



■ **CRIME IN THE COMMUNITY**



Nick Tragianis /// Observer

After a 16-year-old girl was sexually assaulted in East York last week, signs about the incident popped up at the corner of Broadview and Danforth avenues.

Assault shakes East York

By **DIANA FARIA**
The Observer

There are still signs — literally — of the sexual assault that shook the neighbourhood around Broadview and Mortimer avenues last week.

Just outside the Broadview subway station, a few blocks south of where a 16-year-old girl was attacked, signs have been posted to remind passersby of what happened.

One of them reads, “She is your mother, daughter, sister and friend.... She was attacked.” Another lists what men can do to “take a stand” against sexual assault and harassment.

The assault, which is still being investigated by police, happened at about 9 p.m. on Nov. 12.

Police say the girl was walking in the area when a man asked her for a lighter.

When the girl approached, he pulled her into a nearby laneway and sexually assaulted her while threatening her with a knife.

The suspect is described as white,

around 40 years old, 6’- 6’1”, with facial stubble.
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Police say the man was wearing dark, baggy sweatpants, a button-up shirt and a dark jacket. He was last seen fleeing southbound on Broadview Avenue.

Const. Victor Kwong of the Toronto Police Service said there has been “no progress” on the case, and is asking anyone with information to call police.

Kwong also said the best thing anyone can do to prevent such attacks is to be vigilant in looking around at his or her surroundings for any suspicious activity.

“That goes for anyone... (not just) the victim,” he said. “If you see someone in your area that you know shouldn’t be there, if they’re lurking, if they’re just acting odd... notify police.”

Melissa Mather, 23, lives in Scar-

borough but commutes almost daily to and from Centennial College’s campus at the corner of Mortimer and Carlaw avenues, just a few blocks east of where the attack took place.

She said she was surprised to hear about the assault so close to where she studies, and she said she will make a few adjustments to her daily schedule in order to stay safe.

“I’ll probably make sure I go right to the subway instead of lingering around the area,” she said. “If I’m walking to school, I’ll be with my phone, texting or calling someone just so I have that contact to say help — or just (stay) in the area where there are more houses.”

Anyone with information on the Nov. 12 attack is asked to call Toronto police’s sex crimes unit at 416-808-7474 or leave an anonymous tip with Crime Stoppers at 416-222-8477.

Officer climbs mountain to honour vets

By **MATTHEW WOCKS**
The Observer

They say never judge a book by its cover. Looking at Const. Craig Tourangeau, they may be right.

Tourangeau is a police officer and dog handler with the canine unit of the Toronto Police Services, which is based in East York. But he’s also a wounded veteran and recent recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medal who just spent a month trekking through the Himalayas to raise money for awareness of Canadian veterans and their families.

On Oct. 5, Tourangeau, 46, and 11 other Canadian veterans who had also been wounded in service travelled from Toronto to Nepal for a nearly month-long trek through the Himalayan Mountains. The trip included a visit to the Everest base camp and culminated in climbing the nearly 21,000-foot Island Peak Mountain.

The inaugural trek, called the True Patriot Love Expedition, was the brainchild of five-time Everest climber Ben Webster. In 2011, Webster approached the True Patriot Love foundation (TPL), whose mandate is to honour and support Canadian military and their families, with the idea for the trip.

Hilary Coles is the manager of communications and PR with TPL. “He came to us with the start of an idea and, one year later, we made it happen,” she said.

Webster not only led the expedition, but he also directed a team to document the process on film. It will be released in early 2013 as a feature-length documentary called March to the Top, as well as a one-hour documentary to air on CBC.

Webster, 50, said the climb was new territory for the soldiers, but Tourangeau’s age and life experience made him a valuable member of the team.

“When your heart rate is jacked up and you’re uncomfortable, all you want to do is quit,” he said. “Craig never gave up and he did really, really well.”

Born and raised in Ottawa, Tourangeau joined the military at 17. After being posted to Victoria, B.C. with the 3rd Battalion, he quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a sergeant. In 1992, Tourangeau tried out for a new counter-terrorism unit. He passed, and was posted to the joint task force in Ottawa.

■ See **CLIMBING**, page 8



Matthew Wocks /// Observer

Craig Tourangeau poses with Fred, a patrol dog, at the East York-based headquarters of the canine unit.

POLICE BRIEFS

Teen attacked for belongings

A 14-year-old boy was reportedly swarmed on Nov. 11 by three young men who took his cell-phone and necklace. The victim was approached from behind near Gateway Boulevard and Grenoble Drive and pushed to the ground. The first suspect is described as a black male, 16-18 years old, 6' to 6'-1" tall, 161 pounds with a thin build, brown eyes and afro-style black hair. The other two are described as black males, 16-18 years old.

Theft suspect on the loose

Police are searching for a suspect after a convenience store on Woodbine Avenue near Milverton Boulevard was held up on Nov. 11. A man entered the store, pulled out a handgun and demanded cash. He then fled the store with the cash. No injuries were sustained. The suspect is described as a black male, 5'-8" to 6' tall, with a medium build.

Boy robbed

A 13-year-old boy was robbed on Nov. 18 near Cosburn and Woodbine avenues. A man approached the teen, said he had a weapon and demanded valuables. The robber fled the scene with the boy's sweater. The suspect is described as a white male, 16-20 years old and 5'-5" to 5'-7" tall.

~ Arielle Quigley



Alicia Ferrero // Observer

Sgt. Jack West of 54 Division participated in Step Up and Be Safe, a campaign by Toronto Police Services that targets pedestrian safety in the East York area.

Pedestrian safety first

Police suggest wearing bright clothing and crossing at lights

By ALICIA FERRERO
The Observer

The campaign may be over, but not the rules around pedestrian safety that Toronto police were strictly enforcing between Nov. 5 and 11.

The police's 54 Division, led by Sgt. Jack West, spent Step Up and Be Safe week handing out tickets specific to pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle traffic violations affecting pedestrian safety.

Officers issued a total of 8,646 tickets, including cautions.

The tally of tickets affecting pedestrians was 5,639.

The number one offence was failure to halt at a stop sign, followed by pedestrians failing to use a stoplight.

"The month of November has always been a high-risk month for pedestrian deaths. This is due to the time change; it gets darker out earlier, and with the greyish dull weather, pedestrians are more difficult to see," West said.

"This is why pedestrians need to remind themselves to dress accordingly. Wear something bright, or that has reflective material."

In 2011, there were 18 pedestrian fatalities. This year, to date, there have been 19.

"If pedestrians try and understand driver behaviours, they will be better prepared to protect them-

selves," West said.

"The number one pedestrian killer is when they cross mid-block, not making use of proper marked crossings such as at a signalized intersection or crosswalk."

West said pedestrians crossing mid-block are surprised when police tell them it is a \$50 fine.

West said the second most frequent way pedestrians get struck by vehicles is when drivers are turning right. They tend to look for oncoming traffic to the left and forget to check for pedestrians.

The City of Toronto has initiatives to help keep pedestrians safe including traffic calming areas, pedestrian countdown signals and longer pedestrian walk times, zebra crossing pavement markings and no right turn

on red prohibitions.

"As a rule, we recommend that all road users obey the rules of the road and also act respectfully towards each other," said Fiona Chapman, manager of Pedestrian Projects for Toronto. "The best way to avoid pedestrian fatalities is generally thought to be a combination of engineering, education and enforcement."

West also urged road users to act respectfully to ensure one another's safety.

"My observation over the past number of years (is that) too many drivers, cyclists and pedestrians are too anxious to get where they're going. We all need to slow down, take in our surroundings and share courtesy and respect for each other. Obeying the rules of the road is a good start."

Murder victim was targeted, police say

By KAITLIN CLUBLEY
The Observer

After discovering an elderly woman's body on Saturday, Nov. 17, Toronto police are in search of her killer.

Manijeh Bostani-Kamsi, 78, was found dead in her apartment located at 215 Wynford Dr., near Eglinton Avenue East.

Police said her death seemed suspicious from the outset, with obvious signs of



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trauma.

A press conference was held on Monday at Toronto police headquarters to provide details on the killing.

Reporters were told that the victim was last seen in her building, in her regular routine, on Nov. 14.

Det. Mike Carbone said he

thinks she was targeted.

Bostani-Khamsi lived alone in her apartment after her husband passed away.

But police declined to answer questions about whether the victim may have known her killer.

Carbone said police have canvassed the building several

times.

They're searching through tapes from surveillance cameras.

"Have faith in what we're trying to do right now," Carbone said.

"We'll certainly put every resource available to try and apprehend this person."

Anyone with information about the murder is asked to contact 54 Division at 416-808-7400 or Det. Carbone at 416-808-7378.

WHAT'S UP IN E.Y.

Seeking award nominees

The Agnes Macphail Recognition Committee invites nominations for the 20th annual Agnes Macphail Award. Applicants must be residents of the former borough of East York who have made strong contributions to the community. Tax-deductible donations for the award — a contribution to the charity of the winner's choice — can be made through the East York Foundation. The award will be presented at a public ceremony at the East York Civic Centre on March 24. For information, call 416-425-4431.

Archeologist to talk about war

The East York Historical Society's annual general meeting will be held this coming Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 7:30 p.m. at S. Walter Stewart Memorial Library, 170 Memorial Park Ave. The guest speaker, archeologist Dr. Ron Williamson, will be talking about Snake Hill Cemetery in Fort Erie and the War of 1812. For more information, call 416-429-7821.

Holiday art

The Don Valley Art Club will host its annual Holiday Art Show and Sale Dec. 1-9 at the Paper Mill Gallery, 67 Pottery Rd. Several artists and more than 100 original works will be at the opening reception on Saturday, Dec. 1, starting at noon.

~ Dileen Simms

OUR ANNIVERSARY: 1972-2012

The good, the bad, the ugly

Observer recalls a dark chapter of local history

EDITOR'S NOTE

This fall, we've been "observing" the 40th birthday of the East York Observer with a serial retrospective of the newspaper's coverage since 1972, when Centennial College founded the publication as a form of both outreach to the community and real-world experience for its journalism students.

This time, we remember one of the darker chapters in the history of this community — and in the history of this community newspaper.

East York has always shown an independent streak, even before the 1920s, when it "seceded" from York and became a separate township.

After the 1954 creation of Metro Toronto as a loose co-operative of area municipalities, East York operated under the status of "borough" — which, in medieval times, was an area designated as free from the arbitrary power of the monarch.

But within months of its 1995 election, the Conservative provincial government under Premier Mike Harris began moving to replace the six municipalities making up Metro with one "megacity" — in the name of efficiency and cost-savings.

Amalgamation was defeated by a margin of 3-1 in a Toronto-wide referendum in 1997 (and in East York, the opposition was highest: 81 per cent), but the province pushed ahead with the megacity anyway. And on Jan. 1, 1998, the Borough of East York ceased to exist — legally.

When East York officially disbanded, East York Observer management momentarily considered disbanding the newspaper as well — and the paper's coverage area was actually broadened briefly to include portions of North York and Scarborough.

But even we were surprised at the tenacity of East Yorkers, who maintained a strong sense of distinct community despite the loss of legal status.

From residents successfully lobbying Canada Post to maintain "East York" as an acceptable address to the ongoing vitality of East York-specific organizations, the community has risen above those dark days 15 years ago.

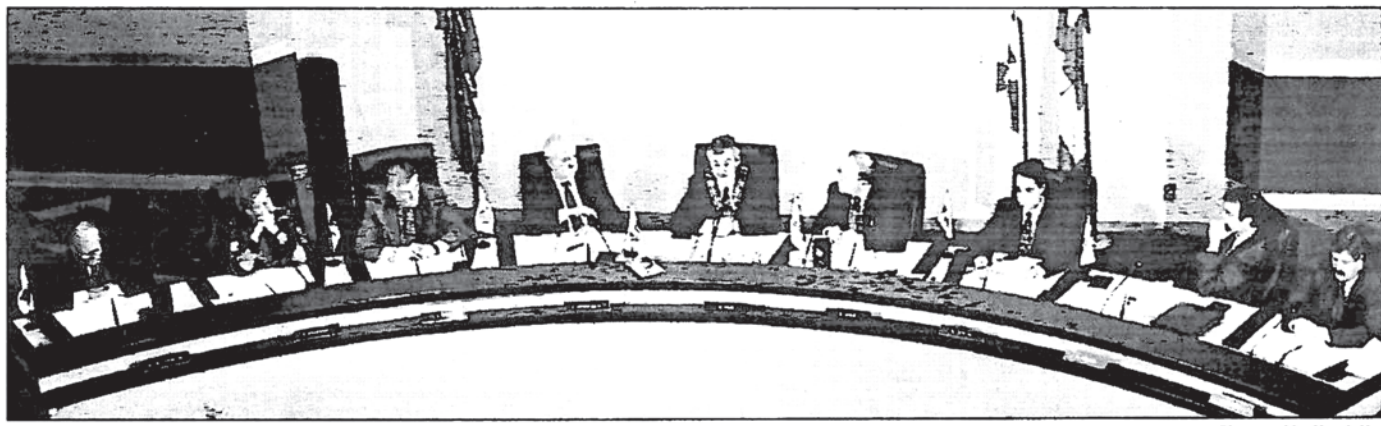
And the East York Observer remains a proud namesake, with plenty of unique community issues and events to cover.

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THE EAST YORK OBSERVER

FREE!

Volume 28, Number 11 Published by Centennial College journalism students November 21, 1997



A FINAL FAREWELL: East York council gathers together for the last council meeting before amalgamation sets in. From left to right: George Vasilopoulos, Lorna Krawchuk, Bob Dale, John Antonopoulos, Michael Prue, Norm Crone, Michael Tziretas, Tim Chólvat and Paul Robinson.

East York ends with tears and honor

By **LISA VAN DE VEN**





The seats of the main council chamber were filled on the evening of Nov. 17. Some people stood at the back of the room, while others walked upstairs to watch from the balcony. They had come to see the end of an era. The crowd was eclectic, and included members of Team East York in their white East York sweatshirts, former councillors, a couple of ex-mayors and some interested East York citizens. It was the final meeting of East York council, and the people of the borough were there to share the event. Several got up to speak to the crowd over the course of the three-hour meeting, while others just sat and watched. "This is the fighting council," Mayor Michael Prue said later in the evening in his final comments to East York council. Prue will go on in January to sit on the council of the new amalgamated Toronto after receiving more than 22,000 votes in the Nov. 10 election, more than any other single candidate across Metro. Despite his new position, he was one of several members of council who had to fight to hold back tears while speaking to the crowd. He talked about the struggles the council has gone through over the past three years; the battles it's won, such as the fight to bring in the anti-smoking bylaw, the only one that still remains among most of the municipalities, and the battles it's lost. Like amalgamation. He compared East York's fight against amalgamation over the past year to the struggles of Jason and the Argonauts, the famous rowers of myth who fought against demons and sometimes against each other, but in the end worked together to fight for the final prize. "Today marks the end of that Argonaut journey," Prue said. "Alas, we're not coming home with the golden fleece." Although the fight against amalgamation did not end in the reward a majority of East Yorkers were looking for — an independent East York — Prue himself did win something for the fight, and for his time as mayor. At the end of a lengthy speech, councillor Norm Crone announced council's decision to give Prue The Bulldog award. The award, named for the dog that symbolizes East York, has only been given out about 20 times in the history of the borough and is usually awarded by the mayor to outstanding members of the community. Prue demonstrates "the true spirit of the bulldog," Crone said, describing the mayor as gentle, loyal and tenacious, with the will to fight until the end. While the council meeting ended with the honoring of Prue, it began by honoring another mayor—the first mayor of the borough of East York. **see COUNCIL, page 8**

'Squeegee gang' earns money in quiet Leaside neighborhood

By **JENNIFER ROBICHAUD**

On the quiet residential streets of Leaside, there are a lot of luxury cars in the driveways. The homes are large and beautiful. It's rare to hear loud noises — unless it's a child playing. People in this area are usually protected from the realities of downtown. But a new group of people have moved into the area, and they are opening some eyes. Calling themselves a "squeegee gang," they are the new entrepreneurs of the Leaside area. They do not pay taxes and they have a very low overhead. Their job requires little skill, just nerve. They are funny, brave and, most importantly, smart. These are the squeegee kids that have set up shop in Leaside, at the corner of Eglinton and Laird. A group of eight or so, they have banded together to make money and to try to take control of their futures. "We don't want to be out begging for money. We want to earn our money honestly, and this is the best way when you aren't getting hired anywhere," says Chris Davis. Davis, 19, is a Leaside squeegee kid. At six feet, with a mohawk, nose ring and two cigarettes behind his ears, he is an intimidating sight. But standing close to him, you notice his friendly, dark green eyes and his wide smile. When he speaks to you he looks you right in the eye and speaks honestly about the realities of his work. He says he would like to get a job — but he hasn't had any luck so far. Noelle Bastien is his partner for this shift. At 18, she is a beautiful girl. If it weren't for the squeegee in her hand, you might mistake her for a model. She is friendly and has an infectious laugh. **see SQUEEGEE, page 8**

Speaking up on the new megacity mayor

<p>Reporter Paul Koidis walked down Pape Avenue to get East Yorkers' views on Mel's mega-promise. Here's what they said.</p> <p>Do you think Mel Lastman will keep his campaign promise of a zero per cent tax hike?</p>	 <p>Junior Ratton</p> <p>☐ "Yeah, because you can't promise the people something and then turn your back on them if you want to get re-elected. He's a good man and he has already proven himself in North York."</p>	 <p>Nancy Gomes</p> <p>☐ "No, I don't think he can do it unless there is a big cut to social programs. He does not realize this and he is unrealistic in his objective.... I admire what he has done with his life, but I think he has an unrealistic view of this city."</p>	 <p>Bevan Bourke</p> <p>☐ "Yeah, he's going to keep his promise but he's going to have a fight on his hands with council members. He's right for megacity."</p>	 <p>Christine Burke</p> <p>☐ "I think he used a bit of word play when he said 'committed' to no tax increase.... He's a showman, and in the end people will be disappointed that Hall didn't win."</p>
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Hundreds mark 'Dia de los Muertos'

Brick Works abuzz with festivities honouring the Day of the Dead

By DIANA FARIA

The Observer

Brisk, near-negative temperatures did little to dampen attendance at Evergreen Brick Works in celebrating Dia de los Muertos earlier this month.

Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican and Latin American holiday remembering friends and family who have died.

Marina Queirolo, food program manager at Evergreen Brick Works at 550 Bayview Ave., said they "added a layer" to the weekly farmer's market by inviting a few Toronto-based restaurants to participate in Day of the Dead festivities.

"We invited people from different communities to participate in our broader community," she said. "Today is about



Diana Faria // Observer

Eight-year-old Mylana Kohut gets her face painted by her mother, Lesia Kohut, at Evergreen Brick Works' Dia de los Muertos.

Mexico and Latin America. It's about celebrating culture and celebrating what Toronto has to offer, which is diversity."

More than 100 people participated in the farmer's mar-

ket and Day of the Dead festivities on Nov. 3, buying and eating many delicious Mexican and Latin American foods including tamales, churros and quesadillas.

Ricardo Amezcuita, representing Oxala, a Mexican and Portuguese pop-up restaurant, was a vendor specially invited for the day's festivities.

"More than anything, you

celebrate people in your life that, unfortunately, aren't around anymore," he said. "So it's all about having food and tamales and huarache and being with family and friends

and thinking about the ones that you love whom have gone to another life, another universe and just...feeling that warmth inside of you."

The main attraction was the mid-day tamale contest. For \$5, participants tasted six different kinds of tamales, two from each of the three vendors. Each vendor brought one sweet and one savoury tamale to the table.

Jose Hadad, 35, is a chef and owner of Mad Mexican products as well as the executive chef of Frida restaurant on 999 Eglinton Ave.

Hadad, who won last year's churro competition, was also a competitor in this year's tamale competition.

"I'm bringing pork carnitas tamale with a roasted tomato and ancho pepper," he said. "On the sweet side, I'm bringing a strawberry tamale with rosewater honey."

Revenue from the tamale competition goes toward funding Evergreen Brick Works' children's food education programs.

PetSmart a hopping place during adoption weekend

By CARLEIGH O'CONNELL

The Observer

Not all adoptable animals run, pounce, bark or meow. Some hop, have big ears and a little cottontail, and sadly are often the most forgotten animals at a shelter.

"When I first started, no one ever came into the rabbit room," said Roxanne Bruce, a volunteer at Toronto Rabbit Rescue and Toronto Animal Services South.

"It was heartbreaking. Even in the shelters, dogs and cats come first. I don't think people understand that a rabbit is a great pet."

On Nov. 4, Bruce volunteered at the PetSmart in Leaside, at Eglinton Avenue East and Laird Drive. She brought with her an American White rabbit named Marilyn, who is in need of a home.

The pair shared the store with other volunteers, dozens of homeless cats and several dogs for the PetSmart National Adoption weekend.

Every year, all PetSmart stores across North America, along with over 2,000 animal welfare organizations, participate in the adoption weekend as a way to encourage people to adopt an animal in need of a caring owner.

Bruce says it's easier to find homes for dogs and cats, and people often overlook small animals like rabbits because they don't understand how to care for them.

She often sees cases where people purchase a rabbit on impulse, and then "dump them" once they reach puberty



Carleigh O'Connell // Observer

Toronto Animal Services and Toronto Rabbit Rescue volunteer Roxanne Bruce holds a very sweet and docile American White rabbit named Marilyn.

because they may spray or get aggressive if they aren't spayed or neutered.

"You always see them sitting in cages, but rabbits aren't meant to live in a cage," Bruce said. "They're very sociable animals. They aren't meant to be hidden away in your basement."

"We spay and neuter our bunnies now so they don't have those issues that cause people to get rid of them. We litter-train them and educate people on how to feed them."

The Toronto Animal Services South and East locations take in rabbits, but are running out of room to keep all the ones entering their facilities.

If they run out of spots, they're forced to euthanize the rabbits they can't house.

"East is very, very full right now," Bruce said. "There's been an increase in the amount of loose rabbits this year. Fortunately we've made a few adoptions, but for every rabbit we adopt out, two or three more come in."

Bruce says that if there were laws against pet stores selling animals, the number of rabbits entering animal shelters would decrease.

She says legislation is needed to have pet stores only exist to sell pet supplies — and she thinks that people would find adoption more appealing if this was the case.

If you are interested in adopting or fostering a rabbit, visit www.rabbitrescue.ca or www.torontoanimalservices.ca

Surprise! Rihanna brings her show to Danforth Avenue

Pop sensation's tweets about Music Hall show draws a crowd

By SHANTAL OTCHERE

The Observer

Rihanna shook up the Danforth last week with a surprise performance.

Tantalizing fans until the very day of the concert, the pop vocalist posted a tweet on the morning of Nov. 15, revealing that the Danforth Music Hall theatre near Broadview and Danforth would host the Canadian leg of her 777 Tour.

The singer tweeted, "Yo Toronto. I'll be at The Danforth tonight. Will you?" at around 10 a.m., prompting fans to begin lining up outside the concert hall.

One of the hall's security guards — who would only identify himself as "Steve" — said tickets to the show sold out quickly.

He said tickets were available for "no more than two hours" after the announcement.

Still, dozens of fans

remained outside of the hall, hoping to get tickets to the event to no avail.

Some fans found other ways in like sisters Jennifer and Tiffany Granito, who travelled to Toronto from Montreal after winning tickets to the coveted event from a radio station in their home city.

"We're stunned and so excited," Jennifer Granito said.

"It's a dream come true that I can experience this with my sister."

A local passerby was amused that Rihanna would choose to have the surprise show at a 1,500-seat venue, compared to stages like the Air Canada Centre (ACC) where she's set to perform at on March for her Diamonds world tour.

Doors to the Music Hall show opened at 7 p.m. and the concert began at nine.

It was part of Rihanna's concert swing involving performances in seven countries in seven days in commemoration of her seven albums. Toronto was the second stop on her week-long tour.

The night before, Rihanna opened the tour in Mexico City.

Local artist flies solo

Fine arts student injects 'graffiti vocabulary from the street' into exhibition

By JENNIFER PANG
The Observer

Some student artists experience a variation of stage-fright when it comes to showcasing their work in galleries. But Saurin Galloway, whose work is on display to the public in East York for another week, is definitely not among the shy ones.

Galloway is a second-year student in the fine arts studio program at Centennial College's East York campus, and according to program co-ordinator David McClyment, the up-and-coming artist wasn't reserved at all about mounting an exhibition.

Galloway installed his solo show, titled *Distressed Identities*, last month in the Corridor Gallery, located on the second floor of the college building at 951 Carlaw Ave. It's scheduled to run until the end of November, and is open to the public seven days a week during daytime hours.

The show contains 16 fine art pieces and one installation piece made of 14 empty spray paint cans covered by painted and wheat-pasted images.

Galloway was born in To-

ronto. He moved to Reno, Nevada at a young age, later moving back to Canada in 2008.

"I was going through a really rough time (in Reno) and there wasn't a lot of opportunities for fine arts.... My dad lives (in Canada) and he said he was going to fund my education," he said.

During the past two years, Galloway took the changes in his life and started recording and capturing them by producing a massive amount of artwork.

"The inspiration for each of the pieces is either people I know (or) people I've encountered," Galloway said. "We come up with different experiences, and we meet different people and learn different things."

"During each situation, morals, concepts (and) the way that a person is made and thinks is totally subject to change," he added.

The displayed selection of paintings is characterized by the usage of unconventional materials, such as spray paint, as well as abstract composition of images.

"If you look at his works,



Jennifer Pang /// Observer

Artist Saurin Galloway has mounted a show in the "Corridor Gallery" of Centennial College's East York campus. It will be open to the public for another week.

(they) definitely have a strong flavour of graffiti, and he's brought that graffiti vocabulary from (the) street into the gallery," McClyment commented.

Besides the paintings, the installation of 14 empty spray paint cans hanging in the middle of the gallery plays an important role in the exhibition.

"When you walk in (the gallery), the natural thing a person wants to do is to walk in the middle of the hall-

way. So, by obstructing that (through placing this installation), it'll allow people to get closer to the artwork," Galloway said.

According to McClyment, being familiar with exhibition management is crucial for the professionalism that he is trying to instil in his students.

The Corridor Gallery was established to help students learn more about the techniques of displaying artwork in a gallery environment.



Dileen Simms /// Observer

Peter Seenath of Pete's Fresh Organics shows off his organic carrots at the Withrow Park Indoor Market. It had its first-ever indoors set-up at the Danforth Church on Nov. 6.

Farmer's market opts for some insider trading

By DILEEN SIMMS
The Observer

After six years as a summer favourite, the Withrow Park Farmer's Market has gone indoors for the winter.

"We feel that the summer market is popular enough... that we can bring the market indoors," said Roberta Stimac, the market's founder.

The first indoor market was held Nov. 6 between 3 and 7 p.m. in the hall of the Danforth Church at 60 Bowden St.

"We chose this venue because it is right on the Danforth," Stimac said. "We hope to grow in the community, just like the summer market."

Lesia Kohut, owner of LPK Culinary Groove, has been selling her organic, gluten-free and vegan desserts at the farmer's market for three years.

"It's the first day (indoors)," the chef said, "and we are very excited to be a part of it."

She was one of 16 vendors that lined the walls of the room offering everything from produce – organic and fresh – to fish and seasonal foods. By 6 p.m., as many as 100 people had visited.

"It's really nice to see the community come out and support the local vendors," Kohut said.

Mary Beth Leatherdale, a regular at the summer market, was surprised on her way home.

"I just walked by and saw it," she said as she inspected roots and tubers from Pete's Fresh Organics. "I didn't realize that they were here today. I'm really glad that they will be going throughout the winter."

Meanwhile, the "Pete" behind the fresh organics, Peter Seenath, travelled from his farm near Brampton to take part in the market.

"Today is my first day with Withrow," he said, handing Leatherdale a bunch of kale.

Patrick Allen, who made a special trip to the area, was happy with his purchase and the opportunity to enjoy an indoor market in the winter.

"I want to be a part of it," he said. "I am really impressed with the huge selection. We got some tomatoes and will be taking home some lettuce and some stuff for a salad."

Stimac said she wants the vendors "to be a part of (the) community. Food and community are two things that belong together, so we hope to use food as a vehicle to create a community in this space also."

The market runs every Tuesday.

The business of ballads

By GEORGIA WILLIAMS
The Observer

The sweet sounds of gospel music nearly blew the roof off the Canada Christian College on Nov. 10.

The 13th annual Choir Fest 4 Education, held inside the college's Elmer S. McVety Centre at 50 Gervais Dr. near Wynford Drive and Don Mills Road, featured nine choirs and performers from around the GTA. The musical extravaganza was made possible by a partnership between the Black Business Professional Association (BBPA) and the Seventh

Day Adventist Church.

The event, which featured choirs, dancers and a steel drum solo, has changed over the years. The large, 100-member-plus choirs that used to perform at the show are a thing of the past.

"Most of the choirs are 25-30 member choirs," said Pauline Christian, BBPA president. "But in terms of the quality of their voices, I think they're second to none."

A revamped concert calls for a new space, and this was the first year Choir Fest was held in East York. It was also the first year for emcee Topaz McKenzie, a local event host and image consultant.

"I've known Pauline for many years. When she asked me to come out and have some fun with the crowd, I said 'absolutely.' Anything she needs me to do, I'm willing to do," McKenzie said.

While the night may showcase the musical talent of all the performers, its focus is education.

"We have it (Choir Fest) to raise money for scholarships; the BBPA provides the most scholarships throughout Canada for black students," Christian said.

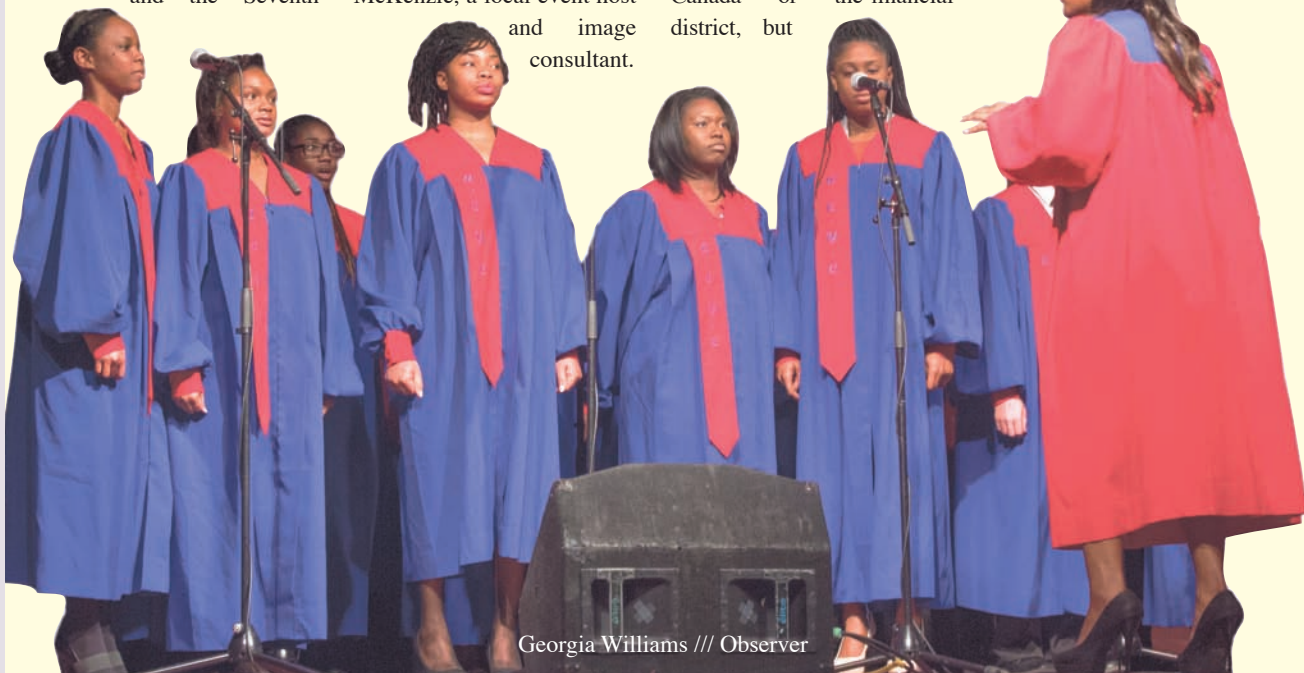
"Most of the time we get funds from corporate Canada or the financial district, but

sometimes the question is how your community (is) helping, and this is an opportunity to get grassroots."

Despite the chill of the evening, dozens of people paid \$10 to fill the audience and help raise money and awareness for education.

"I had a wonderful time," said Kareen Alexander, first-time concert-goer and area resident.

"They all did an outstanding job and I'm happy to know my money is going to a good cause."



Georgia Williams /// Observer

■ EDITORIALS

Renewing hope for victory

Blue Jays' trade brings excitement to E.Y. sports fans

When 2013 rolls in, it will mark the start of 20th anniversary observances of the Toronto Blue Jays' 1993 World Series championship. This was the second of the back-to-back championships that our team won.

Sadly, it will also mark the 20th anniversary of the last time the Jays even qualified to make the playoffs — and the last championship that a major-league team in Toronto has won (the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League and the Toronto Rock of the National Lacrosse League notwithstanding).

Amid this longstanding mediocrity, it's become quite hard to be a Toronto sports fan these days. But it looks like one trade might've changed all that.

Last week, Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos pulled the trigger on what could be one of the biggest trades in Toronto sports history.

In a deal with the Miami Marlins, Anthopoulos acquired three all-star-calibre players in shortstop Jose Reyes and pitchers Josh Johnson and Mark Buehrle. He also received catcher John Buck and utilityman Emilio Bonifacio in the deal. This trade instantly puts the Jays in the conversation to be one of the favourites to qualify for the playoffs and contend for the division crown.

A move that makes the team better in order to contend now is something fans have been waiting a long time for, and it has immediately set the baseball-loving community of East York abuzz.

"It was really a good time to make a trade like this and finally give us a team that looks good," says Daniel Sotiropoulos, 57, a Danforth resident and long-time Jays fan. "The Jays have always been popular in this area, even though they've been so disappointing for a number of years, so I'm happy they're finally giving their loyal fans something to cheer about."

Pape Avenue resident Tony Lozano, 42, remembers the Jays' glory years and the excitement it caused in the community when the Jays won their championships. He compares that to the excitement that the news of the trade brought him and his friends.

"When we heard the news of this trade in the evening, everyone in my bar was going crazy," he says. "We've been waiting for something like this for the last 20 years."

The critics will quickly point out the risks involved in this trade, as the Jays have taken on \$160 million in salaries for these new players and have sent several bright prospects back the other way to Miami.

Sure, the trade is risky. These new players might not work out and the success drought in Toronto might continue. But it feels like it's all worth it when you see the genuine happiness and excitement it has brought.

~ Mohammad Arshad

Going green much easier

More options than ever for East York's vegetarians

Being a vegetarian used to be hard.

Unless you wanted to be stuck living off of tofu or a meagre selection of vegetarian alternatives, you made the trek to downtown Toronto. The downtown core was, and still is, a goldmine for vegetarians, vegans and other selective eaters.

But meat-free eating has finally made its way from the margins to the mainstream. The executive director of the Toronto Vegetarian Association, Kathleen Farley, has been quoted as saying that there were an estimated 100,000 vegetarians in the city of Toronto as of 2008.

More grocery stores carry a large selection of vegetarian foods, there are more types of meat-free adaptations of meat foods and more vegetarian restaurants are springing up all over the city, including in East York.

East York vegetarians and vegans have had The Big Carrot, a co-op natural food market that offers a decent variety of vegetarian selection, since 1983. The Healthy Planet, a similar retail venue that just opened up in its new location this year, also offers a wide range of meat-free products and both have vegetarian cafes and eateries to delight in.

There is also a wide variety of multicultural vegetarian cuisine for dining out or pickup in East York. The Obama Cafe and Dukem restaurant both promise vegetarian Ethiopian food.

It's sometimes difficult for those without dietary restrictions to understand how frustrating it is to constantly skim menus, searching for the few vegetarian- and vegan-friendly options. It's even harder to imagine our relief when we finally find a number of restaurants to choose from, and even better, in our own neighbourhood.

Vegetarians and vegans of East York, who says you have to go downtown for good vegetarian fare? Why not stick a little closer to home and try your own Taste of The Danforth? You won't be disappointed.

~ Morgaine Craven

■ COLUMNS

Moustache for equal respect

November is the world-wide tradition of men growing moustaches — very creative ones, at that — to raise money and awareness for both the fight against prostate cancer and the promotion of male mental health.

Movember participants register at Movember.com with a clean-shaven face at the beginning of the month, and begin to grow their facial hair as people donate to sponsor their journey.

Many participants share their day-to-day progress on social networking sites such as Instagram and Facebook, and attend events for the cause. The money raised in Canada goes to Prostate Cancer Canada.

But more and more women have been getting involved in the cause as well. While many females joined Movember by drawing on fake moustaches and posting it on a profile at ca.movember.com, others opted to create their own movement by deciding not to

shave their body hair for the month.

Personally, I commend them for showing the courage.

But their actions have unfortunately led to some anti-feminist backlash. The hostility that these women have been receiving on sites like Twitter from men and women alike has started a heated discussion about feminism, gender stereotypes and male privilege.

Female participants were called disgusting, nasty and idiotic by people on these social networking sites for joining in on the cause like

this. A user on the popular site Tumblr said that women should "not take this

prostate cancer awareness month away from men and make it about

feminism and (their) rights not

to shave" and that

"not everything

is about people with va-

ginas." Yes, we're in the

21st century and yes, we still have

to deal with this.

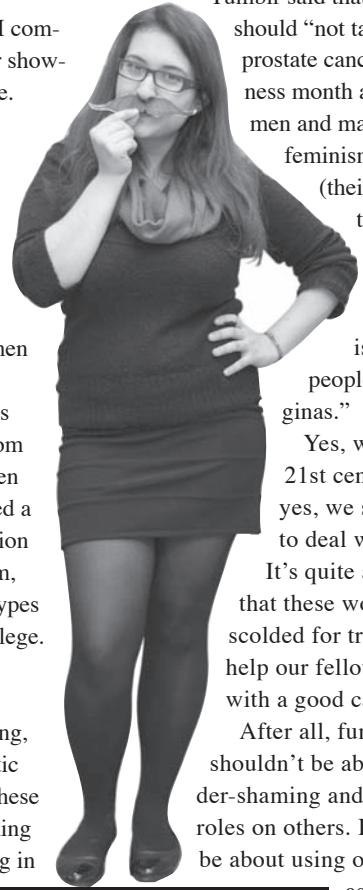
It's quite a shame that these women are scolded for trying to help our fellow men

with a good cause.

After all, fundraising shouldn't be about gender-shaming and inflicting

roles on others. It should be about using our voices

as men and women for a good cause.



Maya Akbay

In the night, awareness is key

In Canada, a woman is raped every 17 minutes.

Nothing can be done to entirely prevent the possibility of an assault — as we saw with the case of Nighisti Semret. The 55-year-old woman was walking home at 7 a.m. on Oct. 23 after an overnight shift at the Delta Chelsea in downtown Toronto when she was attacked and killed.

The murder seems to have been random and it's hard to see what precautions could have been taken to prevent such a senseless attack.

Sometimes it's just a matter of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

And on that point, I speak

from personal experience.

One night last summer, I missed my last bus home, so I had to walk home from the subway station.

The trip includes walking over a bridge, past a plaza, turning right at the first intersection and walking from one end of the street to the other.

Now, apart from cursing the fact the TTC doesn't run past 1:30 a.m., I decided to forgo getting a cab (which would have cost me \$15) and walk home.

Looking back on it now, I should have just taken the cab. The wee hours of the morning can be a very scary time when you're a 20-year-old woman walking home alone.

I attribute what hap-

pened next to being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

As soon as I approached the plaza, I noticed a lone truck in the parking lot.

Upon seeing me, the man in the vehicle pulled out of his parking spot, blocking my path on the sidewalk. My two options were to walk in front of his vehicle (and possibly get hit) or walk around it.

So as a temporary means of protection, I quickly pulled out my cellphone and walked around the vehicle... and the man drove away.

For the rest of the walk home, I worried that he was coming back. He didn't. But I was still terrified.

And I took away a lesson that I remember and observe to this day: Always carry a cellphone, and always have some extra cash in your wallet.

That way, as soon as you see something fishy going on, you can make that emergency phone call right away. And if you have cash with you for a cab, paying that fare is a sensible expenditure compared to risking your safety.



Louise Andre



Jaclyn Dunham // Observer

A jogger makes use of the brand new East Don Trail on a chilly, overcast Sunday afternoon. The trail is the culmination of a year-long project that saw the federal government and the City of Toronto contribute funds to its completion.

By JACLYN DUNHAM
The Observer

East York residents have another reason to enjoy the outdoors after the East Don Trail's completion this fall.

The paved two-kilometre trail extends from Milne Hollow Park across the Don River to the Wynford-Concord community.

Councillor John Parker of Ward 26/Don Valley West said he was able to pay for the trail project with the help of fellow city councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong by using "Section 37" funds.

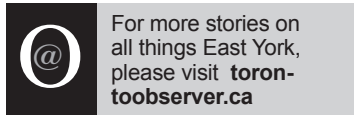
That's money that developers pay the city for community improve-

ments, in exchange for city flexibility around building height and density rules.

Additionally, Parker applied money from former mayor David Miller's "Clean and Beautiful" program and bicycling funding to make up the City of Toronto's contribution of over \$1.9 million toward the project.

"We saw the opportunity and we put together the funding that would give us a bare bones, narrow, gravel, walking path across a bridge and under a couple of sheltered underpasses from my end up to Denzil's end," Parker said.

The bridge was needed to cross over the Don River and the sheltered underpasses were required to protect



For more stories on all things East York, please visit torontoobserver.ca

people on the path from debris while passing underneath two different railroad trestles.

The trail project also got a boost from the federal government's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. Parker said money from this initiative was targeted toward municipal infrastructure projects across the country that had already been approved and were waiting on funding.

Don Valley West MP John Carmichael said the federal government invested \$697,000 in the East Don Trail. That money went towards

paving, signage, seating, handrails and widening the path.

"This really formalized trails that were already there by paving them and putting in some new bridges and things that made them more formalized and permanent so that the residents of Toronto and particularly in this case, the east side of Toronto, have access and opportunity to use them all the time," he said.

Parker said the Infrastructure Stimulus funds accelerated the process, enabling completion of the trail in under a year.

"The way things worked out, we were able to get it all done much sooner than we ever dreamed of," he said. "It's a beautiful footpath

and it goes through some of the most beautiful, untouched real estate you're ever going to find within the boundaries of the City of Toronto."

Nancy Jean is a resident of the Wynford Drive-Concord Place neighbourhood, near the intersection of the Don Valley Parkway and Eglinton Avenue East. She said she regularly walks the trail with her friend and is fortunate to have access to it.

"We love the trail because you're in the woods. You're far from cars most of the ways and you're in nature," she said.

"We love it because it is so unspoiled."

Achoo, got the flu? New vaccination options exist

Pharmacists' role expands to include giving flu shots to residents of Ontario

By MELISSA LOPARCO
The Observer

With flu season upon us, East Yorkers looking to get their annual flu shot have easier access to the service than in years past.

Last month, the provincial government announced an expansion of pharmacists' practices, including their ability to administer flu shots to the public.

"(This) is very good news for patients, because they get better access to flu shots," said Dennis Darby, CEO of the Ontario Pharmacists Association. "It's great for pharmacists because they can provide better care, and it's obviously better for the health care system because the more people that get the flu shot, the less likelier people are going to get sick from complications, especially the elderly."

About 600 pharmacies across Ontario are qualified to provide flu shots and almost 2,000 pharmacists have taken training.

According to Darby, the hope is more people will get the flu shot as it becomes more accessible.

"In every province and in every state where pharmacists have been given the authority to provide the influenza vaccine, the uptake has increased," he said. "In Ontario last year, only a third of people got the flu shot. So we have to get that number higher."

East York resident Ethel Davey has been

getting the flu shot since her mother began living in a nursing home.

"It just seemed to me that not getting the shot put her and the other residents there at risk of getting the flu," she said. "I have been getting it ever since not just for me but for my family and friends who may get ill should I get infected with a flu virus."

Davey said she's pleased pharmacists are able to administer the shots.

"It's the best thing ever to happen. The more people that have access to the flu vaccine, the better," she said. "People have to wait to get an appointment with their general practitioner, but making it accessible by having a pharmacist do the shot makes so many more people take the step to actually get the shot just because of the convenience."

Some locations, like the Shoppers Drug Mart at Coxwell and Danforth avenues, only started offering the vaccine this week, which is somewhat late in the season. Darby said there are two reasons for this.

"The supply of the vaccine... comes through the public health department and so they're distributing the vaccine as they can, and for this year especially it is taking some time," he said.

The other reason is timing.

"(The other) part of it is the time to get qualified," he said, "because from the announcement to the beginning of the flu season was only two weeks, and there is lots of stuff that pharmacies have to do, pharmacists have to do and public health has to do."

For information, visit the City of Toronto website.

E.Y. comedy pair tickles funny bone

Passion Comedy on the Danforth keeps audiences laughing

By ANI HAJDERAJ
The Observer

A comedy duo is bringing its passion for laughs to East York.

Kirk Hicks, 27, had his start in comedy at Humber College — studying comedy writing

and performance, and participating at "open-mic" events.

"I don't put a lot of thought. It's what I do. I just go up there and have fun," he said.

"It's very important to have fun."

Hicks grew up watching Saturday Night Live and Eddie Murphy, and always had an interest in standup comedy. He began his comedy show at the Passion Lounge on Danforth Avenue, the source of his comedy series' name — Passion Comedy — and is now hosting it at the Groove Bar, just down the street.

"We were getting decent turnouts at Passion, but tonight I did this Living Social deal and it has brought more people who normally wouldn't come out, so it's expanding our audience," he said.

Hicks uses the Living Social website to sell advance tickets and reach a wider audience.

He discovered Brett Young, 26, at Groove doing open mics, and

eventually asked him to co-host the Passion's comedy shows.

"I come from a small town called Brighton, so it was either getting an apprenticeship or work in a factory that's probably going to shut down," he said.

"So instead of just thinking about it, I decided to just try it and moved to East York."

Young has a positive outlook on the local comedy scene.

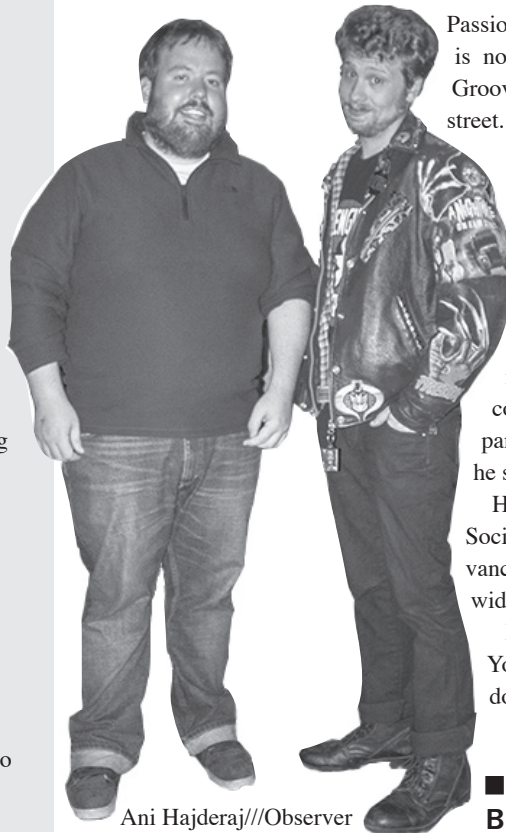
"It has grown a lot more since I've moved here and it has been easier to get people to come out," he said.

"People see it on TV and they love the idea of seeing it in the flesh, even if it's just at a bar. I mean, how close do you get to TV in real life when going to see a comedy show?"

He loves to integrate his own stories into his standup routine to make it more personal. He says that connects with the audience more than just telling jokes.

"The best material is provided by life. You don't need to spice it up. It's more about telling them something funny that happened to you," he said. "That's what generally people want to hear."

Passion Comedy will host its next big showcase on Dec. 7 at the Groove Bar.



Ani Hajderaj//Observer

■ Kirk Hicks and Brett Young

'Robots Rule' the Science Centre

By **DILEEN SIMMS**
The Observer

Claire Jacobs wanted to know what's it like to be weightless.

"What's it like to be in space?" asked Claire, who was very proud to say she was four and a half years old.

So Jeremy Hansen slowly swirled her in huge circles, bringing her close to objects she could bump against.

"Push," he said, as he neared each one.

Curious grade-schoolers and some adults watched as Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut Hansen demonstrated gravity at the Ontario Science Centre on Saturday.

He explained that in space you must push off objects to move, and then you'll never stop floating until you can grab hold of something.

Hansen was Saturday's guest speaker at the centre's fourth annual Robots Rule weekend event. He talked about space and the robotic arms that fellow Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield will use on the International Space Station next month.

"Sometimes science can be difficult to understand," said Anna Kapiniari. "When you talk about science in relation to space

it makes things a lot more fun."

Kapiniari, communications strategist at the CSA, said that because Canadian astronauts live and work overseas, it is important to 'come home' and interact with young Canadians to promote an interest in robotics and technology.

Christine Crosbie is the Ontario Science Centre's media relations officer. She said that promotion of the field is important, especially when robotics is growing all the time.

"(The) event gives people – competitors, researchers – who are interested in robotics, a chance to get together and show off the latest developments in robotics and robotics research," Crosbie said.

Budding explorers were able to see and test robots. They watched robot-rover maneuvers and listened to presentations from a number of schools featuring the newest in space robotics.

But like Claire and her father, listening to Hansen talk about Canadarm2, the Canadian robotic arm, and the smaller arm Dexter was a treat for the young scientists. They learned how important it is to stay connected to the space station.

"I like robots," he said. "Robots are a big part of space."



Adam Biehler // Observer

March to the Top, which documents wounded Canadian veterans' climb through the Himalayan mountains, will air on the CBC and on the Documentary cable channel early next year.

Climbing for awareness

Cont'd. from page 1

In 1994, while on a training scenario in preparation for the Commonwealth Games, Tourangeau's life took a different path. On June 9, his team was tasked with assaulting the first floor of a training building.

The team started the assault and Tourangeau pulled the pin on his flash-bang grenade, ready to throw it into the building. Unknown to him, a defect in the safety lever meant the five-second countdown timer had started. The flash bang went off in his left hand and the damage was irreparable.

"They amputated my hand at the wrist," he said. "My life and career changed dramatically at that moment."

Tourangeau left the military, and after spending a year as a use-of-force instructor at the Ontario Police College, he decided to join the Toronto Police Force.

He admits that given the nature of his injury, he wasn't sure he would even get the job. But once he was hired, it was never an issue.

"I never had to prove myself to anybody that I worked

with, and I have never had any issues proving myself on the street," he said.

Flash forward to present-day, and Tourangeau has been with the Toronto Police Services for 16 years and a constable and dog handler with the canine unit for the past 10 years.

He currently handles two dogs — Fred, a patrol dog, and Talon, a bomb sniffer. While on duty, he wears a slip-on hook prosthetic, but for normal day-to-day activities he doesn't wear anything. Tourangeau said the dogs don't care about his injury.

"I have had dogs come up and sniff it, but after the first time, dogs don't pay attention to it," he said.

Tourangeau was approached in April and asked to participate in the climb. After checking out the True Patriot Love Foundation, he mind was made up.

"There is a huge gap with the way our veterans receive care from the government, and that's why the foundation was

created," he said.

Tourangeau and the rest of the team went to train in Canmore, Alta. in July before setting off for Nepal in October. Coles, who works with the True Patriot Love foundation, was lucky enough to go on the trip and climb with Tourangeau.

"Craig is a natural leader on the team. He is former special forces and a lot of the younger guys really looked up to him from the get go," she said.

"The fact that he commits his life to keeping other people safe is something truly honourable. We need more heroes like that."

Tourangeau said the climb was difficult, but in the end, it was worth it. He hopes that once the documentary comes out, people understand that veterans need to be taken care of.

"I kind of wish we had mandatory service for a year," he said, "because I think Canadians would have a different outlook on their country and government."



Dileen Simms // Observer

Astronaut Jeremy Hansen spoke at the fourth annual Robots Rule event at the Ontario Science Centre on Saturday. He is pictured with a cutout of fellow Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield.



For more stories, check us out online at: torontoobserver.ca



Fotolia // Observer

Start lining up, East Yorkers — it's Black Friday

By **ARIELLE QUIGLEY**
The Observer

Strap on your most comfortable shoes, grab your shopping bags, and get those elbows ready. Today marks the beginning of Black Friday weekend in East York.

Jennifer Smith, a partner at Sklar Wilson and Associates Marketing, says Black Friday represents the retail kickoff to the holiday shopping season.

"Canadian consumers do see a lot of that U.S. marketing and it helps to get in people's minds that you need to get started," she said.

Black Friday is an American holiday that follows Thanksgiving. It is a day when

retailers open early and offer promotional sales to get consumers in the mood for Christmas shopping. The name refers to the phrase 'in the black,' which is the point when retailers make a profit from their sales.

Smith says more and more Canadian retailers are offering Black Friday deals to encourage Canadian consumers to shop at home.

"To maximize shopping from Canadians, you need to both inspire them with ideas as well as make it easy for them to afford, because that sort of value is a really important component for everyone, especially in Canada," she said.

Since many people are operating on a tight budget, Smith says it is important for retailers to

showcase gifts that are creative and inexpensive. Also, if seasonal inventory is up and beautifully displayed, it is easier for customers to get into the spending mood.

Walmart, Canadian Tire and HBC stores such as Zellers and Home Outfitters all offer Black Friday deals.

However, Best Buy will also be participating for the first time this year.

"We know that our customers love great deals and are probably going to be looking for those for Black Friday, given the awareness that has grown in Canada, and we wanted to be part of that this year," said Danielle Jang, communications manager for Best Buy.