



Mark Cadiz /// Observer

Sculpting a brighter future

Artist Gabriel Tuna works on a sculpture in his East York studio. Tuna, known in art circles around the world, came to Canada in 2006 after being banned from his home country of Turkey. Story on page 5.

She's still volunteering at 103

Former nurse thinks of East York hospital as her second home

By **AMIRUL ISLAM**
The Observer

"Keepin' busy keeps you good."

With those words, the centenarian volunteer at Toronto East General Hospital discloses the magic that keeps her active and happy. Olive Dodd, 103, volunteers in a knitting group at TEGH.

"I wanted to be busy and interested in everything," Dodd said when asked why she is still volunteering.

She was born and brought up in England, and lived there through the two world wars. She started a nursing career when she was 17 years old. At the age of 19, she trained to become a midwife. She was also a school nurse for many years.

But when she was 63 years old, she had a heart attack. She was advised by doctors to quit her job, and so she did. Then, after the death of her husband, Dodd became lonely, and moved to Canada to be closer to her adult child.

"My daughter lived here and asked me to live with her. So I came to Canada when I was 74. It was 1984."

Dodd's move to Canada did not stop her from serving others. Dodd has been working as a volunteer at Toronto East General Hospital for 29 years.

"As soon as I came here, my daugh-

ter's neighbour, who was a volunteer, advised my daughter to take me to the hospital. So I came here 29 years ago and never left."

The hospital became her second home. She initially began with the making of dolls but cataracts in her eyes made it difficult for her to continue. She did not let that stop her. She began to knit.

"I never give up," Dodd said. "I learned knitting when I was 80."

Dodd's knitting group meets every Tuesday. They make everything from blankets to dolls and sell them at a bazaar.

All the proceeds go directly to patient care of the hospital.

Denny Petkovski, manager of the volunteer services at TEGH, knows how dedicated and valuable Dodd is.

"Her knitted dolls are famous in the hospital and those sell out every year," Petkovski said. "I believe she is an exemplary volunteer. I think it is motivational for all of us."

The hospital even recently arranged a surprise party for her birthday. She received greetings from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Kathleen Wynne and Mayor Rob Ford. The hospital also gave her a certificate, thanking for her contribution.



Amiral Islam /// Observer

Volunteer Olive Dodd meets with her knitting group every Tuesday at Toronto East General Hospital.

NDP puts electoral reform on its agenda

Party leader attends consultation organized by local MP Craig Scott

By **SUN LINGMENG**
The Observer

Craig Scott brought his national tour promoting the mixed-member proportional representation system home last week.

On Sept. 19, the New Democrat MP representing Toronto-Danforth held a consultation on Canadian electoral reform at Eastminster United Church on Danforth Avenue.

Fair Vote Canada and the riding's NDP association co-organized the meeting, with close to 150 people attending. Official Opposition and federal NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair was present, speaking at the beginning of the consultation. He addressed the party's determination for electoral reform.

"The NDP has always had the same position that in the democratic society, the votes have to be counted and every vote has to be counted," said Mulcair. "We believe sincerely that in our society people are ready for that move. We are talking about it now while we are still in Opposition because we want people to understand that they are receiving a mandate to move on this in 2015."

Scott then introduced the mixed-member proportional representation system to the audience. According to Scott's presentation, the system allows voters to select both a ruling party and a local candidate in ridings.

Scott is the Official Opposition critic for democratic and parliamentary reform. He is currently on a cross-Canada tour promoting the alternative system.

"The point is we need to get into power to change it," Scott said. "It has to be fair... I think Canadians would come to understand, partly because it has proven itself in countries like Germany and New Zealand and Scotland. And we will make the extra effort to figure out what the system is like."

■ See **TORONTO**, page 7



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POLICE & FIRE

Tainted food discovered in local park

Police were called to Oakvale Green Park in the Danforth and Greenwood area on Monday after weiners were found with an unknown substance mixed inside. No other suspicious substances were found after police and citizens searched the area. Police ask that the public be on alert for any similar substances while in the park with children and pets. If other substances are found, do not touch them and report the incident to police.

Neighbour puts out fire

A fire broke out on the third floor of an apartment building at 9 Haldon Ave. near Cosburn and Woodbine last Friday, Sept. 20, at approximately 5 p.m. Smoking articles were found by the bedside where the fire started. The fire was put out by a neighbour before firefighters arrived. The estimated damage is \$800.

Trailer goes up in flames

A Volvo truck trailer burned on Tuesday at approximately 4:40 a.m. It happened on a side street in front of 10 Bani-gan Drive near Overlea Boulevard and Leaside Park Drive. The cause of the fire is unknown and the estimated damage is \$80,000.

~ Hawaii Gudeta and James Tessier



Amirul Islam // Observer

A \$37-million modernization project, which started in 2009, has changed the face of the Pape subway station.

Pape subway renovation almost done

Commuters still unsure about completion date

By **AMIRUL ISLAM**
The Observer

After four years of renovations, officials say the Pape Station modernization project will be completed within the year. The \$37-million initiative started in fall 2009 to enhance accessibility, build a second exit point and create a contemporary finish.

"This project is a complete overhaul of the station from top to bottom," said Devin Horne, a community liaison officer with the Toronto Transit Commis-

sion. "The station was originally opened in 1966. Since then, not a lot of work has been done, so modernization was a dire need."

Some noticeable changes have been made. The bus loop roadway has been repaired and there is a new granite stairway, a bicycle track and a canopy at the main entrance. Artwork, new floors and wall tiles have been added.

John, who did not give his last name, is a regular user of Pape station and is excited about the work being done.

"It is my station and I like the changes."

Construction of the second exit is underway.

"The second exit is for our customers to easily exit from the station. If there is a

fire we need to provide multiple points of exiting from the platform level. So we are adding exits to other end of the platform," Horne said.

Hussain, who asked that his last name not be used, is a resident of Thorncliffe and a regular user of the station. He expressed doubt that the renovations will be completed on time.

"The second exit is still under construction, and it doesn't appear to me that it could be done within the next four months," he said.

The project is already lagging by one year. According to Horne, unanticipated challenges including salt and oil in the soil, and a series of third-party strikes caused delays.

Kids to learn their ABCs at old Leaside Town Hall

Childcare firm's founder says she hopes building will become 'a kind of community centre'

By **SEYOUNG PARK**
The Observer

By this time next year, the old Leaside Town Hall will welcome new guests — children from three months to four years of age.

In September 2014, "abc Academy" will open its newest childcare branch in the old town hall building at 235 McRae Drive. Wendy Arnold List, the owner and founder of the childcare firm, said she's pleased with both the neighbourhood and the building.

"It's got lots of young families who are our prime target," she said, "and the building, we just love that it's already in amazing shape. It's got a great history to it, which is a bonus."

Geoff Kettel, vice-president of the Leaside Property Owners' Association and an East York Historical Society member, said the T-shaped former town hall is symbolic of municipal governance, planning, heritage protection and community engagement in Leaside.

"Leaside grew only slowly in the 1920s and in the Depression years of the 1930s. From 1967, after Leaside amalgamated with the township of East York to become a part of what became the Borough of East York, the building was used as a school by the Junior Academy, and offices by Kelly,



SeYoung Park // Observer

Geoff Kettel and Pancheta Barnett of the East York Historical Society explain that the Town of Leaside coat of arms translates to 'Stability and Wisdom of Purpose.'

McTernan, Lavoie, an interior design consultancy firm."

But the Junior Academy eventually moved out of the building after the Ontario Municipal Board turned down an expansion. Kettel said he's glad abc Academy won't be making any changes to the exterior of the building.

"It's a good thing because it protects the heritage and provides childcare service to the community," he said.

Arnold List said the inside of the

building will be adjusted to meet the Ministry of Education's requirements and the playground will be made more suitable for children.

"We won't be touching the outside of the building because we love it," she said.

"We hope that it will serve as kind of a community centre. Families are there. Parents are hanging out and chatting. We hope that it'll be a positive addition for the neighbourhood."

WHAT'S UP IN E.Y.

Toronto Field Naturalists celebrate with a show

The Toronto Field Naturalists are celebrating their 90th anniversary with a show written by its members about their history and love of nature. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4 at the Papermill Theatre, 67 Pottery Rd. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 6-12. You can book online at www.toronto-fieldnaturalists.org or through Arts-People.

'Language choir' at library

David Buchbinder will lead a 'Diasporic Genius' workshop tomorrow, Sept. 28, at the Thorncliffe library, 48 Thorncliffe Park Dr. He'll be creating a 'language choir' of participants displaying the diversity of language. The start time is 2 p.m. and people of all ages are welcome. Admission to this event is free.

Looking for the lost rivers of Toronto

Evergreen Brick Works is presenting a hike along the Belt Line Trail this Sunday, Sept. 29, to re-discover Toronto's 'lost rivers.' It will start at 10 a.m. at the front of the Eglinton West subway station. For more information, call 416-596-1495, ext. 273.

~ Sun Lingmeng



Alissa Heidman /// Observer

Volunteers greet participants in the second annual Walk for Stuttering Awareness with big smiles as they cross the finish line.

Walk the walk for speech therapy

Speech and Stuttering Institute benefits from September fundraiser

By ALISSA HEIDMAN
The Observer

It was a chilly Sunday morning, but that didn't stop more than 60 people from showing their support at the Second Annual Walk for Stuttering Awareness on Sept. 22.

Participants joined together to hand in their pledges and set off on the 1k/5k walk to raise money for the Speech and Stuttering Institute. Proceeds will help provide speech therapy services, which can routinely cost anywhere from \$500 to \$1,500 and are not affordable for some, to those afflicted by stuttering.

Walk co-ordinator Greg O'Grady says stuttering can often result in low self-esteem and fear in those afflicted.

"We live in a society that puts so much emphasis on communication, so a lot of stutterers live in isolation," O'Grady said. "They withdraw, they

have limited relationships."

With the help of speech therapy, O'Grady said stutterers will find significant differences in their lives.

"Through therapy, stutterers are more confident and when all is said and done, it enhances their professional and personal lives, so it helps them to live more of a quality life and more of a fulfilling life," he said.

Despite the cloudy skies, enthusiastic supporters crossed the finish line walking, jogging and in some cases sprinting. They were all greeted with high fives.

The goal of the walk was to raise \$15,000. Though it is only the second year for the fundraiser, O'Grady said he and fellow organizers are continuing to learn how to improve for future years.

A barbecue and entertainment followed the walk. Among those performing were Disco Taxi, Oliver Pigott and Olivia Pileggi. They had the crowd dancing, singing and laughing.

Next year's goal will not only be raising more money, but spreading more awareness and gaining supporters to continue to provide stutterers with the invaluable work of speech therapy.



Alissa Heidman /// Observer

Shannon Milberry, 7, sprints across the finish line in support of older brother Owen, who stutters.

Project Fusion looking for civic solutions

By JOIE ANN MERANA
The Observer

A collaborative effort among some East York college students is proving to be a good way to get their voices heard.

In 2012, Centennial College students from communications programs headquartered at their East York campus came together to create Project Fusion. It's a student-run organization designed to bring solutions to modern civic issues.

Donna Lindell, a professor in the Corporate Communications and Public Relations program at the Carlaw Avenue school, became the guide for students in Project Fusion.

"It was out of a request from students who wanted more opportunities to collaborate amongst each other in this campus," Lindell said. "The students chose their topic. They chose transit; they felt like they had something to say."



■ Lindell

Hannah Sunderani, 24, a graduate from the corporate communications program, was an active member of Project Fusion.

"My role in Project Fusion varied. It included promoting the group to other students at Centennial to inspire them to join, attend biweekly brainstorming sessions, generate discussion beyond our group meetings and create events to shed light on ideas," Sunderani said.

The students involved in Project Fusion presented their proposal for a contest known as "10.10.10," which was partly funded by Centennial's "Global Centre for Citizenship and Equity."

"Groups of Centennial Students were invited to think of an idea that would spark public conversation around social injustice and the GTA public transit system," Sunderani said.

It was through the 10.10.10 proposal that Project Fusion came up with an idea known as The Big Race. It was an eight-part web series that involved three contestants that had to travel across the GTA within a certain amount of time.

"They previewed the Big Race at the conference of 350 civic leaders. People like John Tory, the head of Metrolinx, Karen Stinz were there.... So that was pretty critical," Lindell said.

Now that the majority of students involved in Project Fusion have graduated, Lindell has opened the doors to new students who would like to participate.

"I think with the creative minds here at Centennial, some really cool things could be done," Lindell said. "It's a collaborative incubator. We'll see where the growth takes us."

Local libraries dealing with rising digital demands

By TAYLOR GIFFIN
The Observer

Is a library still a library without printed books? A library in San Antonio thinks so and is going completely digital, but don't assume the idea is headed to East York any time soon.

Maria Cipriano is collections librarian, Electronic and Online Resources, for the Toronto Public Library system. He says that digital demand from patrons is growing, but there isn't an urgent need to go "bookless."

"I thought the San Antonio library was an interesting

concept, but it is not revolutionary," he said. "We have been offering that kind of service already. Right now, I think our libraries already incorporate the principles of (the San Antonio) library."

Even though you can walk into an East York library and still find books, it doesn't mean they aren't making technology and the space for it available.

"We try to be as responsive as we can, given the size of the organization," Cipriano said.

Greg Silas visits the S. Walter Stewart branch regularly and feels that con-

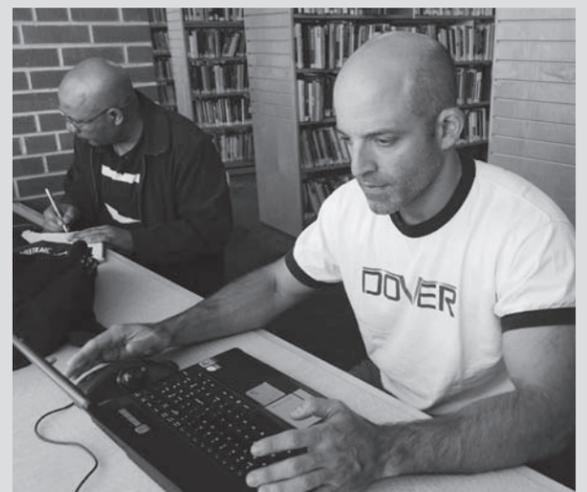
ventional libraries need to change.

"You would think libraries are going out of style because of books, right? Who needs books? Less and less people," he said. "The library is being used a lot, but not for the traditional resources. If you look at what is being used, in terms of square footage, people are not using the books. They are using other stuff."

Even a regular user like Silas is unaware of the offerings at his local library. He says more people would use digital resources if people were made more aware of the services available.

In 2012, 1.1 million people borrowed electronic books from the Toronto library system. Compare that to the 32 million traditional printed books borrowed and you can see the number is substantially smaller.

"We still buy the print because the demand is there. But for people who want the electronic, it is there for them as well," Cipriano said. "They usually supplement each other. We have to be progressive, we have to have the digital content, but we have to be responsive to what our users are telling us what they want to use."



Taylor Giffin /// Observer

Greg Silas uses the digital resources at East York's S. Walter Stewart library branch.

CBC producer shares stories with students

By **LAUREN LIBETTI**
The Observer

As an executive producer for the CBC, East York resident Joan Melanson spends much of her day amid the hustle and bustle of the busy downtown broadcaster. However, a new opportunity is bringing her closer to the community in which she lives.

Melanson is the newest “storyteller-in-residence” at Centennial College’s East York campus. In her new part-time role, she’ll pass on the craft of storytelling to students in various programs, from journalism to game art and design.

In an interview, Melanson said storytelling is not just about sitting down and reading to your child.

“It’s the most powerful way we have of communicating with each other,” Melanson said. “It’s how we share information, how we share experience. It conveys emotion and it can make a difference.”

Nate Horowitz, dean of the Carlaw Avenue campus, said the medium may vary, but all programs tell a story in one form or another. He took one look at Melanson’s resume and knew she was the right candidate.

“I immediately saw a diversity of ideas, a progressive individual and someone who’s helped and mentored others,” he said.

Melanson said she hopes to bring a bit of the real world to students and to ignite and challenge their passions.

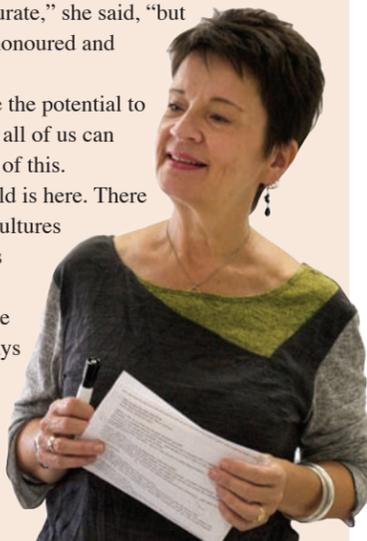
Despite telling stories for a living, she said she’s still surprised when someone decides to share their story with her.

“The fact that somebody agrees to do that carries a lot of responsibility on my part — to get their story out in a way that’s fair and accurate,” she said, “but I’m always a little bit honoured and awestruck.”

She said stories have the potential to bridge new worlds and all of us can become richer because of this.

“In Toronto, the world is here. There are so many different cultures and perspectives in this city. I think it is really important to make those connections, to find ways to figure out what we share in common. And we can do that through story.”

■ **Melanson**



Naomi Grosman /// Observer

All of the graffiti seen inside the old factory has been left untouched for years. “It tells the story of that era,” said Melissa K. Yu, project manager at Evergreen Brick Works.

Antique bridge gets facelift

Evergreen Brick Works teams up with artist to give landmark a makeover

By **NAOMI GROSMAN**
The Observer

If your travels take you through the Don Valley, you may have noticed a slight change of scenery.

One of the pillars under the old railway bridge that arcs over Bayview Avenue at the Evergreen Brick Works site has gotten a makeover.

Faith 47, a South African street artist, has graced the scenery with a mural called “The Pull of the Land.” It covers the front of one of the supports.

The project unfolded in July and was funded by Well and Good, a Toronto-based company owned by Steve and Lisa Ferrara.

Well and Good collaborates with different artists and its goal is to promote and help artists reach their artistic goals.

Turns out, Steve Ferrara had had his eye on the railway support for a while.

“Those pillars have always been this object of my obsession,” Ferrara said. “They’re beautiful in their own way but imagine bringing some sort of life to them.”

Once Ferrara got Faith on board and permissions for the project were obtained, the people at Evergreen Brick Works were happy to see the project go forward.

Melissa K. Yu, project manager at Evergreen, said they’ve collaborated with Ferrara before and were eager to do so again, particularly because the Brick Works has such a rich history of graffiti.

“We try to find ways to make room for street art on the site because it’s so much a part of the industrial heritage of the site,” Yu said.

It’s so much a part of the site, that there is a large part of the Brick Works that is still covered in graffiti — the original graffiti that was painted on those bricks after the Don Val-



Naomi Grosman /// Observer

“The Pull of the Land,” by graffiti artist Faith. The picture includes a deer, blue heron and a fox, all animals that are indigenous to the Don Valley area.

ley Brick Works factory was abandoned.

“Graffiti is an industrial layer of this site, because it tells the story of that time period,” Yu said.

According to Yu, the old graffiti at the Brick Works was recently the centre of attention when the city started concentrating on removing graffiti from the streets of Toronto. That graffiti stayed, with the help of Ferrara, who wrote a note to the city citing its historical importance.

“Creating something from

nothing; that’s a big part of where graffiti and street art comes from,” Ferrara said. “It’s people just doing art and expressing themselves in the way that they want to express themselves for the general public to enjoy.”

Anthony Westenberg, communications outreach at Evergreen, said that they use art to remind people about the nature that surrounds us.

“Art is woven throughout the site and Faith was the newest chapter and the newest member of the family.”

Don Valley Art Club turns 65

Artists put their pieces on display at the fall art show

By **KAITLIN CLUBLEY**
The Observer

The transformation of a blank canvas to a creative work of art can be time-consuming and onerous — but the love of art can make it worthwhile.

The Don Valley Art Club, now in its 65th year, is having its annual fall art show through this weekend at the Papermill Gallery at the Todmorden Mills Heritage Site on Pottery Road.

More than 100 artists from the club have their art showcased so the public can see and purchase as well.

Manja Kircanski, an artist with the club, has always loved art. It has been her passion since childhood.

“I always loved to paint, but my parents told me you cannot live off of paint,” she said.

Kircanski, who took engineering in school, has a PhD in robotics and works as a full-time engineer. The only extra time she has is spent on painting.

“I only have three hours a week to do it and if I spend it doing something else I wouldn’t have time to paint and I love painting,” she said.

The Don Valley Art Club show co-ordinator, Vince Luong, said he got his artistic roots from his family.

“I used to be influenced at home from my grandfather,” Luong said. “He was a portrait painter.”

The art club has three shows throughout the year, including the fall show.

Luong, who has been a member of the club for two years, said the artist pieces showcased at Todmorden Mills are their newest creations.

“That is a key point in the show. We don’t have say old paintings or whatever, it’s always going to be the most recent work of art,” he said.

Artists made pieces using various types of paints and materials; however, Kircanski always finds her way to nature when creating art.

“Our white walls are not something that makes us happy, but to look into nature makes me happy,” Kircanski said.

“The white canvas gives you possibility to do anything so you express yourself. I like to transfer this beauty and positive energy from the nature to people and to bring that into their homes.”

For more information on the Don Valley Art Club and its fall show, visit the website at <http://www.donvalleyartclub.com>.



Kaitlin Clubley /// Observer

Artist Manja Kircanski is an engineer by day who “always loved to paint.” Her work is currently on display at the Papermill Gallery.

Sculptor focuses on politically inspired art

Artist was imprisoned, tortured in Iran for his political cartoons

By MARK CADIZ
The Observer

It was a rainy Saturday afternoon and operatic singing could be heard from Gabriel Tuna's art studio in East York.

Tuna is a humble man whose studio space is filled with tenor vocals, scattered paintings and unfinished clay sculptures.

Internationally recognized for his works, Tuna came to Canada in 2006 after being banned from his home country of Turkey.

The politically inspired artist has always been controversial. At the age of 17, he was imprisoned and tortured in Iran for drawing cartoons of opposition political parties. He was jailed in a small cell for seven years.

Ironically, it was in prison where he found his métier, creating sculptures out of the bread rations he was given.

David McClyment, co-ordinator of the fine arts program at Centennial College's East York campus, recog-



Mark Cadiz // Observer

Gabriel Tuna carves out his latest sculpture — a portrait of one of his students.

nizes Tuna's political and artistic gifts.

"He came here as a mature professional and spent 25 years in the Middle East as a professional sculptor,"

McClyment said. "He has a definite political edge where he was championing the left and fighting the good fight against tyranny."

Tuna is behind more than 100

works of art in Turkey depicting the former president and founder of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

"He was one of the greatest leaders

of the world. He changed the entire system from an empire to a republic and moved the country forward," Tuna said.

As a recent fine arts graduate, Tuna has come a long way from his early days as an artist in the Middle East.

Florian Jalot, sculpting professor at Centennial College, is a friend of Tuna's and knows that Tuna has depth in his artwork.

"I think when you are an artist who comes from a region with a lot of injustices and political instability, like Gabriel did, then there is a difference in your art and it shows in his works," Jalot said.

Tuna, who never shies away from conflict, advocates for peace. He said he is very thankful for Canada, and added that he thinks other countries should follow the principles of Canada and learn to respect other cultures and religions.

"I feel good here. I'm free, I was able to finish my studies and now I'm doing my art," he said.



To see more of Tuna's work, go to <http://www.ruhi-tuna.com>

Faces inspire sketches

By TAMAR ATIK
The Observer

Artist Michael Tsouras loves faces. So he started *Common Scribbles* in 2010 when he first attended Centennial College's East York campus.

The collection of more than 1,100 sketches of Torontonians' faces have been gathered from various public locations, like cafes and even subway stops across the city.

Tsouras, 40, said he likes two "be on the down-low." He also works fast, completing the cafe drawings in about 10 minutes and the subway ones within two to four stops before his subject gets off.

This summer, he said, his plan has been "to do some landscape stuff as well in a sketch-

book, and I'm going to compile them in a book."

He explained how he started out: "Originally, it was the stuff of a project. I would mostly look at how to draw someone as quickly as I could using a contour line and to test my visual skills and it just kind of evolved into this ongoing project."

His tools? A fine-tip felt marker, a grey marker and a brush with an ink cartridge in it.

"I could study faces for a while," Tsouras said. "Sometimes I get really weird looks on the subway — 'Why is this person staring at me?' kind of thing. But I'm always looking at 'How do I express that line in a pencil or a pen? How do I translate that?'"

"To me, cities are

kind of weird places," he continued. "On one level, we're surrounded by plastic landscapes; there's hardly any nature involved. The only thing we have that associates our connection to it are trees and faces and even that's changing. People are changing their faces like mad nowadays; they're looking less human... and there's nothing more fascinating than a human face."

Tsouras continues to work with David McClyment, who runs the fine arts program at Centennial's East York campus.

"I remember my first meeting with Michael very well," McClyment said. "I could tell within five seconds, on a selfish level, that I wanted him in the program. But that's selfish for me; I wanted him for his energy and his thought."

Some of Tsouras' *Common Scribbles* pieces are incomplete because either someone got in the way, the subject got off the train or Tsouras himself had to get off — but then he prefers to leave the sketches like that. He said there's something special about knowing that's as far as he'll ever get on drawing that specific face.

"There isn't one (face) that goes by that I don't want to draw."



Joanne Kaileh // Observer

Andrew Lindell's latest exhibition is on display in the "Corridor Gallery" of Centennial College's East York campus through this Sunday, Sept. 29.

Artist uses found materials

By JOANNE KAILEH
The Observer

After coming home from his day job and putting his kids to bed, Andrew Lindell heads to his garage and gets to work.

A scenic carpenter by day, the East York resident spends his evenings producing art.

"I don't work (on art) during the day because I have a profession," he said. "My first priority is my kids and my house, so I go out after that's all finished."

Lindell, 53, is a contemporary artist whose latest exhibition, *Curve 2*, is on display in the Corridor Gallery, upstairs at Centennial College's East York campus, 951 Carlaw Ave. The show is open to the public, but it closes this Sunday, Sept. 29.

He creates art through previously used found materials and combines them into three-dimensional sculptures. Each piece is a symbol that has a deep meaning and tells a personal story to the viewer.

"It doesn't make a huge environmental impact," he said. "It's more the symbolism of taking something that would be cast away and then reusing it."

Despite being exposed to art from an early

age, Lindell didn't start creating his own until he was in an industrial accident over 10 years ago. He was off work for six months, which gave him the opportunity to focus on art.

"When I was younger, I remembered that Evel Knievel — he was a stuntman," he said. "Whenever he was injured, he would paint and do art, so I thought I'd try and do some pieces myself."

After creating enough work, Lindell had his first exhibition, called *Curve 1*, at Gallery 1313. While it was a success, he decided to take time off from his art to focus on his family and personal life. And now, 10 years later, Lindell is back to what he enjoys doing.

David McClyment, co-ordinator of the fine arts program at Centennial College, believes Lindell is making a comeback.

"He hadn't shown in a long time," McClyment said. "His art is almost like a paradox. On the one hand, I like the colour and the rhythm and the texture. I like the freedom, almost the naivety in terms of producing those shapes. On the other hand, and this is where the paradox comes, they're exquisitely crafted."

While Lindell draws from his personal experiences of living in the Canadian Arctic and his family, he hopes his art can speak to others in a positive way.



Tamar Atik // Observer

Artist Michael Tsouras has done 1,100 sketches of Torontonians' faces.

EDITORIALS

Libraries get digital

Hard copy books, magazines and newspapers just don't cut it for the Millennial Generation

The new BiblioTech digital library in Bexar County, Texas, could raise some interesting questions for libraries in East York and throughout the Toronto Public Library system — about how these branches will evolve with the digital world and increasingly tech-savvy patrons.

The idea of an all-digital library may leave some people uneasy, but we can't escape the fact the generation of the digital age is taking advantage of progressively digitized literature

With mediums such as magazines and newspapers, we are already seeing the trend of declining hard copy sales and the rise of digital editions.

East York's S. Walter Stewart public library, along with the rest of the Toronto Public Library system, has begun to conform to the demand of digital material.

The system offers a celebrated collection of free online magazine titles and eBooks, but yet, they still fill the shelves with hard copy books.

Of course, it is the Millennial Generation that is the primary audience for digital materials. In a fast-paced world where generation Y needs information this second, hard copy books, magazines and newspapers just won't cut it.

All reading material needs to be accessible from everywhere, because frankly, many people don't even have the time to go down to the library to get the information they need.

Digital reading material is the way of the future and even for those who are not as tech-savvy as the younglings, there is another advantage to the idea of digital editions, or at least a digital library.

From an environmental standpoint, think of the extraordinary amount of paper that has been used to generate the thousands of books in each of the library branches in East York.

An all-digital library would erase the need for print editions of books and magazines, therefore erasing the amount of paper wasted on hard copy reading material. Those trees could be saved.

It is understandable many readers enjoy actually holding a book in their hands and not looking blankly into a computer screen.

But with new technologies in portable e-readers, people can have the traditional reading experience without the traditional reading material.

~ James Tessier

Give residents a voice

Neighbourhood opinions an important part of projects like the proposed condo in Leaside

A proposed condo in Leaside has initiated hot debate, with the fate of a seven-storey, 78-unit project at 2 Laird Dr. now awaiting an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) decision.

City planning staff have recommended the project as "suitable" for the area. But opposition, including Leaside's community council, the Leaside Property Owners' Association and individual residents, fear it will negatively impact the neighbourhood, and are considering hiring independent planners to represent them at the OMB meeting.

They argue the building would be out of context in an area considered to be an important entry point for Leaside, and that while some nearby properties have been converted to condos, none are more than five storeys high.

Regardless of which side you are on, well-planned buildings and neighbourhoods are essential to the development of a city. As a result, initiatives such as the Laird condo project demand conversation before final decisions are made by those with the power to carry them out.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's "global livability study," Toronto stands fourth among the world's 10 best cities to live in. If the city wants to enhance or at least retain this position, steps must be taken to ensure that development unfolds thoughtfully, with local input and best practices applied.

~ Amirul Islam

COLUMNS

Pet health plan? Purrfect!

I was walking my dog one day recently and I realized he will soon be turning one (actually, today is his birthday) — and with that first birthday he will soon need his annual shots and check-up.

As a pet owner of three — two cats and a dog — and as a student, these annual shots start to put a demand on my pocketbook.

I know they are necessary and will ensure my animals are protected, but they can be quite burdensome, especially if you are like me and have more than one pet.

In any case, as the day approaches where I will have to make that annual appointment, I thought to myself there should be a system like OHIP. Only for pets. Some sort of government-funded program that would cover basic and regular shots like the rabies vaccine and puppy/kitten boosters.

Having a program like this, I feel, would save pet-owners a pretty penny.

Vet bills can add up and by no means does the cost of these shots ever deter me

from taking my pets to the vet to get them done — but it would be nice if shots like rabies could be covered, especially since rabies can also affect humans.

Now I know there are private insurance plans that pet-owners can subscribe to for a monthly cost, but even then not all plans may cover the price of annual shots. They tend to stick with only covering that of emergency situations.

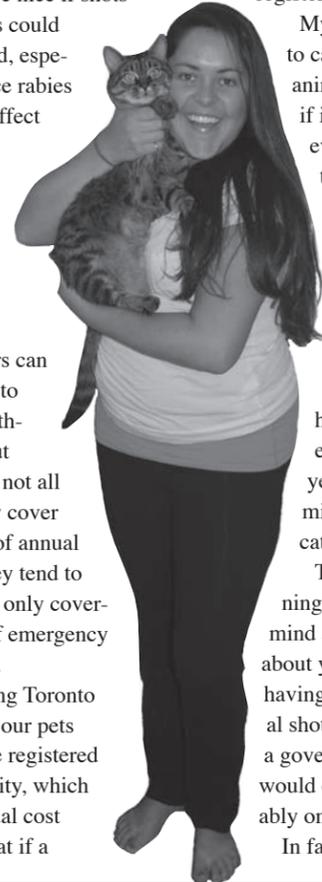
So, being Toronto residents, our pets need to be registered with the city, which is an annual cost to us. What if a portion of that money went into a

funded program that covered those basic shots for those registered pets?

My family likes to call me the crazy animal lady, because if it was up to me, every time I went to the local PetSmart I would come home with another cat (My parents would not be impressed) Mind you, my house is furry enough with a year-old Lab-collie mix and two tabby cats.

This is just me running ideas through my mind and I don't know about you, but for me, having those basic annual shots covered through a government program would ease up considerably on my wallet.

In fact, it would free up money that I could use for pet toys and treats.



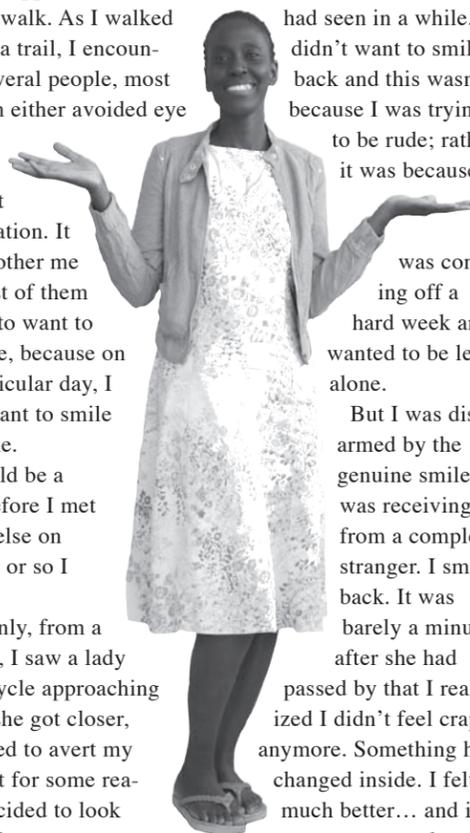
Madolyn MacCallum

The power of a smile

It was a rather warm evening, but I was feeling crappy. I decided to go for a walk. As I walked through a trail, I encountered several people, most of whom either avoided eye contact or said hello out of obligation. It didn't bother me that most of them seemed to want to avoid me, because on this particular day, I didn't want to smile at anyone.

It would be a while before I met anyone else on the trail, or so I thought. Suddenly, from a distance, I saw a lady on a bicycle approaching me. As she got closer, I prepared to avert my eyes, but for some reason I decided to look at her. She was different from

all the people I met on the trail that night. She had one of the warmest smiles I had seen in a while. I didn't want to smile back and this wasn't because I was trying to be rude; rather, it was because I



Lucy Oeka

was coming off a hard week and wanted to be left alone.

But I was disarmed by the genuine smile I was receiving from a complete stranger. I smiled back. It was barely a minute after she had passed by that I realized I didn't feel crappy anymore. Something had changed inside. I felt so much better... and it

was because of her smile. Yes, 'it

was just a smile,' some might say, and 'what difference can that make?'

It can make a world of difference. I'm proof that some people can be transformed by 'just a smile'. You see, it is not just a smile; it is an act of kindness — and kindness goes a long way.

In a world where people face all sorts of challenges, you never know whose life you can impact by just a smile. It might be just a smile to you, but to someone else who needs it, it could mean someone cares and makes a world of difference.

So the next time you see someone, smile. It doesn't matter how they react. Sometimes people put up a front and it seems hopeless, but you never know what kind of a day they've had. You never know what difference you will make. The lady on the bicycle never knew the difference she made that day, but I did. Change your world, one smile at a time.



Sun Lingmeng /// Observer

Toronto-Danforth MP Craig Scott and local electoral reformers marched before their Sept. 19 meeting at Eastminster United Church on Danforth Avenue.

Toronto-Danforth MP pushes reform

Cont'd. from page 1

Scott presented the system by showing short explanatory videos of New Zealand's electoral system and the hypothetical 2011 election results that could have occurred under the NDP's proposal, which re-

vealed the NDP would have won fewer seats than it did in reality.

The audience kept raising questions regarding the proposal. Adam Smith, who was born and raised in Canada, thinks the country's current electoral system is imbalanced and outdated.

"It is not proportional. The percentage of popular votes can vastly differ from the percentage of seats in the House, which allows the power to be skewed or distorted," said Smith.

Jordan Grant is fully aware of the system used in New Zealand. He raised concern

over possible difficulties in implementing such a proposal.

"It is going to be difficult to achieve the consensus. I think neither the Tory nor the Liberal is very interested in it because the current system is giving them majority government," he said.

Author stresses Canada's role in war

By ALI RAZA
The Observer

Movies, television and video games have made the younger generation familiar with the Second World War. But one author visited East York last week to say that Canadians ought to know much more about their history.

Terry Reardon, author of *Winston Churchill and Mackenzie King, So Similar, So Different* presented his work at the East York Historical Society meeting at S. Walter Stewart library on Tuesday. He argued that the connection between the two men was formative for the development of the relationship between Canada and the United Kingdom.

"Mackenzie King is far better-known in Canada than he would be in the UK," Reardon said. "But it's not only about them; it's about the relationship between the two countries and how it changed. This guy (Mackenzie King) was responsible for a lot of the changes."

Reardon's interest in these two men began long before he decided to write the book on them.

"When I came over here from England in 1968, I was fascinated by Canadian politics," he said. "John Turner, he impressed me more than anyone else. He was losing the election (for the Liberal leadership) but stayed until the end."

The book started as an article for a magazine called *Finest Hour*. Reardon wrote the article and the response was quite positive.

"The Churchill Centre gave it the award for best article of the year," he said. "I looked around and no one had written on these two men, so I decided to write it."

As an unknown author, Reardon met with challenges as he tried to get his book published. Two publishers rejected him until he got his break.

"They said, 'Why should I buy a book from a guy I've never heard of?'" he said. "So that was the reason I got John Turner to write the foreword. Everyone's heard of him, so that helped."

According to Reardon, it's a shame that history is an optional subject in most schools.

He believes that Canadians should understand their country — and appropriately quotes Churchill:

"If you want to understand the future, look at the past," he said, adding, "I think we should appreciate what's happened, what these two men did and more importantly what Canada did in the



Ali Raza /// Observer

Author Terry Reardon presents his new book and lectures about Canada-U.K. relations during the Second World War.

Second World War."

"Those men and women gave their lives," said Pancheta Barnett, the vice-president of the historical society. "This is what the East York Historical Society is about and our members have increased."

With Remembrance Day a little more than a month away, Reardon's book couldn't have arrived at a more appropriate time. He said his foray into history is for the purpose of educating Canadians.

"The major reason why I wrote this book was to set out the enormous sacrifice made by Canada in the war," Reardon said, and added: "All Canadians, and especially the younger generation, should know that the standard of living and the freedom we enjoy are much to the courage and commitment of this prior generation."

'Bookmarks' marry truth and fiction

By VIDA KORHANI
The Observer

Miranda Hill's stroll around a neighbourhood 14 years ago sparked an idea that created a national project.

And the first emblem of that project stands on the Bloor Viaduct, at East York's southwest corner. But more are popping up across the country.

"When I was out walking through the communities, over a period of time I found that I was walking through the scenes of the books I was reading," Hill said.

The story she was reading became more exciting to her, because she was in the landscape of the fictional characters she read about. The actual scenery even began to interest her.

"So I thought, 'Wouldn't it be great that everybody could have this experience?'" she said.

So in 2007, Hill became the founder and executive director of Project Bookmark Canada. Project Bookmark Canada is a charitable organization that places excerpts from fictional stories and poems in the location where the literary scenes take place. They do this by creating a "bookmark," a 500-word passage lifted from a novel and placed onto a plaque.

"It brings the story to the landscape and it brings the people to the story."

The literature must also be fictional and published in book form.

"We already have a number of wonderful commemorative and placing projects associated with history of a space and with what is a geographic and geological significance of a location," she said, "but what we don't have is something that looks at an imaginative vision of a space — and that's what Project Bookmark Canada's mandate is."

After putting together a board of directors and receiving charitable status in April 2009, Project Bookmark Canada's first bookmark was created. A passage from the novel *In the Skin of the Lion* by Michael Ondaatje was placed on the Bloor Street Viaduct.

"*In the Skin of the Lion* was one of the stories that originally inspired Bookmark," she said. "It was one of the things that I was reading while I was walking through those landscapes so it made a lot of sense that way to me to make a tribute to the thing that has inspired the whole project."

"It is also an iconic Toronto book. People from Toronto, around the country and around the world associate the city in that book," she continued. Now, Project Bookmark Canada has 13 installations across the country.

"We have a vision of a network of sites and stories so people could read their way right across the country," she said. "But each individual piece has to be fundraised for."

People from across the country can get involved by recommending passages with scenes set in their own communities through Project Bookmark Canada's website and Facebook page.

"I think really what we could build is something that's unique in the world — something that people associate with, our land and our literature."



Vida Korhani /// Observer

The Bloor Street Viaduct plaque was the first in Toronto.



Joie Ann Merana /// Observer

Councillor Janet Davis and friend enjoy the opening of the off-leash area at East York's Stan Wadlow Park, near Cosburn and Woodbine avenues.

It's the 'leash' they could do for dogs

By JOIE ANN MERANA
The Observer

Rain couldn't dampen the spirits of dogs or dog



owners last Saturday, Sept. 21, at the opening of the Stan Wadlow Park official off-leash area.

"It's great. We have a place to go at night when we're walking and it's fabulous," said Joanne Bailey, an area resident and dog owner. "We let them off the leash and it's safe and quiet."

The launch had canines and their owners running around with excitement.

Big Bernese mountain dogs and small pugs alike wagged

their tails and played in the mud.

"A tired, muddy dog is a happy dog. And these dogs are going to be tired and muddy by the end of this party," Bailey said.

Ward 31/Beaches-East York Councillor Janet Davis knew residents had anxiously awaited the off-leash park.

"In this community, there are many people with dogs," she said. "When we found this space, we worked with the East York Baseball Association, other users of the park (and) the soccer parks as well. We wanted to make sure it fit

in with the other users in the park."

Volunteers from the East York Dog Walkers Association are involved in ensuring that the new park will be well maintained. Pat Stephens, a volunteer with the EYDWA, has been a dog walker for 20 years. She is more than willing to act as a steward for the park, ensuring people are 'stooping and scooping,' cleaning up after their dogs and tidying the park as needed.

"To make sure that we don't have any problems, we have three people who also

walk their dogs and live in the area," Stephens said. "We all kind of take the temperature of the area, and (focus) on some of the hot-button issues."

The opening of the off-leash park needed to be planned in accordance with City of Toronto policies.

"At first we thought we had found a place near here, but the guidelines of the city said it had to be 200 metres separation distance minimum from residential homes," Davis said. "If an off-leash park is too close to homes, there's just too much conflict."

Dog owners walking their pets in Stan Wadlow Park can expect some additional changes in the future.

"We need to provide some shade and we're looking to find some source of water, as well as lighting and some stairs eventually," Davis said. "I think City of Toronto's policy that encourages these kinds of facilities across the city is a very good policy. I think this dog park at Stan Wadlow Park demonstrates this. Both the dogs and the owners love it. I am very pleased to be a part of making it happen."

Horst Herget: The man behind the portrait

By AROOJ YAQUB
The Observer

The photographer plants his feet wide apart, throws the curtain over his head and under that black cape, he peers through the lens. He can't mess this up; it's his last shot at getting the perfect image.

In a moment he will capture a moment in time.

Horst Herget is a 41-year-old corporate photographer during the week and while he knows that photography takes a technological leap practically every day, he has spent his weekends over the last three years throwing himself into the past by taking on a craft from the 1860s: Tintype or wet plate

photography.

"Tintype is a good counter-measure to regular.... It's not digital and there's no Photoshop," Herget said. "You're not taking hundreds of images.... This makes it a much slower, tangible process."

Herget explained that in tintype, the shutter can be open as long as five seconds, and thus the picture is literally being taken in motion. So the resulting picture looks softer.

The dated technology of tintype won't allow Herget to take more than two shots per portrait in each session. But ironically, it is this that unearths his inspiration. Herget explained that he en-

joys being boxed in with old technology because he feels almost juxtaposed: Being backed into a corner, having no more than one or two shots, he has to pick exactly the moment he needs that will achieve his most desired shot.

"Some people say, 'That doesn't look like me,' or 'I've never seen myself in that way,' but eventually they warm up to it a little bit," Herget said. "It's important to keep that [imperfect] human air about the photo."

He added the tintype method requires development on the spot, which only gives him a window of a few seconds to complete each step in the process.

Each chemical used is homemade, including sandarac gum kernels that originate from the Sandarac tree in Africa, which he has to specially order. Interestingly, some fellow craftspeople use potassium cyanide — a chemical that's been used in poison gas.

Herget refuses to use that, as he has little ones at home.

"Most of all, I learned that I enjoy sharing the process with other people," he said. "Instead of telling them to try this pose or that one, I have two shots per session so I really get to know them in that time."

For more of Herget's work, you can visit his website at

Arooj Yaqub /// Observer

Photographer Horst Herget sits in Crema Café, where his portraits of Danforth neighbourhood faces are hung as part of the decor.

get.com/.

His work is currently part of the Face to Place exhibit at the Market Gallery of St.

Lawrence Market that will go on until Oct. 19. It features various faces of people from the Danforth.