FOTO/INWT TOURISM

I.

AURORA BOREALIS,
NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES



From left: Daniel Levy,
Catherine O'Hara,
and Eugene Levy



PROP STYLING BY NINA BOZALD, HAIR BY ANA SORRY, MAKEUP BY LUCKY BROMHEAD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAITLIN CRONENBERG
STYLING BY CHAD BURTON FOR PLUTINO GROUP
PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE CRYSTAL BALLROOM AT
THE KING EDWARD HOTEL, TORONTO

2. — 4.

EUGENE LEVY, DANIEL LEVY & CATHERINE O'HARA

The beloved Canadian comics (and *Schitt's Creek* costars) on playing straight, playing *not* straight, and why their homeland never takes itself too seriously.

It started with a silly little pun, but the Pop network comedy *Schitt's Creek* has quickly become one of the biggest, oddest pleasures on television. Co-created by father-and-son team Eugene (of *American Pie* fame) and Daniel Levy, the series concerns a formerly rich family cleaned out by tax authorities and forced to live in their only remaining asset: the small town of the show's title, which they'd bought as a joke years ago.

Catherine O'Hara co-stars as the haughty matriarch Moira, an ex-soap opera queen who maintains her commitment to loud haute couture outfits and even louder disdain. Annie Murphy plays her daughter, Alexis, a deliciously spoiled brat whose sordid backstory keeps unfolding via throwaway lines (she once woke up on a sheik's yacht; she forgot to graduate from high school). Then, in a quietly revolutionary twist, there's the family's supremely swishy son, David (Daniel Levy), who divulged that he was pansexual in the first season. After becoming involved with a female motel clerk named Stevie, he ended season two by hooking up with a male townie woodworker. And Daniel promises more to come. "This season we dabble in throuple territory!" he says. "We're really pushing the sexuality forward. It's going to be juicy and dramatic."

This is the sort of storytelling Daniel set out to explore from the beginning. “I think pansexuality is something that is underrepresented in a cultural way, specifically on television,” he says. “I want to tell a very honest story about the character, and hopefully shed light on some aspects of who he is in a funny and special way.”

For all its broadness and loony, puerile humor—Chris Elliott plays the town mayor, Roland Schitt, who hosts a Web series called *Wake Up With the Schitt's*—the series has become less a fish-out-of-water tale and more a portrait of a family coming together amid crisis. “It’s always great to be involved in a comedy like this,” says Eugene. “It’s what I call a grounded comedy—grounded in reality and truth.” He describes his father character Johnny as one of the straightest figures he’s portrayed. “I’ve been a character actor my whole life: You put on a funny wig, glasses, and a hat, and off you go,” he says. “I always shied away from playing characters a little too close to me, because I didn’t have enough confidence in myself to pull that off. So being a straight man is exciting.”

“I love playing Moira for the opposite reason,” O’Hara replies. “With her, I feel like I’m not anywhere close to myself. Except maybe me on a bad day.”

Season three, premiering early next year, offers its own set of gonzo surprises. David flirts with commitment, but viewers can still expect a fresh batch of sexual escapades. “We’re shaking up the town on all fronts,” says Daniel. Meanwhile, Canadian guest stars abound, such as *Blindspot*’s François Arnaud (season two featured Canadian actor and *Saturday Night Live* vet Robin Duke as the owner of the Blouse Barn,



“

I think Canadians are very humble. We’re raised to always be apologizing for things. I think with humility comes a lot of self-awareness, and self-deprecation is where a lot of comedy lives.”

where David finds an outlet for his fashion frustrations).

Or, as Eugene puts it, the new season is just “more of the same”—which should be perfectly fine, given Levy Sr. and O’Hara’s incomparable chemistry. The two have been working together for four decades, first teaming up on the classic Canadian sketch comedy show *Second City Television* and later achieving icon status with standout performances in the Christopher Guest movies *Waiting for Guffman* (1996), *Best in Show* (2000), and *A Mighty Wind* (2003).

In conversation and onscreen, they appear more coupley than most couples. When they joined forces for the first season of *SCTV* in 1976, did they think they’d be working together 40 years on?

“I didn’t assume I’d still be alive!” says O’Hara.

“I wouldn’t have guessed it,” adds Eugene. “The fact that I’m still working, let alone working with Catherine, is pretty great. A lot of us who started out in Toronto have stayed friends through the years, but my friendship with her is pretty thick and pretty special. We look back at where we started, and we share the same memories. It’s funny how things work out.”

Although the actual location of *Schitt’s Creek* has never been revealed, the series is decidedly Canadian. For one, it seems like a bridge between American sitcoms, whose chief players must almost always be likable, and British comedies, which have for years gazed upon their characters with a rabidly unsympathetic eye.

“I think Canadians are very humble,” says Daniel. “We’re raised to always be apologizing for things. I think with humility comes a lot of self-awareness, and self-deprecation is where a lot of comedy lives.”

The country would be forgiven for growing some ego. It has shaped so much of America’s comedic landscape, giving us *SCTV* breakouts like John Candy and Andrea Martin as well as *SNL* producer Lorne Michaels, Martin Short, *The Kids in the Hall*, Mike Myers, Jim Carrey, and, most recently, Samantha Bee. So why is Canada so damn funny?

“It could be the fact that the country is in winter for six months out of the year,” jokes Daniel. “I think that builds a harder edge into you. We’re also part of the Commonwealth, so we share some of that dark, twisted comedic sensibility with England.” He pauses. “Or maybe it’s the lake water we’re all drinking.”



"I always say that Canada is a good straight man," says O'Hara. "It used to be kind of provincial and conservative. That makes you want to be funny and gives you something to make fun of. We're closer to England than we are to America, and great comedy comes out of England. The more conservative authority you can lash out against, the more wealth of material there is."

Unlike the exiled clowns they portray, the three actors marvel at all things north of the border. In Toronto, where they're all based, Daniel recommends the Ossington strip, Queen Street East, and Parkdale, all New York-ish neighborhoods packed with cool restaurants and bars. O'Hara raves about what she calls "the most beautiful place in the world": Muskoka. "There are clean, clear lakes. Except for the cottages and people, it's just like it was hundreds of years ago."

Meanwhile, Eugene insists, "We have hot weather! And Toronto has more trees than just about any city in North America!"

On the eve of their show's third season, the longtime collaborators ponder a hypothetical: a *Schitt's Creek* reunion special, which they anticipate taking place some 20 years from now. Would the family still be stuck in their postmodern *Gilligan's Island* scenario?

"Moira would not still be in town," says O'Hara. "God, no. But for the success of the show, sure!"

"After what they've done to it, *Schitt's Creek* would be a destination to tell your readers about," says Eugene. "It has so much to offer." Indeed. —MICHAEL MARTIN

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BLAME CANADA: A LOOK BACK AT COMEDY'S FUNNIEST NORTHERN EXPORTS

1975: **Lorne Michaels** defects to New York City and produces the longest-running comedy ensemble show, *Saturday Night Live*.

1976: SCTV begins on CBC, starring a veritable who's who of hilarity, from **John Candy** to **Martin Short**.

1980: *Airplane!* goes down in history with **Leslie Nielsen** playing Dr. Rumack—don't call him Shirley!



1983: **Dan Aykroyd** trades places with Eddie Murphy.

1984: **Rick Moranis** busts ghosts (and eventually shrinks kids).

1989: *Kids in the Hall* hits American television, starring a whole batch of Canucks including **Dave Foley**, **Kevin McDonald**, and openly gay **Scott Thompson**.



1990: **Catherine O'Hara** sends Kevin McCallister to bed without dinner in *Home Alone*.

1991: **Phil Hartman** moves to Springfield, voicing huckster lawyer Lionel Hutz and pesca-sexual movie hunk Troy McClure on *The Simpsons*.

1994: **Jim Carrey** has a banner year with *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, *Dumb & Dumber*, and *The Mask*.



1995: Could **Matthew Perry** be any funnier on *Friends*?



1997: **Mike Myers** "yeah-baby"s his way to box office gold in *Austin Powers*.

1998: *Will & Grace*—the gay *I Love Lucy*—puts **Eric McCormack** on the map.

2003: **Will Arnett** fails at magic, chicken impressions, and life alongside fellow Canadian **Michael Cera** in *Arrested Development*.

2004: **Rachel McAdams** rules over the Plastics as queen bee-yotch Regina George in *Mean Girls*.



2005: **Cobie Smulders** lampoons the Canadian plight on *How I Met Your Mother*.

2007: **Seth Rogen** knocks up Katherine Heigl in, well, you know.



2016: **Samantha Bee** crucifies Trump on *Full Frontal*, her late-night hit.

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MONTRÉAL: LONG WEEKEND

72 HOURS IN THE WORLD'S
LARGEST FRANCOPHONE CITY
(AFTER PARIS)



THURSDAY NIGHT

Start your Montréal adventure with dinner at one of the coolest restaurants in town—**Montréal Plaza** (MontrealPlaza.com).

Chef Charles-Antoine Crête and partner Cheryl Johnson serve adventurous sharing plates in a spacious dining room adorned with old clocks, unrefined woodwork, and flower bouquets. The offbeat-but-homey ambiance complements the whimsical dishes, like cubed salmon tartar with puffed rice and nori, and a tangy smoked mackerel cream.

FRIDAY MORNING

Think of today as your culinary tour of Montréal. After last night's complex cuisine, keep your morning eats simple and classic.

The hipster hood of Mile End boasts strong, freshly brewed espresso at **Café Olimpico** (CafeOlimpico.com), conveniently located across the street from **St-Viateur** (StViateurBagel.com),

Montréal's 24-hour bagel institution.

For all you bacon-egg-and-cheese eaters accustomed to the boiled New York bagel, prepare yourselves for a different kind of doughy treat: St-Viateur's bread rings are half-boiled in honey water and then oven-baked to perfection (see page 85). Opt for the classic sesame or try the savory thyme—both are so delicious you won't even need cream cheese.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Walk off those carbs with a leisurely stroll through Little Italy toward **Marché Jean-Talon** (MarchesPublics-mtl.com). The open-air market is a daily destination for locals buying garden-fresh vegetables and pantry staples. Most stands have small sample plates; make sure to try the greenhouse-grown tomatoes sprinkled with sea salt. Toward the back of Jean-Talon you'll find **Atkins et Frères** (AtkinsEtFreres.com), a small fish counter selling maple-smoked salmon, an addictive snack that hits all the



RENA OHASHI (BOULEVARD ST-LAURENT AND CAKE). SUSAN MOSS (OLD MONTRÉAL). BRANDON PRESSER (RUE STE-CATHERINE). GREG GARRY (MAJESTIQUE AND AGRICOL)



Old Montréal



Le Majestique



Rue Ste-Catherine

right high notes like '90s Mariah.

Venture across town to **boulevard St-Laurent** near the famous **Schwartz's** (SchwartzsDeli.com)—Montréal's equivalent of New York's Katz's Delicatessen. After sampling some of the city's signature smoked meat, wander the street in search of secondhand threads at **Citizen Vintage** (CitizenVintage.com), **Annex Vintage** (AnnexVintage.com), and **CUL-DE-SAC** (CulDeSacMontreal.blogspot.com), located just blocks from each other and all reasonably priced (you're not in Brooklyn anymore!). You can score an '80s Levi's jacket and leather pants with enough money left over for a late-afternoon cocktail.

Shopping bags in hand, enter **Le Majestique** (RestobarMajestique.com) a few blocks west on St-Laurent. This neighborhood seafood bar has killer oyster deals during happy hour and boasts one of the best cocktails in the city: the Québec 22. It's a twist on the French 75, subbing sugar with local honey for an added touch

of earthiness and texture. You'll definitely order two.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Take a break from all of the eating and drinking, and enjoy an iconic drag performance at the famed **Cabaret Mado** (Mado.qc.ca) in the Gay Village. Tacky posters of musical divas adorn this veritable house of kitsch, where resident queen Mado Lamotte and her made-up minions command the stage with ridiculing humor—all in good jest, of course.

Work up an appetite laughing, and then book it to **Agrikol** (Agrikol.ca), a Haitian-inspired eatery co-owned by Arcade Fire's Win Butler and Régine Chassagne, located in Le Village. Get a forkful of the conch with plantains and the oxtail with pea sauce.

The Dark and Stormy—crafted with homemade ginger syrup—washes everything down smoothly. Agrikol's menu playfully reads "*on boit jusqu'à tard*" (we drink until late). Feel free to do the same.

SATURDAY MORNING

Set a leisurely pace for exploring the city's Vieux Port district, which transports the senses back to Europe with old stone architecture and French savoir faire. First, step into **Crew Collective & Café** (*Collective.Crew.co*) on rue St-Jacques. Yes, you're in the right place—this palatial bank from the 1920s has been renovated into a coffee shop and creative meeting space, offering fresh-brewed lattes and pastries best enjoyed in the open lounge, at private desks, or in the conference rooms, which can be rented by the hour.

Use your caffeine high to buzz along rue Notre-Dame Ouest, and wade deeper through the oldest parts of the city toward the **Basilique Notre Dame de Montréal** (*BasiliqueNotreDame.ca*). Originally the site of a small chapel, the church flaunts a prismatic interior that houses ornate, gilded carvings and lavishly colored wooden pillars.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Round out the educational portion of your trip with a visit to **The Phi Centre** (*Phi-Centre.com*), a renovated, high-tech 19th century building that houses visual and interactive exhibits and events. The space unites a community interested in multidisciplinary arts, engaging conversation about innovation and collaboration. Make sure you browse Phi's eccentric boutique, which sells offbeat trinkets and crass T-shirts any creative would appreciate.

SATURDAY EVENING

No trip is complete without a dinner and a show. Start the evening at **Liverpool House** (*JoeBeef.ca*), the baby sister of gastronomic powerhouse Joe Beef. Located right next door, and about half as decadent, the restaurant provides an impressive selection of elevated comfort food—signature dishes include lobster spaghetti and foie gras. Start with the oysters, and then mix and match entrées with friends to optimize tasting options.

Combining the Spanish words for

“light” and “rain,” **Luzia** is the current resident show in Montréal by imagineers **Cirque du Soleil** (*CirqueDuSoleil.com*). Like the view through a kaleidoscope, the performance melds the striking, vibrant colors of the jungle with the life-giving majesty of water. Set in an imaginary version of Mexico, the story follows dancers dressed like iridescent hummingbirds as they tumble through hoops and glide across a giant treadmill; a monarch butterfly's stage-spanning vermilion wings carry her across her migratory path from one end of the country to the other. From a clumsy clown to complex, multi-manned animal apparatuses, all life is celebrated through Cirque's signature acrobatics and touched by *Luzia*'s magic.

SUNDAY MORNING

Have an early, hearty brunch at the lively **Le Cartet** (*LeCartet.com*), where you can choose from a variety of savory and sweet options while mingling with new friends at the long wooden tables. Go for a mimosa and the “brunch de l'Atlantique,” a dish that features salmon two ways: smoked and in croquettes.

The final stop on your trip is one of the most important, a buffer between the end of your long weekend and the return to the rigors of everyday life. Once a ferryboat in the 1950s and '60s, **Bota Bota** (*BotaBota.ca*) is now Montréal's premier spa, still afloat and moored on the St. Lawrence River. The soft sound of flowing water from hot— and cold-water therapy pools and the gentle hiss of steam are the only sounds that permeate the entirety of this floating paradise. The strict no-talking policy is lifted only in the garden on the dock below, where a waterfall cascades into a cooling pool. Relax on the surrounding lounge furniture and take in the view of Moshe Safdie's iconic building-block **Habitat 67** (*Habitat67.com*), a housing complex constructed for the World's Fair.

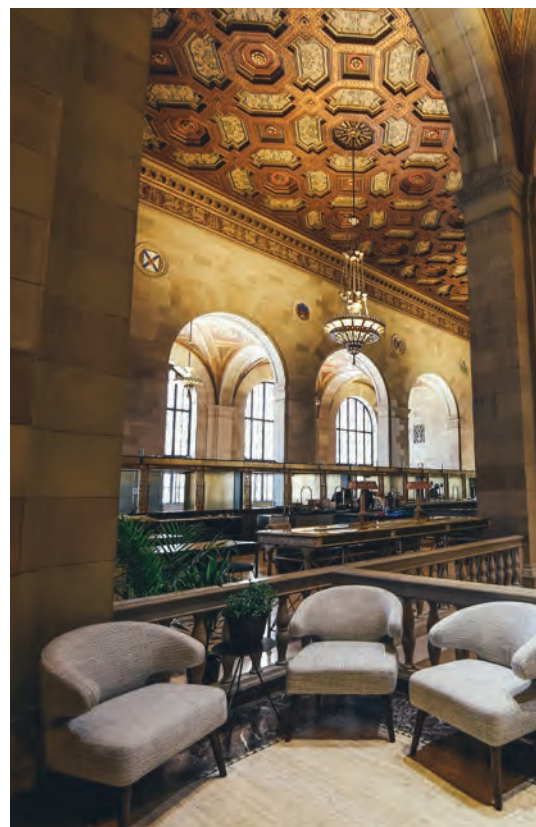
—DENNIS HINZMANN AND
JESSE STEINBACH



Habitat 67



Basilique Notre Dame de Montréal



COURTESY OF TOURISME MONTRÉAL (PHI CENTRE, HABITAT 67, AND LUZIA). COURTESY OF BOTA BOTA (BOTA BOTA). SHUTTERSTOCK (BASILIQUE NOTRE DAME DE MONTRÉAL). UNSPLASH/MICHEL LEGER (CREW COLLECTIVE & CAFÉ). GREG GARRY (BOULEVARD ST-LAURENT). COURTESY OF BRANDS (FASHION)



Phi Centre



Bota Bota



Crew Collective & Café



Luzia



Boulevard St-Laurent



RAD HOURANI

Born in Jordan and based in Montréal, Hourani has been on the forefront of genderless fashion for years, becoming the first Canadian designer invited to show his unisex couture at Paris Fashion Week. His main inspiration? Tilda Swinton, obvys.

RadHourani.com



PHILIPPE DUBUC

Dubuc's minimalist boutique epitomizes his streamlined, romantic vision of a man's wardrobe, which features twists on classic staples like laminated anoraks and textured suits—and includes a selection of niche fragrances.

DubucStyle.com

44. — 47.

4 MONTRÉAL-BASED FASHION LABELS YOU SHOULD KNOW



FRANK & OAK

This booming lifestyle brand now has 13 stores worldwide (including three in the U.S.), and its Mile End digs on rue St-Viateur carries stylish-yet-affordable menswear and grooming kits, and contains an espresso bar and a barber shop. FrankAndOak.com



DENIS GAGNON

Local celebrities love the bespectacled designer, and his flagship store is worth an express stop just to admire his outlandish creations. Róisín Murphy, take note.

DenisGagnon.ca



48.

COEUR DE PIRATE

THE FABULOUS, FEARLESS FRENCH-CANADIAN POP SINGER YOU NEED TO KNOW

Béatrice Martin never expected to come out this summer. “You don’t plan on coming out,” she says. “It’s something that happens because it has to happen.”

The 27-year-old Montréal singer—better known by her stage name, Coeur de Pirate—admits that the tragedy in Orlando, where 49 people at the LGBT club Pulse lost their lives, forced her to open up to her loved ones. “I realized a lot of the people that died that day had not come out to their families,” she says. “I needed to be straightforward. I wasn’t being honest in my marriage. I wasn’t being honest with my daughter. I didn’t want her to look at me as somebody who is miserable and who is not honest about her true life.”

With that candor came a fair share of pain, including a split with Alex Peyrat, her partner and the father of her child. “At this point I’ve seen it all,” she says. “I don’t regret coming out. You live and you learn.”

Martin’s 4-year-old daughter, Romy, appears in her video for “Drapeau Blanc,” a track that she says marks a shift in her music. “I didn’t want to do something too complicated,” she explains. “This was the first song in which I really didn’t talk

about love or broken love. It was about motherhood, and I wanted to go in a sophisticated, clean, new direction.”

A celebrated pop sensation in her homeland and in France—she sings primarily in French, but her recent single “Carry On” spent 11 consecutive weeks at number one on the Canadian top 40—Martin now finds herself at a crossroads. She describes recording *Roses*, her acclaimed third studio album (and U.S. debut), as her “growing up,” and looks forward to telling more personal stories with her songwriting.

“I get to draw a narrative that’s not so heteronormative,” she says. (Upon closer reading, her 2009 hit “Commes des Enfants” could be interpreted as a tale of a woman’s crush on another woman while in a relationship with a man.)

Her newfound frankness has also proved a boon for her fans. “I’m always happy when artists come out as queer—that means there are more of these stories out there,” she says. “Fans will write me and say, ‘I got to talk to my parents, and I mentioned you, and it was important because they knew you—that helped,’ ” she says. “It gives another sense of purpose to what you do.” —MICHAEL LAMBERT

49. — 62.

SARA QUIN’S ROAD TRIP PLAYLIST

The singer-songwriter—and one half of the pop duo **Tegan and Sara**—chooses her current favorite tracks by fellow Canadians.

“You’re the One” Kaytranada (feat. Syd)

“This electronic record is one of my top albums of the year. This song specifically—and Syd’s voice—feels melancholy and haunting.”

“Slipping Away” DIANA

“There is something both modern and nostalgic about this song. I find it really easy to put on repeat.”

“The Hollow Sound of the Morning Chimes” TOPS

“It’s slightly retro but surprisingly affecting and addictive.”

“Let Me Out” Sean Nicholas Savage

“It reminds me a bit of Peter Dinklage or something that wouldn’t have been out of place on an ’80s film soundtrack.”

“Begin Again” (HEALTH Remix) Purity Ring

“They’re really leading the pack on production. I love the fresh sounds.”

“Hungry” White Lung

“I think this band is one of our country’s best, with ridiculously strong vocals. They are so unafraid of their strength.”

“Miniskirt” Braids

“I love a song that can be a power punch of politics while remaining still smooth and meditative.”

“Sila” A Tribe Called Red (feat. Tanya Tagaq)

“I can’t think of anything that sounds like this track. It’s insane and fierce!”

“My Love” (Remix) Majid Jordan (feat. Drake)

“So hip it hurts.”



“Warm Blood” Carly Rae Jepsen

“*E.MOTION* was a really solid album, but I found myself gravitating back to this track with production by Rostam. It’s eerie but slick.”

“Anxiety” Preoccupations

“It’s a little opaque at first, but the melodies and words sink in hard after a few listens.”

“Eraser” METZ

“This brings me back to my punk rock days; I can imagine having my ears ripped up by hearing this song live.”

“VV Violence” Jessy Lanza

“I can’t get enough of this one. It’s bouncy and odd. The melodies are really strong, and I like the short phrasings—they’re almost spoken-word.”

ROAD TRIP:

ONE WEEK IN NEWFOUNDLAND

There's an old saying in Canada's easternmost province: "In heaven, how do you tell the difference between a Newfoundlander and everyone else? The Newfoundlander wants to go home."

Though it may sound a bit precious, Newfoundlanders take great pride in their home—a land that, until 1949, was its own dominion and still feels markedly different from the rest of Canada. Its salt-of-the-earth locals are not only proud to be the descendants of those who battled the elements; they're proud to lay claim to a realm of unarguable beauty. After a week of driving through Newfoundland, you'll find that, in fact, you're already in heaven. —**BRANDON PRESSER**

DAY 1: ST. JOHN'S

Start the morning by exploring **Cape Spear**, the place where North America receives its first ray of sunlight, and feel the unforgiving weather coming off the Atlantic.

For grub, hit up the inlet of Quidi Vidi at the adorably appointed **Mallard Cottage** (MallardCottage.ca). Its take-away box of brunch desserts is practically tailor-made for road trips. Then, wash it down with a blue-bottled Iceberg ale at the **Quidi Vidi Brewery** (QuidiVidiBrewery.ca) across the street.

In the afternoon, give your journey a bit of context by walking through **The Rooms** (TheRooms.ca), a veritable Wikipedia of Newfoundland's history annotated by artifacts, dioramas, and short films. (Don't miss the view of the city from the top floor.) For dinner, reserve a table at **The Merchant Tavern** (TheMerchantTavern.ca) to gorge on the raw bar and inventive seafood favorites.

DAY 2: THE IRISH LOOP

The Avalon Peninsula juts out beyond the rest of the island of Newfoundland like eager fingers reaching for Europe. The Irish were the first to establish

permanent so-called "outposts" in this area, in the second half of the 18th century, and today, an eponymous 160-mile circle showcases its friendly fishing villages set among some of Canada's most stunning scenery.

Link up with **Stan Cook** (StanCook.ca) for a "go and tow" kayaking tour through a hidden fjord, and then travel down to Ferryland for a gourmet **picnic** (LighthousePicnics.ca) along the grassy bluff. Wind in and out of the faraway fishing communities, and before rolling back into the capital in the evening, loop through scenic Petty Harbour to chow down on fish and chips at **Chafe's Landing** (ChafesLanding.com).

DAY 3: ST. JOHN'S TO THE BONAVISTA PENINSULA

Meet Lori McCarthy of **Cod Sounds** (CodSounds.ca) for a morning of foraging along the beaches and fields of Trinity Bay. She is the behind-the-scenes pro who sustainably delivers wild ingredients to the region's top chefs. Search for everything from cockles and sea urchin to wild blueberries and mint, and then boil them up beachside as McCarthy brings



Avalon Peninsula



the morning's ingredients together for a delicious lunch.

Hit the road again, belly full, for the town of **Trinity**, famously featured in the film *The Shipping News*. Once a shipbuilding hub, the town's expert craftsmen added flourishes to its seaside homes, which lend the community its enduring

storybook charm. Unpack at **Artisan Inn** (TrinityVacations.com), a family-run cluster of historical rooms and cottages. You should have a bit of time to meander through the local village before indulging in a glass of sundowner wine and an impeccably prepared cod dinner at Artisan's restaurant, **Twine Loft**.



Brigus White House, Avalon

DAY 4: TRINITY

Enjoy breakfast and scenic views from your wooden craftsman cottage, then hike the **Skerwink Trail**—three miles of manicured track that traces cliffs of turreted granite, winds through forested patches of tuckamore, and passes vistas where humpbacks breach in the distance. Afterward, reward yourself with a pint of Baycation Blonde at the always-social **Port Rexton Brewing Company** (PortRextonBrewing.com).

DAY 5: BONAVISTA

Start making tracks toward the tip of the Bonavista Peninsula, stopping first in Elliston for up-close birdwatching at the aptly named **Puffin Site**, before having a look at the **John C. Crosbie Sealers Interpretation Centre** (HomeFromTheSea.ca) to fully appreciate the

hardships the locals endured supplying London its lamp oil throughout the 19th century.

At the tip of the peninsula is the **Cape Bonavista Lighthouse**, a hot spot for Instagramming, short coastal walks, and whale watching. Do dinner early at **Bonavista Social Club** (BonavistaSocialClub.com) in Upper Amherst Cove. Built on owners Katie and Shane Hayes's rural property, the small restaurant promises garden-grown greens, wood-fired pizzas, fresh moose burgers, and views of fin-flipping whales in the bay at sunset. Bonus: Katie's father makes all of the furniture and wooden dishware by hand.

DAY 6: BONAVISTA PENINSULA TO ST. JOHN'S

If you didn't manage to spot any whales from the shoreline,



Cod Sounds



hop aboard a Zodiac tour by **Sea of Whales Adventures** (SeaOfWhales.com) for an up-close experience with these gentle beasts as they glide through the deep and puff plumes of mist at the surface. On your way back to St. John's, it's well worth dipping off the highway to poke your nose around a few of the lesser-known outposts, like **Tickle Cove**, with its ochre cliffs and gravity-defying sea arch.

For dinner in the capital,

make a toast to your incredible week with a prix fixe experience at **Raymonds** (RaymondsRestaurant.com), often lauded as Canada's best restaurant since its inception in 2010. A sincere passion for the plate comes through in every dish—from the cod with a pork reduction sauce to the savory chunks of PEI beef tartare—and sommelier Jeremy Bonia (see *Liquidity*, page 18) pairs his wines in a manner that's both playful and informative. ■

85.

FOGO ISLAND INN

This is a story of iconography, a story of sustainability so profound that it's shifting Canada's center of gravity away from its cities by highlighting the country's most unexpected natural resource—its people.

Fogo Island is at the end of the world: a rocky outcrop in the North Atlantic, loosely tethered to Newfoundland by a bumpy ferry. It's so far-flung that the Flat Earth Society believes it to be one of the four corners of the two-dimensional planet—warning signs are duly posted alerting travelers to the doom that lies ahead.

But recently, Fogo has seen a surge in visitors, many of whom are bypassing the more obvious destinations in Maritime Canada. They're coming to stand in front of **Fogo Island Inn** (*FogoIslandInn.ca*), a structure so striking and unexpected—a construction that will take its place in the architectural annals alongside the Sydney Opera House—that it begs to be witnessed in real life.

While the iconic facade ignites both the imagination and interest in the destination, it's not the bones of the inn but its soul that has travelers talking about their experiences on Fogo in hushed tones.

The brainchild of the Shorefast Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to maintaining the vitality of the island's small communities through adaptive social enterprise, Fogo Island

Inn harnesses the power of geotourism to accentuate the unique attributes of the destination and create buoyancy in a spiraling fishing economy.

The inn provides jobs to a legion of employees, all of whom come from tightly knit communities whose provenance is discernable by the twangs in their Newfie brogue. But more critically, the inn acts as an organic conduit between visitors and locals.

Your first morning on the property includes a pairing with a community member who guides you around the island without a script or an agenda—just a sense of exploration and pride in their salty home. Boat rides, hikes, fishing excursions, and gourmet meals showcasing local seafood are also on offer, further cracking the secret code of authentic experiences, human connections, and the serendipity that all modern travelers crave.

There's something strange that happens when you prepare to depart: It might be the only time in your travels that you'll ever find yourself hugging the concierge and front-desk managers as you leave.

And when you drive away, peering through the rearview mirror at the strange white structure and its toothpick legs, you'll realize it's the new friendships forged that will leave the indelible mark in your memory.

—BRANDON PRESSER



COURTESY OF BRANDON PRESSER. COURTESY OF FOGO ISLAND INN (DINING ROOM)



86.

SAINT-PIERRE & MIQUELON



Decidedly *not* Canada, this geographical anomaly drifts just a short one-hour boat ride off the coast of Newfoundland. After swapping hands between the British and French for several centuries,

the island was reclaimed by the French, who erected a permanent settlement in 1816 to better lay claim to the vast fishing banks offshore. A little slice of Europe in North America (where, yes, euros are used), it was instrumental in the smuggling of booze from Canada to the United States during Prohibition. Its colorful flag represents explorer Jacques Cartier's vessel and the flags of the Basque, Breton, and Norman citizens who first established the present-day collectivity.

87.

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Located in Gatineau, Québec, across the river from the Canadian parliament in Ottawa, this museum is a striking masterpiece by aboriginal architect Douglas Cardinal. The swooshing design mimics the bedrock of the Canadian Shield and remains without oblique angles throughout, as the devil is thought to live in the corners, according to local lore. Not to be missed is the First Peoples Hall, which features tens of thousands of years of aboriginal achievements, as well as the world's oldest hockey stick. Seriously. (HistoryMuseum.ca)



88.

CANADA'S CASTLE HOTELS

The Canadian Pacific Railway began in the early 1880s. A necklace of luxurious castle-clad hotels were constructed just a couple of years later when railway grade levels in the Rockies were deemed too steep for dining service. The Banff Springs Hotel and the Château Lake Louise—both in Alberta—are perennial faves, but the Château Frontenac in Québec City marked the advent of luxury travel in Canada and is the crowning achievement of the collection, united under the Fairmont name as of 1990.



89. — 93.

CANADIAN POP DIVAS, RANKED



5. AVRIL LAVIGNE

In the early '00s, this petite pop-rocker was ahead of the curve with genderless fashion—those neckties! We weren't thrilled when the "Sk8er Boi" singer hooked up with Nickelback's Chad Kroeger, but they've since split, so we won't be h8ers.

Our top track: "Complicated"

Underrated track: "Bad Girl"



4. ALANIS MORISSETTE

The female answer to '90s male grunge, Morissette emerged as a pop poet with her breakout woman-scorned anthem "You Oughta Know." Since then, she's crooned about everything from irony to India.

Our top track: "Your House (Forgive Me Love)"

Underrated track: "Crazy" (Seal cover)



3. CARLY RAE JEPSEN

Is it too soon for the "Call Me Maybe" songstress to rank so high on our list? Not in the wake of 2015's *E.MO.TION*, a masterwork of '90s-inspired up-tempo fun. Her latest EP, *Side B*, is just the bubblegum on top.

Our top track: "This Kiss"

Underrated track: "Roses"



2. SHANIA TWAIN

The best-selling female artist in the history of country music isn't from the American South but rather hails from the North—northern Ontario! After a global tour and a Vegas residency, she's whipping up her fifth studio album—and has indeed impressed us much.

Our top track: "Forever and For Always"

Underrated track: "What Made You Say That"



1. CÉLINE DION

As if there were a contest. The titanic vocal powerhouse behind one of the most celebrated songs in history ("My Heart Will Go On") is all by herself at the top, and that's the way it is. (Sorry.)

Our top track: "It's All Coming Back to Me Now"

Underrated track: "On Ne Change Pas"

94.

CURLING: ALL THE BASICS, BITCHES

WHAT IN THE H-E-DOUBLE-HOCKEY-STICKS IS THIS NATIONAL SPORT?



When it comes to winter sports, Canadians are proud of their athletic prowess because, well, Céline Dion is a slight woman and can't shoulder *all* the national pride. Hockey obviously comes to mind as the great Canadian pastime, but curling is...a thing, too. A baffling, incredibly popular Canadian thing.

A curling highlight reel is an oxymoron. There's nothing that needs to be highlighted, nothing noteworthy, nothing different from clip to clip except maybe (maybe?) the people. These "highlights" appear to be nothing but a lot of screaming while someone wearing a neon tracksuit furiously sweeps—basically Sunday afternoon with your alcoholic spinster aunt.

And yet Canada loves it some curling. Curling's origins can be traced back to Scotland in the 1500s, when guiding stones across the ice was the best thing going, but today in always-hip Canada it's as popular as it was 500 years ago.

But what exactly *is* curling? A quick Google search will compare it to any number of boring games—shuffleboard, boules, chess—but set on ice! What made someone think, *Hey, you know what would make this game better? Ice!? Let's cool things down, put on a coat, and yell out our feelings.* But it seems like Canadians do that for pretty much everything, eh?

95.

DEGRASSI



Canada's teen soap *Degrassi* is responsible for more than just jump-starting Drake's career. It's been the ultimate after-school special since the '80s, serving all the overdramatic juicy plotlines our little hormonal hearts could handle.

The show has also been a constant display of diversity, including stories of LGBT teens long before it was the norm for network television. Its first gay character was Archie's older brother, Glen, who was disowned by their parents when he came out in a 1998 episode. Since then, we've seen Marco fall in love with Dylan in what was a life-changing moment for

AP (LAVIGNE, MORISSETTE, JEPSEN, TWAIN, AND DION); SHUTTERSTOCK (CURLING, AND CANADA FLAG T-SHIRT)

96. — 103.

WEIRD PLACE NAMES

Believe it or not, all of the following places are real destinations in Canada.

Climax, Saskatchewan
Blow Me Down, Newfoundland
Crotch Lake, Ontario
Dildo, Newfoundland
Punkeydoodles
Corners, Ontario
Spuzzum, B.C.
Balls Creek, Nova Scotia
Finger, Manitoba



104.

THE HANDMAID'S TALE

Although *Anne of Green Gables* is Canada's canonical piece of literature, *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood, represents the new guard of Canadian classics. Atwood paints her dystopian worlds with such vivid brushstrokes that the descriptors of fictional Gilead are as compelling as the plot points themselves. Atwood's deftly drawn story will come to life once again in early 2017 as a series on Hulu. And with Elisabeth Moss starring as heroine Offred, it's sure to be a success.



countless millennial viewers. Some of our other favorite queer characters include Paige, the popular bi mean girl; Riley, the jock who shocks everyone when he comes out as gay; and Adam, the trans kid who transferred to Degraasi after being bullied at his last school. It's also had some noteworthy cameos from the likes of Alanis Morissette and Chaz Bono.



105. — 114.

CITIZENSHIP QUIZ!

Presidential hopeful Donald Trump promised "extreme vetting" for foreign nationals coming into the United States. But what about Americans who want to leave? Let's face it—imagining the Don in the Oval Office is scary enough; living through it is next-level trauma.

It's no wonder, then, that so many Americans joke (or not) about moving to Canada. But before you pick out the most flattering hockey jersey and practice your ehs, maybe you too should vet yourself before you wreck yourself, Canada-style.

The Juno Awards are the Canadian version of:

- a) the Oscars
- b) the Emmys
- c) the Grammys
- d) the Tonys

Answer: C. They are Canada's music awards. Céline Dion has 20.

Which sport was invented in Canada?

- a) baseball
- b) basketball
- c) volleyball
- d) soccer

Answer: B. Basketball was invented by Ontarian James Naismith in 1891.

Canada's first female head of state took office in:

- a) 1993
- b) 1998
- c) 2009
- d) Never

Answer: A. Kim Campbell served as the 19th prime minister of Canada in 1993 for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Canada legalized same-sex marriage how many years before America?

- a) 1
- b) 4
- c) 7
- d) 10

Answer: D. Same-sex marriage was legalized on July 20, 2005, a full 10 years before the U.S. followed suit.



Which constitutional amendment does not exist in Canada?

- a) the right to bear arms
- b) the right to fox arms
- c) the right to deer arms
- d) the right to moose arms

Answer: None of them—they are all ridiculous.



The northernmost permanent settlement in the world is located in the Canadian territory of Nunavut and is called:

- a) Help
- b) Alert
- c) Warning
- d) Caution

Answer: B. Alert is located above the 82nd parallel.

Canada can lay claim to which obscure invention?

- a) the tiny pencil used for mini-golf scorekeeping
- b) the little plastic prong that keeps pizza from sticking to the delivery box
- c) the hard cup that slides into a jockstrap
- d) the Swiffer

Answer: C. You're welcome.

Canada's national animal is:

- a) the beaver
- b) the loon
- c) the walrus
- d) Sasquatch

Answer: A. Appearing on the flag of the Hudson Bay Company as early as 1678, the beaver was admired for its dam-building and coveted for its pelt.



Hockey is Canada's official winter sport. What is Canada's official summer sport?

- a) fishing
- b) basket-weaving
- c) apologizing
- d) lacrosse

Answer: D. Created by the aboriginal nations in present-day Canada, lacrosse was later standardized by European immigrants.

How many points are there on the Canadian maple leaf?

- a) 7
- b) 9
- c) 11
- d) 15

Answer: C. 11 points.





115. — 122.

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Both quaint and wild, Vancouver Island is the antidote to Canada's gridiron. Its largest city, Victoria, is mild in climate but less rainy than nearby (and roughly equidistant) Vancouver and Seattle. British Columbia's quiet capital is a wonderful weekend getaway, with a walkable—but even better, bikeable—downtown packed with restaurants, pubs, and sightseeing.

Tofino, up the island's western shoreline, is a remote and densely forested town at the edge of the Clayoquot Sound. There's abundant recreational fishing, birding, plenty of surfing spots, and more fresh air than you can shake a sea lion at. It's the ideal place to unwind and forget there's a world beyond the waves. Here's how to navigate it.

—MATTHEW BREEN



T'ashii Paddle School, Tofino

THE BUTCHART GARDENS

In 1904, a cement tycoon's wife with a serious green thumb designed a garden to beautify the hollowed-out quarry on their estate, hosting friends and family for tea. The 55 acres of gardens are now a national historic site—and you can still come for a cup of Earl Grey. In spring the decorative gardens overflow with acres of blooming reds, purples, and pinks, from *Arabis* to *Viola*. ButchartGardens.com

THE PEDALER

The best way to view Victoria may be from the seat of a city cruiser bicycle, and the Pedaler is there to outfit you with some wheels—or better yet, guide you around town, stopping at castles, seaside suburbs, and funky neighborhoods. Two standout tours are the “Eat. Drink. Pedal.” and “Hoppy Hour,” which make stops to sample farm-to-table and craft-beer highlights—and maybe an artisanal ice cream joint too. ThePedaler.ca

TOFINO

WICKANINNISH INN

Among the many highlights at this soothing Relais & Chateaux property: the incredible, 240-degree view of the Pacific Ocean from surfer-paradise Chesterman Beach, and the giant soaker tub in every room with floor-to-ceiling picture window views of the sea. The rustic-yet-refined inn's two contemporary buildings are artfully integrated into the old-growth cedar forests, housing individually appointed rooms and suites, an intimate spa, and premier dining experience Pointe

Restaurant (with panoramic ocean views). WickInn.com

T'ASHII PADDLE SCHOOL

Tofino lies on the traditional territory of the Tla-o-qui-aht people, and recent generations of both aboriginal and non-native locals have taken the rediscovery of First Nations traditions to heart. Tsimka Martin, co-owner of the T'ashii Paddle School, guides visitors on a tailored tour through the forests of Chesterman Beach, exploring the old-growth ecosystem. TofinoPaddle.com

HOT SPRINGS COVE ADVENTURE

The best way to reach this natural hot spring—that burbles out of the forest into small pools before splashing down to the Sydney Inlet—is by boat. Bring a swimsuit and good walking shoes for the path meandering several miles through the forest; there are changing cabins at the end of the boardwalk before you scramble over some boulders to the hot pools. Book passage at Jamie's Whaling Station for a 6½-hour adventure, which includes whale, otter, seal, and sea lion spotting from a 29-foot Zodiac vessel. Jamies.com

WOLF IN THE FOG

Chef-owner Nick Nutting creates an assortment of seasonal and sometimes-foraged plates and cocktails (try the cedar-infused-rye Manhattan) that feel inventive but not overwrought. Go for the signature dish, the potato-crusted oyster with apple and truffle, and save room for the Moroccan spiced octopus. Most importantly: Book ahead. WolfInTheFog.com

VICTORIA

THE FAIRMONT EMPRESS HOTEL

With an unparalleled vantage point over Victoria's Inner Harbour—and a close-up view of the provincial parliament building—this grande dame is the symbol of the city itself. Established in 1908, the Empress was built by the Canadian Pacific Railroad during the rise of luxury train travel across the country (see page 62). Today it's undergoing a \$30 million renovation (to be completed May 2017) ushering in new restaurants and stylish refurbishments to its 464 rooms and suites. Don't miss afternoon tea in the Lobby Lounge—one of the most coveted hotel experiences for Canadians. Fairmont.com/Empress



Fairmont Empress Hotel

123. — 136.

WEST QUEEN WEST

A WALK THROUGH TORONTO'S CREATIVE CORE

Away from the corporate hustle and imposing glass towers of downtown, Toronto's west end is where the real action happens. West Queen West, as locals have dubbed it, is the lesser-explored stretch of the city's main shopping thoroughfare. It remains relatively spared from mega-chain stores while catering to a gayer, art-savvier population.

Start your day at the **Gladstone Hotel** (GladstoneHotel.com), a historic landmark and cultural center where you can

enjoy a spot of tea—with a scone—while browsing cutting-edge installations on the upper floors.

More eye candy awaits as you head east toward Ossington Avenue. Check out the nearby **Twist Gallery** (TwistGallery.ca)—a 5,000-square-foot converted loft space with arched windows and exposed wooden beams—showcasing noteworthy local photographers and art events.

Down a few blocks, the **Stephen Bulger Gallery** (BulgerGallery.com) is one of



DandyLion





The Drake

the most respected photography showrooms in the country. Recent exhibits have included works by Joel Meyerowitz and Vivian Maier, and Bulger also hosts free film screenings every Saturday in their 50-seat projection room and bar, **Camera**.

For some retail therapy, start with **In Abstracto** (InAbstracto.wordpress.com), a lesbian-run design store with a selection of mid-century furniture and jewelry by independent artisans. **Style Garage** (StyleGarage.com) has industrial-chic homeware displayed throughout its two levels, and ships anything worldwide, from custom upholstery and factory chairs to lush sectionals by local interiors brand Gus Modern.

Bookworms unite at the diminutive **Weekend Variety**, an indie books-and-art shop owned by a former New York publisher. The dollhouse-like space has curated reads, collectible prints, and highly giftable stationery. Look out for the Queer Scout stickers and Toronto-based illustrator Stephanie Cheng's hilarious "Hotline Bling"—inspired pins.

Spurge on some made-in-Toronto menswear at **Annie Aime** (Shop.AnnieAime.com), which stocks Outclass and Kovalum, two labels nearly impossible to find

stateside, then raid the racks at **I Miss You** for secondhand designer steals and vintage accessories. Around the corner, **Gravity Pope** (GravityPope.com) is known as the most sophisticated shoe store in Toronto. It's tastefully furnished with Louis XVI-style commodes, rococo chandeliers, and a stunning glass-and-brass 1930s Deco staircase, all sourced from an old movie theater in Buenos Aires.

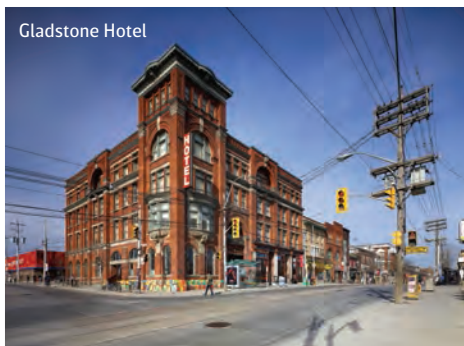
For lunch, head across the avenue to **Union** (Union72.ca), a new and noteworthy farm-to-table bistro with a beer garden. Discerning diners should hit up veggie-centric **Dandyion** (RestaurantDandyion.com), where veteran chef Jay



Annie Aime



In Abstracto



Gladstone Hotel

Carter serves modern French cuisine. The tiny open-brick space, which was entirely refurbished by Carter and his father to accommodate just 30 seats, ranks sixth in this year's coveted Canada's 100 Best Restaurants.

West Queen West is also a booming nightlife hub. Hole-in-the-wall LGBT resto-bar **The Beaver** (TheBeaverToronto.com) has DJ sets, dress-up karaoke, and irreverent Friday theme nights like "Puppy Love" geared toward twinks and their daddies. **The Drake** (TheDrakeHotel.ca),



Style Garage

a boutique hotel (no relation to the T-dot-born rapper), houses a concert venue in its basement, the Drake Underground. Before heading home, stop by its adjacent concept store (DrakeGeneralStore.ca)—the best spot to pick up last-minute quirky Canadian memorabilia such as Blue Jays baseball shirts (written in Japanese) and Yukon-themed dinnerware.

— **JULIEN SAUVALLE**



Twist Gallery

DAVID SUTCLIFFE

IN CONVERSATION WITH OUR CANADIAN CRUSH

Born and raised in Canada, Sutcliffe is best known for playing Christopher, the father of Rory Gilmore (Alexis Bledel) on the hit show *Gilmore Girls*, which, after a nine-year hiatus, returns this month for a final installment of episodes (Netflix will premiere four new 90-minute "chapters" on November 25). We caught up with the actor, who shed some light on the return of the series and offered his perspective on the differences between Canada and the United States. —**BRANDON PRESSER**

Luke and Lorelai's will-they-won't-they arc bookended the show. What were your hopes for Christopher during the original series?

Amy Sherman-Palladino, the showrunner, made it very clear to me when I started that Christopher always wanted to get back together with Lorelai [Lauren Graham]. That was the super-objective throughout the series, but from a fan's perspective, I was, to be honest, always sort of "team Luke." A lot of people hated Christopher, but for kids from broken homes—like Rory—there's always a fantasy of their parents getting back together. I always felt, however, that it was

doomed—and it was never Amy's intention anyway.

But you and Lorelai had such undeniable chemistry!

Oh, definitely. Lauren and I had great chemistry. We liked each other a lot. Christopher was always set up as this unreliable guy, but he was certainly charming and lovable in his own way. On some level I always felt like he was trying to right a wrong from the past, but while noble, it actually wasn't a good motivation. Sometimes you love someone, and they love you, but you're not meant to be together. I kind of felt that way with Christopher and Lorelai.

How do you feel about Christopher in these new episodes?

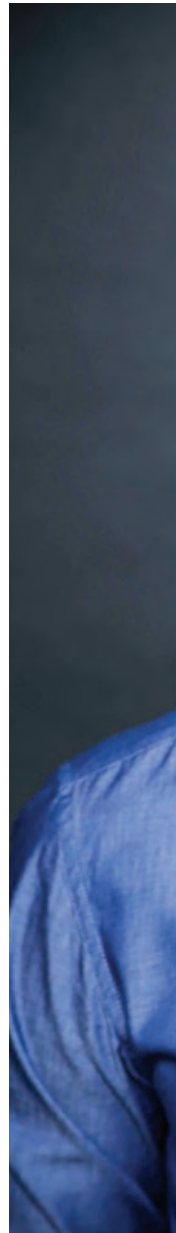
Everything that happens with him feels right. He's a guy with a lot of regrets and sadness, and he has a shadow that always seems to get the best of him. When we meet him in these new episodes, I think he's happy and settled in his life, which happens as we get older, right? Life doesn't always go the way you wanted, but you decide it's OK. That's the place he's in, but there's always longing and what-ifs.

How did Rory's Ivy League upbringing inform your perspective of America?

At this point I know enough about Ivy League universities to understand that they have a very different feeling than Canada's top schools. Elitism in America seems generally accepted as part of the culture, and in the current political climate there's a lot of pushback against it. I find Americans are more inclined to celebrate those who are extremely wealthy and extremely successful. Canadians are uncomfortable with that concept. America was founded on individual liberty, whereas Canada is more about community—more about "being in this together."

Ultimately it's multiculturalism versus the melting pot. Canada's multiculturalism means: "Come into our country, bring your culture and religion, and do your thing." America's melting pot is a historical attitude: "Come to our country, this is what we're like, so join on in." It's a different value system that, like any value system and political system, has its pluses and minuses.

Do you think Americans assume that Canadians are the same as them?



138.—142.

CANADIAN BACON

Two Justins, two Ryans, and an Aubrey (who?). Rating our favorite man meat from across the border.

JUSTIN TRUDEAU
The Hunky Politico

NIPPLE COUNT:
★★★

Not since JFK have we seen a head of state with such celebrity swagger; Trudeau loves photobombing topless



and doing handstands in deep Vs. (Google it.)

GAY FAN BASE: ★★★★★

This year Trudeau became the first Canadian PM to march in a Pride parade. He also publicly apologized to gay Canadians for their persecution throughout history. Homo Electus!

SENSE OF STYLE: ★★★

We've seen Trudeau in everything from a wet suit to a Canadian tuxedo—got to love a world leader in denim.

SIZZLE SCORE: 11/15

JUSTIN BIEBER
The Pop Sensation

NIPPLE COUNT: ★★★★★

Biebs has given the paparazzi some serious northern expo-

sure. We've seen the southern bits too, proving he hides a decent chunk in his CK trunks.

GAY FAN BASE: ★★★★★

Aside from the up-tempo megahit "Sorry," he hasn't done a whole lot to earn our love.

SENSE OF STYLE: ★

High-fashion designers love Bieber for his pop icon status, but his weird hair experiments, oversize Ts, and drop-crotch pants aren't exactly our cup of tea.

SIZZLE SCORE: 9/15



DRAKE
The Sensitive Rapper

NIPPLE COUNT: ★★

Not enough! Aside from taking poolside selfies and performing in tank tops, Drake mostly keeps everything under wraps.

GAY FAN BASE: ★★★★★

It's impossible to go to a gay club without grinding to one of his hits, from "One Dance" to Rihanna's summer jam "Work." And his real name is Aubrey—how cute is that?

SENSE OF STYLE: ★★★★★

His geeky, sweatpanted moves in





Oh, definitely. But there's no question that America and Canada are very, very different—obviously there are similarities, but Americans' relationship to their mythology is very different from ours. Canadians make fun of American nationalism, but I find Canadians just as nationalistic—and in some ways even more so than Americans—and part of that is feeling more bound together as a smaller nation and being a bit of an underdog on the international stage.

Americans are the richest, loudest country in the world, and they're proud of it. And loud. Did I mention loud? These are, of course, all stereotypes, but there's a truth to it. Canadians are a little more reserved and more conservative—and I don't mean that in the political sense. Being under the Queen, we're connected to Great Britain and have a certain amount of humility that Americans don't possess.

What are Americans' reactions when you tell them you're from Canada?
People are like, "I love Canadians—you guys are so nice!" You should go to a hockey game sometime and see how nice we *really* are. ■

143.—147.

CANADA'S FINEST FILMMAKERS

DAVID CRONENBERG

Cronenberg went full-blown sci-fi in *The Fly*, explored violent fetishism in *Crash*, and excavated new psychic depths in *Cosmopolis*. Few directors make us squirm like he does.



The must-watch:
Videodrome

DENIS VILLENEUVE

Villeneuve broke through in 2010 when his visceral *Incendies* grabbed Oscar's attention and viewers' throats. This month, he releases *The Arrival*, with Amy Adams, while also working on the forthcoming *Blade Runner* sequel.



The must-watch:
Incendies

SARAH POLLEY

One of the industry's foremost female filmmakers, this actor-turned-maestro has shown great empathy toward her subjects, whether they're a fictional aging couple (*Away From Her*) or Polley's own family (the acclaimed documentary *Stories We Tell*).



The must-watch: *Stories We Tell*

XAVIER DOLAN

He's been called everything from a visionary to French-language cinema's enfant terrible.



Now, with his first film in English—the star-studded *The Death and Life of John F. Donovan*—he's poised to invade Hollywood.

The must-watch:
Laurence Anyways

JAMES CAMERON

Although often considered a serial recycler of clichés, Cameron has been at the helm of four of history's most thrilling action epics: *Avatar*, *Titanic*, *Aliens*, and *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*.



The must-watch: *Aliens*

ERIC CHARBONNEAU/INVISION FOR LIONSGATE / AP IMAGES (GOSLING), ERIC CHARBONNEAU/INVISION FOR TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX HOME ENTERTAINMENT/AP IMAGES (REYNOLDS)

"Hotline Bling" made a fun Halloween costume and sparked Drizzy's own menswear line.

SIZZLE SCORE: 10/15

RYAN REYNOLDS
The Action Hero

NIPPLE COUNT: ★★★★★

Reynolds isn't skin-shy: His filmography reads like a listicle of the best shirtless scenes in recent Hollywood memory.



GAY FAN BASE: ★★★★★
See previous.

SENSE OF STYLE: ★★★★★
Elegant on and off the camera, he's a regular on best-dressed lists, bolstered by his Vogue-muse wife, Blake Lively.

SIZZLE SCORE: 12/15

RYAN GOSLING
The Hollywood Darling

The Ontario native likes to tease us with bulging tighty-whities in his films, and who can forget that *Crazy, Stupid, Love* locker room scene in which Gosling flaunts his Ryan Junior to Steve Carell?

GAY FAN BASE: ★★★★★



We've loved him since *The Mickey Mouse Club*, but Gosling's fame exploded after his post-workout body turned the actor into the go-to guy for feminist memes and hipster coloring books.

SENSE OF STYLE:
★★★★★

He's mastered casual chic, launched the pajama-suit trend, and counts Gucci as one of his favorite brands. That's gay enough, right?

SIZZLE SCORE: 13/15

➔ **WINNER**



148.

NORTH OF NORTH

EXPLORING CANADA'S NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

For hundreds of years, the region known as the Northwest Territories was the swath of Canada's seemingly infinite land unclaimed by the emerging colonies. And each year its size would decrease slightly as the European imperialists gobbled up more land in the name of their respective crowns. When modern-day Canada began to take shape, the territories were banished

beyond the 60th parallel—a line that still swooshes across the map to this day—until finally, in 1999, the land was once again recarved when the territory of Nunavut splintered off from the Northwest, helping to further distinguish the native lines of the Inuit.

The Northwest Territories could hardly be deemed the “leftovers” anymore, proffering a strong aboriginal

spirit among the indigenous Dene and the truest sense of *north* found anywhere on the planet.

The capital, Yellowknife, is a strange place of opposites, bearing no resemblance to what it may seem like on paper. A sleepy township by any other standard of measurement (19,000 people on a good day), it's considered a roaring hive of activity in the Northwest Territories, where the total population is astonishingly sparse (around 44,000 total). The rhythm of the city hums with the duality of being an administrative nexus and a faraway border town, its location overwhelmed by wilderness along the banks of Great Slave Lake—a body of water so large that it could be better described as an inland sea.

Far-flung chalets dot the constellations of granite isles in the great lake. Try Blachford Lake Lodge (BlachFordLakeLodge.com), about 65 miles from Yellowknife. Visited by Will and Kate on their royal tour, Blachford has become the gold standard for cottage getaways—a pillar of Canadian living, complete with fishing and paddling.

As the Great Slave Lake has been the domain of the Dene nations for millennia, guests at Blachford are kindly asked—in accordance with ancestral traditions—to not harbor any thoughts of malice toward bears during their stay, a surprising and humbling testament to the fact that our conceptions of respect for the land and its spirit are still remarkably limited to the lodge's more



149.

LICENSE PLATES IN THE NWT



conventional efforts, like composting toilets and solar panels.

The grand majesty of the Dene lands comes to a peak—quite literally—in Nahanni National Park, dubbed simply “the Nahanni” by those who covet its four fortress-like canyons that lie along the South Nahanni River like cataracts of the Nile.

Situated on the ancestral territories of the Dehcho First Nations, the reserve has long captured the imagination of expeditionists with its cache of geological anomalies, and it has the honor of being one of the first World Heritage sites dedicated by UNESCO in 1978. Today, Simpson Air (SimpsonAir.ca), the same operator responsible for delivering goods and mail to the remote aboriginal

communities in the region, doubles as a flight-seeing outfitter showcasing this world-in-one-expanse aboard its float planes. Trips dip deep between canyons and zip high over perilous amalgams of boiling earth and craggy stone, taking in natural attractions whose names belong in Magellan's folio, like the Ragged Range and the Cirque of the Unclimbables.

The park's biggest attraction is Virginia Falls, or *Nailicho* in the Dene language, which rise to more than twice the height of Niagara Falls—if you can imagine—yet you'll likely be the only one there. During the warmest months of the year, it's the starting point for Canada's most epic paddle: a weeklong float back toward civilization that's seen



as a rite of passage every northerner undertakes with aplomb before the morning dew turns to frost.

As pronounced and unending as a summer's day may seem, the perpetual night of winter is similarly striking. The seasons shift and suddenly the sacred stones and riverine pines go to sleep under a blanket of

ice and a cloak of darkness. But just when you think that the wonder of the landscape has been all but erased, the northern lights—a halo over the Canadian Shield—emerge as if to remind you that here in the North of North, where the nation's vastness is often prosaic, there's never a day without magic.

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THE INUKSUK

Visit any natural attraction or highway rest stop across Canada, and you'll likely find purposeful piles of stone—the *inuksuk* is a type of cairn used by the Inuit and other peoples of Canada's Arctic. Often anthropomorphized, the rock sculptures mark trailheads, borders, or places of worship, or simply mean “I was here.” And for many, the *inuksuk* has replaced the maple leaf as the new symbol of Canada.

