

The East York

# OBSERVER

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

## WHERE THEY WERE

■ East Yorkers remember 'that day' 50 years ago **Page 3**



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Taylor Giffin /// Observer

### Who was that moustachioed girl?

Four members of the Moustache Club at R.H. McGregor Elementary School in East York sport their own 'Mo's for Movember. The school has been actively raising money for the anti-cancer cause. Turn to page 5 for the story.

#### ■ ELIGON INQUEST

## Man like a 'zombie,' witnesses testify

Inquest looking into shooting death of Eligon, two others

By SOLA DaSILVA  
The Observer

Two men who watched as police shot and killed Michael Eligon on Milverton Boulevard last year have testified that the mental patient was "zombie-like" and "wasn't coherent" during his interaction with police.

Eligon, 29, left Toronto East General Hospital on Feb. 3, 2012 and wandered the surrounding East York neighbourhood. Residents of the area reported seeing Eligon, still in a hospital gown, brandishing a pair of scissors.

When police arrived on the scene near Danforth and Coxwell avenues and asked Eligon to get down on the ground, Eligon did not respond. Instead, he approached them.

"When I came out, looking out my front lawn, I could see a man in a hospital gown walking down the street," witness Barrie White told a coroner's court in Toronto on Nov. 14.

"There was a line of eight to 10 police officers across from him. He was walking zombie-like. They were yelling at him, but he was oblivious. He never stopped once, no pause, no nothing. He just walked right into them. When he was about four feet from one police officer, the officer next to him brought out his pistol and shot him three times in quick succession: Pop, pop, pop."

The shooting death of Eligon is the subject of an inquest that began on Oct. 15. The same inquest is also examining the deaths of Reyal Jardine-Douglas, 25, and Sylvia Klibingaitis, 52, under similar circumstances.

■ See LETHAL, page 2

#### ■ FORD SCANDAL

## City 'in good hands'

E.Y. councillor says constituents glad council stepped in

By LINDA COTRINA  
The Observer

East York's representatives at city hall say they think council can move ahead with municipal business, now that they and the majority of their colleagues have stripped Rob Ford of most of his mayoral powers.

Councillors Janet Davis of Ward 31/Beaches-East York, John Parker of Ward 26/Don Valley West and Mary Fragedakis of Ward 29/Toronto-Danforth voted in favour of all 21 motions that were put before council on Monday to reduce Ford's authority.

That included transferring the remaining mayoral budget to Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly and preventing the mayor from designating key items for council debate. It followed separate votes on Friday that ended Ford's authority to make key appointments and that transferred



■ JOHN PARKER

emergency authority to the deputy mayor.

"If there was any doubt that council had to demonstrate to the residents of Toronto that the affairs of the city cannot be trusted in the hands of the mayor, he provided us with all the proof we needed with the way he conducted himself," said Parker, referring to Ford's sometimes bizarre behaviour at Monday's council meeting.

Parker, a former ally of Ford, said his constituents are "glad council has stepped in and confirmed for the residents that the city is in good hands and we're not relying on the

mayor to do the things that a mayor normally does."

Ford has partially acknowledged a pattern of bad behaviour including substance abuse, but he has resisted calls for him to resign or take a leave and get treatment.

Fragedakis said her constituents have told her that the drama surrounding Ford must stop.

"The message that I get overwhelmingly both at community events and through emails is that the mayor's sideshow cannot be allowed to undermine this city," she said.

But what happens next? How does council and the city move forward — especially with a mayor clinging to his title and a deputy mayor exercising most of the authority?

"The mayor hasn't been particularly engaged in the normal duties of a mayor in any event," Parker said.

"He's much happier being on the sidelines playing the role of critic, than actually doing the difficult work that a serious government has to do."

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## POLICE & FIRE



### ■ Suspect

## Man wanted for sexual assault

Police at East York's 54 Division are looking for a man in a sexual assault investigation. On Oct. 14 between 7:30 and 8 p.m., a man sexually assaulted a 29-year-old woman near the corner of Broadview and Mortimer avenues. Police were able to get images from security cameras in the area and released a composite sketch of the suspect. He is described as brown with a thin build, between the ages of 20-25. Police are asking anyone with information about this incident to contact them at 416-808-5400 or Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477).

## Assault rifles confiscated

Police at East York's 54 Division have provided details about an arrest made in the Dawes Road and Danforth Avenue area. On Nov. 17, they report, officers recovered an assault rifle and quantities of marijuana, hashish and cocaine. Robert Rainshadow, 39, of North York was charged with 11 counts of possessing a restricted firearm with ammunition and possession of drugs for the purpose of trafficking. Rainshadow appeared in court Nov. 18.

~Mark Cadiz



Courtesy of Kevin Holm, TEGH

## New surgery centre at TEGH

**Deb Matthews, provincial health minister, and Dr. Carmine Simone, hospital chief of surgery, tour the "surgicentre" facility at Toronto East General Hospital after Matthews helped officially open it on Monday.**

### ■ INQUEST

# Lethal force 'justified'

## SIU says deaths of three mentally ill unavoidable

### Cont'd. from page 1

An inquest is mandatory according to section 25(2) of the Coroners Act, where two or more deaths have a common cause. The three deceased — Eligon, Jardine-Douglas and Klibingaitis — were shot and killed in separate incidents by Toronto police.

All three approached police while carrying edged weapons. They all also suffered from mental illnesses and were experiencing mental distress at the time of their deaths.

Eligon had been involuntarily admitted to the hospital under the Mental Health Act and was under observation in a psychiatric ward at the TEGH.

Police shot Jardine-Douglas on Aug. 29, 2010. It was his family who called the police for help, telling the 911 dispatcher Jardine-Douglas was acting irrationally. At the time, he was on a TTC bus heading southbound on Victoria Park. The TTC bus was stopped and a police officer got on. It was at that point Jardine-Douglas reached into his bag and pulled out a knife. The officer issued several commands to Jardine-Douglas to drop the knife. He did not comply. Instead, much like Eligon, he continued to advance toward the officer.

The officer backed out of the bus and onto the street with Jardine-Douglas still inching forward. The officer fired four shots, two of which struck the victim. Jardine-Douglas later died in hospital.



Sola DaSilva // Observer

## Michael Eligon Sr. (left) leaves the coroners court during recess with counsel Peter Rosenthal.

It was Klibingaitis who called the police on herself at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 7, 2011. Klibingaitis told the 911 operator that she had a knife and was going to kill her mother who was in the bath.

When police arrived at Klibingaitis's Wedgewood residence, she opened the door and exited the house with a knife still in her right hand. Klibingaitis continued to close in on the responding officer who had been repeatedly yelling loudly that she put down the knife. In quick succession, the police officer fired his gun three times at Klibingaitis.

In all three deaths, the director of the province's Special Investigations Unit concluded the police officers who shot and killed the three civilians did not commit a criminal offence and were "justified in using lethal force."

Peter Rosenthal, counsel for the Eligon family, argued that the police should consid-

er methods of dealing with the mentally ill that do not involve firearms.

"At the hospital, they don't have firearms of course, so what they do is try very much to deescalate the situation," he said.

According to Rosenthal, the security guard in charge at the time when Eligon left the hospital testified before the court that those types of incidents occur from time and time and they receive training to deal with it. When safety becomes a concern, the security guard told the court, they use a baton.

"It's a very interesting contrast with police officers, who are trained that you never deal with a person with an edged weapon with a baton. In my view, that suggests the police might investigate that possibility in the future," he said.

So far, 50 witnesses have given testimony before the court. The inquest is set to last eight weeks.

## WHAT'S UP IN E.Y.

### Holiday market comes to town

Bessborough Public School will hold its first-ever holiday fundraising event on Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 9 p.m. Winter Wonders Holiday Market will take place at All Canadian Self Storage, 1 Laird Dr. Everything from jewelry, clothing and Christmas decorations to gourmet foods and flowers will be available from over 20 vendors. And if you like oysters, it's your lucky day; the holiday market will also feature an oyster bar. Attendees are invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy or a \$5 donation for the New Circles Holiday Angel Program. For more information, go to [bessboroughhomeandschool.com](http://bessboroughhomeandschool.com)

### Trivia night raises money for laptops

Five Centennial College students will host a trivia night this coming Wednesday, Nov. 27, from 7-10 p.m. at the Fox & Fiddle, 535 Danforth Ave., to raise funds in support of Sky's the Limit. A \$10 donation at the door will go to donating refurbished laptops to under-30 youth. Guests can play trivia and win prizes. For information, call Nicole at 289-923-3645.

### Getting artsy at Papermill Gallery

The Don Valley Art Club's annual art show will be on display at the Papermill Gallery at the Todmorden Mills Heritage Site, 67 Pottery Rd., until Dec. 1. The show will run weekends from noon to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays to Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 416-396-2819.

### Crafts and baking at Holly Berry Fair

St. Luke's Anglican Church is hosting its annual Holly Berry Fair on Nov. 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The church is located at 904 Coxwell Ave. The fair will include crafts, baking, knitted goods and more. For information, call 416-421-6878, ext. 21.

### Silent auction at Holiday Bazaar

The Annual Holiday Bazaar will take place at the True Davidson Acres Long Term Care Facility, 200 Dawes Rd., on Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will include a silent auction, craft and bake sale and raffles. For more information, contact Carolyn at 416-556-2813.

### History talk at the library

The East York Historical Society will welcome guest speaker Dr. John C. Carter at the S. Walter Stewart library branch on Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m. Carter will present a lecture about the shared history of Canada, the United States and Australia. The library is at 170 Memorial Park Ave. For more information, call 416-429-7821.

### Bring out the Trunk Treasures

St. Columba and All Hallows Church is celebrating Christmas with its Trunk Treasures Function on Dec. 7 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. For information, call Yvette at 416-755-0301 or 416-698-2508.

~ Ali Raza

■ NOV. 22, 1963: 50 YEARS LATER



Angelica Bottaro /// Observer

Pancheta Barnett and Alan Redway show off a copy of the Baltimore Sun newspaper from the day of U.S. President John F. Kennedy's assassination. Barnett and Redway participated in a discussion group last week at the S. Walter Stewart library in which members of the East York Historical Society shared their memories of that day a half-century ago.

# Where were you when you heard the news?

East York Historical Society members recall what they were doing that fateful day

By ANGELICA BOTTARO  
The Observer

It was exactly 50 years ago today — Friday, Nov. 22, 1963 — that U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas; an event that still resonates with people a half-century later.

So there has been a spate of media remembrances of JFK's life and death in recent weeks, many revolving around the question: 'Where were you when you heard the news?'

Locally, the East York Historical Society held a discussion addressing that very

question during its Nov. 13 meeting at the S. Walter Stewart library branch.

Pancheta Barnett, vice-president of the society, was a young child living in Jamaica at the time, but she still remembers the event vividly.

"All the schools were closed. It was almost as if the heavens had declared that they've lost an angel of light," Barnett said, "and in that moment, the lights went out."

Many around the world were shocked by the president's murder — so much so that some people, like Barnett, didn't even believe the traumatic news at first.

"I thought maybe it wasn't real. Maybe he'll come through. But it was the end of the beginning of what would have been," she said.

Alan Redway, a former mayor of East York, was riding a streetcar when he

heard the news.

"It was a complete and utter shock," Redway said. "That's the only way to describe it."

The Kennedy family has been active in politics ever since — most notably, John's brother Bobby, a U.S. senator, running for president and assassinated as well in 1968, and his other brother, Ted, serving in the senate for 47 years, until his death in 2009.

According to Redway, JFK's family involvement in politics may be part of the reason his assassination and his politics echo to this day.

"There are a lot of fond memories about his policies and the things he brought in at that time. It's been a progression of Kennedys," he said. "In my own mind, the Americans have 'Obamacare' because of Teddy Kennedy."

# Hollywood got it wrong, author says

The Great Escape: A Canadian Story adds patriotic twist to famous tale

By AMIRUL ISLAM  
The Observer

The Great Escape is a Hollywood movie that depicts Allied prisoners of war breaking out of a German POW camp during the Second World War. But if you've seen the movie, you may think it's a story of American and British soldiers' bravery. What you might not know is that it's actually a story involving a great amount of Canadian effort.

"The fact of the matter is all those key players (in the escape) were Canadian. All these people depicted in the movie to be Americans or British are Canadian," said Ted Barris, author of the book *The Great Escape: A Canadian Story*.

Barris is a journalist, author, columnist, broadcaster and professor of journalism at Centennial College's East York campus on Carlaw Avenue. *The Great Escape: A Canadian Story* is his 17th book. All of his books are based on historic facts and about half of them are on war or wartime.

The Great Escape happened on the night of March 24, 1944. On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the historic event, Barris has told the story once again, showing the true details.

Barris said he believes that few bother to write stories on Canadian characters or context, but that is what he's done.

He added that some other books, movies and documentaries mention Canadians in passing. But knowing how many key roles Canadians played is pretty hard to ignore.

"I can't believe that no one noticed this before. So I don't know whether it's ignorance, just ignoring the history or neglect," he said.

The movie *The Great Escape* made Barris realize that when Hollywood takes a story, they may not be particularly concerned about facts. What they want to do is make a marketable movie.

"Hollywood is not bound to tell the truth. They are just bound to sell tickets," Barris said. "They spent \$4 million and they made \$11 million. They accomplished what they set out to accomplish and lot of that was at the expense of history."

When authors want to write a book on historical fact, they have to do a lot of research to make it flawless. Barris did this extensively.

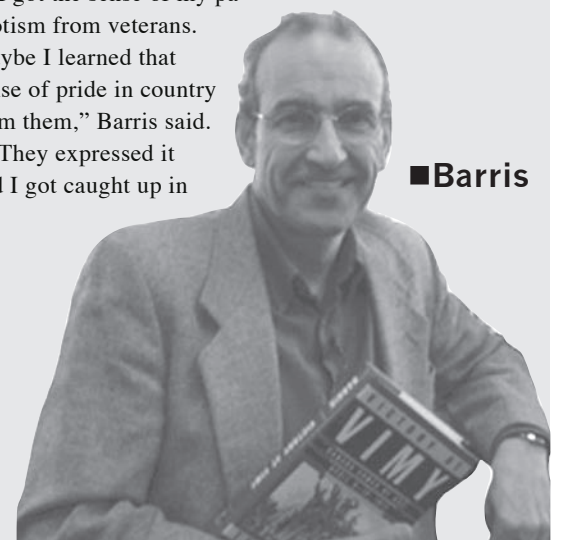
"I tried to contact, if not the person who is the eyewitness, family members around that person if he has since died," Barris said. "I interviewed about 20 to 25 people who were there. They have given me the first-hand information about the experience being in the (POW) camp during this period."

*The Great Escape: A Canadian Story* is a book Barris loved to write. He is one of the people who is pioneering the exploration of Canada's heroic past.

"I got the sense of my patriotism from veterans. Maybe I learned that sense of pride in country from them," Barris said.

"They expressed it and I got caught up in it."

■ Barris



# Students throw party to help kids

By SAMANTHA BRIDGES  
The Observer

For six students at Centennial College's East York campus, it started out as a class assignment. The students held an event on Nov. 18 called Phony Party, a charity event to raise money for Kids Help Phone.

However, this event was more than just your average cocktail party. With activities such as henna tattooing, tarot

card readings and a silent auction, it brought together a variety of activities.

Co-creator of the event, Alicia Saunders, knew the fundraiser was going to be different than a typical charity fundraiser.

"The idea behind the Phony Party was when you feel like you're putting on this phony persona for everyone and you're not really feeling like yourself. So we wanted to create an event that brought people together in an uplifting environ-

ment," Saunders said.

Starting the project in September, Saunders and her group were able to get sponsorship for the venue and the alcohol served. Overwhelmed by the amount of support, Saunders is proud her group was able to be successful.

"I can't believe we put all of this together and honestly, whatever we can raise is amazing to me. I can't put a number on it because I feel anything I say would be too low."



Joanne Kaileh /// Observer

## Pens and needles

(Top) Zayden Linton, 8, and his family attended a November flu shot clinic at the East York Civic Centre. He was all smiles once the deed was done.

(Right) Mary Furlong, 56, also visited the East York clinic earlier this month. She said she gets the flu shot every year without fail.

(Bottom) Jenn Moffat (right) from the S. Walter Stewart library branch hosts a mini-books workshop for youth aged 11 to 18 using Japanese bookbinding methods.



Joanne Kaileh /// Observer



Joie Ann Merana /// Observer

## COMMUNITY



Taylor Giffin // Observer

Members of the Moustache Club, R.H. McGregor Elementary School teacher Laura Colacci and the girls' fathers show off their moustaches for the camera.

## Lasses with 'staches

East York girls don moustaches to raise money for Movember

By TAYLOR GIFFIN  
The Observer

Just because you can't grow a moustache doesn't mean you can't take part in Movember.

A group of girls from R.H. McGregor Elementary School is showing everyone exactly how you can do it.

Angela Brown, 10, a Grade 5 student at the school and one of the girls who helped in the creation of the Moustache Club, understands there is more to the month-long event than just growing a Mo (slang for moustache).

"Not a lot of people know what Movember actually is," Brown said. "They just know that you should grow a moustache. But then when you actually make it clear that it is for cancer and raising money then they may think that maybe I should do that (donate money)."

In total, the school has raised just under \$2,400 so far. That amount is expected to grow before the event ends.

Movember is an initiative that lasts the entire month of November and helps raise funds and awareness of men's health, specifically prostate and testicular cancer and mental health challenges.

Last year in Canada alone there were 247,441 participants and over \$42.6 million was raised.

Although Laura Colacci, a teacher at the

East York school, is helping with the club, she says the girls deserve all the credit.

"It was all them," she said. "They came up with idea themselves. I facilitated everything for them as far as setting up the account online and making sure they included the link in the school newsletter and getting other dads involved. I just helped them make it all happen. It was their idea."

After seeing moustaches everywhere they went, the girls thought it would be a good idea to create their own club at school, Brown says.

"At first it was just going to be a club where we did moustache-themed stuff, but then we thought that we could raise money," she said.

If you would like to donate to Movember, or specifically to the R.H. McGregor Moustache Club, you can visit <http://ca.movember.com/>

## Students open to skilled trades

Trustees say students want more information about trades, technology

By SOLA DaSILVA  
The Observer

Skilled trades are underrepresented in career courses in Toronto District School Board (TDSB) schools, according to a new report that was presented at the Nov. 13 meeting of the public school board.

"There are 85,000 jobs available right now in the construction and related trades. When these people start retiring there will be another 71,000. These positions will not be filled by our graduates because they are not trained," said Irene Atkinson, trustee for Ward 7.

The two student trustees on the TDSB, Ramna Safeer and Jesse Waugh, presented the report. Based on the outcomes of surveys and meetings with fellow students, they reported that students want to know more about skilled trades.

According to Waugh and Safeer, many students find career days outdated and



■ CARY-MEAGHER

too general. Students also want to be exposed to new careers being created by technology.

Trustees Sam Sotiropoulos, Pamela Gough and John Hastings also weighed in.

"Let's face it, skilled trades are wonderful and... one of the lucrative career paths that we can steer students on," Sotiropoulos said.

For Gough, career preparation comes way too late and should begin at the elementary level.

According to Hastings, many families do not encourage their children to pursue careers in trades. He pointed out parents need to be involved in making sure their children participate in such opportunities.

Sheila Cary-Meagher, the trustee representing Ward 16/Beaches-East York, said she thinks courses like carpentry, automobile mechanics and plumbing should be re-introduced to the curriculum.

"Back then, there used to be classes like home economics and manual training; the kind of stuff that got you ready before you went into high school and then you went into high school having that training," she said.

According to Cary-Meagher, past education reforms "wiped out" skilled trade courses from the curriculum under the assumption that every high school graduate would go to university.

## Hospital wins silver for mental health

By JOIE ANN MERANA  
The Observer

Toronto East General Hospital (TEGH) helps prove that hospitals care for more than just their patients.

TEGH won silver at the Mental Health at Work awards by Great West Life and the Mental Health Commission of Canada. The awards are given based on Excellence Canada's Progressive Excellence Program. This program highlights the importance of mental health in the workplace.

"If you look at the statistics that the mental health commission has published, one out of five will be touched by mental health in some ways," said Kathryn Cestnick, senior vice-president of Excellence Canada. "People can be ill at work and therefore not being productive."

The Mental Health at Work program is

delivered at four levels. Organizations that participate must comply with certain standards and implement them in the workplace. The program starts with employees taking a survey. One of the surveys, Guarding Minds at Work, is used to reveal risk factors that employers must be aware of.

"They (organizations) then submit their application and they tell us how they meet each one of those requirements," Cestnick said. "Then we talk to the managers, senior team and find as many front line workers as we can. And we just confirm that what they said in the application is in fact happening."

TEGH received level three (silver) this year and it aims to attain level four (gold) in the future.

"They were very close to gold. Next year, I wouldn't be surprised if they got gold," Cestnick said. "The only difference between level three and four is that with gold you would

have been running the program for three years so that we can see some more data."

When organizations place an importance on mental health, the workplace benefits. TEGH has seen these positive results.

"Overall our absenteeism has been reduced, and the number of absences specifically related to mental health issues have been reduced," said Nancy Cassleman, director of Human Resources, Organization Wellness and Quality.

Christine Devine, TEGH Wellness coordinator, agreed.

"Everything we do here, right down to employee training, considers the psychological health and welfare of our employees," she said. "People don't leave their souls when they come into work. We want them to know that their work is important and that they are cared for and valued as part of the organization."

## ■ EDITORIALS

## More from Ford

It's no surprise that Rob Ford has been in the news around the world lately.

Ever since his infamous admission that he smoked crack cocaine, Ford has been under fire for assorted misbehaviour — including sexual harassment allegations, a drinking and driving admission and even his lack of ability to speak of his wife with decency.

But Ford isn't taking any of this criticism lying down. He and his brother, Councillor Doug Ford, have been making the media rounds to defend themselves. And the 'mayor-in-name' was even reportedly handing out Ford fridge magnets and business cards during a personal visit to East York's Gordon A. Brown Middle School on Wednesday.

On what's turned out to be their one and only talk show on Sun News TV, The Brothers Ford repeated their standard talking points around the scandal. Along with that, they had journalists like Ezra Levant there to pitch in, going so far as to make Ford seem like the victim of liberal fat cats.

Levant shared stories of several other politicians with drug abuse problems and issues with the law that he said were downplayed by the media — and even went as far as to compare Ford's treatment by the press to how the paparazzi treated Princess Diana before her death.

And Ford, being the 'everyman' that he is, promised personal change in the upcoming months and said he still plans to run for re-election next October.

After this past Monday, he has little power beyond his title as mayor, but this may just be a good thing for him. This is going to give council the chance to mess up the finances far worse than Ford might have. The only good thing it seems he has done is budgeting, and now, if council mishandles that, it will only help improve Ford's overall rating. This makes the next few months tricky for the councillors. Any slip-up with the budget will make Ford, with all of his personal shortcomings, actually look good. And they don't want that.

On Monday's Sun TV show, Ford even went so far as to say that he would do a drug and alcohol test "right now" and forwarded a motion for the council to have to do the same. The majority of the council denied the motion when he first had it out in city council last week, but he actually makes a good point. Why not test city council? If they're clean from drugs, then they have absolutely nothing to worry about.

As far as Rob Ford's career goes, at this point he isn't just a politician; he has made it to celebrity status. He's been the main source of comedy for late-night talk shows such as Jimmy Kimmel and Jay Leno for weeks and in the past week, he's been interviewed by different U.S. news networks. Nobody, it seems, can look away from this train wreck. His \$20 bobbleheads sold out in about an hour and it was later reported that they were selling on eBay for \$500. He doesn't have followers based on his politics anymore; he has fans.

It would be one thing if we could say that it's because the allegations are so serious that so many people are concerned with this story. But that's not the case. Several other Canadian politicians have admitted to recreational drug use, or have been caught doing illegal things. The difference with Ford is that his outlandishness is a magnet for every news media outlet in the Western world.

But the ironic outcome here may be that his lack of power since the council votes of the past week will give people an unfiltered view of what goes on at council. Rob Ford may not be the right person to have the title of Mayor of Toronto, but we may find through council's handling of the budget that Ford really was the one protecting the pocketbook of the 'little guys.'

~ Angelica Bottaro

## Let's stop bullying

In case you haven't heard, the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League are in the midst of a situation involving bullying.

First, these types of situation should never exist. Whether on the football field or in the classroom. But they still do.

If you look at the most recent information made available by the Toronto District School Board through its website, we may try to prevent bullying, but it is still prevalent.

In 2011-2012, there were 457 cases of bullying that ended up in a student's suspension. That does not include the other infractions that could be considered bullying that end up in their own category.

That number is way too high. It works out to around one and a half suspensions per school day. And we have to consider the countless other cases that aren't even detected.

Looking at the Dolphins situation, where Ritchie Incognito is said have used racist remarks and death threats aimed at teammate Jonathan Martin and his family, it took a long time for information to finally surface. It's been reported the bullying started during the 2012 season. That means over a year passed since the bullying allegedly began.

In fact, the TDSB census of grades 7 to 12 shows that 79 per cent of students report having been bullied through insults or name-calling directed toward them. That is a staggering high number. And that same census says 27 per cent of students have been on the receiving end of physical bullying.

Sure, 'kids will be kids.' But times have changed. We need to realize that if we don't continue to try addressing this problem, the bullies of school become the bullies of sports and politics and the world.

~ Taylor Giffin

## ■ COLUMNS

## We are all Canadian

Whoever coined the term "visible minority" might have not meant anything negative by it, but to second-generation Canadians who fall into the category — like me — there's still an inference that our "Canadian-ness" is somehow undermined.

A visible minority, as defined by Statistics Canada, is a group of "persons, other than aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour."

Although Stats Canada has a clinical definition for it, the term still runs a lot deeper than what it was originally meant for. It's a term that is now out of date and risks isolating people in Canadian society.

The growing diversity is a reality our society faces and has become a characteristic of our national identity. Stats Canada predicts that one-third of Canada's population will belong to one visible mi-

nority or another by the year 2031. That's roughly 14.1 million people.

The agency also projects that 47 per cent of second-generation Canadians (Canadian-born and having at least one parent born outside of Canada) will belong to a visible minority group.

But like many members of visible minority groups, I've found that there's a time when there's a need to prove where you come from.

My Canadian-ness was first tested while I lived abroad. The words, "I'm Canadian," coming from my mouth brought looks of doubt and even bewilderment.

There were many times when I had to

explain and defend my Canadian-ness to people who were unaware of what it meant to be Canadian.

And that was fine, because I thought it was my duty to play ambassador for the True North strong and free.

Now back home, it has become even clearer how the term "visible minority" could be discouraging to someone's sense of inclusion. Labelling a fellow Canadian as a visible minority is, in a way, challenging someone's Canadian-ness and putting him or her in defensive mode.

It's one thing to prove your identity while abroad, but to have to do it within your own borders only slows our progress down.

Yes, it's a good thing that other countries such as France and Sweden are inspired by our diversity and want to follow our path to better integrating their citizens, but there is still plenty of room for improvement.

And one small step in that direction is to stop using the term "visible minority" altogether.



Mark A. Cadiz

## Time to lend an ear

Depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder cause their sufferers serious distress; yet these mental illnesses tend to be minimized or even overlooked altogether.

You'll often hear them dismissed by people who say things like 'it's just a phase' or 'it's an excuse.'

As a society, we have become focused on physical well-being and emphasize exercise, good sleep and a healthy diet. And yet, a person's mental state is more important than an abdominal "six-pack."

As a society, we've come some distance when it comes to awareness and acceptance of mental health issues.

But we've still got a long way to go. I have seen how mental illness affects those I care about in my life. One feels the need to help out. But by not being able to do so — these can be serious illnesses, after all, and few of us have the expertise to address them — one can also start to feel sad or frustrated.

In this sense, it could be

said that mental illness can be close to contagious.

What have I learned about dealing with people close to me who are struggling with this? Maybe lend an ear to listen with, share a smile, or even extend an occasional hug in hopes of making it just a little better.

I don't really know how this all works. But I do want to make it work. I want to be able to help to get those I care about out of the mental state they are in.

Because at the end of it all, it affects all aspects of their lives.

People with a mental illness might miss work, lose friends, lose motivation and hope.

And I never want to allow them to get into that state of giving up. Giv-

ing up, in turn, can lead to an even more dire turn of events — like self-harm.

God forbid that any of us ever be left in the position of wondering if we 'could have done more.'

So take the time during your busy day to really open your eyes, clear your mind and listen when someone speaks.

Be aware of what they may be asking you — perhaps asking indirectly. If we really listen, we might actually hear a cry for help.

And just the simple act of listening could serve a therapeutic purpose for someone in pain. People need to know that someone else cares and that their issues matter. And that their troubles aren't an excuse or 'just a phase.'



Joie Ann Merana

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Funding details incorrect

Your Oct. 11th issue reported on the recent opening of the second rink at the newly expanded Leaside Memorial Community Gardens ("Strap on those skates, East York").

In what is otherwise an excellent article, there is one sentence that I feel obliged to correct:

You state that "the project got \$12.5 million from the municipal, provincial and federal governments." This is not correct. \$12.5 million is the approximate total cost of the project, of which \$7.5 million was financed by City of Toronto debentures, all of which must be repaid from future operating revenues of the arena. Almost \$3.5 has been raised through community fundraising from individuals, families and businesses in Leaside, East York and the surrounding areas. The remaining \$1.5 is a loan from Infrastructure Ontario. Again, this is a loan, all of which must be paid back.

The City of Toronto purchased the land beside the original rink where the new rink would be built at a cost of approximately \$1.1 million. The city worked closely with the arena board throughout the process and supervised the actual construction. No grant from any level of government was part of the \$12.5 million financing of the project.

We are very proud of the beautiful new Leaside arena and believe it is a great example of how a local community board and public and private sectors can work together successfully in community-building, demonstrating how local volunteers and donors can continue to make a difference.

**Ray White**  
Board Chair  
Leaside Memorial  
Community Gardens

**Editor's note: We welcome your input. You can visit us in rm. 149 of the East York campus of Centennial College, 951 Carlaw Ave. Or you can address correspondence to The East York Observer, Centennial College, East York campus, P.O. Box 631, Station A, Scarborough, ON M1K 5E9. Telephone 416-289-5107, fax 416-289-5111, e-mail c/o scogan@centennialcollege.**



Linda Cotrina // Observer

### Puppet master

**A performance of Robert Munsch's The Paper Bag Princess was a real hit with children attending the Nov. 15 show at the Pape-Danforth library. Marion Scott, the library's children's services specialist, was the one who brought the puppets to life.**

## Seeking that unique find

By LINDA COTRINA  
The Observer

When Deborah Mallory, an artisan, goes hunting for fabrics, she looks for ones that speak to her.

"When I bring it home, I start to touch it and work with it. It (the fabric) basically tells me what it wants me to do," she said.

Mallory works with fabrics to create scarves, purses and shawls all by hand. Her work was part of the Toronto East Rotary Club's fourth annual arts and crafts sale that took place last Saturday at Eastminster United Church.

"Most of them are one of a kinds, but for some I will make four or five, but every one is a little bit different," she said.

"You're walking away with a one of a kind and that's special to me because I think women are one of a kind."

Mallory has been participating in the event since its inception. She began working with fabric about 10 years ago by making



Linda Cotrina // Observer

**Customers browse through the one-of-a-kind clothing on sale at the Rotary Club's annual arts and crafts sale.**

things for herself, but that led her turning her hobby into her passion.

The event featured over 40 artisans and raised money for programs such as Out of the Cold, a program providing shelter and meals to those in need in East York.

For William Basztyk, an artisan

who makes jewelry out of fossils found in Morocco, East Africa and Ontario, it's an event he wouldn't miss.

"It's been wonderful. I've had people come through to talk to me about things they've purchased from me before and it's just fabulous," Basztyk said.

## Long-time resident 'proud' of E.Y.

By MADOLYN MACCALUM  
The Observer

Today, East York is known to some as just a part of the city of Toronto. But for at least one local resident, it will always be East York.

The East York Historical Society hosted a meeting on Nov. 13 at the S. Walter Stewart library where the featured speaker was George England.

England, 88, has lived in East York for most of his life. In fact, he has lived in the same house for the last 83 years. He recalled how he spent his life in East York and how it has changed over the years.

England moved to his house on Woodville Avenue, near the corner of Pape Avenue and O'Connor Drive, when he was five years old — in 1930. He grew up in that house and raised his seven children in it. He remembers going to William

Burgess Elementary School, where he played on the softball team.

"I was a pretty good softball player," he said. "I played shortstop, just like my dad."

England's love of softball didn't stop when he stopped playing. He said he looks forward to softball season because he enjoys watching games at Dieppe Park.

England said he was always glad to get home at the end of the day, as his mother was a great cook and used to make good apple pies.

"Davies had a big orchard on Broadview Avenue," he said, "and I would go over there at times, climb over the fence, go up the tree and get some apples."

When he wasn't taking apples from the orchard, England was

swimming in a big quarry that was down behind what is now the Evergreen Brick Works.

"We didn't wear any clothes. We would just jump in and swim around there," he said. "The water was beautiful!"

While the quarry is no longer there, England still swims every day at the East York Community Centre.

One of England's best memories was when he was 16 and a big circus came to East York. The circus was set up at the end of his street on Woodville Avenue. He said that it was a big thing for East York then.

"There were elephants walking up and down my street," he said. "I couldn't even believe it!"

England has collected a lot of memories over the years and said he is proud to call himself an East Yorker.

"I'm proud of East York," he said. "I never want to leave."



■ England

## New Costco might not mean jobs for locals

Official warns Thorncliffe residents not to get their hopes up about proposal

By ALISSA HEIDMAN  
The Observer

Thorncliffe Park residents hoping a proposed Costco store in their community would mean jobs should be prepared for disappointment, says a member of a local organization.

Masood Alam, a member of the Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office who lives in the area himself, says he has a problem with residents being given employment expectations.

He estimates fewer than 50 per cent of Costco's jobs would go to Thorncliffers, should the plan go through.

"There are people in Thorncliffe who are giving false assurances that (Thorncliffers) will be getting jobs at Costco. I don't agree with that," Alam said.

While some are arguing that the proposed construction site for the big-box store, the former Coca-Cola headquarters at 42-46 Overlea Blvd., should be designated as a heritage property, others welcome the idea with hopes of employment opportunities.

Thorncliffe is an immigrant community where residents have a median income of less than \$36,000 a year, which makes employment opportunity good news.

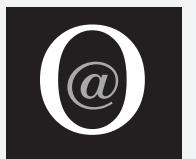
However, Thorncliffers might not meet Costco's employment requirements.

Alam said big companies like Costco have a hiring process and requirements that may not be such good news.

"They will bring in their trained and experienced staff first. Associate jobs or shipping and receiving jobs or customer support jobs, these might come to Thorncliffe, but still they cannot only provide these jobs to Thorncliffers alone," he said.

Big-box companies like Costco look for such things as basic language, communication, cashier and technical skills as well as computer training during their hiring processes. Alam said residents who may have hoped to one day be employed by Costco may be lacking some of these skills as newcomers to Canada.

In the meantime, the idea for this Costco is only a proposal. Community consultations still need to take place before the proposal can be approved.



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Joie Ann Merana /// Observer

**Holy Cross Catholic School students raised \$939 for Philippine typhoon relief through their Toonie Tuesday and Pyjama Day. Students who are part of the Me to We humanitarian group voted to wear their pyjamas and donate two dollars apiece to help Filipinos following Typhoon Haiyan.**

## Toonies for typhoon relief

By **JOIE ANN MERANA**  
The Observer

Pyjamas and toonies can make a big impact.

On Tuesday, many of the students at Holy Cross Catholic School brought two dollars each for the Toonie Tuesday fundraiser for Philippines typhoon relief. It was part of an initiative across the Toronto Catholic District School Board. At Holy Cross, the Me to We humanitarian group of students also voted to include a chance to wear pyjamas when they donated the two dollars.

"Since they were going to bring in the two dollars, we thought why not have a fun day with the pyjama day as well," says Kristy Goldring, a Grade 5-6 teach-

er and one of the supervisors of the Me to We group at Holy Cross.

The school raised \$938.80, which it will pass on to the Archdiocese of Toronto for relaying to the Philippines.

At this time, the Canadian government will match the relief efforts. The school has a population of approximately 50 per cent Filipinos. The typhoon has affected a lot of the students.

"(The typhoon) hit home for them and their families," said Janet Jensen, a Grade 4 teacher and supervisor of Me to We. "We found that students were not only bringing toonies, but they're bringing a whole bunch of piggy bank money or five dollars and \$20."

The school will continue planning events to raise more funds. The interme-

diated students are planning a garage sale, known as Santa's Shop.

"Santa's Shop would be just a week before Christmas and what we do is we collect gently-used items. And the children are allowed to buy gifts for their family members for cheap," said Jensen. The money raised at this event will also be sent to the Philippines.

Mark Stadnyk, the school's principal, also plans on having a Christmas concert as another avenue for fundraising.

"The concert is scheduled for Dec. 12 taking place at St. Patrick's High School. We are hoping to get the money before that so that the federal government can match the funds that we bring in," Stadnyk said. "We are projected to make close to \$2,000."

## Seeking better language and speech services

Catholic school board agrees to get provincial help for students who have speech difficulties

By **COREY SAVARD**  
The Observer

A motion was passed at the Toronto Catholic District School Board's Special Education Committee meeting on Tuesday to send a letter to the Minister of Education, Health, and Child and Youth Services to better deliver speech and language services.

The committee wants to allow certified board professionals to determine whether a child is eligible for programs at Ontario Community Care Access Centres (CCAC).

Trustee Angela Kennedy (Ward 11/Beaches-East York) said there is a duplicate in assessment and it is an unnecessary headache for parents who have children with a speech impediment or needing help with language skills.

"CCAC is saying even though you spent all this time and asked all these questions and parents have filled out all the forms and shows they require CCAC services, they say they will not accept that and say they will do their own assessment of the child," Kennedy said.

She also said that the board is strapped for funds and funds saved from removing duplicate assessments would go toward improving the board's "excellent" services program.

Frank Piddisi, superintendent of social services, informed the board that an investigation was done by the Malvern Speech and Language Integration Project on how better to deliver services and the project submitted 15 recommendations to the provincial government.

"One of the key provisions was that the speech and language professional whether they work at the board or at the CACC should be accepted because they are from the same college," Piddisi said.

The board determines whether students are eligible for CACC services at a young age and takes students out of their regular classes and brings them to one of the designated schools in Toronto to receive services.

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

## East York photographer showcases European odyssey

Exhibit captures portraits of locals from across Europe

By **LARRY CHEUNG**  
The Observer

Meet Alexandra Gater, East York resident, photographer and journalism student.

Armed with her camera and accompanied by her best friend Angela Conjaerts, Gater travelled to Europe this past summer, visiting 11 countries and 31 cities.

Her free show of photos from that trip, *hey, hi, hello* debuted last week in the Corridor Gallery at Centennial College's East York campus.

Gater hopes to share the intricacies of life, the overlooked and the taken for granted through a series of portraits she took of locals in many

of the countries she visited.

"I went to all these places and was feeling a lot like an outsider because I was someone who didn't know the language, the surroundings," Gater said. "But the little interactions I had with the locals were great, I felt less of an outsider and more connected."

Gater thinks the portraits she took could serve as a beacon for connecting with others, regardless of gender, race, beliefs.

"We're all so similar but different at the same time, the things that we do might be different, but we are still at the end of the day all humans," Gater said. "I think that a lot of the time we have difficulty relating to one another, but photography helps me relate to others more easily."

*hey, hi, hello* runs until the first week of December. The gallery is on the second floor at 951 Carlaw Ave.



Alexandra Gater poses in front of one of her photographs, "The Skater Boys."

Larry Cheung /// Observer