



Evangelo Sipsas /// The Observer

### Partners in crime-fighting

Const. John Massey puts canine partner Jetta through her paces at the Toronto Police Services training centre in East York. They were recently recognized for a dramatic rescue. Story on page 2.

### ■ GO TRANSIT FATALITY

## Resident says wall near tracks 'too low'

By **EVANGELO SIPSAS**  
The Observer

A man living near the scene of Wednesday's fatal GO Transit train accident at Greenwood and Walpole avenues says people often try to cross the tracks there.

The man, who did not want to be identified, said his house backs onto the accident scene, a few blocks south of Danforth Avenue. He complained that the wall separating the houses' yards and the track area is too low, letting people easily hop the wall.

In this case, a person was killed on the tracks after being hit by a westbound GO train just after 8 a.m.

Police are investigating, but at press time on Thursday, they had still not released the victim's name.

The incident occurred at the height of Wednesday morning's rush hour. The passengers who were on the train that was involved were allowed off at the Danforth station, on Main Street, about two hours later. GO trains on the Lakeshore eastbound and the Stouffville lines were stranded at Union Station for more than an hour. Westbound trains on the Lakeshore line were unable to go past the Danforth station. After 9:30 a.m., GO began running limited, delayed service through the area.

The TTC allowed GO passengers to use their GO fares to ease the commuting disruption.



■ For more East York stories, please check us out online at [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)

## East York's special connection to 'Green Gables' legacy

By **AMY McNEILL**  
The Observer

Kate MacDonald Butler defends her family name on a daily basis from a small office space in East York.

"A typical day? Just look at my messy desk!" she said during a recent interview.

Local and international agreements for merchandising are piled neatly beside her computer.

"It's all just putting thoughts to paper," she said of the stack.

MacDonald Butler is the granddaughter of Lucy Maud Montgomery, the author behind the iconic novel *Anne of Green Gables*. She is in charge of licensing merchandise, productions and projects

related to Montgomery's legacy.

First published in 1908, the novel tells the story of a young orphan sent to help an aging brother and sister on their Prince Edward Island farm. She eventually becomes a beloved member of their family.

Butler is also the executive producer of the latest take on Anne Shirley's adventures, which aired Feb. 15 on YTV. Lucy Maude Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* was produced by Breakthrough Entertainment and stars Canadian actress Ella Ballentine as Anne, Emmy-award winning actor Martin Sheen as Anne's adoptive father, Matthew Cuthbert, and Sara Botsford as Marilla Cuthbert.

This instalment, MacDonald Butler says, delves into the deeper

connections between the characters Anne, Matthew and the seemingly strait-laced Marilla.

"Because it's more about the relationships, we took our time," she said of the film. "Relationships take time to develop. That's what we held onto. My grandmother would be proud of that."

Whether audiences read the novel in 1908, 1975 or last week, it's relevant, MacDonald Butler maintains.

"It's about belonging, it's about home and all of these things are still with us," she said. "That's why people still identify with Anne."

After deciding to take over the

■ See **GRANDDAUGHTER**, page 8



Amy McNeill /// The Observer

MacDonald Butler's office is packed with Anne Shirley memorabilia that fosters the values of 'love and belonging.'

## POLICE & FIRE

### Police release suspect's photo

Toronto police are seeking the public's assistance in identifying a suspect in a fraud investigation. The man allegedly used stolen bank cards on two separate occasions earlier this year — once in the Overlea Boulevard and Thorncliffe Park Drive Area. They've just released security camera images and they're asking anyone with information to contact them.



### Two missing women found

Police are thanking the public for their assistance in locating two missing women. A 25-year-old who disappeared around Victoria Park and Danforth avenues on the night of April 2 was located the following day. And an 88-year-old who vanished on March 28 in the area of Coxwell and Mortimer avenues was found two days later.

### Woman robbed of wallet, phone near Donlands

Police report that a mugging occurred in the area of Sammon and Donlands avenues. They say a woman was walking in the area when she was approached by two men who threatened her with a gun unless she surrendered her valuables. They took her wallet and phone and fled on foot.

~ John Morta

# Police partners honoured for rescue

Constable, canine partner recognized for saving man's life

By DANIEL MCKENZIE  
The Observer

It was a cold night last September. Toronto Police Dog Services Const. John Massey was driving back to his 54 Division station in East York.

A call came over the radio about a "suspicious package" found on the Leaside Bridge, not far from his station.

"That obviously triggers some alarms," Massey said.

The "suspicious package" was a backpack. Inside, was a suicide note.

"I just volunteered for the call," he said. "A lot of the time we wait to get dispatched, but I know the area."

Massey drove down a back road that led to a paved path, taking him alongside the Don River and underneath the bridge. He and his tracking dog, Jetta, began their search.

It was dark, and he didn't know where on the bridge the backpack was found. Jetta, the first-ever female general purpose dog in the unit, quickly picked up the scent.

"We get to the river, and I start noticing a change in my dog," he said. "Jetta took me to the edge, where I'd say 30 feet from the bank, was a person. A young man, sitting in the water."

Massey directed Jetta not to go into the water. He wasn't sure how deep it was; he also couldn't determine the state of mind of the man in the river. She obeyed, barking from the

bank, as she's trained to once finding the source of a scent. Massey called out to the man.

On April 5, the Toronto Police Service recognized Massey and Jetta for their work that September night during a ceremony held at Toronto police headquarters on College Street.

The officer and his partner had met the challenge of the night's work, Jetta with her snout and Const. Massey with his training and sense of teamwork.

At the awards presentation, Massey received a Teamwork Commendation award, while Jetta was awarded a Chief of Police Letter of Recognition.

On making voice contact with the man, Massey said he knew he had to respond.

"That was the ultimate reason to say, 'I'm going to go into the water to help this guy,'" he said. "You gotta go in and at least make an attempt to get him."

Other officers were now on the scene. Massey and Const. Adrian Elliott entered the water, lifted the man, and carried him out. Paramedics arrived, loaded the man onto a backboard, and the six of them carried him through the tall grass and swampy ground to a waiting ambulance. Staff Sgt. James Hung is Massey's supervisor.

"(Massey) and his partner Jetta work very well together," Hung said. "They've been instrumental in finding people."

A 16-year veteran, Massey set his eyes on the canine unit when he was in police college. "Everybody's got those days where they just don't feel



Courtesy of Toronto Police Service

**Const. John Massey (left) and Jetta were honoured for service at Toronto police headquarters. With them is city councillor Chin Lee.**

like going in to work," he said. "But then you walk outside and your (dog) partner's going, 'Hey, let's get going; we got calls to do; we got guys to find. Let's go.' It's a great motivator."

He joined the canine unit in 2009. He and Jetta have been partners from the beginning.

"When did I know she was really good?" he said. "Probably about two weeks into the (training) course. She's a rock star."

Recalling the rescue last

September, Massey deflects the spotlight.

"I said this from the beginning, 'The paramedics should've been involved in the awards as well,'" he said. "They were a significant part of the team."

His sergeant wasn't surprised by Massey's comment.

"He's very humble, that's for sure," Hung said. "To him, it's just another day at the office. I have to keep reminding him, 'Every day, you guys do extraordinary things.'"

## Local legion remembers Battle of Vimy Ridge

By KRYSTAL REYNOLDS  
The Observer

On Saturday, April 9, members of the Royal Canadian Legion—Todmorden Branch 10 held a ceremony in East York to commemorate the 99th anniversary of the First World War Battle of Vimy Ridge and its 10,000 casualties.

In April 1917, The Canadian Corps were ordered to seize Vimy Ridge, which was located in northern France. The battle that ensued is considered by some to be part of Canada's coming-of-age in the 20th century.

About 60 people gathered at the west end of the legion building on Pape Avenue for a ceremony and wreath placement: a Canadian wreath on the left, a Vimy wreath in the centre and a provincial wreath on the right.

Among the invited guests was the Liberal Member of Parliament for Toronto-Danforth Julie Dabrusin.

"Today is a special day. It's

the day in which Canada was taught to become a nation," said P.J. O'Neill, the vice-president of Branch 10. "Canada has never been conquered. We've never had foreign enemies on our soil."

He added: "It is important to remember the past fighters, but also necessary to recognize the men and women who are serving the country today."

Following the observance, members, guests and other important figures made their way to the legion's second floor for an intimate gathering to honour the late past president, Eric Hewitt.

Also speaking at the event was the current branch president, Angie Gaulteri.

"We are assembled here to solemnly remember and pay our respects to our comrade, Eric Hewitt," Gaulteri said.

She added: "May we ever strive to uphold the principles of unselfish service, which lead us to serve our country and our God in a time of war and in peace, so that we may continue to serve until death."



Courtesy of Veterans Affairs Canada

**The Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France was unveiled in 1936. This year marks the 99th anniversary of the famous battle.**

## WHAT'S UP IN E.Y.

### Celebrating art at Centennial's Corridor Gallery

This coming Thursday, April 21, there will be a display of art and graphic design in the "Corridor Gallery" of Centennial College's East York campus, 951 Carlaw Ave. The gallery is at the north end of the second floor, and will be complemented by other student works on display for the evening in rooms 295 and 297. The exhibit opens at 7 p.m.

### Music students to perform an evening of song

Voice students from the music program at Centennial College's East York campus will be performing at a venue in Toronto's Annex area on Sunday, April 24. The doors open at 4 p.m., and the show starts at 5. Swing by for an entertaining evening of song at The Central Bar, 603 Markham Street.

### En garde with Shakespeare

Author, actor and swordsman Chris Humphreys wondered what Shakespeare's world was like. So he created Shakespeare 1600: The One Man Show as an insight into how the playwright observed the late Elizabethan world. Join him at the S. Walter Stewart library branch at 170 Memorial Park Ave., at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

~ Jon Lamont

# Filmmaker tackles stigma of mental illness

Documentary takes an unflinching look at overlooked issue in the black community

By **CHERRY (CHANGHONG) LIU**  
The Observer

She thought it was something that only happened to “white girls”.

But after experiencing debilitating anxiety attacks and falling into a depression, Stacy-Ann Buchanan realized that no one is immune to mental illness — not even members of the black community.

“When I started to get mental illness, I didn’t know what it was,” she said during a recent visit to Centennial College’s East York campus, where she shared her story with a journalism class. “I honestly thought anxiety was something that only happened to white girls.”

She soon learned that this wasn’t the case — not for her, and not for other members of the black community.

That realization led the actress and filmmaker to publicly explore her struggles in an award-winning documentary called *The Blind Stigma*, which looks at the misconceptions about mental health in the black

community and society at large. The film documents her personal journey through depression, as well as telling the stories of several other members of her community.

“I wanted to put everything I think about out there into the world,” she said.

Buchanan’s struggles with mental illness began when her acting career was not going the way she wanted. She started having anxiety attacks and became depressed. At first, she didn’t understand what was going on.

She wasn’t alone in her confusion and disbelief. Her father, like many members of her community, was frightened. He didn’t get it, and he didn’t want her to talk about it.

“My dad’s ignorant remarks actually saved my life because he said, ‘Since you like to chat so much, how about you tell your business to strangers?’ and that’s exactly what I did — tell my business to strangers,” Buchanan said.

She believes the key to breaking the stigma around mental illness is to talk about it without skirting around it and making it sound like a taboo topic.

“My goal (with the documentary) is to cultivate positive conversations and raise awareness about mental health,” she said.

Buchanan recently made a Facebook post asking parents about the appropriate age to talk to kids about mental health. To her surprise, many people replied that there was no need to talk about it because kids need to be kids.

“Parents need to start talking with their kids. If they’re showing signs, you gotta nip it in the bud or you gotta nurture it and talk about it,” she said.

Buchanan has received an overwhelming response and support from her community, she said, and people from as far away as Australia have reached out to her to thank her for making a change.

“Because of the success of the documentary, the opportunities came about for me to tell my story,” she said in an interview. “I became more passionate about public speaking and raising awareness for mental health and became determined to make a difference.”

Buchanan’s documentary has changed her own life and the lives of many people within her community. She’s planning to continue along this path by making part two of *The Blind Stigma*.

“The documentary starts a conversation,” she said, “but it only scratches the surface, because it goes a lot deeper.”



Cherry (Changhong) Liu // The Observer

**Stacy-Ann Buchanan, whose documentary arose from struggles with anxiety and depression, speaks to East York students about mental health in the black community.**



## Everyone’s best friend

Bogey, a trained therapy dog from Therapeutic Paws of Canada, recently paid a visit to Centennial College’s East York campus on Carlaw Avenue — to help students relax at this stressful time of the school year. The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever has been a therapy dog for 10 years and can sit, shake his paw and search for hidden treats. He’s a regular at seniors’ homes and colleges, but his favourite place to visit is Ronald McDonald House every Tuesday. “He likes kids,” said Bogey’s owner, 74-year-old Harry Kitamura. “I have to hold him back.” Here, Bogey gets a little love from journalism student Domenic Nunziata (and gives a little back).

Scout McCraw // The Observer

# East York station first out of the (automatic) fare gate

By **MITCH McCLURE**  
The Observer

Neil Webster didn’t use the TTC much when he worked, but now that he’s retired, he says it’s a convenient way for him to get around Toronto. And a new design feature at the Main Street station along East York’s southern edge makes it easier for him and his walker.

“Those gates made it much easier for me,” Webster said. Referring to his walker, he added, “I can’t get this through a turnstile.”

This East York subway station is the first one to have automatic fare gates. The gates make it easier for people with extra luggage, strollers, walkers and anything that’s hard to push through a turnstile. And along with the gates, now riders can use

Presto cards at the Main Street station.

Like many of his fellow passengers, Webster didn’t know much about the Presto card. Presto has only been implemented at the station for about three weeks — so many riders remain more comfortable with their Metropasses and tokens. But with TTC planning to completely eliminate both for Presto, riders are going to be forced to learn more about the smart card as it becomes the only option.

Julie Conlon travels to work from Main Street to Yonge and Bloor during the week. She’s still using the Metropass, but doesn’t mind having to switch over in the future.

“I do like how they don’t hold an attached balance, so you can

replace them if you lose your card,” Conlon said. “I have lost my card twice. That’s a very good thing about Presto.”

Tom Blair said he rides the rocket every other day to work. He’s also using a Metropass, but expects to make the switch soon. Three weeks into the station’s launch of Presto, however, he still wasn’t sure how it worked or how to buy one.

“Not knowing all the details, that kind of bothers me,” Blair said.

Presto, a loadable card that is tapped for entry, is currently on all 230 streetcars, as well as at 27 subway stations. Every station except for Lawrence East, Midland, and Ellesmere will be using this smart card before the end of the year. All buses will have them early this

spring except for Wheel-Trans buses, which will catch up by the summer. The card costs \$6, and expires in about five years.

Between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on a recent weekday afternoon, only a handful of people entered Main Street using Presto. Out of those people that were using it, most have been Presto card-owners through GO transit. GO has been using it for years.

The end of tokens is something that Montreal and New York’s subway systems did a long time ago. Montreal has been using the OPUS smart card since 2008, while New York discontinued tokens in 2003.

As for the new automatic fare gates, the TTC says that every station in the system will be adding them by the end of the year.



Mitch McClure // The Observer

**Main Street station now has automatic fare gates.**

# Staying 'Up All Night' for mental health

## Centennial College's East York campus keeps the lights on to raise awareness

By SCOUT McCRAW  
The Observer

It culminated on April Fool's Day, but the all-night event at Centennial College's East York campus on March 31-April 1 was no joke.

Students and staff at the Carlaw Avenue college put on something called "Up All Night" — part of a short-term campaign that the students created to raise awareness around mental health in the workplace and funds for agencies that promote it. The event was overseen by Donna Lindell, coordinator of the school's public relations program.

One in five Canadians will experience a mental health issue or illness in their lifetime, according to the Canadian Mental Health Association. Whether they are dealing with stress or depression, one in five Canadians will toss and turn all night or wander through their day — frustrated, sad, or afraid.

So, in solidarity, "Up All Night" ran for 12 hours, from 7 p.m. on March 31 to 7 a.m. on April 1. Observer reporter Scout McCraw made a night of it too, and filed this report:

**7 p.m., welcome and registration:** Students, faculty and special guests piled into the main foyer where they could collect name tags, snacks, raffle tickets and buttons emblazoned with "Be kind" and "Help a friend."

**7:30 p.m., expert panel on mental health:** Centennial journalism professor Ted Barris moderated a discussion on mental health in a work and school environment.

The panel featured Sam Fiorella, founder of The Friendship Bench project; Linda Weichel, vice-president of initiatives at CivicAction; Eric Dunn, a counsellor at Centennial; Monika Mielnik, a human resources consultant at Bell Canada; and Evan Luke, a Centennial student. The panel discussed the stigma surrounding mental health and the importance of talking to somebody. Dunn took the opportunity to point out that students with mental health issues are not any less capable — that they are doing all of their work even with all the stress.

"These are not walking wounded," he said. And Luke offered a point of view from one of those students. He admitted he was one of those 'one in five' and that originally, he thought he should just deal with his issues on his own — before finally realizing that he needed to talk to someone. The response when he finally did was "really authentic," he said.

**9:10 p.m., speed dating:** But not really. Employers were given the chance to talk one-on-one with students (the soon-to-be-employed). Students could ask questions and share their thoughts while employers could dispense their knowledge about the stresses of entering the workforce.

**9:30 p.m., president's remarks:** The president of Centennial College, Ann Buller, addressed the group, commending everyone on their dedication to the cause and emphasizing the importance of talking to someone about mental health issues. Talking about it



Scout McCraw/// The Observer

Students enjoy pizza and live music at Centennial College's Up All Night event. They were raising awareness of mental health issues, as well as money for the "Friendship Bench" project.



Scout McCraw/// The Observer

Up All Night included some Bob Fosse choreography from Sweet Charity, performed by Centennial dance students at their East York campus.

"doesn't show weakness," Buller said. "It shows strength."

**10 p.m., the Friendship Bench workshop:** Fiorella founded the Friendship Bench project in April 2015, a few months after his 19-year-old son, Lucas, took his own life. He said that

in the aftermath of Lucas' death, one woman came forward to share a story about how he saved her life simply by saying "Hello." Other people came forward with similar stories about Lucas, and this inspired Fiorella to start #YellowIsForHello, a campaign which aims to in-

stall yellow benches on college and university campuses. The yellow bench is meant to make students stop, think, talk, and maybe say hello to someone.

**11:15 p.m., raffle winners announced:** Winners of the raffle collected some awesome prizes, including art supplies, free yoga and belly dancing classes.

**11:30 p.m., pizza break:** Everyone took a much-needed break, complete with pizza, colouring pages and live music, including student bands like Kunle and Crashing For Red.

**12 a.m., dance performance:** First-year Centennial dance program students performed their take on the famous Bob Fosse choreography from the 1969 film, Sweet Charity, before getting everyone to join in for a quick dance party.

**3 a.m., Netflix:** While the live music continued at one end of the building, some got comfy at the other end for some popcorn and a showing of Forrest Gump.

**4 a.m., ping-pong:** Participants seemed to shed their fatigue and embrace their competitive side when they took part in a ping-pong tournament.

**5:30 a.m., laughter yoga:** Lynn Himmelman, a certified "laughter yoga" teacher, refreshed everybody with meditation, breathing exercises and laughter yoga, meant to reduce stress.

**6:30 a.m., pancake breakfast:** The night/morning ended with a big pancake breakfast. And of course, a lot of coffee.

## We've stopped the presses (for now), but we're still online... and on the air

The newspaper in your hands is produced by the journalism students of Centennial College at their East York campus on Carlaw Avenue... where the school year is now winding down. So this will be our last issue of the newsprint edition of the East York Observer until the fall.

But before summer really settles in — at least in the coming days — we'll continue to post some fresh content on our companion website, [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca). And the new radio edition of the East York Observer will still air through April on the new east Toronto community radio station, CJRU/AM 1280. Our new show is called "Neighbourly News," and it airs at 10:10 a.m. on Wednesdays and 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

After vacations, we'll re-open our newsroom by mid-September and ramp up all of our media — print, online and radio — around the end of the month. Enjoy the summer, and see you in the fall!



Sadih Rahman /// The Observer

## Celebrating Greek independence

Greektown turned out on April 3 for the annual parade along Danforth Avenue to observe Greece's independence day. Clockwise from top: Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne (centre) and city councillor Mary Fragedakis (second from left) march with members of the community. At right, Efi Pappas, Magdalene Katsinos and Amanda Pappas say their favourite part of the day was just "walking the parade." (Below) Employees from Kalyvia restaurant set up an outdoor barbecue and grill station.



# Reaching for the moon at the Ontario Science Centre

By SARAH SAMWEL  
The Observer

The mission to Mars is ready to launch. Taking the helm is Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen.

The medical officer buzzes around, checking the radiation levels of the crew members. The navigation team uses the onboard instruments to chart the best course.

Halfway through the mission, however, communications go down. Smoke starts to billow out of the controls. But there's no turning back at this point. The flight must continue.

Hansen's team has it under control in moments, and after a half-hour trek, they land. The communications officer calls the control room back on earth, to announce that the mission has been a success....

Even though none of Hansen's crew had graduated from high school yet. The mission was just a simulation

last week at the Ontario Science Centre on Don Mills Road, involving students from East York and elsewhere. But whether or not any of those young people ever go on to their own star treks, they got valuable lessons in teamwork and problem-solving.

Hansen is a lieutenant-colonel in the RCAF who was selected by the Canadian Space Agency for Canada's astronaut corps in 2009.

He appeared in person at the centre to lead the simulation, and to deliver a message about goals, passion and hard work to an audience of 400 students.

Hansen said he knew he wanted to go to space after seeing an encyclopedia picture of Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon. After that, he joined the Air Cadets and trained to become a pilot. Essential to his journey, he said, was the support he got from those around him.

"One of the important things in

life is setting goals and then sharing those goals with people," Hansen said. "People will empower you and enable you to start working towards those goals."

Half of Hansen's audience was a group of 200 students from Valley Park Middle School on Overlea Boulevard.

Justin Reventar, a teacher at Valley Park, said that hearing from a real astronaut was important for the students.

"Any time they can hear from someone who is in the field themselves, I think it's a great opportunity for inspiration for the students," he said.

Hansen knows how true this is firsthand. Early in his career, he had an opportunity to speak with another Canadian astronaut, Chris Hadfield. Hadfield's advice would help shape his career and ultimately help him become an astronaut.



Sarah Samwel /// The Observer

**Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen works with students on a simulation at the Ontario Science Centre. Hansen joined the astronaut corps in 2009.**

Hansen had asked Hadfield what program he should take at university. "The best advice (Chris Hadfield) gave me at the time was, 'Jeremy you need to take the one you're passionate about. If there's a certain degree

program you're really interested and you want to follow, that's what you need to pursue. That's ultimately what leads you to be successful and position you to do whatever you want to do.'"

■ EDITORIALS

## Put students first

If society is only as strong as its weakest link, then this city is getting weaker by the day.

Sure, affordable housing is a concern, and there are roads with potholes the size of small cars, but the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is one of the rustiest links in the chain. A little WD-40 isn't going to fix it, either.

Passionate young teachers have to jump through a ridiculous series of hoops for even the hope of a job and schools are falling apart, while tax dollars are wasted on who-knows-what.

Those issues, however, pale in comparison to one of the board's most glaring failures: the neglect of children with special needs.

Charlotte Schwartz of East York has a son with special needs. She was forced to threaten legal action against the TDSB before he was given an Individual Education Plan (IED). She then started an online petition for improved services that has received over 1,000 signatures in just a few months — from frustrated parents and teachers alike.

The 2015 TDSB Special Education Plan states that "inclusionary education is the belief that all students in a community, including those students with special learning needs, should receive their education to the fullest extent possible in the local community." They forgot to include "but you'll have to sue us first."

Last year, the TDSB axed 50 special-needs jobs. A January report from the board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) chair warns of further cuts.

The challenge is obvious: programs cost money. The TDSB says it just doesn't have the money, and so does its main source of funding, the provincial government.

That's understandable. Misdirecting millions of dollars to boondoggles is important. (Exhibit A? The Union-Pearson Express, UPX, which the province dropped \$456 million on. You know, the train that nobody rides because we didn't really need it.)

Toronto and Ontario are like parents who are more concerned with how they look than where their children are. And their children need them, badly.

~ Daniel McKenzie

## E.Y. takes on Uber

In a community with neighbourhoods largely populated by apartment-dwellers without cars, the Uber-versus-taxi debate is especially resonant. A lot of people in Crescent Town, Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park have welcomed a relatively inexpensive way of taking a car across town when the bus or subway isn't practical.

Ironically, they may be up against the financial interests of some of their own neighbours; after all, these are largely immigrant enclaves, and driving a cab is the sort of gateway job that some recent arrivals to Canada find themselves in. And cabbies say they're in a real pinch, because Uber is cheaper. And that, in turn, is because it's more ad hoc.

So the rivalry between cabs and Uber is cast in particularly stark relief in East York. But it's still a reflection of the larger debate across Toronto. The two transportation alternatives have gone back and forth over the last 18 months, with cabbies, especially, making their presence felt at city hall.

Just last week, city council came to some preliminary solutions to the issue. The city's licensing and standards committee released recommendations on guidelines to regulate Uber. Mayor John Tory said that he thought that the parameters are fair to both sides. But not everyone on council agrees. Jim Karygiannis said that Uber is "getting away with murder"; that these recommendations don't level the playing field.

One of the statistics that cabbies and other critics of Uber cite is that last year alone, three women were allegedly sexually assaulted by Uber drivers — two in Toronto and one in Guelph. Additionally, a driver is alleged to have sexually harassed another Guelph woman.

The critics point out that practically anyone with a car can be an Uber driver. These drivers do not have a taxi licence and so they also don't have to pay the yearly fees for a taxi.

The cameras in taxis are installed to protect both passengers and drivers. But Uber vehicles don't have to have cameras. Surely this is one compromise measure that should be adopted to keep both Uber drivers and passengers safe. But this is not on the city's list of recommendations — and generally, that list is underwhelming. Instead of keeping Uber in check, the city is only offering token measures.

Can taxis bounce back from the blow that they have taken since Uber began operating in the city? We will soon find out. When city council considers the matter again early next month, they should discuss more ways to ensure passenger safety in Uber vehicles. People should be able to get around East York and the rest of the city without having to be worried about their well-being.

~ Austin Owens

■ COLUMNS

## Culture dictates tips

When you go out for a nice dinner, have a five-star experience and barely tip your server, I have a word for you: cheap.

I'm Brazilian and a restaurant hostess when I'm not studying journalism. I recently came across a Facebook post about how Brazilians and those from other cultures don't understand tipping in Canada. Some tourists, immigrants — and even longtime Canadians themselves — go out and fail to tip, even if the service is good.

OK, you're forgiven if you don't know how the gratuity system works. But it's inexcusable if you do.

Here's the issue for my fellow countrymen: In Brazil, there's what they call a "service fee" of 10 per cent that comes included on your restaurant bill. You don't have to pay it if you don't think the service was good enough. And even if you do, that 10 per cent goes straight into the restaurant/cafe/bar-owner's pocket — and not to the server. Brazilians are used to this, and few complain. And whoever does complain has to ask for the manager and get the bill adjusted.

In Canada, we don't put that percentage on your bill, with the exception of large parties in a few places. We let the diners decide what the servers are worth. Service is poor? Then they deserve a poor tip. Service is exceptional? They should be compensated for that.

You may say that the actual reason you don't tip is not because you're cheap, but because you believe employers should be held responsible for paying staff a decent wage. But the system of server compensation in North America long ago became one of 'low hourly pay plus gratuities equals something resembling a living wage.' In most cases, servers are not the victims and employers are not the bad guys; they're both helping each other under the current gratuity system.

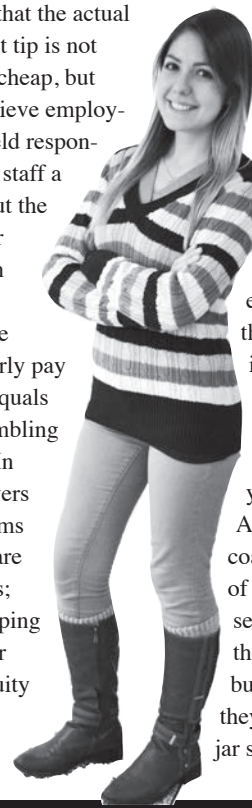
According to the latest Statistics Canada figures,

the average salary of someone employed full-time in Ontario is around \$49,000 per year. If we assume that each person eats out a couple of times a week, each time spending \$40 (not including everyday coffee or takeout) and tipping the server 20 per cent each time... then the amount of money spent in tips will still total to only 1.5 per cent of total yearly income.

Is that making you rethink your frugality towards servers?

I've actually paid my tip and someone else's tip because they've refused to do it and I felt embarrassed.

So tip your servers! Go for 20 per cent if you get great service. And don't forget that coat checks and lots of other day-to-day services may not be on the list of 'who to tip,' but if you look closely, they always have a tip jar sitting on the counter waiting for some love.



Amanda Osiecki

## No second chances

I had a conversation with a friend recently.

She had been in a car accident the day before. I sat there and listened as my friend, eyes still wide, voice still trembling, went over the chain of events. The driver behind her was completely distracted and rear-ended her at a stop-light.

We share the road with people we'll never meet, and we still put trust in them. Sometimes that trust is misplaced.

Last month, Marco Muzzo was sentenced to 10 years in jail for driving drunk and killing three children and their grand-

father in Vaughan last September. Muzzo decimated a family, and yet he'll spend no more than a decade behind bars and is eligible for full parole after three years.

When he gets out, he'll be banned from driving for 12 years.

This means that Muzzo could be driving again before Milagros, the youngest child killed in the crash, would have turned 18. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Canada estimates that in 2010, more than 175 people were injured per day in impairment-related crashes. And more than three people on average died.

In Canada, impaired

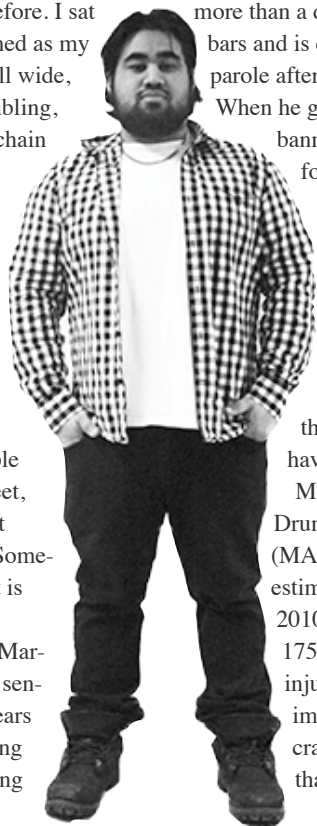
driving is classified as getting behind the wheel with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of over .08 per cent. Get caught blowing over .08 the first time and you lose your licence for a year... maybe. The suspension can be reduced if you install an ignition interlock device in your car, something that you legally have to do anyway.

I propose instead that if you're caught driving drunk, you should lose your license. Permanently.

I get it; maybe Muzzo's tearful apology had some sincerity in it. Maybe he does feel bad. But the consequences of this kind of stupid decision are permanent. Permanent for the victims anyway. I say they should be permanent for the offenders too.

We're at the mercy of each other when we're on the road, and regardless of how careful we're being behind the wheel.

I'm a believer in second chances, but not when it comes to drunk driving.



Richard Lee-Sam

# E.Y.'s own 'Upstairs Downstairs'



Courtesy of City of Toronto Archives

The Observer continues its local retrospective through photos from the City of Toronto Archives. This instalment suggests an almost Downton Abbey-esque breadth of life... The photo at left was taken in 1929, and shows Ontario's then-lieutenant-governor, W.D. Ross, along with Mrs. Ross, at the "Wakefield plane christening." The archives identify the location as one of two now-vanished East York venues: either the Leaside Aerodrome or Thorncliffe Park Raceway. Across town and three years later, the picture at right was taken of the city's junior soccer champions — from the "Pape Recreation Centre."

■ COLUMN

## Woman power

This could be my belated Happy International Women's Day card to you — but considering that I think our female superheroes should be celebrated every single day, maybe it's a little more timeless.

Leaving home the other morning, I saw a good-looking woman in her 30s holding a toddler by the hand. She was a young mother with an equally cute little one. But the woman seemed distressed as she talked on the phone while ignoring everything going on around her.

My mood shifted from mellow to thoughtful. No, I'm certainly not criticizing her for being oblivious to the sweet laughs of her own child. On the contrary, I'm sympathizing with her — for the difficult juggling act that she's probably doing.

In the recent past, women were taken as fragile beings, in part because they weren't the ones providing economically for the family. Even though they held the family together and kept the home functioning, women seemed less important to society.

Now, alongside being a mother, a daughter, a wife, a maid and a friend, women are workers.

Overwhelming? Yes. While still climbing the stairs that lead to gender equality, women are fed unrealistic expectations about 'having it all,' and they are exhausted. No wonder some even lapse into mental illness.

They've accumulated too many responsibilities

to count; they push themselves; and they're pulled by friends, family and society to perform multiple roles with surgical precision and still look great, smile and comfort whoever is in need at the end of the day.

After all, this is what makes good women. Excuse me. "Good women?" By any chance, is that what superheroes are now called?

And how unsatisfying it feels when those who they put first dare to complain. A mother-in-law pays an unexpected visit and says, 'This place could use a wipe.' The kids won't have dinner because their veggies are squishy and Mom won't just order a pizza. And you haven't called your

best friend yet? You know how she needs you to feel better about everything!

By the time you fall into bed, you're played out from top to bottom and nervous about tomorrow's work presentation at 9 a.m. But your partner has other ideas about bedtime. Sound familiar?

So my advice to the sisterhood is this: There is only so much you can do in a day.

Speak up, delegate responsibilities and make time for your physical and mental health. That won't only allow you to breathe again and love yourself more — but it might go a long way to getting people to appreciate you and everything you do. Even superheroes deserve to be happy.



Natalia Albuquerque

## Celebrating life in Thorncliffe

Myseum Intersections brings community leaders in for open gala

By JODY ANDERSON  
The Observer

To celebrate the life and times of Thorncliffe Park, Myseum Intersections collaborated with Thorncliffe community leaders, Geoff Kettel and Sabina Ali, to present "Telling Thorncliffe Park's Stories: From First Story to New Story" at Jenner Jean-Marie Community Centre on March 19.

The exhibit was a part of Myseum Intersections, a three-week long initiative to highlight the cultural achievements and historical developments of Toronto communities.

"I think it's really important for the people living [in Thorncliffe] to know the history of the place they live in so that they can make connections and feel a sense of belonging to the community," Ali said.

The exhibit featured photographs and a video documenting moments as far back as when Native American tribes lived near the Don River to when Thorncliffe Park Raceway was operating.

To symbolize the community's gradual transition from rural lands to an intricate bustling neighbourhood, designs of what Thorncliffe Park could look like in the future were displayed across the auditorium walls.

In recent years, Thorncliffe Park has been distinguished mainly by the economic and social challenges faced by lower-income people in a neighbourhood characterized by aging apartment towers, lack of public space and services. The city had prioritized Thorn-



Jody Anderson /// The Observer

Rob Oliphant, MP for Don Valley West, surveys designs for Thorncliffe Park done by University of Toronto graduate students.

cliffe as one of its so-called Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

The Liberal MP of Don Valley West, Rob Oliphant, spoke with the University of Toronto students who designed the futuristic landscapes.

"We have two challenges. Finding (more) indoor space and finding more outdoor space," Oliphant said. "We need a banquet hall. One of the problems is we have no large banquet hall that is accessible. We have to have accessibility."

Graduate students from the University of Toronto's urban planning program worked with community members and organizations, like the Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee, to focus on areas that needed attention.

"Our colleagues have imagined different community centre spaces

or park space that's currently not being accessed by the community members," said student Lauren Haein An. "There's currently a former Target space that's just lying without any activity... so that [could be] a new community centre that's bigger."

Even children took time to write their hopes for the community, suggesting there should be "better access to the park" and "more benches, playgrounds and washrooms."

During the exhibit, members of the community participated in a story circle, offered henna tattoos and organized a mini indoor market. The circle gave residents an opportunity to tell stories about their neighborhood, discuss changes they'd like to see and improvements of which they were fond.



(Left) Steve and Anika D'Amico, owners of Millwood Melt in East York, offer an array of different grilled cheese sandwiches including vegan and gluten-free options. (Right) Preparing a classic.



Sadiya Rahman/// Observer

## Say cheese! Celebrate a classic

By MELISHA RATNARAJAH  
The Observer

It's warm and it's filling and after a cold and wet winter, April couldn't be a better time to celebrate National Grilled Cheese Month.

No, this is not a joke or a carryover from April Fool's Day. National Grilled Cheese Month is a very real thing that deserves all the glory it can get.

Grilled cheese sandwiches have been around since the 1920s, and over the past century, the classic American sandwich has been transformed in innumerable creative ways.

Husband and wife team Steve and Anika D'Amico know all about that. They run Millwood Melt, a haven for grilled cheese lovers where the iconic sandwich comes in all shapes and sizes.

Visitors to the quaint restaurant, located in East York, are welcomed by a delightful aroma, warm smiles and a unique decor. Steve says the space is a reflection of who they are as a couple and the food they serve.

"We want people to feel like we're welcoming them into our kitchen and our dining room," he said. "We wanted to create a community space where people could come and indulge in a grilled

cheese sandwich, but do it in a guilt-free way, because it's really good ingredients."

They grow their own ingredients when weather permits and buy their bread from St. John's Bakery, a social enterprise business that provides work for single parents, those who are new to Canada and people struggling with addictions or emotional or mental illness.

They use St. John's sour dough bread, which is good news to Toronto nutritionist Tara Miller. Although she wouldn't recommend grilled cheese sandwiches to her clients, she says there are healthier ways to go about making them, and using sour dough is one of them.

"If you get a sour dough grain bread, it'll probably be better than a white... bread," she said, adding that it makes the bread a "little bit more digestible."

Miller also suggests using goat cheese or sheep cheese for easier digestion and substituting coconut oil, ghee or grass nut butter for conventional butter.

The D'Amicos offer choices that anyone can bite into, including vegan and gluten-free sandwiches. However, running a grilled cheese establishment wasn't their original plan.

They'd initially thought about opening an ice

cream store, but decided it wouldn't work year-round. So together, they sat at their dining room table trying to figure out exactly what they wanted to sell in their restaurant. It just so happened that Anika had purchased a George Foreman Grill that year after being inspired to make grilled cheese sandwiches by a friend.

"We knew we wanted to do something food-based, but we just couldn't figure it out. We had to think: what would be good for Leaside?" Steve said.

"While we're trying to figure this out, she's (Anika) making these amazing grilled cheese sandwiches at home.... No, this is not even a lie!" he said, and imitating biting into a sandwich, he added: "We would be sitting there having business meetings and say, 'So what should we do? What kind of restaurant should we open?' and even then, right in our hands, we weren't getting it."

The D'Amicos grew up in the city, where they say it's easy for people to build walls. When people walk into their store, they value connecting with them through the medium of grilled cheese.

"When you come into the space — this happens almost every time — people let down their guard," Steve D'Amico said. "There's camaraderie and community here. People sense that."

## Granddaughter takes on Green Gables' legacy

Cont'd. from page 1

legacy in 1994, MacDonald Butler has worked to keep her grandmother's name, works and memory respected and wholesome. The turning point came when she got fed up with her family's legacy being managed by lawyers she barely knew. That's when she decided to step forward and take charge.

Since then, she has trademarked the name L.M. Montgomery, holds international frequent academic conferences, has exhibited Mont-



■ DESK MASCOT

gomery's personal belongings in Japan and regularly certifies new Anne products.

"I feel very fortunate and grateful to have this legacy. I take it very seriously, and I know my family is grateful for me in taking this on," she said. "I don't know what would have happened if I hadn't stepped in."

MacDonald Butler is a fighter, just like her grandmother, she said.

"When my grandmother was alive, she was in a legal battle with her publisher," she said.

Montgomery, who died in 1942, fought for eight years and finally won a court case regarding publishing unauthorized original works.

"I'm not afraid of a difference of opinion," Macdonald Butler said. "I have to protect this; I have to protect her. I carry on because of the troubles my grandmother went through."

Anne Shirley would have done the same, she added. "She gets into lots of scraps, but for good reasons. For love and belonging. Those are the kinds of values that makes Anne important to me."

## 'Cancer diagnosis is not a sentence,' says advocate

By BIANCA QUIJANO  
The Observer

Cancer care has come a long way since Sherry Abbott was first diagnosed in 1989.

"It almost seemed like they were frustrated with me because I was in so much pain," she recalled of her treatment for ovarian cancer during a recent interview at Centennial College's East York campus. "I remember a nurse one day being really upset with me. She said, 'Well if you don't stop crying, we're going to take your pain medication away.'"

Fast-forward to 2016. Abbott, who was given three months to live after her initial diagnosis, beat the odds and was cancer-free for 26 years until a routine mammogram recently revealed the presence of breast cancer. She underwent surgery earlier this month and is just about to start radiation and hormonal treatment at Princess Margaret Hospital.

As well as being a cancer care advocate and patient, Abbott, 57, is the executive director of the Canadian Cosmetic Toiletry and Fragrance Association Foundation, responsible for the *Beauty Gives Back* campaign. She



■ SHERRY ABBOTT

is also involved with *Look Good Feel Better* and facingcancer.ca. She says the quality of care today stands in sharp contrast to her treatment the first time around, which may have something to do with the breakdown of

societal misconceptions about cancer.

"The care is delivered with a big infusion of hope," she said. "I'm amazed at how gracious all the hospital staff and volunteers are. As a patient, I feel more empowered because of it."

Mikki Layton is an oncology nurse practitioner at Michael Garron Hospital. She says the current generation of medical professionals has been trained to provide compassionate care.

"Our nurses are certified with oncology-specific qualifications," she explained. "We're trained not just in the medical aspects, but also with how to support patients through their psychosocial and emotional challenges."

Psychiatrists and social workers are also part of the cancer team. This multidisciplinary approach ensures that patients have access to services as close to home as possible.

Similarly, *Look Good Feel Better* helps patients regain their sense of self. The program offers free workshops teaching women about things such as how to style a wig and how to recreate the look of eyebrows and lashes.

About 170,000 women have been through the workshop in Canada. The charity also operates in 26 countries worldwide.

Aside from these programs, support from loved ones or co-survivors, as Abbott calls them, is vital. Layton says co-survivors must encourage patients to communicate actively with their health-care providers and report symptoms in real time.

The days when cancer was called "The Big C" are gone, Abbott says, but there is still room for improvement. She says cancer is a lifelong journey and people face psychosocial challenges that they must bear for years after being declared cancer-free. She believes there's a need for more initiatives that guide people through the recovery process. She also says there is not enough awareness about early prevention.

"You need to take your own health into your own hands. Women — be proactive about breast cancer. Men — be proactive about prostate cancer," she says. "Know what signs to look for and do not be afraid. Embrace it as a way of guarding your life with your health."