



Mouhamad Rachini/The Observer

The sweet taste of victory

Second Elementary School students Jessie Lynn, 9 (left), and Madeline Justesen, 8, show off the medals they won in last week's city-wide co-ed touch football finals. This was the school's first championship in its 103-year history. Turn to page 5 for a story and team photo.

Fletcher eager to advocate for E.Y.

By ELLEN SAMEK
The Observer

Paula Fletcher is ready to take on the new Toronto-Danforth, but first she's going to need more staff.

With a bigger ward comes more East Yorkers to serve. Fletcher says staffing needs will be one of her team's top priorities come December when she takes over as city councillor for Ward 14.

Without more staff, getting things done to benefit constituents will be more difficult, she said.

For the past 15 years, Fletcher was city councillor for what was known as Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth, covering the area south of Danforth Avenue, including Riverdale and part of the lakefront.

Now she represents all of the new Ward 14, which adds much of East York north of Danforth, since Premier Doug Ford reduced the size of city council.

Fletcher defeated fellow East York incumbent Mary Fragedakis, who represented the old Ward 29, in the election, winning 42 per cent of the vote.

Fletcher said it's unfortunate she and Fragedakis will no longer be working together as councillors and friends, as they have for so many years.

Despite the challenge of serving more citizens with fewer resources, Fletcher is committed to advocating for the causes that matter most to the East York community, she said.

Affordable housing is one issue she plans to keep fighting for until it's solved.

"There is a huge problem right now with 're-no-victions,' where landlords evict their tenants to remodel homes," she said. "Families and

■ See FLETCHER, page 3

The decades-long search for an East York airman's family

How one British man's quest for his father's crewman led to a house on Barker Avenue

By ELLEN SAMEK
The Observer

On Dec. 18, 1944, Max Krakovsky was falling through the sky over France, everything around him on fire.

The next year he was in East York, knocking on the door of a house he'd never been to.

Krakovsky, a pilot from a small mining town in northern Ontario, was the only survivor of a plane crash that killed 15 men who were travelling to Duisburg, Germany, for a mission. When he returned to Canada, he visited the Green family at 166 Barker Ave. He told them their son James William Green, had died in the accident.

The two were crew members when two planes carrying British and Canadian crewman collided over Ardennes, France.

"My father always had survivor's guilt," said Dr. James Carson, Krakovsky's son.

"He wrote everything down about the war in his memoirs, including visiting the families of his crew,

before he died in 2005."

Before his death, Krakovsky met and befriended David Mole, the son of British wireless operator Douglas John Mole, who died in the crash.

Mole, a retired sailor with the British Merchant Navy, was on a mission. He was searching for relatives of the men who died alongside his father.

"The whole thing started when I visited my father's grave for the first time in 1989," Mole said. "I wanted to create a memorial for all the men who died in the collision."

Mole has found them all except for one: the family of

■ See PORTRAIT, page 7



■ GREEN

WHAT'S UP IN E.Y.

Adopt a pet or two at PetSmart this weekend

National Adoption Weekend starts Nov. 9 and runs until Nov. 11 at the Eglinton PetSmart location, 835 Eglinton Ave. E., Dogs will be available on Saturday, while cats will be on hand the entire weekend. Aspiring owners are encouraged to bring a carrier for small animals.

Buy a hand-knit hat to support local hospital

Michael Garron Hospital's volunteer knitting and sewing group is inviting individuals to their knit and craft event on Nov. 9, at the MGH Mortimer Lobby starting at 9 a.m. The event will feature crafts created by the group in the past year, including hats, scarfs, blankets and sweaters. All proceeds go towards supporting patient care. This event is cash only. Anyone interested in joining the knitting and sewing group for 2019 can sign up on the hospital's volunteer website.

Stretching your retirement funds

A workshop on managing your finances will take place in the main lobby auditorium at the S. Walter Stewart Library (170 Memorial Park Ave.) on Nov. 13 from 2 to 3 p.m. Although it's geared to seniors, the drop-in session is open to the public and will cover topics like "the art of budgeting" and "how to stretch your retirement resources."

~ Tijuana Turner

'Women's stories need to be told'

Author shares tale of Mona Parsons, Canadian nurse who helped Dutch Resistance fight against Nazis

By RUSHANTHI KESUNATHAN
The Observer

Women's stories are often overlooked, marginalized, denigrated and dismissed, says the biographer of the only known Canadian female held prisoner in Nazi Germany.

During a presentation at the S. Walter Stewart Library on Oct. 9, Andria Hill-Lehr, author of *Mona Parsons: From Privilege to Prison*, from Nova Scotia to Nazi Europe, shared the story of Parsons with a small group of people.

"Women's stories need to be told," she said.

Lehr discovered Parsons' story in August 1994, when she was looking for a topic for her thesis at Acadia University.

She found a newsletter from September 1945 about an ex-Acadia student found safe at the war's end who Lehr initially thought was a man.

In 2000, Mona Parsons' biography was published. The story describes Nova Scotia-raised Parsons' journey as an actor-turned-nurse who was later involved in Dutch resistance in the Second World War.

When Parsons moved back in the '70s, people thought she had a drinking problem, Lehr said. However, this was just a rumour.

"She was having mini-strokes," Lehr said. "If you spend four years in Nazi prisons or camps, I wouldn't be surprised if you came home with a substance abuse problem or alcohol problem."

This is the story of a woman who never wore a uniform and never carried a gun but laid her life on the line for what she believed was justice. Despite that, she has been denied recognition, Lehr said.

"The very first prime minister of this country was a well-known alcoholic," Lehr said. "We tell stories of him getting up on a campaign train, vomiting and addressing people in a drunken state and laugh about it."

How is that we can tell that story about the prime minister of this country, Lehr wondered, but this woman doesn't even get a street named after her?

Parsons did, however, receive commendations from the British Air Marshal and former U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower.

A bronze statue of Parsons was placed in her hometown in Wolfville, Nova Scotia in May last year — 72 years after German forces surrendered.



Rushanthi Kesunathan/The Observer

Andria Hill-Lehr, author of *Mona Parsons: From Privilege to Prison*, from Nova Scotia to Nazi Europe, spoke at the S. Walter Stewart Library on Oct. 9.

Dancer channels Gene Kelly on roof of bus

By BOBBY HRISTOVA
The Observer



A screenshot from a video posted to Facebook shows a man dancing on top of a local bus.

The TTC is investigating after a video showing a man hanging from and dancing on a moving bus appeared on social media.

The video, which was shared to Facebook on Nov. 6 at 6:29 p.m., shows a hooded climber clinging onto the 23 Dawes bus that seems to be heading southbound from Dawes Road and Dentonia Park Avenue.

The video shows the climber dancing in celebration after managing to get on the roof, all while his biggest fan was behind the bus cheering and recording the video from inside a vehicle.

Stuart Green, senior communications specialist at the Toronto Transit Commission, said he learned about the video after it was posted

on Instagram.

"We don't know when the video was taken because it hasn't been an in-service bus since this past summer," he said.

Although Green suspects the video was recorded last fall, TTC has no record of the report and no idea if the climber was caught.

"We can have our transit enforcement look into it but at this point, it's probably a lost cause," Green said.

Gary Long, a media relations spokesperson at Toronto Police Service, said 55 Division is unaware of the video and had no record of a report.

"We don't have the time to sit and scour YouTube," Long said. "If TTC reports it to us, we would do some investigating."

The person who uploaded the video to Facebook did not comment.

Reports of gunfire near Broadview-Danforth led to fireworks

By JENNIFER TEIXEIRA
The Observer

Toronto Police responded to reports of gunshots in the Broadview and Danforth avenue area on Nov. 5. But after searching the area, 55 Division officers located

a "small fire with fireworks inside" and no other evidence of gunfire.

The incident is the second of its kind reported recently.

On Oct. 30, near Pape and Wroxeter avenues, police were called after reports of gunshots were heard. Offi-

cers of 55 Division officers found shell casings in the area shortly after.

"I heard shots and made sure my family was safe inside the house," area resident Kosta Leloudas said of the earlier incident. "Nobody knows what happened or why it would happen here."

Bradford foresees smaller councils

By ERIK TWIGHT
The Observer

The new councillor for Beaches-East York thinks that working with a smaller council in a larger ward could enhance local democracy.

“In my view it’s an opportunity to have more citizens involved on boards... and actually, an expanded role of community council,” Brad Bradford said.

Councillors are waiting for a report from city staff before the first council session outlining the restructuring of committees and community councils.

“My hope is that community council can have more autonomy over local decisions. Perhaps some things don’t even need to go to city council; we can take care of them at the community-council level,” Bradford said.

The new double-sized Ward 19 merges two wards, north and south of the Danforth. The southern part of the new ward is home to many well-heeled property owners; the northern part is more mixed and has a higher proportion of renters and new Canadians.

Former councillor Janet Davis found rental affordability to be the greatest concern among residents in the northern part, while Bradford told The Observer that road safety was the issue most people brought up during his campaign, which started in the old southern ward.

One issue that literally cuts through the new ward is the Woodbine bike lane. Bike lanes in general, and the Woodbine one in particular, have raised cheers and ire among different residents. Bradford would like to see safety-related changes to the Woodbine bike lane but doesn’t think the issue should be controversial.

“I don’t think that support for road safety is divided; in fact, that is the number one issue I heard about at the door, was making our streets safer.”

Comparing citywide with local concerns, Bradford sees “two levels of the canvas,” citing “transit, affordability and housing” as the three biggest issues across Toronto. “I actually see all three of them as being completely synced together.”

Back in Ward 19, “That’s where we’re talking about road safety; revitalizing our main streets and supporting local businesses,” he said. Queen East, as well as Danforth, and streets like Pape all have stretches of empty, sometimes dilapidated storefronts.

If community councils can provide an effective neighbourhood governance, the next race to watch could be which of these community councils can run local affairs, with or without direct involvement from City Hall.



■ BRAD BRADFORD

■ TORONTO-DANFORTH



Ellen Samek/The Observer

Ward 14 councillor-elect Paula Fletcher feels at home in East York. When she’s not at city hall fighting for affordable housing and green spaces, she can be found in the community enjoying a coffee.

Fletcher ready for expanded ward

Trustee Jennifer Story, a supporter of former sex-ed curriculum, is also re-elected in E.Y.

Cont’d. from page 1

seniors in the east end are panicking that they might lose their homes or get priced out of the market.”

Fletcher is working to address the issue by supporting a new development of rental units on Queen Street in the Beaches.

As well, she will continue to oppose rezoning that will put East Yorkers at risk of being priced out of the market.

Other issues Fletcher says she is addressing are creating more child-care spaces through the Danforth Garage project, a planned community hub, and supporting the development of a large park along the Don River.

Fletcher can often be found in the community enjoying a cup of coffee at Broadview Espresso or sampling a vegetarian treat at Mon K patisserie.

“I’ve proudly represented East York before and I’ve always championed its separateness throughout the years,” she said.

“I plan on continuing that this



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Story

Jennifer Story was re-elected trustee for the Toronto District School Board in the riding of Toronto-Danforth. She captured 80 per cent of the vote.

time around.”

Also re-elected in Toronto-Danforth was TDSB trustee Jennifer Story.

Story’s Toronto-Danforth is now known as Ward 15.

Story ran with Fletcher in the election and won her ward with 80 per cent of the vote.

“I was interested in running with Paula because we both take the same approach to the job,” Story

said. “The needs of the local community is what drives our work.”

Like Fletcher, creating more access to child care in Toronto-Danforth is a priority for Story.

She said she has already worked on creating an extended child-care program that is run by the TDSB that offers before and after school care.

She is also a supporter of the sex-ed curriculum that was removed by Premier Doug Ford. Story and Fletcher attended the walk-out protests staged by East York students in October.

“As trustee, I will take a stand for the curriculum our kids need,” Story said.

“I’ve also heard from concerned parents that they want the new curriculum.”

Story notes that she is a parent, too.

“I have two kids in the TDSB. I want parents to feel like they’re part of the system, not outside of it,” she said.

“I’m always available if they want to share their concerns with me over coffee.”



● For more East York stories, please check us out online at torontoobserver.ca



Aileen Zara/The Observer

“Til death do we part” doesn’t apply to this wedding couple, above left, in costume at the Mexican traditional Día de Muertos celebration at Evergreen Brickworks on Oct. 28. Above right, a collection of objects is placed on a ritual altar during the annual Day of the Dead tradition.

Evergreen celebrates the Day of the Dead

This year’s turnout best in numbers, diversity

By AILEEN ZARA
The Observer

Calavera skulls, flower crowns, marigolds, copal incense and satirical poems remind us all of our shared fate: death.

These are all symbolic items in Mexico.

In that country, the first of November is generally referred to as Día de los Inocentes, which translates as “Day of the Innocents.” It’s also called Día de los Angelitos, or “Day of the Little Angels,” to remember the children who have died.

The second of November is referred to as Día de los Muertos or Día de los Difuntos, or Day of the Dead.

Locally, the Day of the Dead celebration was held at Toronto’s Evergreen Brick Works on Oct. 28.

This year, event organizer Marina Queirolo says, “we had the best turnout, both in the number of visitors and diversity.”

Tania Borja, a Mexican-Canadian a founder and chief executive director at Alidessa Women’s Centre, attended the celebration with her family and described it as “a nice vibe with abundant food.”

Peyton Dracco, a Philosophy of Science and Epistemology graduate from the University of Edinburgh, believes that the Day of the Dead is meant to instil two things. “One, to help guide the dead on their spiritual journey, and two, to familiarize the people who are still here to ensure that the idea of dead is not a taboo,” says the



Aileen Zara/The Observer

Skulls and calaveras represent departed souls. There were plenty of both in evidence at Evergreen Brick Works’ recent Day of the Dead celebrations.

41-year-old facilitator and coach.

Citlalli Rios, member of the Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto, explained the Dead altars, also known as altares de muertos or ofrendas.

“We have different elements. The first one that

you see immediately is the ground, which represents the burial ground of the actual people that died. We (the living) would create a path with seeds (coco shells, lentils, beans) to try to guide the deceased towards the living scenario,” Rios says.

Everywhere, everything is flooded with Mexican marigolds, she said. Flowers in general represent the fragility of life. This bright orange flower is used widely in Mexico. It’s called cempazuchiti or flower of the dead. Apparently the smell of this flower attracts them.

Part of the tradition is to light candles every night for about a week before Nov. 2.

As Rios explains, they call it a celebration because, “This is not a sad day for us, it’s very vivid; you see it’s so colourful. We in Mexico use a lot of colours for everything, even death.”

The second element would be a pyramid structure. Originally it would be seven levels, but at the Evergreen Brick Works event they made only three.

At the top and middle levels are pictures of the people who have died. This is very important in the altar to give this ritual a purpose — to actually represent the person being honoured.

So they use pictures and, also very important, food, especially dishes that the person loved when they were living. “We also put out some drinks, like if they liked tequila or rum,” Rios says. “If they liked to smoke, you would also see cigarettes. If they enjoyed a particular hobby or something related to that person, you would put it there.”

There is a belief that after the dead visit this dimension, the food would be tasteless the next day. Rios reveals that she has never tried the food to verify that.

Skulls (calavera in Spanish) made out of chocolate or sugar are placed on the altar to represent the people that are living with pictures for people who have already died. This represents the synchronicity between death and life.

“We are not afraid of death,” Rios says. “As you can see, we celebrate it, kind of joke around it, too. It’s a very nice tradition I’m very proud of.”

Secord team scores win of the century

East York school nabs first championship in its 103-year history

By **MOUHAMAD RACHINI**
The Observer

Coach Jason Kuuter was skeptical how far Secord Elementary School's touch football team could go when the season began in mid-October.

"I knew that they were talented and that they would be competitive," he said. "But I could not have predicted this win."

When the game-winning touchdown was scored in their 26-21 victory over Keele Street Public School on Oct. 29, Kuuter felt that it showed just how much they've grown as a team.

"They really developed as teammates," he said. "The kids are great athletes and very good sports. It was a pleasure to coach them."

The game was a big deal to the East York school. It was its first championship in its 103-year history, and members of the Secord community made sure to support the team as much as they could.

Four buses dropped students, teachers and parents off at Esther Shiner Stadium for the game.

Principal George Vlahos said the school doesn't host championship games often and wanted to create a professional atmosphere for the students.

"It was like you were at a Toronto FC game," he said. "The chanting of 'De-fence' and 'Secord', the clapping and the stomping on the stands. The kids had a great time."

Nine-year-old Jessie Lynn is one of the squad's veterans. She was on the co-ed football team that lost in the conference final last year. She said last year's loss helped her come back stronger.



Mouhamad Rachini/The Observer

Members of Secord Elementary School's touch football team pose with their championship medals. The team consists of seven boys and four girls, making them the only co-ed team in the league.

"I took what I knew from last year and used it this year," she said. "I also mixed it with a few more strategies and trying to just be a team."

Lynn felt proud of what she achieved for both herself and the school.

"It was really nice that we won," she said. "We hadn't won in 103 years and it felt really good getting our medals."

Lynn was one of four girls that made up Se-

cord's touch football team. They were the only co-ed side in the league and frequently came up against all-boy opposition, but that didn't hinder their performances.

"Some of our female students here are amazing athletes," Kuuter said. "They just fit right in because they like football, and girl or boy, we play as a team."

Lynn said the championship proves girls can

compete with boys in athletics.

"A lot of boys say that girls can't do it, that girls can't beat boys," she said. "But we showed them that girls *can* beat boys, girls *can* get touchdowns and girls *can* do everything."

Vlahos agrees.

"This is 2018," he said. "Maybe in 1968 we had a different perception. But in 2018, the myth is busted."

Millennials stymied by rising cost of real estate



Danielle Clarke/The Observer

The average house price in East York is about \$900,000, says one local realtor.

By **DANIELLE CLARKE**
The Observer

With sky-high real estate prices, millennials are wondering if they will ever be able to afford to buy a house in East York and a vacation or two at the same time.

"I would prefer to purchase in East York because this is where I grew up and this is where my family lives," says Christopher McHugh, 34, a payroll manager from East York.

He has been renting in the area for 10 years on and off. "My dad lives in the area, and he's also renting," he says.

With strong ties to the community, McHugh and his wife have been saving to buy a home for themselves and their young daughter.

Like many millennials looking to buy their first home, they have been forced to consider buying outside of the city in hopes that they will find something more affordable.

"That may be the solution, just looking at the prices in East York, the low end of what you can get for a house is probably around \$800,000," McHugh says. "To afford that, I would have to save up \$55,000 for the down payment — that's the minimum."

McHugh is currently working in Etobicoke and is considering buying a home closer to work.

One of his biggest concerns is having

his daughter grow up far away from their relatives.

"If we move across the city, babysitting becomes a lot harder," he explains. "We would also have to figure out a new daycare plan because getting daycare spots is very difficult."

McHugh's current place is a semi-detached with two bedrooms, main floor and basement, small backyard and a garage.

"We pay \$2,150 monthly, plus electricity," he said.

Realtor Nasma Ali has a different experience with millennials buying houses in East York.

Ali works for Keller Williams Advantage Realty and has assisted clients — including millennials — in buying and selling homes in East York.

"I sold a house to a millennial last week," she says. "The average cost of houses in East York is about \$900,000, which translates to \$3,600 a month. For a one-bedroom condo in East York, the average is about \$500,000."

Her advice for those who are hoping to make their way into the housing market?

"Get what you can, because you may not be able to save up as fast as the market is going."

Ali believes millennials should aim to own something, even if it's not their dream home in the perfect location, because they will eventually make a profit.

"When you're renting, you move out

with nothing. When you buy, you gain the value of your home, which gives you more freedom later in life."

And contrary to popular belief, there are millennials who are buying in East York.

"Half of my clients are millennials who are buying," Ali says.

But millennials are finding creative ways to afford the house in their ideal location.

"You'd be surprised at how many people don't buy a house or condo to move into, but instead have bought an investment property," Ali says. "Many will buy a condo while they continue renting, then rent out the condo which pays off their investment property."

The trick is to buy in cities where prices are more affordable.

"They either buy it in Toronto, preconstruction or outside of the city," Ali explains. "I have a lot of clients that go to Waterloo, Hamilton and other university cities. The great thing about those areas is that you break even because the prices are much lower."

And where are millennials getting the money from to buy their homes?

"A lot of them have saved money by living with their parents, and don't have to worry about paying rent," Ali says. "There are young people who have also saved money by investing in stocks."

In order for most millennials to afford a home in this economy, she notes, saving has to be a priority.

EDITORIALS

Let's remember

Remembrance Day remains as relevant today as it was a century ago, most Canadians agree

On Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., people across Canada and other Commonwealth countries will pause for two minutes of silence to commemorate the end of the First World War and honour the people whose lives it took.

Over the years, the day has expanded to include remembrance of those from the Second World War and more recent conflicts as well. Now, 100 years after the armistice was signed in 1918, is Remembrance Day still relevant?

Yes.

And according to Historica Canada, 82 per cent of Canada's population agree. In the organization's 2015 Remembrance Day poll, it found that despite varying views on whether the younger generation understands the significance, the majority say the day is still as relevant today as it has ever been.

And why shouldn't it be?

The fact that it's been a century does not make our war heroes' sacrifices any less valuable or memorable.

Those who say, 'Well, 99 per cent of the people you're honouring have already passed,' are right. The last living veteran of the First World War, John Babcock, died at age 109 on Feb. 18, 2010. But so have many other important people whose contributions made a huge difference in our history — and not just in Canada.

In Jamaica, National Heroes' Day is a crucial part of that country's historical identity. The heroes it celebrates all died before 1978, including Nanny of the Maroons, who died in 1755 after playing a crucial role in empowering slaves to fight back against British colonizers.

Yet every year, without fail, the celebrations continue.

That's because it's not merely a celebration of the heroes' lives. It's a celebration of how their contributions paved the way for the life we live today and the one we want our children to live tomorrow.

Veterans Affairs of Canada's stance is to ensure "the memory of their efforts and sacrifices will not die with them and that an appreciation of the values they fought for will live on in all Canadians."

Our veterans paid the ultimate price and their legacy deserves to live on.

~ Tijuana Turner

Put babies first

Breastfeeding is best for baby and mom, but some workplaces don't provide enough support

Eliminating discrimination is part of the fight for gender equality. Yet even though it's 2018, breastfeeding — a natural thing mothers do to feed their babies — is still stigmatized, especially in the workplace.

A 2012 survey published on *Bloomberg* reveals that 62 per cent of pregnant women think there's a stigma attached to parents who breastfeed at work.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Commission policy, "No one should stop a mother from breastfeeding her child, ask her to cover up or move her to another place." It is the mother's right to breastfeed in public.

Michael Garron Hospital leads Ontario's Baby-Friendly Initiative implementation strategy, which promotes breastfeeding. Linda Young, director of provincial breastfeeding programs at the East York hospital, says it's important for workplaces to offer support for breastfeeding moms.

For example, employers should provide access to a refrigerator where mothers can store the milk until they go home, she said. Employers should also understand that the pumping schedule of a breastfeeding parent will require her to take more breaks.

Providing clean, appropriate and private areas for breastfeeding parents to pump at work is vital in making the workplace breastfeeding-friendly.

"Parents who breastfeed should never, ever have to pump in the washroom," said Leigh Baetz-Craft, advance practice nurse clinician at Michael Garron Hospital. "What we always say is, 'Would you eat your lunch sitting on the toilet?'"

Breastfeeding has health benefits for both the mother and baby. For instance, breastfed babies and mothers are less likely to develop health problems, such as diabetes and certain cancers. It's also a convenient and inexpensive way for mothers to nourish their babies.

Unfortunately, many mothers feel discouraged about continuing to breastfeed because in some places, there's still lack of support and awareness. It's important to recognize that breastfeeding is a human right.

~ Jela Tejada

COLUMNS

Cover women's games

Did you catch the Canadian Women's National Soccer Team's 7-0 win over Panama on Oct. 14? The one that guaranteed them qualification to the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup?

How about their 2-0 loss to their rivals, the United States, in the 2018 CONCACAF Women's Championship final three days later?

If you live in Canada, the answer is probably "no."

Despite the importance of those games, no Canadian media organization broadcast the matches. Fans were left searching for a link to follow the game, and they made sure their annoyances were heard online.

"Imagine being forced to watch a World Cup Qualifying Final between these two teams on a computer screen," wrote one Twitter user.

It's not as though Canadian broadcasters had a choice. The Confederation of North, Central American

and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) is very strict with broadcasting rights. Most fans had to watch the games through oz.com, an online streaming service that's offering a free trial until Dec. 1. American viewers were able to catch the game on FOX Sports, but only because the tournament was held in the U.S.

Broadcasters are doing everything they can to cover the women's team's games. In 2016, CBC broadcast all six of Canada WNT's Olympic games, and both TSN and CTV will air the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup.

But there is work to be done. Online coverage of the women's team has been lacklustre compared to the men's team. Leading up to the men's team's October game against Dominica, the official account for Canada Soccer enthusiastically tweeted constant reminders

about the match, sometimes multiple times a day.

By contrast, fans of the women's team got few reminders about their games. What was tweeted was often sandwiched between tweets about the men's team.

It got to the point where Christine Sinclair called out the account. She quote-tweeted one of the tweets for the men's game with "Hey @CanadaSoccerEN when do the women start their World Cup qualification tournament?"

If the captain of our women's team and the greatest player this nation has ever produced is calling out the disproportionate amount of coverage the women get compared to the men, then there is certainly a problem.

Although broadcasters are doing their part to get more coverage of the women's team, it's clear that players and fans alike don't think the women's team's games are being pushed out to a wider audience.

With the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup group stage set to take place in December and the tournament kicking off in June, we need to make sure the women's team gets the coverage they deserve. They are, after all, our most successful national soccer team.



Mouhamad Rachini

Cannabis etiquette 101

Growing up in Scarborough, I didn't really know much about cannabis, except that it was a drug and that it was bad for you. My parents associated it with addicts and criminal activity, and after multiple cannabis grow-op houses in the neighbourhood were raided, that became the norm in my mind.

Today, cannabis has been legalized and Canadian cannabis smokers are enjoying it. From people rolling a joint to people smoking cannabis on the subway, I've seen it all.

But transporting it is a different matter.

According to the government of Ontario's website, it is now legal to carry up to 30 grams of legal cannabis at a time. (That's about the amount you could hold in both hands.) With that quantity comes the smell. A gram is pretty easy to transport as it is nearly scentless, but anything over 10 grams can really smell. Depending on

the strain, the odour can be intense.

Boarding the TTC and being forced to sit in a bus or train while it simply "danks" is not always a fun experience, especially for non-smokers.

I have a sensitivity to smell, and so do many others. Depending on the type and strength of a particular odour, it can lead to migraines, headaches, and sinus problems.

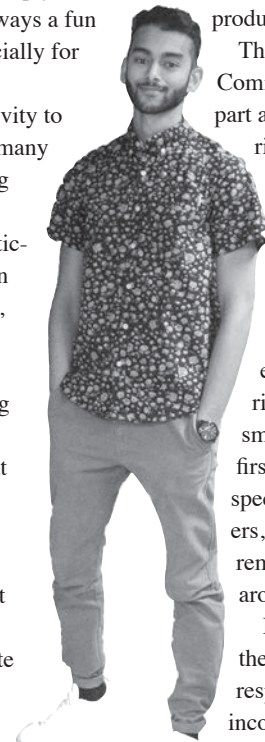
However, being a casual cannabis smoker, I feel that it's important to make your own choices freely, as long as they don't affect others.

Simple etiquette would be a start: After smoking, wait a little while for the smell to dis-

sipate and then board. When transporting cannabis, keep it in a sealed container. The Ontario Cannabis Store even gives one to you with the product.

The Toronto Transit Commission does its part as well. I've seen riders removed by transit security for reeking like beer. But they could go a step further and implement a scent-free environment for all riders. Our part as smokers is to take the first step. By being respectful to non-smokers, we can start to remove the stigma around cannabis.

It might not be the law, but taking responsibility not to inconvenience other riders may be the better way to go.



Jonathan Pereira

REMEMBRANCE DAY



Photo courtesy of David Mole



Photo courtesy of Google Earth

(Above left) James William Green, in his wrinkled uniform, is second from the right in this photo taken while he was on leave. Max Krakovsky is in the centre standing beside him. (Above right) The original house at 166 Barker Ave., where James William Green grew up.

PORTRAIT OF A HERO: James William Green

It was his last mission before going home. He never made it back

Cont'd. from page 1

James William Green.

Green was a 20-year-old East Yorker who grew up in Woodbine Heights. He was a rear-gunner aboard the NP699 of 10 Squadron. It was Green's home on Barker Avenue that Krakovsky visited to tell the family that their son had not survived.

Green was born in Toronto on May 11, 1924, to James Green, Sr., a boilermaker who served in the First World War, and Emily Smith, the daughter of English immigrants.

According to Green's enlistment records from 1943, he was a blue-eyed 19-year-old labourer with the Canadian National Railway. He attended Danforth Technical School (now known as Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute) for three years before dropping out to take up the trade of metal sheeting, which he never finished.

Although he attended Danforth Tech, his name does not appear on the school's memorial, located inside the library, said Danforth Tech alumnus Ron Passmore.

"Unfortunately, not all of the former students have been memorialized on the school memorial."

Photos of Green show a lanky young man in an unbuttoned Air Force uniform who hoped to have his own farm after the war. His favourite hobby was photography.

He was a member of the No. 432 (Leaside) Squadron.



Photo courtesy of ancestry.ca

JAMES WILLIAM GREEN

Green began his journey in 1943 when he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force at age 19.

He boarded a ship in Halifax on March 5, 1944, and arrived in England nine days later. By the end of his training, he had completed 93 hours of flight training. Green's records show that his ambition was to be an officer.

He was finally promoted to the rank of officer on Dec. 17, 1944, one day before his death in the crash. He was only 20. Had Green and David

Mole's father survived, it would have been their last mission before going home for good.

Green left behind his parents and a brother, Kenneth Roy Green, who continued to live on Barker Avenue.

One of their neighbours, Roberto Ramacciotti, has lived on Barker Avenue since 1972.

"I remember Emily Green very well," Ramacciotti said. "She was always sitting in the front yard knitting when I would ride by on my bike."

The two neighbours, a Brazilian immigrant and a "proper Anglican lady," formed an unlikely friendship.

"She would tell me things about her life, like how she grew up in colonial India or that her husband built the house they lived in," Ramacciotti said. "She always mentioned how much she loved her son who fought in the war. He was always a hero in her eyes."

The younger Green son, Kenneth, lived next door to his mother at 164 Barker Ave. Ramacciotti remembers him as a man who kept to himself.

"Ken was as quiet as an oyster, like a cloud. I don't think there was any shadow left of him."

Ramacciotti said the Green family — Kenneth, his wife and daughter — moved away years ago after Emily Green was sent to a nursing home in Bracebridge.

"I miss Emily and all of our talks," Ramacciotti said. "I'm sad I never got to say goodbye. One day I came home and she was gone."

Today, 164 and 166 Barker Ave. have new owners, the original homes replaced by modern rebuilds.

"It's humbling to know that I live where someone who died for our country grew up," said Dan Farris, the new owner of 166 Barker. "This house has so much history, it gives me goosebumps thinking about it."

For David Mole, it's important to find Kenneth Green or any of his descendants to share more details about what really happened to their loved one.

"None of the families (I spoke with) knew what happened until I was able to tell them myself," Mole said. "I remember one of the families was so grateful that I told them what indeed happened, because they knew nothing. That's the reward of all this at the end of the day."

James William Green's body was never found. His sacrifice is memorialized at the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey in the United Kingdom.

Who's who in story of fallen airman

■ **MAX KRAKOVSKY (CARSON):** A Canadian pilot who was the only survivor of the plane crash on Dec. 18, 1944 that killed 15 crewmen. He changed his surname to Carson after the war.

■ **DAVID MOLE:** The son of one of the men who died in the plane crash. Mole has dedicated much of his life to finding the relatives of the men who died alongside his father.

■ **JAMES WILLIAM GREEN:** One of the men who died in the crash. Green was originally from East York and lived at 166 Barker Ave. with his parents and younger brother.

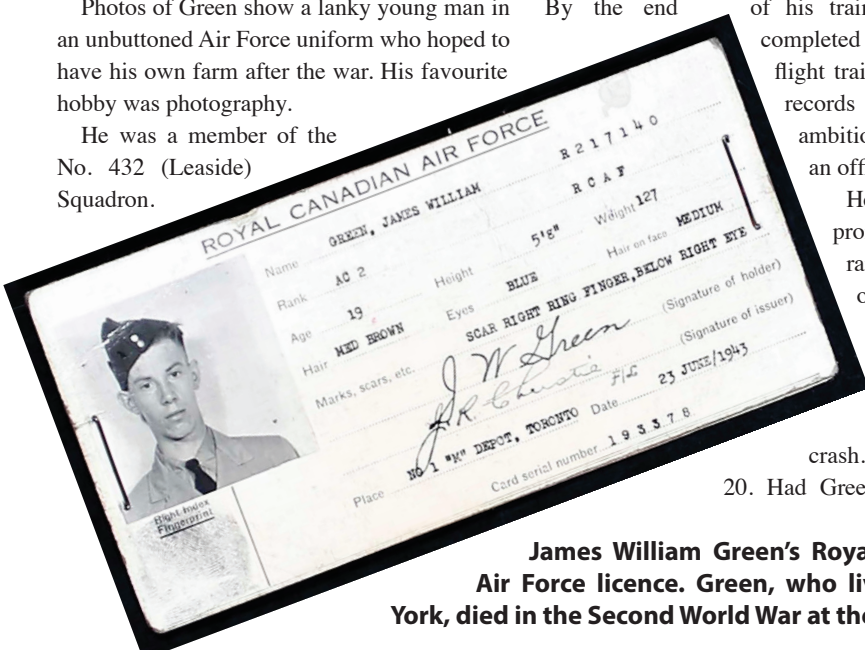
■ **KENNETH ROY GREEN:** The younger brother of James William Green. He lived in East York until the 1980s in the house next to his childhood home.

■ **EMILY SMITH GREEN:** The mother of James William Green and Kenneth Roy Green.

■ **JAMES GREEN SR.:** The father of James William Green and Kenneth Roy Green.

■ **DR. JAMES CARSON:** A son of Max Krakovsky (Carson).

~ Ellen Samek



James William Green's Royal Canadian Air Force licence. Green, who lived in East York, died in the Second World War at the age of 20.



Sergio Arangio/Toronto Observer

(Above left) Catherine Staples and her mother, Mary, look back at their early lives in East York. “Danforth was really a hub,” Catherine says of that time. (Above right) Mary McManus and Ed Staples were married on Aug. 21, 1948.

‘Everybody seemed to know everybody’

91-year-old woman reminisces about life in her old East York neighbourhood in days gone by

By **SERGIO ARANGIO**
The Observer

It was a summer day in 1945 when Catherine Staples’ late father, Ed, returned to his family in East York after six years at war. He was greeted by a “Welcome Home” sign on his front door and attended a party to celebrate his friend Ted’s return, also from the Second World War.

Ed, in full army uniform, would meet Catherine’s mother, Mary McManus, at that party. That would become one of Mary’s fondest memories of her life in East York.

“It was a different life,” Mary, 91, said in an interview, her daughter sitting beside her.

Mary recalled feeling homesick the last time she drove along Danforth Avenue. All the old houses connected to the Staples are still standing, even the building on Dawes Road where one of her father’s shoe repair shops used to be. It’s since become a café.

But a look at their old neighbourhood brought Catherine a flood of memories about the East York of old. She speculated on how things have changed while still remaining the same at its core.

“Danforth was really a hub,” she said. “We could go to a general store and we could buy anything we wanted there. If I wanted to buy some thread or socks right now, I couldn’t do it (immediately).”

Both Mary and Ed and all of their nine children, of which Catherine is the oldest at 69, were born and raised in East York. They all lived in the pre-amalgamated borough until about 1997, when Mary and Ed moved to Vancouver Island.

They returned to Toronto two years ago to be with family in their old age.

Ed died on Jan. 19, 2017 at Sunnybrook Veterans Centre.

During her high school years, Mary was in the cadets. She made bullets for the war, she said, while her mother made fuses and bombs at the GECO munitions plant in Scarborough.

Mary also acted in school plays at the high school, fondly remembering the “not-too-fancy” costumes she would wear. She had nothing but good memories of life in her hometown.

“We had lots of fun,” Mary said. “We had enough places in East York to take care of us.”

While Catherine feels there’s still a sense of community, she said there used to be more of a neighbourly connection throughout East York.

Doug Duncan, an old family friend, agreed. Having only moved out of East York two years ago, he’s certainly noticed a shift when it comes to knowing your neighbours.

“Everybody seemed to know everybody,” said Duncan, 66. “I lived in one part of East York but I knew a group of people in Broadview, which was like 10 miles away. East York was kind of unique that way.”

A similar sentiment can be said for other aspects of East York.

For example, while some old shops, buildings and houses have been replaced with franchise stores, condos and so-called ‘monster homes,’ the Staples think the heart and soul of the area is very much alive.

“It’s still East York,” Catherine said. “Whenever I go down there, I get a pang. This is my home.”

Duncan says given the first opportunity, he would gladly move right back to East York from the west Toronto nursing home where both he and Mary now live.

“It’s such a unique pocket in Toronto,” Duncan said. “I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else.”

A drive for change at East York’s Kennedy House youth shelter



Photo courtesy of The Kennedy House

Staff from The Kennedy House pose beside a poster during the “Change For Change” program.

By **TIFFANY FUNG**
The Observer

Along with raising money and delivering a meaningful message, a one-day fundraising program for The Kennedy House led to a heartwarming reunion between staff and previous residents.

Established in 1971, The Kennedy House provides shelters for homeless youth. The one in East York opened four years ago at 1076 Pape Ave. (north of Cosburn Ave.). That location is the most eastern shelter until Oshawa.

Homeless youths can be stereotyped as criminals or drug dealers, but there are more legitimate reasons for youths being homeless, said Michelle Cutts, a senior development officer at Kennedy House. Among them: fleeing an abusive home and facing mental-health issues.

“There are about 2,000 youths who are homeless every night,” she said. “There are only 518 available (spaces) in the shelter system.”

Cutts added that youths need more care than an average homeless person because

they do not yet have basic living skills.

The Kennedy House shelter in East York has 40 beds. They’re full every night, she said.

The majority of the organization’s funding comes from the City of Toronto, but that’s not enough to cover all the needs, so the organization also runs fundraising programs.

One of those is “Change For Change,” which took place Sept. 28 at eight TTC stations, including Pape. Cutts was in charge of it.

The event raised \$6,000 this year, but there’s more to it than money. “It helps people know who we are,” Cutts said. “We have a lot of people stopping and talking to us about the needs of the youths.”

Some of those who didn’t have cash to donate still stopped and asked questions, including how to volunteer for the organization.

“We got a lot of people going, ‘Thank you for the work you do,’ and that warmed a lot of our hearts,” Cutts said.

At three stations — Kennedy, Bloor-Yonge and Bathurst — staff encountered

previous residents of Kennedy House. “They gave us everything they had in their wallet,” Cutts said.

They also said they are what they are now because of the support they received from the organization. “When you see the positives,” Cutts said, “it makes the work worth it.”

The next fundraising event will take place Feb. 23, 2019. Called the Coldest Night of the Year, the annual night walk gives participants an idea of what it’s like to be out on the street in the winter. It takes place in 120 cities across Canada.

The Kennedy House has been holding the Coldest Night of the Year in Scarborough for the past two years, and will continue there this year. Next year, the organization will bring one to the Danforth for the first time.

Cutts said people can support youth shelters by donating money or in-kind items, such as canned goods and new pyjamas. However, if you can’t donate financially, then helping to break down the stereotypes around homeless youths is also helpful.