



# East York residents see red



Evangelos Spipas /// The Observer

Liberal Julie Dabrusin (foreground, wearing watch) savours her election night victory along with her supporters at Il Fornello restaurant on Danforth Avenue. Dabrusin's two-percentage-point win over incumbent New Democrat Craig Scott in Toronto-Danforth was one of the most talked-about upsets of the federal election — not just in East York, but across the country.

## New Democrat MPs replaced by Liberals

**ANALYSIS**  
by OBSERVER STAFF

The week after the federal election that left East York awash in red, amateur and professional politicians are still scratching their heads when it comes to what the results mean.

The political landscape made up by the three ridings that converge in East York is dramatically different since Oct. 19: All of the incumbents were defeated in their runs for re-election. And the traditional strength of the New Democratic Party in East York is a matter of some doubt, after voters replaced two New Democrat MPs with Liberals.

Some say that it was simply a matter of strategic voting; that East Yorkers were anxious to dump the Conservative government in Ottawa — and decided to add to the momentum that the Liberals seemed to be building across the country in the days prior to the vote.

Others say that the results — particularly in Toronto-Danforth and Beaches-East York — are attributable to socio-economic trends in those

neighbourhoods.

The theory goes that enclaves that used to be less affluent (and more left-leaning) in those two ridings are gentrifying, and moving toward the centre of the political spectrum.

They point to the replacement of local New Democratic stalwart Michael Prue by Liberal Arthur Potts in the provincial election last year as an early sign of the New Democrats' waning popularity in an area of Toronto that used to be considered 'Fortress NDP.' Now Toronto-Danforth MPP Peter Tabuns is the only elected East York politician waving the orange banner.

The defeated New Democratic MP in Beaches-East York, Matthew Kellway, said something else was at work: the self-fulfilling prophecy.

He said the final tally was skewed by pollsters who published assumptions that the national trend toward the Liberals would hold in certain ridings, including his, despite a lack of specific local surveying.

■ See PUNDITS, page 2

### ARTS AND CULTURE

## New sci-fi novel explores mental health issues

Book a collaborative effort for artist, writer who met at college

By KELSEY CHENG  
The Observer

Novelist Kade Davies has found a place never explored before. And it's not in this world.

"An outcrop of rock juts over the horizon, creeping ever upwards into the muddy skies. Just past that, the rest of the planet drops into a steep decline," the novel's hero says.

The *Solid Intangibles*, the novel, describes the story of eight human beings placed under extreme circumstances on a new, isolated planet, seven years away from Earth. The narration shifts from each character to another in every chapter, examining their state of mind

and perspectives.

"I am caught in the grasp of this depressed haze," Davies' hero continues. "Some invisible force on this strange new voyage ushers me forward. I cannot remember what came before, not where I was, or who I am supposed to be."

Davies, 27, self-published this science fiction last week as the first in a graphic novel series. He's a recent graduate of the corporate communications and public relations program at Centennial College in East York.

His collaborator, artist Yawar Raja, 26, is also a Centennial grad, from its animation program. Their partnership began five years ago. The resulting novel, Davies believes, in a larger context, addresses mental health issues in the real world. Davies believes mental health disorders don't always come



Kelsey Cheng /// The Observer

Author Kade Davies, left, with artist Yawar Raja in front of a graffiti wall at Bloor and Bathurst. To the pair, the wall best represents what Toronto means to them.

with a diagnosis.

"With mental health issues being so prevalent right now, rather than saying a person is bipolar or schizophrenic (you're told it) is

what everyone experiences," he said.

A lot of Davies' own life made its way into the plot of *The Solid Intangibles*. When his fiancée,

Rachelle Crane, fell ill, he found that writing the novel helped distract him.

■ See 'WE DIDN'T', page 2



**WHAT'S UP IN E.Y.**

**Puppets for Halloween**

Looking for some family fun this Halloween? The Danforth/Coxwell branch of the public library is putting on a live puppet show tomorrow morning, Oct. 31, from 10:30-11:25 a.m. The show is free and will tell the story of "The Witch's Candy Store." For more information, call 416-393-7783.

**Pumpkins on parade**

Wondering what you can do with your jack-o'-lanterns after Halloween ends? On Sunday, take your pumpkins and your family to East Lynn Park just south of Danforth Avenue near Woodbine, for the sixth annual Pumpkin Parade between 6:30 and 9 p.m. Participants must bring their own candles. Lighters will be available at the park, organizers say.

**Workshop for caregivers**

The Alzheimer Society of Toronto is hosting a workshop for family caregivers and friends of individuals in the middle stages of Alzheimer's disease, on Monday, Nov. 2. Participants will learn about ways of dealing with dementia behaviours and supportive services. The workshop is free and will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. at Sprint Senior Care, 1 William Morgan Dr. For more information, call 416-640-6307.

~ Nicole Dawe

**OXI PARADE ON DANFORTH**



Akorede Amosun // The Observer

**Celebrating in Greektown**

Danforth Avenue was draped in blue and white on Sunday afternoon for the annual "Oxi" parade — which commemorates Greece's actions in 1940, when the country refused an Italian ultimatum of occupation and entered the Second World War.

**'We didn't sleep for days'**

Sci-fi duo overwhelmed preparing for Comic-Con

Cont'd. from page 1

"The emotions I was feeling at the time made me want to write it into the character or the scene," Davies said. "I wanted to finish the book and that became the driving force. The story has to be told."

Chris Szego manages Canada's oldest science fiction and fantasy bookstore, Bakka Phoenix Books. She believes science fiction novels provide authors and readers the ability to carry out a conversation on sensitive subject matters.

"One of the great things about science fiction and fantasy is we can examine what is going on — here and now — at a safe distance," Szego said.

Davies said being a business partner with your friend has its challenges. The two paid for a booth at Toronto Com-

ic-Con in April 2012, but preparing for the event was overwhelming. Davies was handling the business side of things while Raja was responsible for illustrating the entire booth — by hand. Both struggled to complete their tasks.

"We didn't sleep for days," Davies said. "Going into Comic-Con was probably the most stressful thing in my whole life."

"When you're an artist, you're a perfectionist," Raja said. "But it's impossible to hand-draw the same panel over and over again perfectly. Prepping for Comic-Con was so strenuous on my hand, it just got to a point where I just wanted to finish it and be happy with it."

To add to the stress, they also ran into problems with printing and layouts. The day came and they had no comics to sell — all they could sell was the story idea.

"We didn't have the comics," Davies said. "But we got such positive feedback based on the idea. Everybody there was blown away. It was surreal."

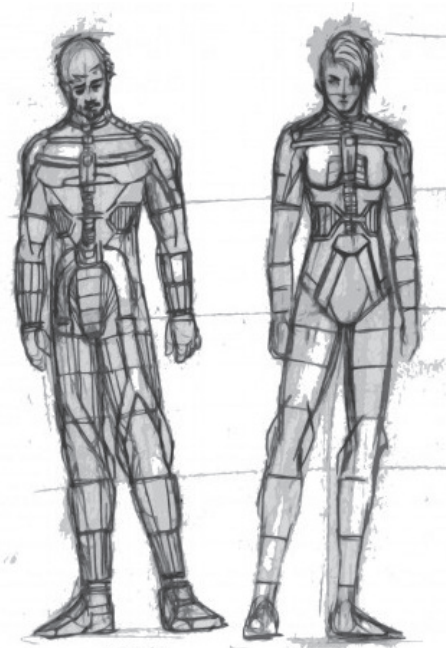


Illustration by Yawar Raja

Jovah Zuri, left, and Yonah Dietrich are two of the eight main characters in *The Solid Intangibles*.

**Pundits surprised by Scott's defeat**

Cont'd. from page 1

But whatever the reasons behind it, the red tide in East York — and especially in Toronto-Danforth — was noted by commentators across the country.

On election night, network pundit after pundit could be

heard saying that one of the biggest surprises was the defeat of New Democrat Craig Scott by Liberal Julie Dabrusin... in the riding that used to be represented by the revered Jack Layton, the late NDP leader.

Meanwhile, in Don Valley West, the see-saw battle that's

been going on between Liberal Rob Oliphant and Conservative John Carmichael since 2008 tilted back toward Oliphant this time.

He won against Carmichael in 2008... but lost in their re-match in 2011. In last week's re-re-match, Oliphant rebounded.

He'll join Liberal Dabrusin and Liberal Nathaniel Erskine-Smith of Beaches-East York in prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau's majority government, when Parliament resumes later this fall.

For detailed coverage of the races and results in East York, see pages 4-6.

**POLICE & FIRE**

**Tutor charged with assault**

Police have charged a man living in the Thorncliffe Park area with sexual assault in connection with allegations that a nine-year-old boy was abused. It's alleged that the boy was being tutored at a home in the area on Oct. 9 and during that time, the boy was sexually assaulted. Muhammad Damani, 67, of Toronto was arrested on Oct. 20 and charged with sexual assault and sexual interference. Damani has operated a tutoring business at his home for the past two years. Police are concerned that there may be more victims and urge anyone with information to contact them at 416-808-2922, or Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS.

**Attempted child abduction**

A child escaped an attempted abduction on Oct. 13 in the Thorncliffe Park area. Police say the nine-year-old boy was walking to school alone at about 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 13 when the man grabbed him. The boy escaped — but saw the man again during his lunch break from school. As the man approached, the boy ran back inside the school and informed a teacher. The man is described as brown, in his 40s to early 50s, 6'0", with short, light brown hair, short facial hair near the chin that is light grey, and a moustache. He was wearing a white shirt, dark zip-up jacket and black pants.

~ Ryan Chatterjee



# Artists cover graffiti with colourful mural

Pape Avenue project a labour of love for local street artists

By **KELSEY CHENG**  
The Observer

The seniors of the Greek Canadian Senior Citizen Club can now rest their eyes on a colourful mural — instead of a vandalized wall.

The mural was installed on Oct. 2, completed by five artists in collaboration with Toronto Police 54 Division and StreetARToronto, a program run under the city's transportation services department.

Graffiti management plan project manager Jodi Callan said the program aims to recognize the contributions of street artists to Toronto neighbourhoods.

"We wanted to encourage street artists," she said. "This is a proactive program that aims to support and develop street art, while counteracting graffiti vandalism."

The project starts with StreetARToronto allocating a budget to 17 different Toronto police divisions.

A graffiti liaison officer from each division will then identify a potential piece of vandalized wall for the street artists to design and paint.

Contemporary urban artist Angel Carrillo, 39, volunteered with four other local artists for five days on this particular mural project, at 864 Pape Ave. To Carrillo, this is more than just redecorating a vandalized wall.

"I wanted to promote graffiti art today in a more positive viewpoint," Carrillo said. "To both the public and the young artists going into this art form."

The mural is a piece of interactive artwork, allowing old and young viewers of the community to appreciate and own the mural.

It captures a gigantic green monster mounting over a tower in a city of Cycladic houses.

Waves of blue and green are seen crashing against the city.

"I wanted something related to the Greek culture, but not something harsh like Zeus, or some god," Carrillo said. "I wanted something playful and animated."

Gus Koutroubis visits the senior club every day, and he



Kelsey Cheng /// The Observer

**Five local street artists collaborated with Toronto police and StreetARToronto on a colourful mural. It replaces a vandalized wall.**

welcomed the new splash of colour.

"Looking at this wall over here, and looking at that wall; this wall is much, much better," Koutroubis said, comparing the colours on the mural and the blank wall across from it.

Koutroubis said there are a lot of vandalized walls back home in Greece.

"Most I hate, and I get upset," he said, "but this one here has meaning to the art, and I like it."

Carrillo didn't start out to be a street artist. Like most contemporary street artists, he also went through the graffiti vandalizing phase when he was a teenager.

"It's a norm in the graffiti

culture," he said. "It's a rebellious act, but temporary. Eventually you're going to question yourself, 'What I am really doing here?'"

It is a matter of time for the person to realize all the art projects that he/she could be involved in without getting into trouble with the law.

Carrillo said this program is

a great opportunity for street artists practicing this art form to demonstrate their skills to the public and show the city their work.

"Age catches up with you, and so does wisdom," Carrillo said. "You're going to think, 'I'm risking myself and I'm not making any money out of this!'"



Akorede Amosun /// The Observer

## Monsters invade Leaside

(Left to right) Andre Fortin, Keegan Fortin and Jenny Fortin raise money for the World Wildlife Fund Canada at the fourth annual Monster Dash in Leaside, held on Sunday.

## Danforth-area cyclists gearing up for change

By **MARWA MOHKAM SHEIKH**  
The Observer

If you've ever ridden a bike on Danforth Avenue and wished there were designated bike lanes, you have company.

Cycle Toronto, a Toronto bicycling advocacy organization, has launched a campaign called Danforth Loves Bikes! to call for bike lanes on the street.

"There's a really strong rationale for Danforth," said Jared Kolb, executive director of Cycle Toronto. "It's a direct, continuous route that services many shops and businesses, and there's a lot of bicycle lanes that currently connect to it. But you don't have a lot of options once you get there, so Danforth is ideal to form a spine for the bicycle network."

Arcady Genkin, a resident of the Pape and Danforth area who bikes to University of Toronto's downtown campus every day for his commute to work, says his support for this campaign has been a long time coming.

"I've been biking in Toronto for 20 years, and I still consider Danforth Avenue to be a dangerous place for a cyclist, especially during rush hours," Genkin said.

Danforth Avenue is a key aspect of the geographical network of Toronto because it connects the entire eastern part of the city to downtown. Cyclists ride along this route at all times of day, but they have to accommodate themselves to the lack of a proper cycling path.

The objective of Cycle Toronto's cam-

paign is to shed light on this situation and reform it.

Kolb said the campaign is also drawing residents' support through a petition circulating for bike lanes on Danforth Avenue. The group has also engaged with businesses in the area.

"There are now more than 60 businesses along Danforth that we've spoken with that are endorsing the idea of bicycle lanes on Danforth," he said. "They're putting the Danforth Loves Bikes! sticker up in their window to demonstrate that, so it's building momentum."

The idea for bike lanes on Danforth has been in the works since 2009 when a formal environmental assessment was launched to study lanes on the Bloor Street and Danforth. The assessment was eventually cancelled during Mayor Rob Ford's tenure, but the initiative has picked up again since.

"I think the creation of bike lanes on Danforth would be amazing for the neighbourhood, and for connectivity in the city," said Sylvia Slaughter, a frequent cyclist in the Danforth area.

Kolb also said one of the main reasons behind this campaign is the right of way.

"Danforth is wide enough to accommodate bicycle lanes without actually having to lose much on-street parking," he said.



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



# Toronto-Danforth votes for 'real change'

Julie Dabrusin, Liberal underdog, wins NDP stronghold in close race

By SAM SEON  
The Observer

Going into last week's election, one thing seemed certain: NDP incumbent Craig Scott was safe in Toronto-Danforth, the riding that everyone considered a New Democratic fortress in Toronto — the riding of the late, beloved NDP Leader Jack Layton.

Julie Dabrusin and the Liberals proved them all wrong. She won by a thousand-vote margin of victory, about 42 per cent of the votes in a six-candidate field.

Late on election night, long after the big newsroom decision desks had declared most of the other GTA ridings — along with a majority Liberal government for the country — the atmosphere was still tense at Il Fornello on Danforth Avenue, where Dabrusin's supporters had gathered. She clung to a precarious lead most of the evening, and there seemed to be a delay in tallying all of Toronto-Danforth's votes.

But with a red tide rolling across the country, and their candidate running ahead, Dabrusin's supporters crossed their fingers and clinked their glasses in anticipation.

Dabrusin had planned on watching the count of votes at home. But she later said that she felt bad about making her supporters wait while the



Evangelo Sipsas /// The Observer

**Liberal candidate Julie Dabrusin speaks to supporters during her victory party at Il Fornello restaurant on Danforth Avenue after defeating NDP incumbent Craig Scott.**

results firmed up. Dabrusin headed over to her campaign's party to find out she was the declared winner in the middle of Danforth Avenue, on her way into Il Fornello. Dabrusin walked in the door to a crowd chanting her name.

"What an amazing journey this has been for the Liberals. Throughout the campaign, we talked about hope and hard work, and we had it here in Toronto-Danforth today," Dabrusin said. "Now the hard work

begins."

Silvana Diddazio, who organized the election party at Il Fornello, is hopeful about the election results, both locally and federally.

"He's bringing Canadians together," Diddazio said of the prime minister-designate, Justin Trudeau. "We've been kind of divided and separated under Harper, and Trudeau is planning to fix that. He's a collaborator."

Richard Dabrusin, the candidate's

father, said he realized the full extent of his daughter's reach and popularity in the community days ago while distributing pamphlets. As they walked the neighbourhood (the campaign says it hit 30,000 houses in total) someone in their car rolled down their window to yell, "Go Julie!"

As for what Dabrusin will tackle first, her father has no doubts.

"It'll be social issues. That's always been her major interest."

Dabrusin may be a novice pol-

itician, but she has already accomplished a lot in her time working with the Toronto-Danforth community, earning the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for Community Service in 2013.

Dabrusin is also on the board of directors of Park People, a Toronto alliance for better parks; she established and chaired the Frankland Community Advisory Committee to improve the use of the city's recreational resources; and she helped found Friends of Withrow Park.

"She'll do great things for this area," her father said.

"When I started, what had motivated me to get involved was the need to tackle income inequality in our community, as one of my first priorities — and child care," Dabrusin herself said in an interview. "These issues are still very real, and very important to me."

Dabrusin said she tried to keep an open dialogue with the public during her campaign, going door-to-door to speak with the people of the riding — which comprises the southwest third of East York. She cited this as one of the defining reasons for her win.

"It was all the discussion. It was talking to a lot of people and hearing what they had to say, and people were very thoughtful, had great questions and great ideas, and listening to them was a big part of it," she said. "The people in the Danforth are great, they're very engaged and have great ideas, and we're going to do great things."

## NDP incumbent passes the torch to the Liberals

NDP's Craig Scott loses in historic upset for the party in Toronto as Liberals sweep ridings

By ALEXIS KAMAKARIS  
The Observer

East York's election stunner was the defeat of New Democrat incumbent Craig Scott in the riding of Toronto-Danforth — a riding thought by almost everyone to be dyed-in-the-wool orange.

Even when pollsters were prognosticating the defeats of the incumbents in both Beaches-East York and Don Valley West, the predictions for Toronto-Danforth remained favourable to Scott and the NDP.

But as the politicians like to say, the only poll that matters is the one on election day, and Scott was on the losing end from the moment the polls closed until the major news organizations finally called Liberal challenger Julie Dabrusin the winner late in the evening. Still, the final margin of victory was just 1,200 votes out of almost 56,000 cast — just two percentage points.

So there were plenty of surprised and sad faces among the party



■ CRAIG SCOTT

faithful who gathered at the Fox and Fiddle on Danforth Avenue on election night.

The defeated one-term MP seemed serene, however.

"I will likely go back to teaching law, and my home institution is Osgoode," Scott said. "But I do want to be a part of rebuilding a social democratic movement that makes a difference in politics." Considering the decline in NDP fortunes across the country, he added, "Frankly, that's not going to be easy."

Scott says he has no plans to run again.

The bar was still packed for Scott's late arrival — full of orange signs, pins, and flags for what was clearly supposed to be a victory celebration. But the discouraging news from across the riding and across the country was also emanating from big-screen TVs.

"I just want to say how much I admire your energy and commitment," Mary Anne Beamish, the president of the Toronto-Danforth federal NDP riding association, told the campaign's supporters. "And it works both ways: We inspire our elected representatives with our energy and they inspire us with theirs."

Apparently referring to prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau and the Liberal majority government, Scott said, "I am not here to overly congratulate the Liberals."

But when it came to his personal rival, he added, "I do congratulate Julie Dabrusin. She will make a good MP, she's got a great background, she's a very smart woman, and I very much hope she continues to provide really good representation of Toronto-Danforth."

### By the numbers

#### Don Valley West

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Liberal	Rob Oliphant	27,472	54%
Conservative	John Carmichael	19,206	38%
NDP	Syeda Riaz	3076	6%
Green	Natalie Hunt	848	2%

#### Beaches-East York

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Liberal	Nathaniel Erskine-Smith	27,458	49%
Conservative	Bill Burrows	9,124	16%
NDP	Matthew Kellway	17,113	31%
Green	Randall Sach	1,433	3%

#### Toronto-Danforth

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Liberal	Julie Dabrusin	23,531	42%
Conservative	Benjamin Dichter	5,478	10%
NDP	Craig Scott	22,325	40%
Green	Chris Tolley	2,618	5%



# Erskine-Smith takes Beaches-East York

'This was not about one person,' newly elected MP says

By DAN GOLDSMITH  
The Observer

Newly elected Liberal MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith may be inexperienced on the political scene, but he isn't without his share of influential supporters as he begins his career in public office.

Erskine-Smith celebrated his victory in Beaches-East York before a crowd of 250 at the Ted Reeve Community Arena.

"Vote Nate" buttons adorned the chests of many of the supporters, who broke into raucous chants as they watched televised election coverage, reflecting Liberal domination both locally and

nationally.

Among those cheering were MPP Ward 32 Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon and Beaches-East York Liberal MPP Arthur Potts. Both were excited the community opted to try something new.

"People want change. They want fresh energy and ideas," McMahon said.

Just as Erskine-Smith was about to make his victory speech, Potts initiated another loud chant from the crowd, this time repeating the newly elected MP's name as he stepped to the stage.

"He reflects our values. This is our community and we've been working hard to take it back," Potts said earlier in the evening.

Erskine-Smith defeated NDP incumbent Matthew Kellway by 6,059 votes, earning 49 per cent of the total.

Kellway was elected in 2011 as a replacement for Maria Minna, who had held the seat for the Liberals for six terms leading up to her defeat.

Erskine-Smith was born and raised in the riding he now represents.

He attended Bowmore Road Public School and Malvern Collegiate Institute before studying politics, philosophy and constitutional law at Queen's University and Oxford.

He practises commercial litigation at the downtown law firm Kramer Simaan Dhillon, though he has been on a leave of absence since the outset of his run for office.

He campaigned on a number of issues that feature prominently in the Liberal Party platform, including government transparency, environmental protection and



Dan Goldsmith // The Observer

**Nathaniel Erskine-Smith (left) celebrates his victory with Ward 32 city Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon.**

increased infrastructure spending.

Though clearly happy to have won the seat, Er-

skine-Smith said he wants it to be clear that he isn't finished working with his residents.

"This was not about one

person," he said to supporters in his victory speech, "so let's, over the next four years, make our voices heard."

## Carmichael 'disappointed' by loss to longtime rival



Paolo Maquiraya // The Observer

**Rob Oliphant (left) is congratulated by John Carmichael.**

By ERIC PEMBER  
The Observer

One of East York's marquee matchups last week was also a rematch: incumbent Conservative MP John Carmichael versus Liberal challenger Rob Oliphant.

This election marked the third time in a row that Oliphant and Carmichael have competed to represent Don Valley West in the House of Commons.

Carmichael lost in 2008. But he won in 2011.

This time, he lost again.

The polls had already hinted that Carmichael was on the wrong end of the Liberal wave that seemed to be building in the run-up to the election.

Still, at Carmichael's election night party at the Amsterdam Brewery in Leaside, some remained optimistic.

"I'm confident. I'm hoping. I'm wishing hopeful, positive

thoughts," said Brenda Eliott.

But others seemed to see the political writing on the wall. And when the first returns started coming in, they were candid.

"I feel, unfortunately, that people just want change," said the candidate's sister, Julie Carmichael. "But I'm not sure they know what they're getting into."

Oliphant ultimately dominated the polls, raking in a 54

per cent share to Carmichael's 38 per cent.

"I think we ran a great campaign, so I'm disappointed," Carmichael said.

"It was a great fight. The other guys ran a great campaign, we ran a great campaign, they came out on top. That's how it works."

Carmichael repeated that sentiment when he made a pilgrimage to Oliphant's headquarters to congratulate him on his electoral victory.

## Oliphant victorious in Don Valley West

By PAOLO MAQUIRAYA  
The Observer

With music in the air and the appropriately red decor of The Local on Laird Drive as a backdrop, Rob Oliphant's triumphant return to Parliament was cheered on by passionate supporters at his election night celebration.

Oliphant, who had served as the MP for Don Valley West from 2008-2011, was succeeded by Conservative candidate John Carmichael in the last election. This time around, Oliphant came out on top — in what Carmichael jokingly referred to as their "rubber match."

Carmichael went to Oliphant's victory party to congratulate the winner. For his part, Oliphant said that there wasn't anything personal in this race; it was about making a better Canada for the people of Don Valley West.

"Our victory in Don Valley

West wasn't about me," Oliphant told the Liberal faithful at his party. "It's about you."

Carmichael's well-wishes capped off returns that put Oliphant well ahead in Don Valley West. The openly gay former United Church minister captured a true majority of votes cast in the riding — 54 per cent, and despite six rivals.

It was a raucous but friendly atmosphere as The Local slowly filled to capacity with Liberal supporters after the polls closed at 9:30 p.m.

Their satisfaction with the local results was compounded by the results across the country: the election of a majority Liberal government.

When the major television networks made their official projections of a Liberal majority, the crowd erupted with thunderous cheers.

Ironically, a storm was stirring outside — but on this night nothing could rain on this parade.

## Kellway had 'gut feeling' about election

By PAULA LAST  
The Observer

The mood was sombre at NDP candidate Matthew Kellway's reception on election night as the 2011 'Orange Crush' was replaced by a red tide this time around.

Campaign volunteer Joanne Clark spoke for many in the room when she expressed her disappointment shortly after the CBC made the call that Liberal Justin Trudeau would be the next prime minister.

"I was really hoping for some miracle for the NDP," she said at the Time Capsule Cafe on Danforth Avenue. "I feel like (NDP Leader) Thomas Mulcair is the true statesman... and that Trudeau has really won with his star power."

Kellway arrived at the gathering at 10:30 p.m. to a thunderous round of applause from his team.

"I, of course, am broken-hearted tonight," he said. But he added that he has no regrets about the work he's done in Beaches-East York over the



Paula Last // The Observer

**Matthew Kellway prepares to speak to his volunteers and supporters.**

past four years.

Kellway garnered about 30 per cent of the votes in the riding. Liberal candidate Nathaniel Erskine-Smith captured about 49 per cent, winning by 6,059 votes. Kellway was especially heartfelt when thanking his team.

"Many friendships were formed along the way, and they will be lasting friendships," he said.

While Kellway said he had a gut feeling a concession

speech might be needed on election night, he couldn't put his finger on why.

"It was, I think, just something in my gut that was gnawing at me," he said. "It was the threehundredeight.com stuff that people were listening to that had no polling done in the ridings."

Threehundredeight.com is a poll aggregating website.

"It was the Liberals going knocking on doors propagating numbers that weren't

based on polling results."

When asked if he felt strategic voting was a factor, Kellway said, "It's always been a worry, this tendency for Canadians to revert to a party that in my view hasn't been good for them or for us."

His message to his team was clear.

"We've got four years to build the community we want to live in, to build the party locally we want to run in the next election."



■ EDITORIALS

# Liberals take over E.Y.

The cycle continues. The dust is settling from last week's federal election. Some partisans feel joy; others feel bitterness.

As is usually the case, when one of the two traditional parties turn people off, people turn to the alternative. In this case, from Conservative to Liberal.

To many, the big surprise in East York was in Toronto-Danforth. Beaches-East York was Liberal just four years ago. So was Don Valley West. When the Grits painted those parts of town red last week, it wasn't that unexpected. (In fact, the polls seemed to be predicting it.) But nobody really predicted that Toronto-Danforth was ripe for change from the New Democrats. It is, after all, the riding of Bob Rae (back when it was called Broadview-Greenwood) and Jack Layton.

So why did Toronto-Danforth choose Liberal challenger Julie Dabrusin over NDP incumbent Craig Scott? One of the reasons could be that Toronto-Danforth is a changing neighbourhood.

Even the casual observer can see that the neighbourhood has converted into an artsier district. And there are still blue-collar enclaves, but they're dwindling.

Toronto-Danforth is becoming more affluent and more family-oriented. Young professional have been migrating to this neighbourhood, attracted by the quality of life, schools, shops and food. Generally speaking, as a neighbourhood becomes more affluent, it also moves from the left of the political spectrum. Another reason for the electoral shift in Toronto-Danforth is, of course, the late Liberal surge under Justin Trudeau.

One of the Liberals' promises for the middle class is that families who make between \$45,000 and \$89,000 annually will get a tax reduction between two and 20 per cent.

But feelings are mixed over this. Daniel Bariagabor has been living in the neighbourhood for the past nine years. He rents an apartment and works in a factory. He's not rich, but he makes enough money to live a decent life. He doesn't dislike the Liberals and he is OK with last week's results; however, he would have preferred the NDP because, he says, their policies are more in favor of unionized workers.

Richard Hamilton is also a resident of the Toronto-Danforth community. He moved from Montreal to Toronto 14 years ago. He said he was glad that the Liberals won — even though his new MP is still largely an unknown to him.

"I don't know much about her," he said of Julie Dabrusin. "My comments are affected by the fact that I lived in Quebec most of my life. I started with some doubts about Mr. Justin Trudeau as a leader. I came around to believe that maybe he is more ready for that task than I expected he was to begin with."

We'll see. To others, Trudeau may remain a good-looking, hopeful but possibly naïve guy in his 40s who just happened to win the hearts of enough Canadian voters to see him through. In any case, who would have predicted this three months ago when the election was called? In Toronto-Danforth, Liberal MP Dabrusin. In Ottawa, Prime Minister Trudeau. And with a majority government.

~ Veronica Agudelo Correra

# Red is the new orange

The election has blown through East York — like the storm that coincidentally landed on election night. And that rain might as well have been red, because that's the political colour left behind, from one end of the community to the other.

The shocker, of course, was that the NDP was defeated in its former stronghold of Toronto-Danforth. The riding had been home to the late Leader of the New Democrats, Jack Layton.

His New Democrat successor, Craig Scott, cruised to victory there in a byelection just three years ago.

But this isn't the first time that a seemingly safe New Democrat has been upset by a Liberal challenger. Michael Prue had been the sixth, and final, mayor of East York before the amalgamation. He had also been a fixture in the community, well-known for his colourful sweaters and cheerful disposition.

But in the last provincial election in Beaches-East York, the happy warrior Prue was ousted by Liberal Arthur Potts.

So is East York moving away from its once left-leaning ideology? The answer is yes — but not out of choice; instead out of necessity. In the last few years we've seen an aggressively Conservative government in Ottawa, and an encroaching Conservative party in Ontario.

People in East York, like in other parts of Toronto, remember the last Conservative regime at Queen's Park and the damage that it did. Likewise, they've seen the divisive mean-spiritedness that has come to characterize the Harper Tories. It may just be that this is a community that's become sharply Conservative-averse... and voters here are prepared to act decisively — and strategically — to keep those Tories out of office.

So East York sacrificed Michael Prue.

And now, to get Harper out of power, East York has sacrificed Craig Scott. The promise of a Liberal government was more tempting than the principle of sustaining NDP representation.

So now East York has been painted red. One small swatch of orange remains in the person of Peter Tabuns, New Democrat representing Toronto-Danforth at the provincial legislature.

Meanwhile, East Yorkers will just have to wait alongside other Torontonians to see what Trudeau's Liberals have in store for our city.

Apparently, however, there's general agreement that whatever is in store, it's preferable to what Harper and the Conservatives were offering.

~ Jeremy Bordonaro

■ COLUMNS

# In praise of Halloween

October isn't just about Thanksgiving dinner and pumpkin spice lattes anymore.

Here we are, on the eve of what's become one of the biggest holidays—that's-not-really-a-holiday (but everyone looks forward to it anyway): Halloween.

C'mon now; admit it — there's at least one person in your home who has been brainstorming costume ideas since early September.

We all want to top last year's attire, thinking bigger, bolder and riskier.

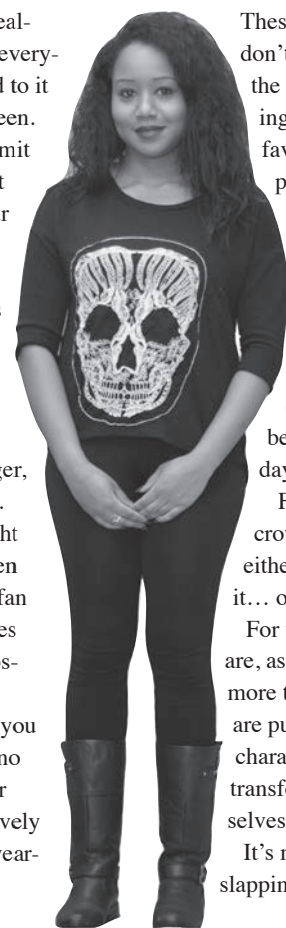
I love the thought of Halloween, even though I'm not a fan of the scary movies and the bloody costumes.

It's a day when you can let loose and no one really cares or judges you negatively for what you're wearing.

It's strictly about having fun, whether it's

going door-to-door or simply heading downtown for a Halloween bash.

Or you can play it low-key: wear all black, hand out candy and watch a Chuckie marathon.



Deidra Barton

These folks simply don't understand the fun of dressing up as your favourite Disney princess — or whatever.

As a kid, it's pretty much an expectation that you'll dress up and be silly on this day.

For the older crowd, you're either really into it... or not.

For those who are, as we get older, more time and effort are put into the characters we are transforming ourselves into.

It's more than slapping a wig on and throwing on some face paint before

heading out.

Our own personalities are changed into these characters as well.

It's almost like auditioning for a movie part; not only do you dress like your character but you have to be like them too.

One of my favourite Halloween venues is Church Street.

It's filled with characters — some scary and some pretty.

You walk down the street and your jaw just keeps dropping because you're in awe of the amazing costumes.

Some of them really are works of art, once you notice all of the little details that the wearers have put into them to become these characters we know and love (or fear).

That's when you really realize how much love there is for Halloween around here.

It's because of its uniqueness.

It's the only day you can let your creativity flow and show it off to the city.

So have fun tomorrow, Oct. 31.

That's what Halloween is for.

# Following fitness trend

Going to fitness classes is trending in Toronto.

The crowded classes at Moksha Yoga on St. Clair, and spin classes at the Quad on Queen East are testament to that.

The only thing is, having a subscription to more than one studio costs a pretty penny. But Payal Kadakia has created a loophole, and founded Classpass. It essentially allows you to go to various studios in Toronto, with one subscription.

Classpass costs \$89 per month, but allows three visits per studio, per month, and then it resets.

Now, while this is mind-blowing for some people, it's still rather pricey and isn't tailored to everyone's budget. Still, Toronto is home to people from all walks of life, and this sort of thing could catch on rather broadly.

Most studios have welcome packages, in which customers pay a discounted rate to try out the classes.

For example, Roots Yoga

on Rosedale offers a one-month subscription of unlimited classes for \$20. That rate inflates after the first month, but you can opt not to subscribe if it isn't for you.

The benefit of that option is you don't have to commit to a subscription and if you find the studio that fits your budget and lifestyle, you're set.

The lesson to be learned with trends like this is that it's OK to follow one, but know your options before making a decision, and be better for it. It's not just the classes that are expensive; it's the gear and the diets that are sometimes marketed as part of the arrangement.

Most people have a need to

follow the crowd, such as purchasing a sheer-panelled pair of yoga pants or studio wraps.

Companies like Lululemon and Nike make a fortune off of trends and are crafty with advertisements.

However, the apparel and gear in retail stores cannot increase or condition physical performance.

Only a person can do that through sheer willpower (and by keeping hydrated).

Going to fitness classes can be good for you. And trendy too, but expensive. So if you're going to invest in it, consider your options and be #betterforit.



Stephanie Backus



# A trip down memory lane - literally



Courtesy of City of Toronto Archives

The Observer resumes its look back on East York history through photographs from the City of Toronto Archives. These two pictures reflect the development of East York's road network over about 40 years of the 20th century. On the left is a view of Millwood Road looking north toward Laird Drive, taken on April 26, 1928. On the right is an undated image of the intersection of O'Connor Drive and St. Clair Avenue, taken sometime during the 1960s.

## Building strong women from strong girls

Girls aged 9-14 participate in symposium that explores their hopes, dreams for the future

By **NOVEMBER CHERNICK**  
The Observer

A group of young girls sits in a classroom at Centennial College's East York campus. The room is buzzing with excitement even before the day begins.

The girls, aged 9-14, have joined a symposium exploring career options and future career paths including: journalism, broadcasting, animation and arts.

All of the participants rotated through workshops centred on the arts. One workshop suggested to the girls that 'you can be a reporter,' and was led by Centennial journalism Prof. Tim Doyle in the campus television newsroom.

In learning 'you can be a reporter,' each of the participants was given a template of sorts, and asked to interview a classmate about their hopes and dreams for the future.

The girls then transferred their written stories



November Chernick /// The Observer

**The Strong Girls Strong Women symposium let participants explore what it takes to be a newsroom journalist.**

to the teleprompter and read them 'on-air' at the anchor desk.

The workshops comprised the fourth "Strong

Girls Strong Women" (SGSW) symposium at Centennial's Story Arts Centre on Oct. 16. SGSW is a non-profit initiative, begun by Cen-

ennial College President Ann Buller in 2012. The day-long session pledges a commitment to empowering girls and women through education.

Buller set the tone by asking the girls in attendance if there was ever a time in their lives when they wanted to try something, but didn't. She suggested that the fear to act can sometimes be characterized as a big, slimy green blob of anxiety.

"The ugly monster that sits up here (on your shoulder)," she said. "And just as you're about to try something, it whispers in your ear, 'Don't do it. You will look silly and someone might laugh at you.'"

Since she initiated this symposium, Buller's mission has been to create safe learning environments for the girls. Sisterhood is powerful, she said, and these symposiums give the girls a chance to explore and ask questions without the fear of embarrassment.

Marilyn Scott, chief of staff at Centennial College also spoke to the girls at the symposium.

"Today is about the big picture," she said, "celebrating what makes you strong and unique as girls exploring your hopes and dreams for the future."

### EDUCATION

## More French immersion programs in E.Y.'s future?

By **XUE BO**  
The Observer

East York's representative on the Toronto Catholic District School Board is hoping that the city's separate school system will soon have more French immersion programs — including in her home ward.

"I'm in favour of locating the programs wherever we have students that will benefit from them. I think we need more French immersion programs in East York and the east part of Toronto as well," said Angela Kennedy, the trustee representing East York/Ward 11, at the Toronto Catholic District School Board meeting on Oct. 22.

Kennedy was speaking about the approval of a motion implementing French immersion programs in the city's northwest.

That motion revisited an earlier proposal to establishing French immersion at St. Conrad Catholic School, in the Keele-Wilson neighbourhood.

A program had been approved for St. Conrad back in December, but that approval was rescinded for reconsideration.

Trustee Kennedy was among those who brought the motion for St. Conrad back to the school board table — this time with an amendment that instead of only implementing programs in St. Conrad's ward, Ward 4, there should be programs across the northwest of the city.

And Kennedy doesn't want to stop there.

"The staff is bringing back a report to look at where we can locate the programs, like apart from the St. Conrad thing," she said. "There's



**KENNEDY**

another report coming, and it's about the whole city."

According to the TCDSB, the French immersion program was established in 1982 for senior kindergarten and has been extended by one grade each year. Instruction

is entirely in French until the end of Grade 2. Then, from Grade 5 to Grade 8, instruction is given 50 per cent in French and 50 per cent in English. The secondary school French immersion program is a continuation of the elementary program.

"Most of the trustees are on the same page and we see the problem here," Kennedy said. "Some schools have French immersion, some schools don't, but they want it. They should have it. Students should be able to access the program everywhere in the city."

She added: "This motion should cause staffs to take a look at all of the schools to see where we need to put in new programs."

During the meeting, another motion was brought forward about rebalancing overpopulated versus underpopulated schools.

The motion asks the director of education to continue to monitor the impact of the current admissions process and assess its implementation after two full admission cycles are completed.

It also requires a public consultation next March, with all "over-subscribed" school communities invited.

"We need to work on this problem. When there's a class with capacity of 30, but there's 32 students wanting to join it, you can't just call the parents and say, 'I'm sorry but your child has to join the wait-list because we don't have space for him/her,'" chair Michael Del Grande said.

Some trustees believe that a balancing with under-subscribed schools can help to relieve the pressure of over-subscribed schools.



# Capturing the colours of East York



## Back to nature in the city

By **SANJEEV WIGNARAJAH**  
The Observer

The city is camera fodder for many, but a local professional photographer has a soft spot for East York's variety of vivid scenery.

Susan Drysdale lives in East York and says that she's especially fond of photographing it because she's drawn to the vast green spaces.

"I walk many valley trails in all seasons. Anyone who thinks you have to get out of the city to 'get back to nature' really needs to explore these spaces more," she said.

"Everything you could want is right here, within walking distance."

Drysdale said she also likes East York for its mid-century architecture.

"You can really learn about the city's past just by looking at some of the historic buildings," she said. "You can still see 'Old Toronto' here."

For more on Drysdale, check out "Eyes on E.Y." at [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca).

Her website is [susandrysdale.com](http://susandrysdale.com). You can also find her gallery on Instagram @drysdaleandco.

Clockwise from top left: The Aga Khan Museum is one of the most Instagrammed places in Toronto; the Evergreen Brick Works features a gorgeous view of the Toronto skyline; the Prince Edward Viaduct mirrors a moody sky; the elevated wetlands sculptures created by Canadian artist Noel Harding have long intrigued passers-by on the Don Valley Parkway; three of the inhabitants of those wetlands share its space.

