



SeYoung Park /// Observer

## Trim that tree

Sarah Godfrey and her daughter Olivia join the fun during the Holiday Open House at the Pape-Danforth library branch on Nov. 29. The library invited East York residents to drop in for tree trimming and a children's craft table.

### ■ HOUSING

# Tenants pressure city for changes

Residents frustrated by lack of response to unresolved issues

By **JASON SUTCLIFFE**  
The Observer

Tenants at 1501 Woodbine Ave. say they'll wait and see, now that Councillor Janet Davis and the city's municipal licensing and standards department have acted on what the renters say is a long list of unresolved complaints about the building.

"Continue to call 311 and we will continue to come back," Davis told the highrise residents during a Nov. 20 meeting at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, which is right behind the apartment building located near Woodbine and O'Connor Drive.

But even with the reassurance of the councillor and other city representatives, some tenants still seemed

reluctant to believe that things were going to change.

They say that they've been lodging complaints with building management, ArSCO Investments, for years, but that there's been little or no rectifying action. So they formed a tenants' association and applied pressure on the city to intervene.

It worked. Davis, the councillor for Ward 31/Beaches-East York, responded and the city conducted an audit of the building last month, inspecting the interior and exterior. City staff also parked a van outside the building as a makeshift reporting centre for tenants to file complaints regarding their units.

The result was 126 complaints and six major work orders related to 120 infractions. Infractions are wide-ranging and categorized as either housekeeping or structural issues.

■ See TEAM, page 3

### ■ ELIGON INQUEST

# Video shown at inquest

Officer testifies that mentally ill man did not 'obey any commands'

By **SOLA DaSILVA**  
The Observer

A dramatic video of the shooting of Michael Eligon on an East York street has been shown to an inquest probing the death of the 29-year-old.

Eligon was shot on Feb. 3, 2012 after he escaped his hospital bed at Toronto East General Hospital (TEGH), where he had been involuntarily admitted under Form 1 of the Mental Health Act due to psychiatric illness.

Const. Andrew Boyd was one of the eight officers shown circling Eligon as he advanced. Boyd yelled, "shoot."

"He was non-complaint and did not obey any of the commands," Boyd said while in the witness box at coroner's court. "It was too close for the officer to react, deadly blows could have been dealt by Mr. Eligon, and an officer could have been stabbed in the neck."

Boyd arrived at TEGH at about 10 a.m. after being dispatched following

several 911 calls reporting Eligon wandering the Danforth and Coxwell avenues area. He was in a hospital gown approaching residents demanding their car keys. Eligon was shot 13 minutes later.

Peter Rosenthal, counsel for the Eligon family, cross-examined Boyd extensively on his police training with regard to dealing with the mentally ill.

"Have you received training on dealing with people with mental health crisis?" Rosenthal asked.

"Yes," said Boyd.

"Have you received any training on dealing with a mentally ill person with an edged weapon?" Rosenthal continued.

"In that situation where we have a person carrying an edged weapon, it doesn't matter whether they are a normal person, or someone suffering from a mental health crisis," Boyd said. "We are trained to understand their delusions, but this was a life and death situation. Our lives were in danger. When it comes to life-death situations, the training is the same."

It was Const. Louie Cerqua who ac-

## JUST THE FACTS

■ Reyal Jardine-Douglas, 25, Sylvia Klbingaitis, 52, and Michael Eligon, 29, were shot and killed in separate incidents by Toronto police. All three approached police with edged weapons. They all suffered from mental illnesses.

■ In all three deaths, the director of the SIU concluded the police officers involved did not commit a criminal offence.

■ See IT, page 3



## POLICE & FIRE

### Police issue warning after sexual assault

Toronto police are alerting the public of a sexual assault in the Danforth and Coxwell avenues area on Nov. 30.

The incident occurred at Monarch Park. A woman was jogging when she was approached from behind and sexually assaulted. The man fled eastbound after the woman screamed. The suspect is described as 5'10" to 6' with a medium build, wearing black pants and a black, goose down bomber-style jacket with fur around the hood. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-5500 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477).

### Pape station evacuated

A suspicious package was discovered on a TTC bus at Pape station on Wednesday. Police were notified at 12:30 p.m. and the station was evacuated. Members of the Emergency Task Force inspected the package and discovered that it was not an explosive device — but at press time, they had not disclosed its contents. The station was re-opened at approximately 2 p.m.

~Joanne Kaileh



● For more East York stories, please visit us at [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)



Joanne Kaileh // Observer

### No injuries in Leaside fire

Fire broke out in a home on Whitewood Road in East York on Nov. 28 at 3:40 a.m. Fire officials say the cause of the blaze is under investigation. No one was in the home at the time of the incident.

## ■ ACTIVISM

# Saying no to rape culture

By LUCY ONEKA  
The Observer

For Shannon Giannitsopoulou, it was a homecoming of sorts. The graduate of Centennial College's corporate communications program, now a working professional, returned to the Carlaw Avenue campus on Nov. 28 to meet with current students — and her agenda was a serious one.

Giannitsopoulou co-founded the group Femifesto, along with Farrah Khan and Sasha Elford, and they were at the school to speak to students about rejecting what is known as "rape culture."

Elford said rape culture is the recognition that rape and sexual violence are prevalent in our society because of ways that societal beliefs and attitudes uphold the idea that

sexual violence is a normal part of life.

Giannitsopoulou, Khan and Elford told journalism students at the East York campus that they think news media coverage of rape and sexual assault is important because the media influences how people think.

"The goal of this project is to shift the understanding of how people speak about sexual violence in the media. Also, shifting the way communities have conversations about rape and sexual assault," Khan said.

They said media are a powerful tool for cultivating societal beliefs and ideologies and how these play out on survivors and different communities.

Elford said there needs to be a dismantling of the idea of rape and sexual violence as being individual cases as opposed to a societal issue.

"There needs to be a move from the private to the public," Khan added. "Sexual violence oftentimes gets contracted as private between two individuals or individuals it happened with. We really want to see it as a public issue that we all have accountability to it by standards."

She said she thinks the idea is still out there that women "are asking for it" by the way they dress. An example she gives is of a Toronto police officer who made a comment to students stating that women should not dress like "sluts" if they don't want to be sexually assaulted.

Khan added that the public and the media are starting to talk about victim blaming and rape culture.

"We are actually having conversations about it, that we never had before," Khan said.

## Lawyer seeks appeal in Rengel case

By JOANNE KAILEH  
The Observer

Stefanie Rengel was 14 when she was stabbed six times and left to die in front of her East York home in 2008.

Now one of the people who was convicted for the crime, the woman who sexually blackmailed and pressured her boyfriend into killing Rengel, is appealing her conviction of first-degree murder.

In a court hearing on Nov. 27, the lawyer for Melissa Todorovic went before the Court of Appeal for On-

tario to ask for either a new trial or a youth sentence.

Lawyer Brian Snell maintains that when Todorovic partially admitted her role to police, it should not have been used as evidence against her because it violated the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

"When a young person gives a statement, then anyone that they've consulted with, including a lawyer... is required to be present when the statement is taken," Snell said. "And that did not happen."

Todorovic sent boyfriend David Bagshaw messages about withhold-

ing sex until Rengel was killed. Todorovic's lawyer argues that his client never dreamed her boyfriend would act upon her words.

"She maintains her innocence. The messages that she sent to Bagshaw were not that frequent on this subject and were not intended by her to be taken seriously," Snell said.

Todorovic is currently serving a life sentence and is allowed to apply for parole in January 2015 while her appeal is pending.

The Observer did contact the Rengel family for reaction to the appeal, but they declined comment.

## WHAT'S UP IN E.Y.

### Santas marching to the beat of brass quintet

Greektown is hosting its 'March of the Santas' tomorrow (Saturday, Dec. 7) and Sunday, Dec. 8. A dozen fully costumed Santas will march from the Alexander the Great Parkette at the corner of Danforth and Logan avenues along the Danforth. They'll be accompanied by a brass quintet. The march will take place every hour on the hour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Visitors are encouraged to donate toys or money to the CP24-CHUM Christmas Wish.

### Trunk Treasures features one-of-a-kind presents

St. Columba and All Hallows Church will hold its Trunk Treasures Function tomorrow (Saturday, Dec. 7) from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Come and look for one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts. For additional information, call 416-755-0301 or 416-698-2508.

### 'Talk is Cheap' event looks at social media

The sixth annual 'Talk is Cheap' social media conference will take place this Monday (Dec. 9) from 6 to 9 p.m. at the East York campus of Centennial College, 951 Carlaw Ave. This year's event features a panel discussion on the importance of social media in entrepreneurship, followed by workshops on various social media and communication topics. Registration is at 5:15 p.m. The event is free, but donations are requested for the Red Cross and Philippine typhoon relief.

### Want some 'Zen'? Come to garden club meeting

The Leaside Garden Society will meet on Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leaside branch of the Toronto District Public Library, which is located at 165 McRae Dr. Japanese garden designer Wolfgang Bonham will present tips and tricks to members on how to bring "peace and Zen" to your garden. Refreshments will be available beginning at 7 p.m.

~ Sun Lingmeng



■ ELIGON INQUEST

# It was the 'only course of action'

Police defend killing of man who 'wasn't responding' to orders

Cont'd. from page 1

tually pulled the trigger.

Published reports quote Cerqua as saying that "Mr. Eligon wasn't stopping. He wasn't responding to any of the commands. I was concerned for my safety. I was scared for my life."

Even though Boyd did not shoot Eligon, he told the court that "in the situation we found ourselves, that was the only course of action that we've been trained to take to protect our lives."

Although all of the officers, including Cerqua, were the same rank, Boyd had served

13 years, the longest of the group of officers. Boyd said he gave direction in hopes of saving their lives.

The same inquest is also examining the deaths of Reyal Jardine-Douglas, 25, and Sylvia Klibingaitis, 52. Both suffered from mental illnesses and were shot by police while experiencing mental crises.

During cross-examination, Rosenthal asked Boyd if knowing that Eligon was mentally disturbed allowed him to consider a different approach, such as de-escalating the situation or using a baton.

"The fact that he was a psychiatric patient heightened my concern," Boyd said. "My sense of danger that he posed to police was further heightened knowing that he was a psychiatric patient."



This is a screenshot from the video shown in court of Michael Eligon being shot by police.

# Owners of building given work orders

Cont'd. from page 1

The housekeeping infractions received a short timeframe for resolution.

Some of the heavier, structural work has winter weather or other potential obstacles slowing it down, so those deadlines are longer.

The city has given building management until Jan. 14 to meet all housekeeping requirements and until April 30 to complete structural-related work.

At the clubhouse meeting following the inspection, Davis and other city officials explained that landlords under city directives can't just ride it out, hoping the orders will disappear into a stack of paper and be forgotten.

If there is a failure to comply, the city can fine a first-time individual offender up to \$50,000 or a corporation up to \$100,000 and if they continue to stall, the fine can double on a second offence.

The residents said that safety and security are also issues at the building and during the inspection, there were indications of unlocked access doors to the building and a malfunctioning surveillance system.

Besides ordering fixes, Davis said, "One thing that we can do is workshops on crime prevention. So one of the things that we might be able to do is to do a session with tenants on how can you make your apartment as safe as possible."



Lauren LiBetti /// Observer

## Dad on ice

East York resident Tu La learns to skate at the new Dieppe Park ice rink. La hopes to be able to skate with his young daughter, so he practises while she is at school. The grand opening of the rink is this Sunday, Dec. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m.

# Team Synergy eyes French Cup

By MADALYN HAMANN  
The Observer

The scraping of blades echoes around Centennial Arena as a team of 20 girls warms up before practice.

Some practise on their own, while others practise in fours, linking arms as they glide across the ice. They already spent time off-ice in rehearsal practising their short program, but now they are ready to get started.

Leaside Synergy is a competitive synchronized skating club made up of teams at various levels, ranging from juvenile to novice. Synergy Junior represents not only the Leaside Skating Club, but Skate Canada as well.

Its team members are familiar with travelling out of town to compete against other regional teams, but their biggest competition is yet to come when they travel to Rouen,



Madalyn Hamann /// Observer

Members of the Leaside synchronized skating team practise a segment of their number.

France in the New Year for the French Cup.

Christina Kaufmann is a manager of the Synergy Novice team and her daughter Hannah is a member of the junior team. She said the girls couldn't be more thrilled about competing in France.

"It will be their first international competition," Kauf-

mann said. "Skate Canada approved the girls doing it and it's something they're getting really excited about."

The French Cup is an international synchronized skating competition that has been held in Rouen annually since 1994. Based on their competitive results in 2012, the team was able to qualify.

Coach Stephanie Klein wasn't available for comment, but in a school notice she sent out to teachers, she stated that Synergy junior had been awarded an international assignment to represent Canada at the French Cup. They will not only be competing against other countries, but other Canadian teams as well.

Klein said the main goal of synchronized skating is to "perform as one unit executing circles, blocks, lines, wheels and intersections in unison to music, while demonstrating quality edges, power and flow."

The French Cup takes place Jan. 31 to Feb. 1. For Synergy Junior, it takes plenty of time and energy to prepare for routines, but neither the girls nor Kaufmann seem worried.

"They're all incredibly talented," she said. "It's amazing just watching them."

# Leaside inducts first hall-of-famers

Ceremony honours local athletes for sports excellence

By COREY SAVARD  
The Observer

The newly created Leaside Sports Hall of Fame has held its inaugural induction ceremony to honour leaders in Leaside athletics over the years.

The hall inducted its first 10 members on Nov. 27 as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leaside Memorial Gardens. The ceremony was held in the arena's William Lea Room, where plaques of the inductees will be hung.

This year's inductees are Howard Birnie (baseball); Teri-Lynn Black-Calleri (ice skating); Catherine (Car-penter) Lansdowne (speed skating, coaching); John Child (volleyball); Rich Ferguson (track and field); Erica Gilbert (tennis); Peter Mahovich Jr. (hockey); Dr. Tom Pashby (sports safety); Dr. Ron Taylor (baseball) and Lloyd Woods (lawn bowling).

Olympic medalist John Child, 46, represented Canada in beach volleyball in three consecutive Olympics (1996, 1998, 2000) and won bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games with his partner, Mark Heese. He re-

tired from competitive volleyball in 2005 and founded the Leaside Volleyball Club in 2009. It offers both competitive and recreational playing opportunities for Leaside youth.

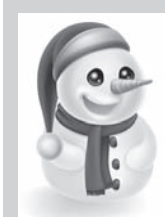
"I started the club four years ago when my daughter decided she wanted to play volleyball. It started with one team and now there are 10 rep teams and we have about 500 kids in our house league over the course of the year," Child said.

"There is a real demand for volleyball in the area and there is a lot of young talent. I expect all our teams do very well province-wide and nationwide."

Howard Birnie, 76, has been a staple of East York's baseball community for most of his life as a player, coach, MLB-trained umpire and administrator.

Birnie is president of the Leaside Baseball Association and, despite his age, continues to prepare Talbot Park (the association's home field) at Bayview and Eglinton for regular season games every day in the summer.

"I mainly want to see the program keep going, and getting the kids involved, (because) they are all important," Birnie said. "What I'm doing is seeing them play and enjoying it."



## Happy Holidays!

With this issue, the Observer concludes publication for the year. Our student staff is preparing for Christmas break and then internships in newsrooms in Toronto and beyond. We'll re-open our offices with a brand new staff in early January and will resume publication soon afterward.





Taylor Giffin /// Observer



## On the ball

(Left) Nathaneal Suarez reaches above the opposing block for an attack during a Catholic school board volleyball tournament hosted by St. Patrick Catholic Secondary on Felstead Avenue.

(Top) Members of Blessed John XXIII Catholic School huddle for some coaching during a timeout in the match, held on Nov. 19.

(Left) Ryan Lafuente looks on as teammate Leroi Navel digs up a ball, as their team vies for a spot in the city championships.

### COMMUNITY

# In need of a tool? Visit the library

Toronto Tool Library and Makerspace now open for business on Danforth

By SUN LINGMENG  
The Observer

In a newly renovated basement measuring 1,900 square feet, hundreds of power and hand gardening tools and kitchen appliances are neatly arranged on shelves or hung on the walls. A 3D printer sits in the middle of the room. And further inside is a space filled with cutting machines.

Most of the items have been donated by East Yorkers.

It is the Toronto Tool Library and Makerspace, located at 1803 Danforth Ave. between Coxwell and Woodbine. It opened on Nov. 7 as a new east-end branch of a project by the Institute for a Resource-Based Economy (IREB).

Peter Moffatt, 59, is a small contractor and handyman in the area. He first got interested in the Tool Library and Makerspace when he was seeking space to do his projects.

"I love wood. People tell me in my previous life I was a tree. As a kid, I had no access to tools and nowhere to go," he said. "Even after I got married, I still couldn't afford to buy these kinds of tools. It would be wonderful if I could borrow them instead of paying the rental companies and spending a lot of money. So I like the idea."

Moffatt volunteered in the renovation



Sun Lingmeng /// Observer

**The new Toronto Tool Library and Makerspace offers everything from drills to 24-hour access to the wood-working shop. Library membership is \$50 a year, while it costs \$100 a month to use the makerspace.**

because he wanted to give back to the community.

"I made my living in this community and I want to give back," he said. "I can't always take it out of the community, so by being a volunteer and helping them and giving some money, I helped to do my part to give back my community."

According to Ryan Dymont, executive director of IREB and the tool library's co-founder, there was some pessimism about an

East York location until the lease was signed in July.

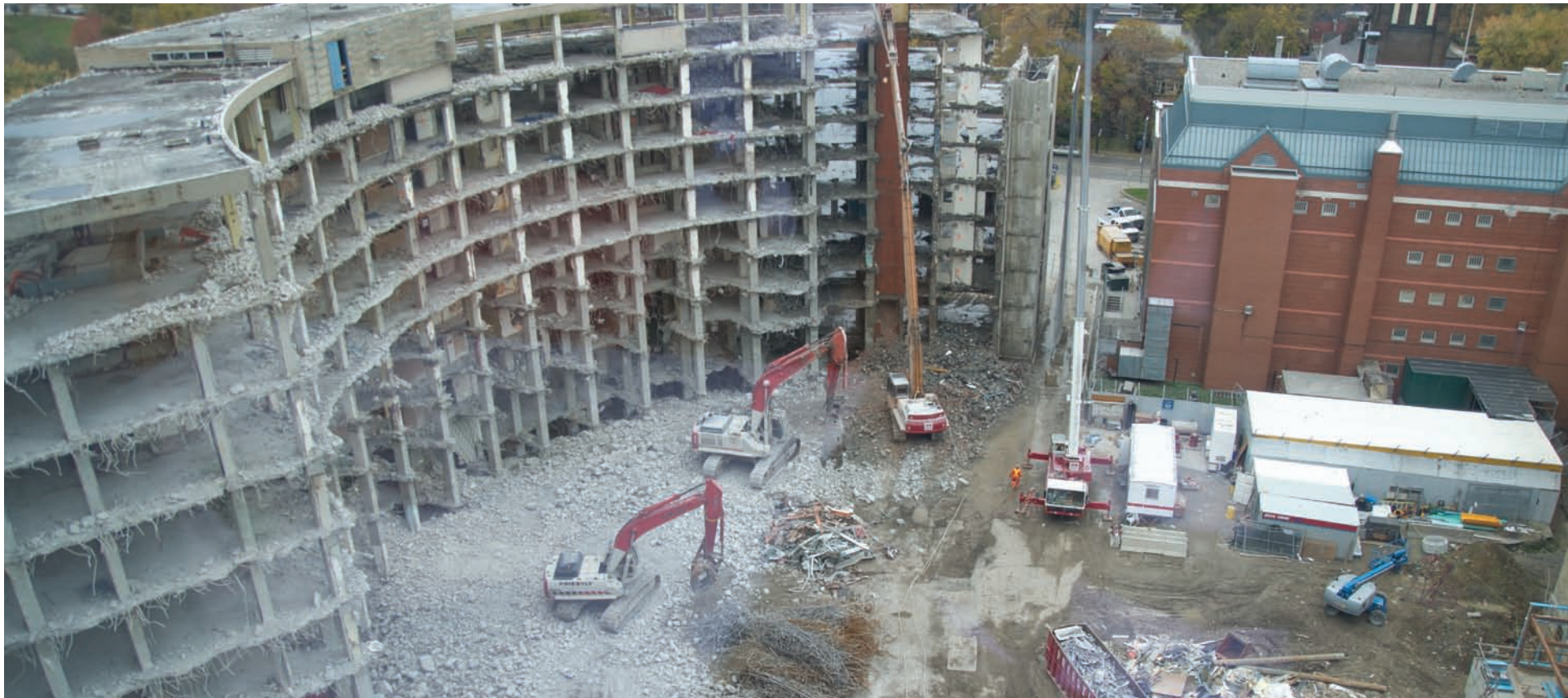
"We just opened (the first tool library) and didn't know if it was going to survive," he said, referring to the west end branch at 1499 Queen St. W.

As for the second East York location, "we took a look at this basement and it was in a very bad condition and I said, 'There is a lot of work we need to do here. I don't think we are ready to take this place.'"

Three months later, with local demand and donations, Dymont and his team took the opportunity to expand.

The tool library is open four days a week and hosts community nights every Wednesday at 7 p.m. for free. Membership to the library costs \$50 a year and the use of makerspace is \$100 per month — including 24-hours access to the woodworking shop. Or one can exchange that by working at the tool library for three days every month.





Kaitlin Clubley /// Observer

Priestly Demolition Inc. is the company handling the deconstruction of the old Riverdale/Bridgepoint Hospital. Crews have had to take the building down carefully so that debris doesn't cause any damage in the surrounding area.

# Landmark coming down piece by piece

By **KAITLIN CLUBLEY**  
The Observer

In April, it was in with the new at the Bridgepoint hospital site overlooking the Don Valley at East York's southwest corner.

Now it's out with the old.

The distinctive semi-circular building that once dominated the site — christened in 1963 as Riverdale Hospital and unsuccessfully defended by preservationists — is rapidly disappearing.

The company handling the deconstruction has had to be careful while demolishing the building so nothing nearby is damaged.

"Because of the other buildings around the old hospital, the demolition company couldn't implode the building," said Deyan Kostovski, media relations advisor with Bridgepoint Active Healthcare.

So East Yorkers and others passing through the area have been looking on as a landmark is quickly disassembled.

Kostovski said that after the old hospital is fully gone, the surrounding buildings will be taken down as well and the area will be turned into a green space, so residents will have a "feel good area" to go to outside.

"I think that when the buildings are down and the green space is going to be there, it's going to be a lot better because right now, there

are still inmates in the new Don Jail, so it will be nice knowing there aren't inmates right beside you," said Angela Kelly, a registered practical nurse at Bridgepoint.

"It's just going to look a lot better in that area because that area is an older area of Toronto. The Riverdale Park is an infamous part of Toronto so it's going to flow into the park and make the area look really nice."

In the meantime, Kelly said, she and the other people in the new hospital building are enjoying it. For many of them, the changeover from old to new has been a very positive one — nostalgia about the former facility notwithstanding.

"There were mostly four patients to a

room," at the old hospital, Kostovski said.

"Working in the old building was really hectic. We had no storage, so everything was in the hallway and that was a fire hazard. The physical environment of the old building wasn't good," Kelly said.

"The new building is amazing. It looks so clean and fresh. It's like a 180 degree difference."

The new building has many amenities and is more accessible than the old facility.

"The patient rooms are probably the best thing about the new building. All of the patient rooms have their own washrooms so there's only two people using one washroom and four people sharing one shower," Kelly said.

## RIDE program ready for its annual holiday blitz

By **ANGELICA BOTTARO**  
The Observer

With the holidays coming up, drinking and driving may be something that pops up more than usual. But at 54 Division, they are prepared.

Police started their holiday RIDE program this past Monday, Dec. 2, and will continue at different locations across East York, every day until the holidays are over.

The significance of the program is to make people aware of what the cost of drinking and driving can be and other ways to get home if they've had one too many.

Sgt. Darren Cox led the program on Tuesday, and said that he thinks all the program needs to do to succeed is get the word out.

"It's to create awareness for people to drink responsibly. We're not trying to tell people not to drink but when they do drink that there's other alternatives and that there is zero tolerance," Cox said.

There are several different consequences for drinking and driving. If convicted, a person can be subject to a license

suspension of up to one year, a criminal record and a fine of at least \$600.

The good news about the RIDE programs that Cox has been a part of is that he notices fewer people trying to get away with having a few drinks and driving home.

"I think it's changed quite a bit," said Cox. "There are fewer people that drive impaired now. I think people have been properly educated through schools, parents and commercials. And the penalties are very severe now."

Anyone driving up to a RIDE program without a seatbelt needn't panic about getting into trouble.

These programs are strictly dedicated to keeping people safe from intoxicated drivers — or themselves if they think they can drink a few and drive home without incident.

"It used to be that someone would come up with one headlight, or no seatbelt," Cox said. "But the RIDE program wasn't meant for that. I would only caution them. Our main purpose is to check for anyone drinking and driving."



Linda Cotrina /// Observer

## Global cooling

The Danforth's BIA invited residents to step into Toronto's Biggest Snow Globe this past Saturday and have their picture taken for \$10. A portion of the proceeds were set to be donated to the Patrick Conner Award for Integrity in the Arts and Environment, in memory of longtime Danforth BIA business owner Patrick Conner.



## ■ EDITORIALS

# Good, bad... ugly

The revelations of Wednesday evening — that our mayor figures prominently in wiretapped conversations among members of a gang dealing in drugs and guns — have re-fanned the firestorm of scrutiny that may have been starting to wane ever so slightly around Rob Ford. Now we have suggestions that Ford knew about the crack video and tried to buy it. That crack use was more than just once, and that there are other pictures showing it somewhere out there. And that there was also “hezza” (heroin) use.

All unproven — but doing nothing to detract from an overall impression of a city’s chief magistrate engaging in a long pattern of disgraceful behaviour.

We’ve already called for Mayor Ford to step down. So have many others. But he persists in clinging to his title, and performing in an (albeit vastly diminished) public role. That included a recent visit to Gordon A. Brown Middle School on St. Clair Avenue in East York, where — so we’re told — the cousin he planned to visit was off for the day, and on his way out, Ford handed out his business card and a few campaign refrigerator magnets.

The school board trustee for Ward 16/Beaches-East York was among those expressing strong discomfort with Ford’s presence at the school. And it seems the mayor-in-title is increasingly finding himself to be persona non grata generally. There have even been instances of concerned parents whisking away their wee ones when the mayor shows up at local events.

For instance, when some East York moms and dads spotted him at Greenwood Park, where he was attending the opening of an outdoor rink, they quickly left with their children in tow. (Just what sort of bad behaviour were the parents expecting? Or were they just worried that the strong November wind might cause Ford to topple onto them?)

No matter how insignificant Ford’s inner-city travels may be, you can be sure that, considering the new revelations, the media will now once again step up coverage of him in hopes of adding another incident to the long list of chief magistrate mishaps.

Yes, Ford is almost entirely the author of his own misfortune. But he seems to inspire fear and loathing even when engaged in the most innocuous behaviours.

Let’s try to maintain a distinction between the good, the bad and the ugly.

~ Corey Savard

# ‘Snow’ place to go

It’s that time of year again: holiday shopping, spending time with family... and, sooner or later, snow-covered sidewalks and streets. The long-term forecast is calling for lots of snow so residents of East York need to get ready for a lot of shovelling and a lot of snow removal.

With that snow removal comes snow removal bylaws. Those laws state that each owner or occupant must remove impeding snow within 12 hours of the end of a snow-fall and if the sidewalks become slippery, they must salt as necessary (unless the city has an agreement with the owner to clear the snow).

So where does the shoveled snow go? It can’t go on the road because it is illegal to take snow off a driveway and walkway and put it curbside. But with the small front lawns in most areas of East York, how can residents make sure they are disposing of their snow correctly?

To avoid a fine of up to \$5,000, snow must be moved from walkways, driveways and sidewalks; pretty much anywhere people could be walking or driving. This doesn’t give residents that much of an option of where to shovel the snow. They can pile it up on their own lawn in a mound of brown and white sludge, but besides the visually unappealing look of that (call it the ‘Anti-Winter Wonderland’), a lot of East Yorkers have so little lawn space that really do start to run out of room to put the stuff.

Considering this, East York residents should be given a break. A \$5,000 fine seems a bit steep for those who have less than adequate room for what’s left of the most recent snowfall. And let’s reconsider this business of pushing it to the edge of the roadway:

Part of the reason for the ‘no-snow-on-the-road’ rule is that it could be a safety hazard. But when the streets are covered with snow already, drivers are already compensating for it to get through and plows are on the way to push it aside.

It’s also been said that snow on the roadways from sidewalks and driveways can make it harder for the city to remove the snow from the street. But surely it’s not as hard for a truck or a tractor with a blade on the front to deal with snow as it is for a resident armed only with a hand-held shovel.

Perhaps the answer to this situation isn’t as radical as the one proposed above. But maybe there’s a compromise between this and the status quo of residents’ aching backs and frozen fingers.

Yes, the law is the law, but it should be changed to something that makes it easier for residents to remove snow with their shovels rather than make it easier for the city to remove snow with their plows.

~ Angelica Bottaro

## ■ COLUMN



Phil Alves /// Observer

Members of the East York Observer’s 2013 staff are ready for the next step in their careers — internships in newsrooms at newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations and networks and websites.

# Reporters moving on to life in ‘real world’

By JOANNE KAILEH and MADALYN HAMANN

The Observer

We were told right from the start that we were journalists.

And, at first, hearing this was a little difficult to believe. We were, after all, only in the early stages of learning the trade in the journalism program at Centennial College’s East York campus.

But we were a determined bunch, taking small steps at first and then slowly finding ourselves taking leaps.

Finally, instead of waiting to become officially professional, we took centre-stage at the longstanding community newspaper published by the college and we proved our status.

Now we’re on the cusp of a further progression: January internships in professional newsrooms beyond East York.

So it is time for us to follow our reporter’s instincts and go where the news takes us... but not before saying a few things first.

This year, we found ourselves anxiously exploring East York fueled by our spirited curiosity.

Most of us come from places other than East York, but although we weren’t initially familiar with the area, it didn’t take us long to see that this part of Toronto has its own unique spin on city life.

Within this community of a couple of dozen square kilometres and 100,000-plus people, we found smaller communities.

Neighbourhoods, from the bustle of the Danforth to the historic wonders of Pottery Road to leafy Leaside.

Our reporters were out writing about the community, getting to know these neighbourhoods and the people in them. This became one of the most rewarding parts about writing for the Observer.

Whether it was James Tessier’s local sports

coverage or Sola DaSilva’s knack for hard news or Christian Boyer’s insights on politics, our reporters worked to find new angles to the stories that matter in the community.

And this will be a community that will stay with us for many years. Whether you picked us up at your local Sobey’s or found us on a bench while waiting for the bus, we thank you for reading our stories.

We hope you have enjoyed reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it every two weeks.

Putting the paper together has certainly been a joint effort among our Observer staff, but none of it could have been done without the help of our faculty members — Lindy Oughtred, Steve Cogan, Dave Johnny and Louie Piacentini.

Throughout the year, they have worked hard to keep the paper organized and running smoothly. Along with other courses to instruct, they always took the time to guide and encourage us and were not afraid to give us the extra push we needed in our journalism careers. They believed in us and saw what we didn’t initially see in ourselves. For this, we will always be grateful.

And while we have built something of a home here in our newsroom at Centennial College’s Carlaw Avenue campus — including many late nights and early mornings, deadline stress and frustration and thousands of cups of coffee consumed between us — our careers must continue.

To begin with, we’ll be going on those internships and following our future paths... but the lessons we have learned and the people we have met here will always stay with us.

And not to worry, readers — we have new, budding journalists just waiting to take our place on The Observer. It will be their turn to seek out exciting news stories for East York within the coming year. We wish them the best of luck!

The East York

**OBSERVER**

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

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Linda Cotrina // Observer

Marilyn Walsh has been working as an artist since 2008. Her “Nest” series and “Dance” series were featured in the Don Valley Art Club’s recent Large and Small Holiday Art Show and Sale.

## Celebrating 65 years of art

By LINDA COTRINA  
The Observer

Being able to create something out of nothing is what Marilyn Walsh loves about being an artist.

“The idea that’s been floating around in my head and the fact that I’m able to bring it into physical reality is great,” she said.

Walsh was one of over 65 artists showcasing their artwork at the annual Large and Small Holiday Art Show and Sale, which concluded earlier this week. It was put on by the Don Valley Art Club, which is celebrating its 65th year of bringing art to the community. The holiday show featured a range of original pieces created in

multiple mediums that reflect different artistic styles. The venue was the Papermill Gallery on Pottery Road.

Walsh graduated from the adult art program at Central Tech in 2008. She has been working independently since and has had her work exhibited across Ontario.

Her “Nest” series, which was on display at the Papermill Gallery, explores the concept of home.

“I’m noticing that there are a lot of people in my generation that are now experiencing empty-nesters because of their children going off to university,” Walsh said.

She explained that people of her mother’s generation are getting rid of things that are not essential for living, which she

incorporates into her art.

“The crochet nests are ecru cotton that my mother gave to me and the copper wire tree — that copper was left over from a renovation in my house,” she said. “It’s kind of an all-recycled piece of art.”

Vince Luong, exhibition co-ordinator, says every show is different, providing new inspiration for all the artists.

Viola Visnjevac showcased paintings based on landscapes; she even completed a painting of a little town called Giverny in France, where Monet lived and painted. For Visnjevac, painting is a way to relax.

“When I paint, all the stress goes away,” she said.

### CHARITY

## College students ‘get their geek on’ for a good cause

By COREY SAVARD  
The Observer

It’s the digital age and some East York college students say everyone should be a part of it.

Six students in the public relations and corporate communications program at Centennial College’s East York campus have teamed up with Sky’s the Limit to bring laptops to underprivileged children this holiday season. They raised \$1,000 for the charity Sky’s the Limit at the “Get Your Geek On” trivia night fundraiser on Nov. 27 at Fox and Fiddle Pub on Danforth Avenue.

The students held a pop culture trivia competition for students and locals as well as a raffle with all proceeds going toward the charity. The student promoters and attendees dressed accordingly with bright blue bowties, glasses and suspenders to channel fashion-challenged intellectuals.

Sky’s the Limit provides laptops to under-resourced youths across the country while also providing support through training and mentoring programs in how to use computers and the Internet.

Rema Tavares, Sky’s the Limit executive director, says the charity is open to any offer of aid from students.

“They took care of all the event details. We literally only promoted through Twitter and Facebook,” she said.

Everton Lewis, managing consultant at IBM Canada, says his company raises money for the charity’s laptops and sits on Sky’s the Limit’s board. He says he has a personal interest in the charity’s vision to make the internet available to everyone.

“My role as someone that is interested in the goal of the charity and as an employee at IBM, it has made me a liaison (for the two sides),” he said.

Pubstumpers, a North American federation of trivia leagues that holds weekly trivia nights, organized the event.

Attendees paid a \$10 donation at the door.

## Artist dreamed he was a crow... dreaming

### McClyment’s latest show features series of crow drawings

By ALEXANDRA GATER  
The Observer

What may first strike you about David McClyment, instructor and co-ordinator of the Fine Arts Studio program at the East York campus of Centennial College, is his laugh. It is loud and filled with undertones of joy.

This joy can also be seen in his love for art, which is evident in his latest show, *Dreaming I was a Crow Dreaming*, currently showing at the David Kaye Gallery in Toronto.

McClyment has been a professional artist for 33 years, showing his work once or twice a year. He has most consistently shown graffiti art using stencils on plywood, but *Dreaming I was a Crow Dreaming* is much differ-

ent. The show features a series of crow drawings, executed meticulously on paper with charcoal and carbon pencil.

“Probably for 30 years my professional artwork has been work with stencils. I hadn’t ever thought about doing drawings,” McClyment said.

“And there is sort of a conceit... in ‘artland’ that establishes a hierarchy to media, and drawing’s at the bottom of the list. I think I have probably bought into that for most of my professional life and I always felt that I had to involve myself in a process that was more ambitious, more challenging.”

McClyment’s drawings in *Dreaming I was a Crow Dreaming* do not look anything less than challenging, some of them spanning five feet.

The crow drawings started after he created a lesson example for his students two years ago.

“I’ve drawn for years and years and years doing this

stencilling process and it’s a big, important part of what I do. So all of a sudden I’m drawing and not worrying about the stencil... and I had forgotten how fun it was just to draw.”

The crows in McClyment’s series vary from being starkly realistic to taking on human qualities.

“I think (crows) are the kind of creature that everybody projects on to...they’re either malevolent or they’re funny... so I just got into it.”

When it comes to art, McClyment doesn’t always follow rules.

“I say this all the time to my students, ‘Fully is contrary to any official way of creative image making,’” McClyment said.

“The official way is to keep a sketchbook. I’ve never kept a sketchbook in 30 years. For me, the whole thing is about the adventure. I don’t want to know what the end of the journey is going to be before it starts.”



Alexandra Gater // Observer

David McClyment holds a smaller version of a drawing from his current show at David Kaye Gallery.





## It's beginning to look a lot like **Christmas**



Amirul Islam /// Observer



Amirul Islam /// Observer

(Top) Jewel (left) and Alyssa got all dressed up in their finest outfits for their meeting with Santa at the East York Town Centre on Sunday.

(Left) Irene chooses decorations for a Christmas craft with the help of her mother at the East York Town Centre.

(Below) Jan Higgins (right) bids on a children's basket for her daughter Amelia at True Davidson Acres' Annual Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 30.



SeYoung Park /// Observer