

## NEWS

# Escape from royal baby media circus leads to London's betting shops

Search canada.com...

## Sections

News  
Entertainment  
Health  
Life  
Business  
Financial Post Biz  
Technology  
Sports  
Travel  
Cars  
Homes  
Obituaries

## Discussion

MIKE DUFFY

LAC  
MEGANTIC  
DISASTERFEDERAL  
POLITICS

A Ladbrokes employee writes odds for the royal baby on a chalk board in front of the Lindo Wing.

PHOTO: JORDAN MANSFIELD/GETTY IMAGES

COMMENT

Like

6

Tweet

4

0

5



Matthew Fisher

Published: July 17, 2013, 3:28 pm

Updated: 1 day ago

A A A

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth has gently hinted for the first time at her impatience with how long it has been taking the Duchess of Cambridge, more popularly known as Kate, to give birth to a royal heir that the British media had predicted would be born last Saturday.

"I would like it very much to arrive. I'm going on holiday soon.

## Follow Us

## Do Orphanage

Put an orphan in an orphanage and he remains an orphan.

**Put an orphan in an orphanage and he becomes someone's child.**

**Read more.**

## Related Tweets



**Jason Fekete**  
@jasonfekete

Giant Mike Duffy balloon terrorizes  
[o.canada.com/2013/07/18/mike-duffy-balloons-terrorize-ottawa/](http://o.canada.com/2013/07/18/mike-duffy-balloons-terrorize-ottawa/)  
[@thecanadacom](https://twitter.com/thecanadacom)

Show Summary



**marc weisblott**  
@scroll

Crackstarter is over but excruciating comments on Gawker will be the end  
[gawker.com/for-americans-...](http://gawker.com/for-americans-...)

POVERTY  
ROB FORD  
ROYAL  
BABY  
BRITISH  
OPEN  
EMMYS

No sign yet," the Queen jokingly told a young schoolgirl while on a walkabout Wednesday in the Lake District National Park in Cumbria.

The Queen's remarks about the baby followed a comment Tuesday from Prince William's stepmother, Camilla Parker Bowles, that the new prince or princess will likely arrive "by the end of the week."

The Best Royal Baby Merchandise

## Voices

Andrew  
Coyne

The British and international media may be transfixed by this blessed event, but those with a royal connection have adopted a characteristically phlegmatic tone.

Bruce  
Arthur

"Not terribly," said Margaret Rhodes, the Queen's cousin and best friend when asked if she was caught up in the excitement by CNN's formidable Christiane Amanpour.

Ishmael  
Daro

"Well, you know, everybody has babies," Rhodes added. "And it's lovely, but I don't get wildly excited about it."

Jon Dekel

Lauren  
Strapagiel

With lots of time on my hands, and badly wanting to get away from the sun-scorched media circus around St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where the likely future king or queen of Canada is to be born, I decided Wednesday to have a bit of a flutter at the nearest betting shop.

Marc  
Weisblott

Matthew  
Fisher

Michael Den  
Tandt

I wagered a tenner (about \$15.55 CAD) at Ladbrokes that the baby's first name will be Victoria, like her great-great-great-great-great grandmother, who reigned over Britain and the Empire for 64 years until 1901.

Ladbrokes offered 6-1 odds that the baby would be called Victoria. A short time later I discovered to my regret that the payout would have been higher at William Hill, which is the other major British betting house. It was offering odds of 9-1 on Victoria.

Although nobody can explain the imbalance, the odds were 3-1



Show Photo Details



**Jason Fekete**

@jasonfekete

Senior staffer who allegedly kne payment leaves PMO  
[@theacadacom](http://o.canada.com/2013/07/18/sen.) @postmedian

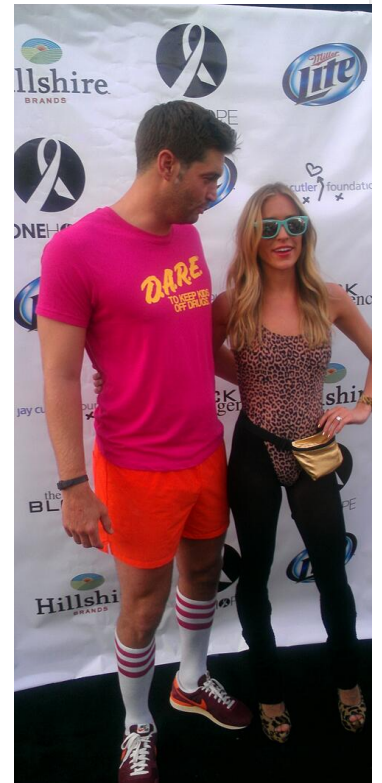
Show Summary



**Bruce Arthur**

@bruce\_arthur

Needs a smoke RT @drewmaga  
@espnchijon @xmasape You m  
Cutler picture. [pic.twitter.com/0/](http://pic.twitter.com/0/)



Expand



**Rob Granatstein**

@robedits

This has to be the most... have

that it would be a girl compared to 9-4 that it would be a boy.

If it was a girl, Alexandra was the solid favourite at Ladbrokes and William Hill. James or George were the favourites if it was a boy.

Those names were atop a long list that included many with historical connections such as Diana, Elizabeth, Alice, Mary, Charles and Philip. Adam and Eve, Basil (perhaps because of Fawlty Towers?) filled out the middle ranks, followed by Barack at 200-1. The king of rock and roll, Elvis, was pegged as a 500-1 longshot.

Bets as small as 50 pence (\$1.30 CAD) were permitted.

"The horse and dog customers are not really into the royal baby, but I have taken a few bets," said clerk Julie Hutt, surveying a spartan room where men quietly monitored television sets showing horse and dog races.

"You'll find that it is women who are into betting on the royal baby, not men," said another clerk, Marie Desbelus. "But I had a couple bet on the name yesterday. So did a man who left his three kids out in the street."

The sex of the baby has been kept a secret even from the parents, Buckingham Palace says, but as has been widely noted in the media here, a solid majority of Britons reckon that Kate is about to produce a princess, not a prince. However, with the expected due date having come and gone, no more bets were being taken on which day the baby may finally be born.

True to the idea that Britons will bet on just about anything, Ladbrokes was not only taking bets on the royal baby's name and gender. It was also taking wagers on the number of names the royal tot will be given, its weight at birth and its hair colour. Most of the smart money was on the baby following royal tradition by having four or five names, weighing between five and six pounds and having brown or blond hair.

There was even a category for which women's magazine would

This has to be the week where a cottage said to their boss "Hey, Then disappeared.

## Video of the Day



## Most Popular Stories



**BestGore.com owner Mark Marek charged over Jun Lin murder video**



**Enemies of the state: The (almost) Complete**

**List**



**Giant Mike Duffy balloon terrorizes Ottawa**

**Andrew Wiggins wants to play for the Toronto Raptors**

publish the first pictures of the royal offspring. The big favourite there was [OK magazine](#), which dotes on the royal family. It was followed by Vogue, Now, Women, Bella and Marie Claire.

None of this meant much to a group of Albanian punters from Kosovo who were betting on greyhound races being broadcast live from Hove.

"I just lost my lunch money," complained one of them as he threw away his betting form in disgust. "People think this is a lot of fun, but gambling is an addiction. This is the worst thing you can do with your life."

With his luck having gone to the dogs, the man approached the counter to inquire about placing a bet on which television show would get the first interview with William and Kate and their new baby.

### [Read more Articles from Matthew Fisher](#)

© COPYRIGHT - POSTMEDIA NEWS

! [REPORT AN ERROR](#)

COMMENT

Like 6

Tweet 4

0

5




Comment

Facebook social plugin



**Watch the first two episodes of the new Whose**

**Line Is It Anyway?**



**Senior staffer who allegedly knew of**

**Duffy payment leaves PMO**



**Matthew Fisher**

Postmedia's international affairs columnist is Canada's longest serving foreign correspondent. He has lived abroad for 30 years in Europe, the Middle East, Far East and, most recently, Afghanistan. His... [read more](#)

### THE FISHER FILE

ROYAL BABY / 2 HOURS AGO

**Hard to beat the pomp and ceremony of the House of Windsor**