



## The Month Gawne By

## May 2019

### What Happened?

China says it will [never surrender](#) to foreign pressure, introduces [tariffs on \\$60 billion of US goods](#). China may also [restrict exports of rare earths](#) to the US as a defensive measure.

An explanation of the [US government's battle with Huawei](#).

Bank of Canada [keeps key interest rate steady](#) at 1.75% and indicates it is not in a hurry to make a move.

According to a Reuters poll of economists, the [Canadian housing market](#) will stagnate despite the easing of interest rates. Affordability in Toronto and Vancouver as well as the overextended Canadian consumer are cited as reasons.

Teresa May's struggle to get a [Brexit deal](#) through the British Parliament and her [resignation as Prime Minister](#).

[Stock buy backs reached over \\$1 trillion in 2018](#) (for the first time ever). Public companies seem to have an impeccable track record of buying back shares at the worst possible times. It's also another example of how a consistent savings strategy has benefits over market timing. Though one might use the level of stock buy backs as a contrarian indicator.

### Markets (as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019)

Stocks	Benchmark	May	YTD
Canada	<a href="#">S&amp;P TSX Composite</a>	-3.28%	11.97%
United States	<a href="#">S&amp;P 500</a>	-6.58%	9.78%
International	<a href="#">MSCI EAFE</a>	-5.42%	5.67%
Emerging Markets	<a href="#">MSCI Emerging Markets</a>	-7.53%	3.34%
World	<a href="#">MSCI ACWI</a>	-6.24%	8.00%

Bonds	Benchmark	May	YTD
Canada	<a href="#">FTSE TMX Canada Universe Bond</a>	1.69%	5.56%
United States	<a href="#">Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate</a>	1.78%	4.80%
World	<a href="#">Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate</a>	1.35%	3.28%

Currency	May	YTD
CAD / USD (Source: ThomsonOne)	0.75%	-0.74%

### Articles of Interest

Toronto restaurants offering Kawhi Leonard [free food for life](#) if he stays with the Raptors. I had never watched a basketball game on TV prior to game 7 vs the 76ers, but haven't missed a Raptors game since. Basketball reminds me of lacrosse. I am hopeful I will continue to watch games when the bandwagon has left town.

The [world's economy](#) if it was a living organism.

Our bodies do not assimilate all of the pharmaceuticals we consume. Many of the chemicals make it into our waterways and are absorbed by [plants and animals](#) affecting them in different ways.

Canada is the second largest [importer of shark fins](#) outside of Asia.

[The mystery of a millionaire hermit](#), A story about what happens when you pass away wealthy without a will or immediate heirs (in the United States, a similar process is followed in Canada). Fun fact: Abraham Lincoln died without a will.

[Modern scavenger](#) – An interview with a 43-year-old San Franciscan who works regularly eats food leftover on plates at restaurants.

Man claims his guard dog is [bribed with deer bones](#) by a garbage-loving bear.



A species of bird went [extinct and then evolved again](#) after its shared ancestor returned to an atoll in the Indian Ocean, a phenomenon known as iterative evolution.

Study finds that even [thinking about coffee](#) can improve your focus, but only if you perceive coffee as having those properties of alertness and productivity.

[eSports explosive growth](#), the second largest tournament prize pool in all of sports was a Dota 2 gaming tournament in 2017 at \$24.7 million (for context, the 2017 U.S. Open prize pool was \$12 million).

The rise of the [sober bar](#).

Time goes by faster as you get older – but [there's a way to slow it down](#).

The original breeder of the labradoodle [regrets his creation](#). He believes it has encouraged the reckless cross breeding of dogs.

## Music

[May Playlist](#) – the 10 to 20 songs I listened to the most during the month. I've done my best to filter for objectionable content and language.

The [Game of Thrones theme song](#) played by a collection of rock guitar legends.

## Books

["The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"](#) Robert Louis Stevenson

A murder mystery written in 1886. The story is prevalent in pop culture. The book would be that much better without knowing the surprise ending ahead of time.

## Video

HBO's Chernobyl, the [highest rated television show](#) on IMDb.

[Why is vanilla so expensive?](#)

## Travel

"The only difference between a madman and myself is that I am not mad." A new [permanent installation](#) at the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg uses artificial intelligence to create an uncanny interactive likeness of Salvador Dali.

## Food

Restaurants are changing. [Ghost kitchens](#), shared kitchens catering to the delivery industry, are becoming more common. So is [dining alone](#).



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