



Sergio Arangio/ The Observer

A property manager from Crestview Apartments complains to a police officer about the media invading residents' privacy in the wake of the McArthur investigation.

Leasiders distressed by press attention

By **BOBBY HRISTOVA, TAYLOR BRIDGER, SERGIO ARANGIO and ANJELICA BALATBAT**
The Observer

The commotion caused by the media frenzy a week into the Bruce McArthur investigation has some Leaside residents distressed.

Police set up a large tent Jan. 29 in the backyard of a property where human remains of at least three missing Toronto men were discovered.

Forensic experts are preparing to excavate the soil behind 53 Mallory Cres. in search of more bodies. This has resulted in a constant flow of reporters who have staked out the area, parking satellite trucks and vans along the street and trying to interview residents.

The house at No. 53 sits at the end of a street that also houses several blocks of two-storey apartments owned by Crestview Investment Corporation.

Richard Johnston, a spokes-

man for the company's apartments at 57-93 Mallory Cres. and 30-75 Leacrest Rd., declined to comment on their decision to place two handwritten cardboard lawn signs with the words "Private property, no press."

An employee wearing a black Lawrence Construction jacket stood at the corner of Leacrest Road and Mallory Crescent on Feb. 1, silently monitoring journalists.

When approached, he declined to give his name but the

message was clear.

"People can't be here. All these streets and houses need to be left alone," the man said, identifying himself as a property manager with the company.

The quiet Leaside community located at Bayview and Moore avenues normally sees people walking with their families and taking dogs out for exercise between Bennington Heights Park and the Crothers Woods trail. Now, more outsiders are driving by, slowing down at the Mallory Green

parkette across from the crime scene to gawk.

Paul, who lives in a house at 26 Mallory Cres., said the overwhelming media presence has worsened the situation for those near the crime scene.

"It's a nuisance," he said, asking that his last name not be used. "There's more traffic here and people are walking by and looking at the scene. I've had knocks on my door and I've seen reporters going around all the time."

At 35 Leacrest Rd., Barba-

ra, who also didn't want her last name used, was putting a stroller into her car. The strong police presence has made an impression on the woman, a Toronto lawyer, who said locals are now conscious of each other's safety.

"We definitely watch out for each other on this street," she said, although she acknowledged that her detective skills may not have helped identify the suspect. "Not to the extent

■ See RESIDENTS, page 2

Resident escapes 'dark place' to break go-kart record

Hayley draws on his depression and mother's cancer battle to surpass world mark

By **BOBBY HRISTOVA**
The Observer

After 16 hours of racing around the tight, serpentine track at Formula Kartways in Brampton, Matthew Hayley hit a wall — mentally and almost physically.

"I can tell you for a split second, I considered finding the hardest wall to drive that car into — my brain

went to that dark place," Hayley said.

The East York resident was driving blind after thick tears had formed in his eyes from a combination of lack of sleep and wind from the zooming kart.

Hayley could rely only on muscle memory, but his endurance was almost spent.

Ice packs covered his arms as he struggled to guide his vehicle. His curled fingers stiffened as they clutched the steering wheel.

His neck was limp, swinging helplessly with each cutting corner and hairpin turn. His spine, already warped from his kyphoscoliosis (an unnatural S-curve of the spine),

throbbed as the 7.5-horsepower go-kart rumbled.

As Hayley felt his focus slipping away at 4 a.m. on Jan. 23, he thought of his mother, Margaret Hayley, who died of lung cancer six years ago.

She was the reason he was here.

Determined to succeed, Hayley got a second wind. He drove with one hand, using the other to press on his limp right leg until the gas pedal kissed the bottom of the go-kart.

"My mom only had half a lung left and she was still breathing. When I was feeling like giving up in those last couple hours, I reminded myself of the things my

mother pushed through," he said. "It was spiritual. I felt her hand on my shoulder as I was pulling through. I felt a hug, the sun came out, and I was raising my arms up to the light."

Eight hours later, Hayley stood atop the steering wheel as he finished his final lap, smashing the world record for the longest distance driven in a go-kart in a continuous 24-hour period.

He celebrated, but the record — unrecognized by Guinness World Records, as they have no application on file — was an afterthought.

Hayley, 31, said the true triumph

■ See GO-KART, page 5



Matthew Hayley/Facebook

Hayley practises on the track before his attempt to break the world record. Within two hours of driving, his team rotated his tires because of his speed.

POLICE & FIRE

Man sought for attempted murder near Hanson Street

A man, 26, is wanted in an attempted murder investigation. Toronto Police are searching for a man who allegedly used a hammer to assault a male victim. The assault happened near Hanson Street and Coxwell Avenue on Jan. 27. Lee Edward Steepe is wanted on seven counts including attempted murder, aggravated assault and forcible confinement.

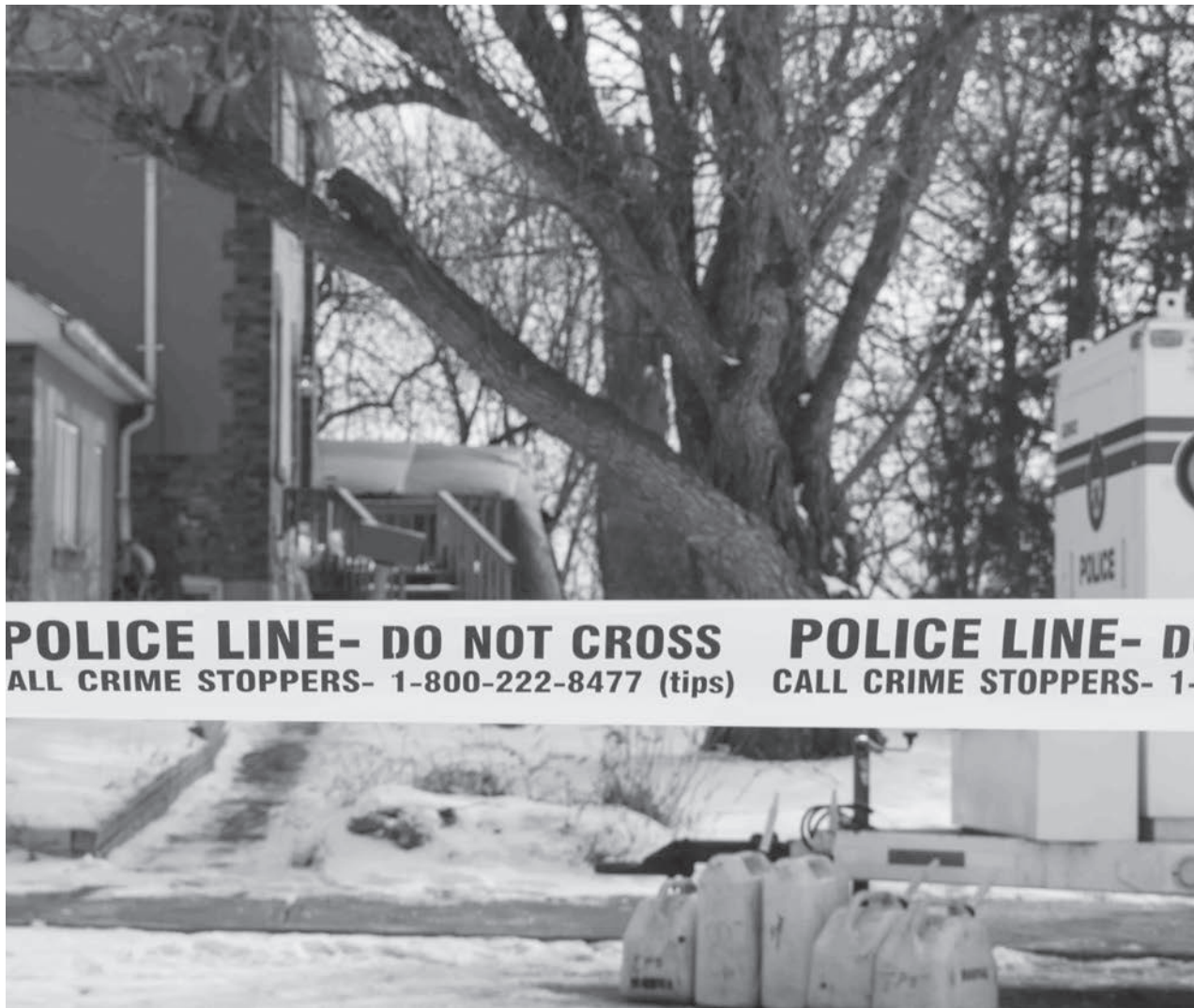
Charges laid for luring, child exploitation and sexual assault

An East York man, 37, has been charged with child exploitation. Toronto Police searched a home near Victoria Park and Eglinton avenues on Jan. 24. Richard Adams is charged with sexual interference, sexual assault, making sexually explicit material available to a child and two counts of luring a child.

Arrest made in Wakunda Place stabbing death

A man has been charged with second-degree murder three months after the death of Henryk Dabrowski, 60. Police arrested him on Jan. 17. On Oct. 28, police had responded to a call in the Wakunda Place and O'Connor Drive area where they found Dabrowski had been fatally stabbed. Gary Seymour Scott, 37, was to appear in court on Jan. 18.

~ Jennifer Teixeira



Bobby Hristova/Toronto Observer

Power generators sit in front of the house as police prepare to begin digging in the backyard of the property. The homeowners visited last week, but haven't returned since. Excavation is expected to start this week.

Residents to media: You're a 'nuisance'

Cont'd. from page 1

that I could tell the difference between the person who did it versus the guy who lived there."

The house at 53 Mallory Cres. is owned by a couple who were clients of the landscaper charged with five murders.

They have confirmed they permitted him to use their property to keep equipment for his landscaping business, Artistic Design.

Two seniors who were out for their regular walk Thursday afternoon said they find the recent developments troubling.

"It's disturbing. Anybody who could hear about that, how could they not be disturbed," said one of the women, who was wearing a purple coat and holding nordic walking poles. She was referring to the discovery of dismembered bodies hidden inside planters on the property.

"This is so bizarre, so one in a bazillion," she said.

Carol Wright, an avid amateur gardener, said the case has ru-

ined her passion for getting her hands dirty.

"This entire situation has really changed things for me...people are going to look at gardening and the flowers around here differently," she said at the corner of Leacrest and Mallory. "My best friend lives almost right beside the scene. We planted a garden together in front of the apartment and now I don't know what will happen to it."

Toronto police are also examining at least 30 properties in the city and outside Toronto where the suspect did work.

Wright says the area offers beautiful gardens and flowers, especially after they bloom in the summer.

Toronto police have charged McArthur, 66, with five counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of Andrew Kinsmen, 49; Selim Esen, 44; Majeed Kayhan, 58; Soroush Mahmudi, 50; and Dean Lisowick, 47.

Police are investigating links between McArthur and other disappearances.

TTC garage approved as site of new police station

Council gives green light to locating consolidated station on Danforth Avenue

By JENNIFER TEIXEIRA
The Observer

A new police station to house the amalgamated 54 and 55 Divisions will be built in East York on the site of the TTC's current Danforth Garage.

Council approved the preferred site, at 1627 Danforth Ave. near Coxwell Avenue, on Jan. 31.

It prevailed over two other finalists: the East York Civic Centre and the current 55 Division headquarters.

Local councillors Janet Davis (Ward 31), Paula Fletcher (Ward 30), Mary Fragedakis (Ward 29) and Mary-Margaret

McMahon (Ward 32) submitted a letter of recommendation for the two-hectare site that characterized the location as a "fantastic building opportunity that cannot be missed."

The new site also "aligns with the city's real estate goals seeking to co-ordinate, modernize and maximize the value of city assets," the report for action said.

The budget for the consolidated building is estimated at \$32.4 million.

The funding "is included in the 2018-2027 preliminary capital budget and plan," the report for action said.

The current 54 Division building is at 41 Cranfield Rd. The 55 Division building is at 101 Coxwell Ave.

Together, the two divisions cover the Central and East parts of Toronto, including East York.



Jennifer Teixeira/The Observer

The new police station will be located at 1627 Danforth Ave., which currently houses a TTC garage.

WHAT'S UP IN E.Y.

Biography of a refugee

Dwayne Genus and Uchenwa Genus will discuss their first novel, an historical biography of a survivor who escaped to Canada with her child during the Nigerian-Biafran civil war in the 1960s. The event will be held at the S. Walter Stewart Library, 170 Memorial Park Ave., on Feb. 13 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Pancake time at St. Cuthbert's

St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church will host a Mardi Gras and pancake supper on Feb. 13 from 5:30-7:15 p.m. The church is located at 1399 Bayview Ave. and the cost is \$7.50 for adults, \$5 for children under 10 and \$20 per family. Call 416-485-0329 for ticket information.

South African plant discussion

South Africa is home to over 22,000 species of plants. Anna Leggatt will talk about some of them at the Feb. 15 meeting of the East York Garden Club. The free public event will take place at the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m.

Enjoy PA Day at Todmorden

The Todmorden Mills Heritage Site will be holding a drop-in family event Feb. 16 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Participants can craft winter birds or enjoy scenery while taking a guided tour of historic homes. The event costs \$3 for children and \$7 for adults.

~ Fran Mbadiwe



Ellen Samek/ The Observer

Brian Stevens, pastor of Hope United Church, stands in the chapel after Sunday service. He says his church will be applying to the Canada Summer Jobs program.

Abortion fuels summer job program debate

Christians in East York weigh in on controversy surrounding Canada Summer Jobs program

By ELLEN SAMEK
The Observer

Mary Quigley is disappointed.

The devout Catholic, who has been living in East York since 1966, is frustrated by the changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program application.

The grant program, used to fund the salaries of summer students, now requires applicants to state that their organization's core mandate supports reproductive rights, including access to abortion.

"It's terrible to try and force people to say they believe in something when they don't," Quigley said. "I'm very disappointed in Mr. Trudeau. As a baptized Roman Catholic, he should know better."

On Jan. 30, a federal court judge ruled against an emergency injunction filed by the Toronto Right to Life Association to keep the application changes from being implemented this year.

Justice Martine St-Louis found that the pro-life organization did not meet the burden of proof required.

The injunction is part of a larger lawsuit against the federal government that will challenge the constitutionality of the application changes.

Blaise Alleyne, the president of Toronto Right to Life, said in an official statement on the website that the organization was "disap-



Ellen Samek/ The Observer

Mary Quigley and her husband Finton Quigley at Holy Name Roman Catholic Church after noon mass.

pointed by the ruling."

Toronto Right to Life will return to court in a few months, when it will present its arguments against the federal government.

"It's a violation of Canadians' charter rights to freedom of belief, expression and religion," Alleyne told the East York Observer.

"The Charter is a shield to protect us from the government, not a sword for the government to use against us when we don't agree with the Prime Minister," he said.

"This is a bold, unconstitutional overreach, and

we have to stand up and defend our beliefs."

According to the Archdiocese of Toronto, the approximately 150 summer jobs that could be negatively affected are primarily summer counsellors' positions.

The archdiocese was one of the 80 groups present at an interfaith press conference on Jan. 25 asking the federal government to change the new requirements.

"I don't think the government intended to politicize programs that were never political in the first place," said Neil MacCarthy, the director

of public relations and communications for the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The archdiocese and its partners still see the potential for dialogue.

"We feel the door has been closed, but we are hopeful there is a solution," MacCarthy said.

The archdiocese said that legal action is not planned at present.

At Hope United Church, located at Danforth Avenue and Main Street, the new application requirements aren't an issue for pastor Brian Stevens.

The United Church of Canada tends to be liberal and in line with changes to Canadian society and law when it comes to social issues, including abortion and contraception, he said.

"As a Christian, I think it's important we stay in tune with the laws of our country. I personally believe in a woman's right to choose and make decisions about her own health."

When asked about organizations opposed to the changes due to religious and moral grounds, Stevens' response was, "Just don't apply."

"You absolutely have the right to disagree," he said. "But if you disagree strongly enough that you aren't going to tick the box, just don't apply to that program."

When it comes time to apply for his own church to receive funding for after-school programs and summer drama camps, Stevens said he will have no qualms ticking the little box.

Despite the backlash, the federal government has no plans to change the new requirements.

The application deadline has been extended to Feb. 9.

East York Meals on Wheels in desperate need of volunteer drivers



Photo courtesy of East York Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels volunteer Donna delivers food to recipient Joseph.

Food delivery service for seniors depends on volunteers to keep it running smoothly

By JELA TEJADA
The Observer

Seniors citizens will still get the hot meals they've come to depend on in spite of a shortage of volunteer drivers, says the executive director of East York Meals on Wheels.

The non-profit organization has been delivering meals to East York's seniors for almost 50 years. While the shortage won't affect clients directly, it will take a toll on the service provided, said Anne MacNeill.

"We have lots of clients who are fully dependent on Meals on Wheels, but we're making sure no client is suffering because we don't have enough drivers. It's our staff who go and deliver the meals," she said.

The problem is that there are only four people on staff, she ex-

plained, and they have other duties in the office as well.

The shortage of volunteer drivers is not a systemic issue, but a circumstantial one, according to MacNeill.

Many of the volunteers move south in the winter. Some come and go in between employment, while others volunteer on a short-term basis only.

If you are interested in joining East York Meals on Wheels' team of volunteers, please call 416-424-3322.



Mouhamad Rachini/The Observer

Terry Panagiotopoulos, vice-president of the Olympiakos Toronto fan club, reminisces over some of the memorabilia on the clubhouse's walls. He and club secretary Manny Dimitraklas watched their home country, Greece, win its first Euro Cup in 2004 at the Estádio da Luz.

Cup memories have fans excited for 2026

Toronto's bid for soccer's quadrennial brings out the emotions in local supporters

By **MOUHAMAD RACHINI**
The Observer

Bert Lobo was just 13 years old when he watched England win the 1966 World Cup.

"I think my house shook from all of the cheering," said the East York Soccer Club consultant and former president of the Ontario Youth Soccer League. "It went to extra-time and England beat Germany."

Lobo and other East York soccer fans might have a chance to experience some more memorable soccer moments closer to home in a few years. In 2017, Canada, the United States and Mexico announced they would be submitting a bid to FIFA to co-host the 2026 World Cup, and on Feb. 1, Toronto city council voted 29 to 1 in favour of being a host city if the bid is accepted.

"On a personal basis, obviously it would be great," Lobo said. "I think that would be excellent for the game and the development here in this country, and it puts our name on the world map."

Lobo was born in India, but grew up in England. He lived three miles away from Wembley Stadium, which was the venue for the 1966 World Cup final. He watched England's controversial World Cup-winning goal being scored from his neighbourhood home.

"The one that Geoff Hurst kicked, which hit the crossbar and came down," he said. "To this day, even with all the technology and slow-motion video, they still can't tell if it went in or not."

The East York community is not short of soccer fans who have witnessed historic moments in the sport. Manny Dimitraklas, secretary of the Olympiakos Toronto fan club, and vice-president Terry Panagiotopoulos, both 61, watched their home country Greece win its first Euro Cup in 2004 at the Estádio da Luz.

"We were at Lisbon for the final of the 2004 Euro Cup," Panagiotopoulos said. "We still have the tickets of the game, framed on the wall, as well as a picture of the team."

"I was feeling 'football' emotions," Dimitraklas said. "At that moment, you feel like you've



Mouhamad Rachini/The Observer

East York Soccer Club consultant Bert Lobo, 64 (left), and club president Dragan Zagar, 72, pose in front of trophies won by the club.

been taking drugs. It was something you dream of, and then your dream comes true. It's a memorable moment."

Toronto is a city that comes alive during international soccer competitions. Pubs and sports bars are usually packed during matches, and it's not uncommon to find supporters of different nations waving flags and singing chants on the streets. To the Olympiakos Toronto fan club, it's the perfect setting for a World Cup.

"Especially here in Toronto, a lot of people love soccer," Panagiotopoulos said. "Everybody will be excited and happy. All of the world will have their eyes here on Toronto."

Dimitraklas believes holding the World Cup here would be good for the city and its residents.

"Toronto is a multicultural city and I'm pretty sure there will be a lot of people who will be interested in going to the games," he said.

Toronto's multiculturalism could be a problem, though. There have been complaints about Canada not being represented in the crowd during home games. Lobo believes this could be the scenario if Toronto hosts the World Cup.

"I would be concerned about the attendance," he said. "I've been to games here where whichever nation we're playing are represented and

cheered for more than the Canadian team."

If that's the case, don't count on Panagiotopoulos and Dimitraklas being part of that crowd.

"Of course I'm going to cheer (for Canada) if Canada is playing here," Panagiotopoulos said.

"We are Canadians. This is our host team," Dimitraklas added. "Regardless of where everybody came from, this is our homeland right now. So we have to support and help our homeland."

"I would like to see Greece advancing to other rounds, but I will feel the same way for Canada to advance in the next round."

Skeptics have pointed towards increased traffic congestion being an issue. Lobo said this can be avoided if the city advertises and tells commuters of the effects the World Cup will have on traffic.

"They've done that before because they do that for different events that are happening," he said. "So you just have to plan for extra time to get there. I don't think it's a huge issue."

Neither does Dimitraklas, who said traffic congestion would be nothing new.

"With all of the construction that's going on, we have traffic right now," he said. "It takes from point A to point B minimum 45 minutes in the city, so why would people oppose an internation-

al event for traffic congestion? This is a big city. Big cities do have traffic congestion.

"Unfortunately, that's how the world is and if you have an event for 15 or 20 days, maybe you have to suffer a bit."

The most significant problem holding back Toronto from potentially hosting the World Cup is a stadium. FIFA requires a minimum 40,000-seat stadium for all group matches and knockout-round games, bar the tournament opener and the final. BMO Field, the home of Toronto FC, can only hold around 30,000 spectators, making it ineligible without upgrades. To the Olympiakos Toronto fan club, this is a sign for the city to build a new stadium.

"The thing is when you have a World Cup here, you're going to have to build a new stadium," Panagiotopoulos said. "Look what happens with Toronto FC. Every game they play in Toronto, the stadium is packed. It's about time for people to wake up and build a new stadium for soccer."

"It's a good opportunity for us to renovate or change or build those fields," Dimitraklas said. "I'm pretty sure we have enough area to build those stadiums."

When compared to stadiums in other major Canadian cities, this could impact Toronto's chances at hosting the tournament.

"Right now, Montreal is looking at around 70,000 for their stadium; the Olympic Stadium," Lobo said. "And then BC Place (in Vancouver) and Commonwealth Stadium (in Edmonton) all hold 55,000 to 60,000."

"Obviously Toronto is the main city in the country; it's the one that is most well-known. Whether it will happen or not will depend on whether Toronto can actually achieve the requirements of hosting, and the whole key is the stadium."

If it does work out, the East York soccer community hopes skeptics will give the tournament and the sport a chance.

"I just want people to get educated of how important it is for a city like Toronto to host international events," Dimitraklas said. "We are part of this world. We can't be excluded from this world."

Lobo agrees. "In the States, soccer really took off after 1994 when the United States hosted the World Cup. I hope it would be the same here for those non-believers of the sport."



Kasy Pertab/Toronto Observer

Valentine creations

Danielle Vachor, 11, concentrates on making a card for a special someone. She was at Todmorden Mills' Valentine card-making workshop on Feb. 3.

East York businesses to get flood relief for 2015

By RYAN MACKENZIE
The Observer

It was an April morning after a big storm in 2015, and Sammy Chen, the owner of Fresh Choice Store on O'Connor Drive, had been in Canada for about a year. He was finally getting settled and comfortable, only to find he had another challenge at hand.

That morning when he went to work, he discovered that the basement of his shop had flooded overnight. All of the produce stored there was destroyed, and Chen had to throw out thousands of dollars of stock.

His store is only one of a number in the O'Connor Drive-St. Clair Avenue area to have problems with flooding. Now, a solution is at hand.

According to a report from Ward 31 Councillor Janet Davis, East York will undergo a major infrastructure and street-scaping project along O'Connor Drive from Woodbine Avenue to St. Clair. The two-year project will include reconstruction to the two intersections to



■ CHEN

improve pedestrian safety, the installation of sewers, a rain garden to better control storm water, and the relining of water mains.

Chen believes it's long overdue.

"The flooding problem here is serious," he said. "It's hurting our businesses, and it makes it unsafe for the elderly people in the area to walk around."

According to Statistics Canada, the median age in East York is a relatively high 40.5 years old, and the only reason the number isn't even higher is because of a recent spike in children between 0-14 (17.5 per cent of East York popula-

tion).

By comparison, Toronto's media age is 39.4, but only 16 per cent of the population is between 0-14.

Flooding in the streets of popular areas like O'Connor Drive and St. Clair Avenue hurts businesses like Chen's even more. When streets are dangerous to navigate, fewer customers come to the door.

The infrastructure project is intended to make O'Connor Drive safer and to reduce the amount of storm water that leaks onto the streets and into surrounding buildings.

"I'm excited in the incredible investment we'll be making in the two neighbourhoods," Councillor Davis said. "This city investment is long overdue, the sewer infrastructure has been long inadequate, and these capital improvements will help ensure we are prepared for the storms in the future."

The budget for the basement-flooding project is reportedly \$17 million.

The work is set to begin this year.

Go-kart racer finds healing in his fast hobby

Cont'd. from page 1

was the money raised for charity and his personal transformation.

"The record was nice, but as soon as we were talking charity, I was in full-tilt," he said.

Hayley's goal was to raise \$5,000 to support the place where his mother stayed, the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre.

He surpassed the target, amassing \$5,135.

"Growing up, I was an under-motivated under-achiever. A lot of my life leading up to this has been a lacking in drive. That's where I really said enough is enough, and I approached this."

Hayley started go-karting over a decade ago and was instantly enamoured.

Impressed by Hayley's performance at the time, Shaun de Jager, the coach and manager at the track, said with practice Hayley could consider driving in their competitive league and events, but he didn't accept the offer.

After his mother's death, depression set in, leading to a medical leave from work.

"When I lost mum, I hit the denial stage very hard," Hayley said. "A year ago, I spoke to my doctor, he agreed and said, 'Let's call it a pre-emp-

tive medical leave.' When I say pre-emptive, I mean before I took care of myself, if you will."

Searching for answers and medical help, he reverted to a psychological approach to try to rebuild himself. Through this, he revisited go-karting.

"Those that are in depression but still appear functional are so underseen and left behind," he said. "I ended up turning to someone private — I modelled after play therapy."

Play therapy is an approach where people, usually children, use play to communicate and express emotion.

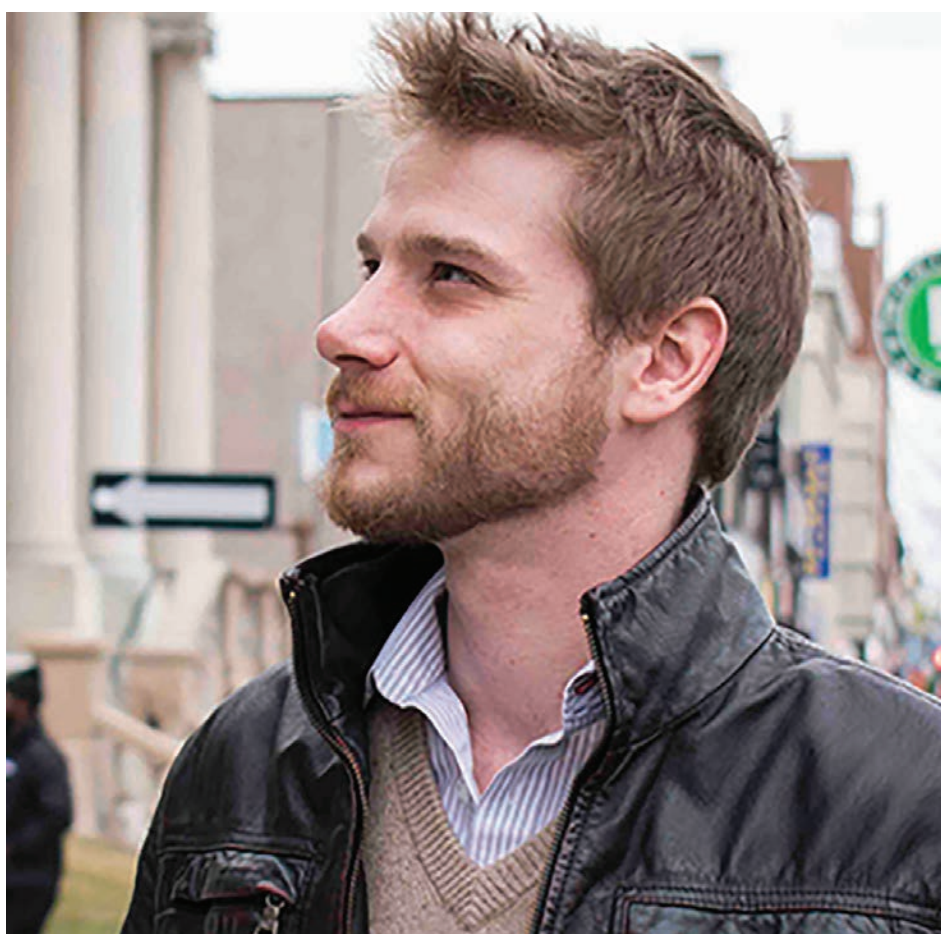
Hayley returned to the track and found healing in the hobby.

The, while rummaging through his attic one day, something caught his eye. He dusted off the 2000 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records and looked at the indoor go-karting record.

After crunching some of his own racing statistics, Hayley had an epiphany.

He told de Jager about his idea to break the record. Three days later, he completed a six-hour trial run.

"When he told me about the record, I was interested, but I wasn't sure it could be done," de Jager said. "The more I ran the numbers, the more I real-



Bobby Hristova/Toronto Observer

Matthew Hayley looks ahead with determination, planning to use his experience to inspire students and help others with their mental health. He also hopes to break the outdoor version of the go-karting record.

ized how insane it was. The numbers worked out, but only assuming the driver was a robot."

Hayley points to his coach, his public relations manager,

his chief medical officer, his girlfriend, his father, step-mother and his late mother as pivotal players in his success.

Although he achieved everything he set out to do, "This is

only the beginning," he said.

Hayley and his team plan on beating the outdoor version of the same record this summer, with a larger-scale event.

"The unofficial date is June.

I want to invite sponsors, local crafters and maybe some racers. People can come by and make a donation," he said.

"We did great with the \$5,000. We smashed it. So, let's add a zero."

De Jager said Hayley will use the same go-kart for the outdoor attempt, but with modifications.

"We'll probably strip off the bumpers and the roll bars and add a 10-horsepower engine so it'll be 50 pounds lighter and he can hit the 100-km speeds," he said. "Matthew will have to cover 2,000 kilometres in 24 hours."

Hayley aims to do more than set records. He grew up with learning disabilities, and succeeding in school was difficult. Because of that, he hopes to explore philanthropy, speak at schools and create opportunities within schools for students with learning disabilities.

"I've almost learned an appreciation for depression. The next time it starts coming to find me, I'm going to welcome it with open arms," he said.

"I won't ever see it as depression, but contrast to appreciate the rest that's in my life. That's what I've really learned from this journey, and that's the message I want to get out there."

EDITORIALS

Talking openly can make a difference

At the end of each January, Bell Media flexes its corporate muscle and hosts Bell Let's Talk Day, an annual charitable event unlike any other.

Last Tuesday, it raised a record \$6,919,199.75 for various charities, hospitals, and mental health initiatives, as an unprecedented 138,383,995 messages and social interactions took place across social-media platforms in support of mental health.

It's clear that figures like the ones above express our shared willingness to further an important conversation and de-stigmatize the issue.

As East York residents and members of a larger social fabric, we need to be at the forefront of this change.

Through our friends, family, and classmates, we've seen firsthand the importance of creating a climate in which mental health is prioritized and understand we must be the generation that tackles the issue head-on.

While Bell Let's Talk Day serves as an excellent start, Canada needs more corporations, brands and, in particular, professional sports franchises to host their own events in conjunction with the overall mental health initiative.

Imagine the amount of awareness that could be raised if more local teams hosted their own annual mental health-based charitable initiatives.

The Toronto Maple Leafs' Hockey Talks Mental Health Awareness Night serves as the perfect example, as the annual event is in partnership with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

Across the nation, we've also seen university and college student groups argue for resources, like George Brown's Healthy Campus Initiative, an attempt to prioritize mental health and shift its campus climate to be a more inclusive and accepting for all.

While small strides have been made through charities and initiatives, the tide still hasn't completely turned on the manner in which we treat individuals who suffer from mental illness.

Bell Let's Talk Day is a key step towards the world we want to create.

~ Daniel Samuel

Seeking a solution to crowded shelters

There is an overcrowding problem in Toronto shelters. There has been for years.

According to the Daily Shelter Census on the City of Toronto website, facilities for families were at 100-per-cent capacity as of Feb. 1 and nearly that for motels housing men, women and youth.

In the past two years, the average number of people spending nights in Toronto's permanent emergency-shelter system has increased dramatically, according to the website.

In 2016 and 2017, more than 5,000 people were in shelters, up from about 4,000 in 2015

Overall, there are approximately 5,000 homeless people in Toronto. The Moss Park Armoury that had recently closed had beds for up to 90 people.

Simply put, there are not enough shelter beds to accommodate the growing need.

The city has responded by working with the federal government to secure space in armouries as emergency shelters, but that was a temporary solution.

More recently, a temporary homeless shelter with 200 beds has opened in the Dupont Street and Davenport Road area, but not without some pushback.

Some residents of the area have publicly opposed the shelter, citing the lack of space and existing housing problems as issues. Others are willing to welcome people to the shelters.

Opening this building up as a shelter is a step in the right direction.

But it is not enough.

Maybe all the city needs to do is make use of what is available.

The city could search for buildings it owns that have available space and consider negotiating with owners of any private properties that could potentially become temporary shelters.

Recently, there have been reports of downtown schools at risk of being shut down. There is a list on the website called People for Education (<http://peopleforeducation.ca/research/school-closings-2017/>). If the city looks ahead, it can work for boards of education to turn any possibly soon-to-be empty buildings into shelters, as well.

Until then, the city should continue to work with the federal government to keep open the armouries for the homeless.

~ Jessica Lam

COLUMNS

Time to remind ourselves about judicial principles

Society seems to be forgetting one of our judicial system's most important principles: innocent until proven guilty.

Ask yourself what it would be like to be accused of a crime you didn't commit, lose your livelihood and be punished by the law or labelled a pariah for the world to see, all because of an accusation and nothing more.

The #MeToo movement started with the absolute best of intentions: shedding light on sexual assault victims coming forward to name their abusers and share their stories. Hardly an easy thing to do. Even admirable.

But that was then. The days of laying low accused serial abusers like Harvey Weinstein have given way to a Spanish inquisition of sorts.

Perhaps as a man, my per-

spective is much different than a woman's.

Still, the sheer number of accusations is becoming impossible to keep track of.

Patrick Brown, Paul Bliss, Kent Hehr, Rich Dykstra, James Franco, Aziz Ansari. I could go on.

So many Hollywood stars, politicians and media personalities have been lumped together under a massive umbrella of "abusers" that we risk making light of the serious assaults the #MeToo movement seeks to stop.

It's become a guessing game around the water cooler.

Who's next? The mailman? The dog walker? The prime minister?

Nothing seems shocking at this point. All are suspect.

One of the big problems with #MeToo is how broadly used the

hashtag is.

People accused of rape or assault are being lumped together with those who have had a bad date or made an unwanted comment.

All have importance, but one of these things is clearly not like the other.

Someone "guilty" of cat-calling doesn't deserve to be lumped in with an actual criminal.

Another problem is how much power mere anonymous accusations can have. Former Progressive Conservative party leader Patrick Brown, for example, has been accused.

Whether he's guilty or not hardly matters. His career is over.

Brown might have enough money to weather the storm, but what about the average joe?

If such accusations were made against someone living paycheque to paycheque, that person would be ruined.

That's justice, if he's guilty. What happens if he's innocent?

It seems like society has forgotten that and is all too eager to shout "me too!"



D.J. Llewellyn

Waiting in the cold for a bus that just drives on by

"Stop! Must I wave my hands back and forth to capture your attention?"

That's what I'm thinking as I'm running toward the bus. The driver speeds off anyway.

I am aware that this is a universal issue, not one faced only by students like me. Now I must wait in the cold for the next bus, which could take up to 20 minutes.

It's a stormy night. My mind is giving up. I am yawning uncontrollably and zoning in and out of school readings.

My thoughts are whispering that it is time to go home. I make my way to my locker to gather my belongings.

It is time to leave the building.

But wait! I forgot my boots, and I refuse to go outside in such extreme cold weather while wearing running shoes. I rush to my locker and then

storm back out of the building, anxious to make it home.

Approaching the bus, trudging through mounds of snow, I am confident that it will stop. But no!

How inconsiderate. Some patience would have been nice.

I know that some TTC drivers care, but others, fixated on following their schedules, seem not to.

This is the third time I've been in this stressful situation. Three

times is too many.

Some would say that I could have checked the bus schedule on my phone, but not all students can afford a data plan.

I feel I must speak up, so I call the TTC complaints line. It isn't much help.

I was asked for the four-digit vehicle number of the bus — or any of the buses that caused me angst.

But how would I know?

I'm powerless because I don't know the vehicle number.

Next time I ride the bus, I'll look for the vehicle number. But I'm still hopeful that it might just stop for me this time.



Rashida Powankumar

A century of difference on Pape Avenue



City of Toronto Archives



Jennifer Teixeira / The Observer

Pape and Danforth has always been an integral part of East York. Danforth Avenue is known for a strong Greek presence but today it is a hub for diverse East Yorkers wanting to enjoy restaurants and stores. Above left is the residential street of Pape Avenue looking south from Danforth, complete with horse-drawn carriages, as it appeared in 1917. Above right is how the commercialized, car-ridden intersection appears more than a century later.



Trisha Sales / The Observer

Vassia Prespari, a public relations student, digs into a plate of pancakes served up by faculty and staff at Centennial College's East York campus.

Students flip for free pancakes

Students and staff appreciate annual pancake event at East York college

By TRISHA SALES
The Observer

Returning students kicked off the new semester with one of Centennial College's more idiosyncratic traditions: Pancake Day.

Students and staff alike gathered Jan. 31 in a crowded cafeteria at the college's East York campus for the complimentary feast.

About 1,700 pancakes

were served in total, with no leftovers. Students also went through 16 bottles of maple syrup. Thirty faculty and staff members were responsible for preparing and serving the pancakes.

"My friends and I planned to go out to eat, but we saw free pancakes so we decided to eat here instead," said Shelley Lu, an international student in the New Media program. She and her friends stayed warm in the crowded cafeteria and went back for seconds.

Pancake Day has been going on for seven or eight years, said Scott Hosmer, a marketing communications officer at Centennial.



Trisha Sales / The Observer

About 1,700 pancakes were served at the Jan. 31 event.

E.Y. Historical Society honours judge who broke colour barrier

Stanley G. Grizzle was a human rights activist, Order of Canada recipient and community booster

By DAVID LYNCH
The Observer

The East York Historical Society's Celebration of Black History meeting focused on the life and career of late East York judge and human-rights advocate Stanley G. Grizzle.

Grizzle's son, Stan E. Grizzle, and granddaughter, Mosadi Brown, talked about the impact he had on the community of East York.

"My father was a fundamental part of the development of East York accepting people of colour," Stan E. Grizzle said in an interview after the Jan. 30 presentation.

City councillor Janet Davis (Ward 31 Beaches-East York) thanked Grizzle and Brown for their presentation and announced an additional honour for Stanley G. Grizzle that will happen beside the park already named after him near Main Street and Danforth Avenue.

"The East York Historical Society and I have canvassed the neighbourhood and we're bringing forward a naming of the laneway beside the park after Stanley G. Grizzle," she said.

There will also be an historical plaque placed in Stanley G. Grizzle Park. As well, an official condolence is going to be passed through city council and sent to the family, Davis said.

The East York Historical Society's president, Pat Barnett, said the laneway naming is part of the reason they

brought Grizzle's family in to talk about him.

"We chose to honour him because the councillor and I were working on naming the laneway and, after looking at his contributions, we decided it would be great to honour him," Barnett said.

Stanley G. Grizzle was a fixture in

East York, helping to break the colour barriers that existed in the 1940s and 1950s. The younger Grizzle talked about this, including his

father's 1959 political run, which made him the first

black man to run in Ontario politics.

In 1978, Grizzle was named a citizenship judge. He was honoured with the Order of Ontario in 1990 and the Order of Canada. He died in 2016 at the age of 97.

Grizzle also served in the Second World War. Without conscription, his son said, there was no way Grizzle would have served.

"Why would you fight for a country that wouldn't fight for you?" he said.

As a result of his father breaking colour barriers, Grizzle's talk focused on how his father helped others, and on how we can break the barriers that still exist.

"As we educate each other, the walls of exclusion dissolve," Grizzle said.

The opening act for the meeting was Sistema, a program that uses "ensemble-based music education" to help at-risk kids. The group holds classes 10 hours a week, and works on drumming, singing, and instrumental playing.



■ STAN E. GRIZZLE

Cold night, warm hearts in Leaside

Team 'LUCY' joins nationwide walk-a-thon to promote awareness of homelessness

By **LOUISE ALLYN PALMA**
The Observer

By spending a night in the cold, Tanya Wiles-Bell hopes to bridge a generational gap in her church community while raising awareness about homelessness.

Leaside United Church, where Wiles-Bell serves as the director of Christian education, is registered to participate in a nationwide walk-a-thon and fundraiser called the 'Coldest Night of the Year' on Feb. 24. Its goal is to educate the public about poverty and homelessness across Canada.

Wiles-Bell, who is captain of 'LUCY,' the name of the church's team, is responsible for creating opportunities for both families and youth to engage in activities outside of standard religious services.

"Often, young families and youth don't feel empowered within churches," she said. "Maybe they're new (to the community) or they're young, and churches tend to be heavily (populated) by the senior side."

The 'Coldest Night of the Year' provides an opportunity for a multi-generational experience where individuals are able to face what it is like to walk the streets in the dead of night during the unpredictable and unforgiving Canadian winter, even just for a moment, Wiles-Bell explained. That's why she believes this fundraiser will be "a perfect fit."

"While it's well and good to write cheques and give money to organizations, it's more meaningful, it's more powerful if you walk alongside somebody. You see things through their eyes," she said.

Wiles-Bell encourages members of not only her Leaside community, but also the rest of Toronto, to join the event in the hope "that people start to look at it not as a 'their problem,' but as an 'our problem.'"

David Reycraft is director of housing services at Dixon Hall, which operates an emergency winter program called Out of the Cold. It's offered at 16 faith-based organizations, including St. Brigid's Annex and Eastminster United in East York, to shelter the homeless from November to late April. The Leaside church participates at the Eastminster location.

"We (can expect to) see around 1,600 individuals (this year). It varies," Reycraft said. "This winter we've seen a real surge in the number of homeless people."

Street nurse and homelessness advocate Cathy Crowe emphasizes the importance of supporting initiatives that bring awareness to this issue, but said it's not only a factor in the winter, but all year round.

"It's more than just November, December, January and Feb-



Louise Allyn Palma/The Observer

Tanya Wiles-Bell of Leaside United Church is raising homelessness awareness by spending a night outside, alongside other members of Team 'LUCY,' on Feb. 24 as part of The Coldest Night of the Year event.

ruary," she said.

Crowe and Reycraft both stress the necessity of providing affordable housing to the homeless.

"They can't build their own houses. (We should help them) find housing in the city," said Crowe, who is in favour of affordable housing projects such as that provided by St. Clare's Multifaith Housing.

Reycraft would like to see additional shelters in East York "that are focused on rapidly moving people among the shelter systems and into affordable and supportive housing."

Meanwhile, Wiles-Bell wants to use the 'Coldest Night of the

Year' event to educate her community and help it understand homelessness. She's also hoping to raise \$1,000 through the walk-a-thon.

"We're not a church that just sits on pews on Sundays," she said.

"We're a church that gets out and walks and talks and acts out our mission."

Anyone, even those who do not belong to Leaside United Church, is welcome to join Team LUCY. To register your own team, go to <https://cnoy.org/register>. Find further details about this event at <https://cnoy.org>.

COMMUNITY

Leafs legend Wendel Clark greets fans and their pets

Former captain draws an admiring crowd to Paws and Pucks event at Leaside store

By **JOSEPH RANNI**
The Observer

Wendel Clark, one of the most popular players ever to pull on a Leafs jersey, recently drew hundreds of fans and their pets to the PetSmart in East York for photos and autographs.

The Feb. 3 event, called Paws and Pucks, gave eager fans not just the opportunity to get an autograph and a photo with Clark, but also a chance to ask him "for hockey tips and even play a quick game of one-on-one hockey," according to employee Ozerna.

The store is located near Eglington Avenue and Laird Drive in Leaside.

PetSmart started Paws and Pucks in 2016 after becoming an official partner of the Maple Leafs.

The program is designed to give pet owners a rare chance to meet Leafs alumni.

The week before Clark visited the Leaside store, Darryl Sittler dropped by PetSmart's Empress Walk location.

This was the seventh Paws and Pucks event, and it drew quite a crowd to the local store.

"There are 309 people here today who RSVP'd to this event, which means they're entered into a draw for prizes," Ozerna said.

Add in those who didn't RSVP, and "there were around 400 people here."



Joseph Ranni/The Observer

Former Maple Leafs captain Wendel Clark signs autographs for fans. He's flanked by super-fan Grant the dog.

Hydro building may be renamed

By **BRANDON WONG**
The Observer

Ten years after the death of hydro commissioner Jack Christie, Beaches-East York councillor Janet Davis seeks to commemorate his legacy.

On Feb. 1, city council approved Davis' request, seconded by Toronto-Danforth councillor Mary Fragedakis, to ask staff to report on renaming the hydro building at 175 Memorial Park Ave. after Christie.

Christie was first appointed commissioner in 1967, a position he held for almost 16 years. He was re-appointed in 1993 to fill a vacancy and re-elected in 1994 for three additional years.

He established himself in the community by participating and engaging with local residents, according to the motion presented to city council.

Christie maintained his involvement in local groups, such as the Beaches Major Fastball League, East York Planning Board, and Ontario Minor Hockey Association.

The Toronto and East York Community Council will next consider the renaming at its May 2 meeting.