

**GAZING INTO NEW YEAR**  
 Filmmaker Deepa Mehta makes Martin Knelman's list of ones to watch in 2011, E6



**CALLED TO THE HALL**  
 Alomar to hang Blue Jay cap in Cooperstown, S4



Lotto **MAX**  
 FRIDAY'S JACKPOT  
**\$23 MILLION** estimated



# TORONTO STAR

CLOUDY WITH A SNOW SHOWER. HIGH -2C (WEATHER MAP ON S2) • thestar.com • THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2011

## Voluntary casino ban poor payoff for addicts

OLG 'no-entry' list fails problem gamblers desperate to avoid temptation, critics say

**DAN ROBSON**  
 STAFF REPORTER

Jordan Kelman slips a \$100 bill into a slot machine at the Woodbine Racetrack casino — just as he has “close to a hundred times” since being voluntarily banned from Ontario casinos in 2008.

The 28-year-old gambling addict pulls the silver arm three times. He's risking borrowed money.

“I'm down 50 bucks,” he says, yanking it again. Four sevens. A bell rings.

“There,” he says. “I hit big there. We just won a lot of money.”

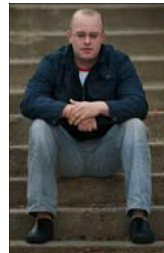
It's a \$650 victory. A week ago, Kelman blew \$2,300 while sitting on the exact same chair, next to the exact same middle-aged man in a red sweater who appears catatonic as he tugs on the lever.

Since Kelman put his name on the OLG's “self-exclusion” list — supposedly banning him from all 27 of the province's gambling facilities — he says he's lost close to \$60,000 at those sites.

“I've never been denied access,” he says. “Not once.” He's just one of 15,000 people in the province on the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's “self-exclusion” list.

The OLG took in about \$1.9 billion last year in gambling revenue. Some experts say that about 30 per cent of that revenue was generated by problem gamblers.

GAMBLING continued on A21



Jordan Kelman, 28, is living with an addiction to gambling.

## DEBACLE ON ICE



ANDREW WALLACE/TORONTO STAR

An anticipated return to glory became disaster for Canada after Russia scored five goals in the third period to win 5-3 and claim gold at the world junior championships Wednesday. Damien Cox reports on ‘the greatest meltdown’ in the squad's history, S1

## How to avoid sharks in office lottery pool

**CURTIS RUSH AND FRANCINE KOPUN**  
 STAFF REPORTERS

If you want to guard against office pool lottery squabbles, make sure there's a pre-nup.

“I've seen it with pools and I've seen it with spouses — outright fights even coming to blows. Money sometimes does that to people,” says H. Roy Kaplan, who has interviewed and written about North American lottery winners.

It's not uncommon for friends and relatives of winners to dispute who should be getting paid, added Kaplan, a sociologist at the University of South Florida.

The problem is that “everything is always so informal” when it comes to office pools, Kaplan explains. He suggests drafting a written agreement signed by all participants. “It's a little like a pre-nuptial. A pre-nuptial lottery agreement,” he said.

LOTTERY continued on A21

## ‘Special’ treatment for gifted kids divides parents



AARON HARRIS FOR THE TORONTO STAR

Owen Howard, 6, loves his Grade 1 gifted class.

Halton board's plan to expand new program angers families of students struggling with disabilities

**CYNTHIA VUKETS**  
 STAFF REPORTER

A new gifted program that separates Grade 1 students into special classes has polarized parents and trustees in Halton region.

Parents of gifted children say the program, which is being piloted at Charles R. Beaudoin Public School in Burlington and due to roll out to other schools in September 2011, is “fabulous.”

But parents of children with learning disabilities, behavioural issues or autism spectrum disorder say the board is giving unfair advantage to gifted children at the expense of their kids.

“I think it's creating a two-tier system,” says former school board trustee Philippa Ellis, who voted against the new program at a November board meeting. “It's saying that some children's needs are more important or worthy of more service and attention than other children's needs.”

Six-year-old Caden Drewett, who reads at a Grade 4 level, is gifted.

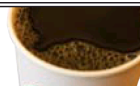
SPECIAL continued on A4

HOAX: Study linking autism to vaccine was doctored, new reports find, A4

## Good with faces? You're probably 30

### THE CUP WITH NO NAME

Starbucks is counting on its simple siren's call to lure coffee drinkers after introducing a



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