

YORKU

FALL 2013

The Hole Story

Urban historian Jay Young digs deep into TTC history

PLUS

Can apes read minds?
Fleas in our lakes!
Field full of robots



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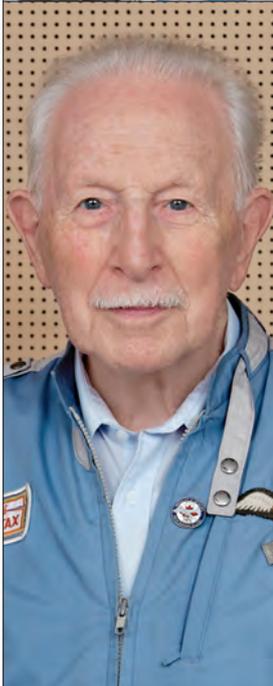
YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY



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PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT DUE TO BUDGET CONSTRAINTS, *YorkU* magazine will now be printed and distributed two times a year, in the fall and spring of each year. *YorkU* magazine will continue to be available in digital form on the York University website at digital.yorku.ca. The winter edition of *YorkU* magazine will be made available to readers as a digital edition only. It will not be printed or distributed to readers.

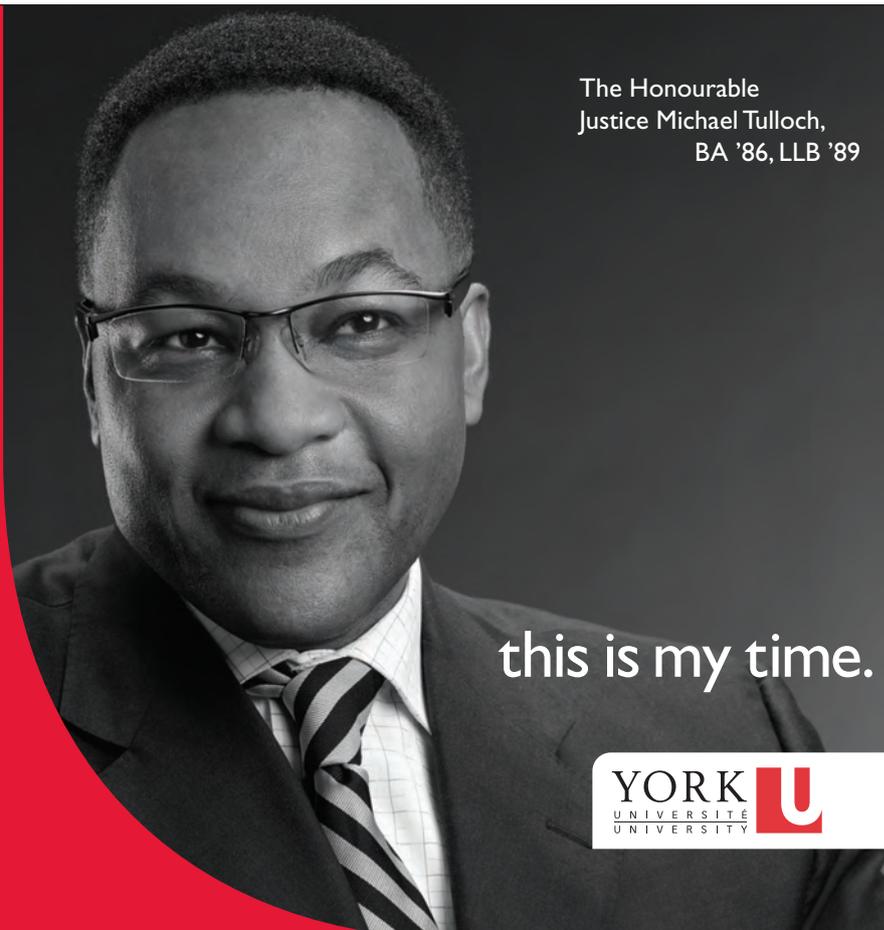
FALL 2013

From the halls of Osgoode to Canada's halls of justice.

Michael is a Judge of the Court of Appeal for Ontario and former member of the Superior Court of Justice. He is the first black judge to be appointed to an appellate court in Ontario.

yorku.ca/mytime

The Honourable
Justice Michael Tulloch,
BA '86, LLB '89



this is my time.



YORKU



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President

This is your time

BY MAMDOUH SHOUKRI

It has been a rewarding summer at York, as our academic programs and talented faculty, staff and students continue to be recognized. The University's leadership in sustainability was honoured by Ontario's Minister of the Environment with an Award for Environmental Excellence. As part of our commitment to improving access, mobility and flexibility for post-secondary students, York joined with Ryerson to launch the Ryerson-York Exchange, a new online platform that allows students to enrol in degree-credit courses at either institution. The Kellogg-Schulich Executive MBA program at the Schulich School of Business was ranked first in the world by *The Economist* in July. This fall, Schulich is launching the York Entrepreneurship Development Institute on our Keele campus and a new MBA program in Hyderabad, India. Our Lassonde School of Engineering is breaking ground on its extraordinary new home – a 169,000-sq.-ft., five-storey structure with an innovative design to reflect the dynamic vision of



This is your time – your

the school.

Our York campuses are bustling with activity this fall, but in the quiet moments between meetings and events, my thoughts turn to the upcoming academic year and how we can continue our important work enriching lives, societies and economies, here at home and around the world.

York's mission to create and share knowledge, to push boundaries and cultivate critical thinking, is both our *raison d'être* and a call to action. As one of Canada's leading teaching and research universities, we are challenged to understand and improve the human condition, to engage in scholarship and inquiry that will have a real-world impact, and to make others' lives better. In doing so, we make our own lives matter. I recall something my father said to me at a very early age: Do good things, don't expect anything in return and your reward will be great.

As president, I plan to focus this year on three areas:

Mamdouh Shoukri is York's president and vice-chancellor

building a more innovative York by advancing the University's influential role in driving research and innovation excellence in Canada and internationally; creating a stronger York by sharing our story about what makes this such a special place to learn, teach and work; and fostering a more unified and engaged York

by supporting our commitment to academic freedom, social responsibility and world-class education for our students.

I look forward to welcoming the York community to an exciting weekend of homecoming activities this month and visiting with our New York City

alumni in October. As we anticipate the arrival of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension and the completion of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Athletics Stadium on campus, it is clear that York truly is a university on the move.

In this moment of dramatic change at York and in higher education, this is an opportune time to explore our strengths and aims, to engage our global community of alumni, friends and partners, and to reaffirm our deep commitment to academic and social innovation.

My message to the York community is simple: This is your time – your time to try new things, take risks, make mistakes and make a difference. Every day, in every field, we at York are redefining excellence. I look forward to the coming year and to working together to ensure that York continues to lead, to serve, to grow and to shine. ■

Universe



Labour of Love

A new CD preserves historic and contemporary Canadian fiddle and accordion recordings by some of the country's best players

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

P

ERHAPS IT'S NO SURPRISE that York ethnomusicologist and fine arts Professor Sherry Johnson's latest labour of love is a two-CD collection (and a thoroughly researched 156-page booklet) called *Bellows & Bows: Historic Recordings of Traditional Fiddle & Accordion Music from Across Canada*.

Johnson has been immersed in the folk music tradition at a personal level since childhood. She grew up travelling across Canada with her five siblings, step dancing and playing the fiddle – a champion step dancer in her own right, and one of her brothers was a top Canadian fiddle player.

In 2006, Johnson received her PhD from York, writing about issues of tradition within the Ontario step-dancing contest community, and she now teaches music courses at York, including the Canadian Celtic Music Ensemble, which incorporates learning traditional dance steps with fiddle playing. “I don't think you can play dance music – which this music is – without knowing how to [dance],” says Johnson.

The two CDs contain a collection of 65 tracks from renowned fiddlers and accordion players from across Canada, including all three territories in addition to each of the provinces. In all, the CD includes a total of two hours and 25 minutes of music from more than 55 fiddlers and 22 accordion players. The CD offers a mix of historic and contemporary tunes, and includes rare archival (and now out of print) recordings that span nearly 70 years (1929 to 1997). The CD and booklet were produced with some financial contributions from Folkways Alive – the Canadian branch of the non-profit record label Smithsonian Folkways – and York's Faculty of Fine Arts.

For fiddling aficionados, some of the gems on the album include the first known recording of “Red River Jig” (Winnipeg, 1940) and the use of a *tautirut* – an Inuit fiddle with only one to three strings (instead of the usual four).

The booklet includes an overview of the social and historical contexts for the music in different regions, including detailed maps, tune notes, musician biographies and archival photographs.

Johnson says fiddle and accordion traditions have enjoyed a long life in Canada among early settlers from the continent and in Inuit, Métis and First Nations societies that made their own

instruments. They've enjoyed a renaissance in more recent immigrant communities as well, she says. “I think it's fair to say that the folk music tradition – especially fiddle and accordion – served in the past as a kind of common language to bind Canada's diverse populations together. That's not true anymore, of course,” says Johnson. “But, more often than not, subtleties of style and approach have been used to mark distinct ethnic identities through highly personal musical expression. This project's focus is on players who are not the ‘stars’ but deserve to be known. So this collection tries to highlight both similarities and differences, rather than only differences, as many other regional overviews do.”

The project came about after Johnson received a call in 2007 from Beverley Diamond, a Canada Research Chair in Traditional Music at Memorial University and director of Memorial's Research Centre for the Study of Music, Media and Place (MMaP), who asked her to produce the project. “It was just too great an opportunity to turn down,” says Johnson. “And so it became my main research focus for the next five years.”

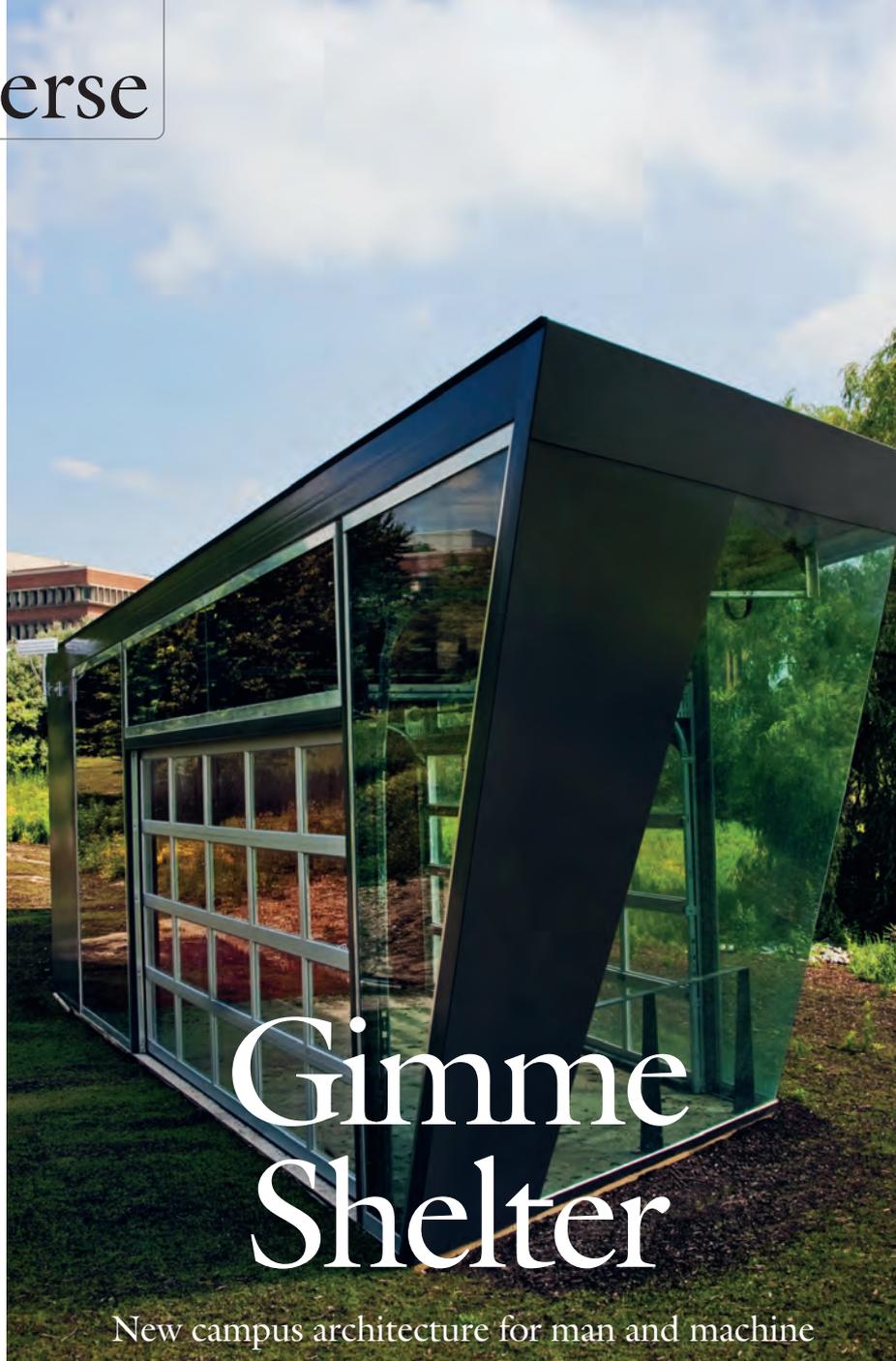
Bellows and Bows is the sixth CD in MMaP's archival CD series. “Surprisingly, there are few digitized archives of Canadian traditional music that are accessible to a general audience and showcase a wide variety of Canadian music in one site,” says Johnson.

Was one of the hardest parts about a project like this who to include and who to leave out? “Absolutely,” says Johnson, “as well as meeting everyone's expectations. Of course people have their favourite musicians whom they think should be included. It's always a dilemma.

“The other big challenge was coordinating so many contributors. I led a team of researchers, consultants, student research assistants, a studio engineer, a graphic designer, a cartographer and editors. It has been a truly collaborative project – which is very rewarding, but it also takes a lot of time.”

When she's not in the classroom, Johnson is still active in Ontario's fiddle and step-dance community as a performer, teacher, accompanist (piano) and judge. To hear her interviewed on CBC's “Weekend Arts Magazine”, visit: cbc.ca/wam/episodes/2012/11/03/wam-nov-3-4-bellows-and-bows ■

SHERRY JOHNSON (LEFT): Fit as a fiddle



Gimme Shelter

New campus architecture for man and machine

JUST IN TIME for the Canadian Field Robotics Network's 2013 field trials held in April, York installed two site-specific robot pavilions at the Keele campus – one located near Stong Pond and the other west of Calumet College. The futuristic glass and steel rhomboid-shaped structures provided secure shelter for the air, land and water robots that were run through their paces by researchers and their commercial partners at the annual event.

The modular pavilions were equipped with roll-top garage doors and were wired to provide a stable power source for recharging robot batteries. They were intentionally placed within range of AirYork Wi-Fi so operators could use their laptop computers to monitor and control their robots, whether they were skimming in the pond or clambering over the campus terrain.

Built with funds from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, in support of York computer science Professor Michael Jenkin's robotics research, the "green" storage structures were made of mostly recycled, locally sourced steel. To minimize waste and construction disruption around the sites, the modules were prefabricated in a factory in Grimsby, Ont., says Patrick Saavedra, York's manager of planning & architectural design services, who led the design team on this project.

When the robots return to Jenkin's lab, the Calumet pavilion will serve as a weather-proof drop-off and pick-up shelter, since it is easily accessible by cars. The Stong Pond pavilion can also be repurposed as a lookout, picnic shelter or just a quiet place to sit and chat, check e-mail and watch York's growing population of Canada geese. ■

IF YOU'VE SEEN YORK GRAD Natasha Ramsahai providing weather forecasts (she is currently on Citytv and was previously with CBC Television), that's one of York's higher profile meteorology graduates, says Gary Klaassen, atmospheric scientist and professor in York's Department of Earth & Space Science & Engineering.

Ramsahai is just one of a number of former York graduates who are now on the air with various media outlets, from CBC to the Weather Network, not to mention the many others who work behind the scenes crunching weather data or preparing forecasts for television and radio networks or Environment Canada.

York is unique in that it is the only university in Ontario to offer specialized programs in meteorological sciences at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Klaassen says that's because about 30 years ago Environment Canada was suffering from a shortage of qualified applicants who had a thorough background in atmospheric science, so the organization encouraged universities across the country to consider developing meteorological programs to address the problem.

Is there any difference between the terms "atmospheric science" and "meteorology" per se? "Same thing," says Klaassen.

"The term 'meteorology' comes from Aristotle's *Meteorologica*, which means 'study of things up in the sky'. Raindrops can be thought of as hydrometeors, in fact, but that's not the same as 'meteor showers', since those are rocks."

York's meteorological studies programs are currently enjoying increased interest due to the weather and the forecasting being popularized by the Weather Channel and the Discovery Channel's television series "Storm Chasers".

Some years York gets as many as 150 people applying to the programs, but Klaassen says the numbers are quickly whittled down, since many high school applicants just don't have the requisite math and physics background.

"Sometimes people think being a meteorologist is just chasing big storms and taking pictures of them, but meteorology is a lot more complicated than that. To be able to completely understand the atmosphere, you need to be strong in math, physics and chemistry. But I think the study of weather and our atmosphere will always remain popular because it's all around us all the time and it's a common theme in our daily activities and lives. It's also something everyone can, and does, talk about. ■



Head in the Clouds

Today's weather: brought to you by a lot of York grads

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOFIE KIRK



In the Media

Top of Their Class

Whether because of increased student demand or new hiring strategies among employers, business schools are paying greater attention to environmental issues....Until recently, the Washington-based Aspen Institute published a comprehensive MBA ranking focused on social and environmental impact. The ranking, which Aspen stopped compiling in March, listed York University's Schulich School of Business in Toronto as one of the top five.

– *New York Times*, March 26

Intern Shmintern

“You won't find the word 'intern' in our employment laws at all. It's an industry term. There seems to be a widely held belief that an employer avoids our basic employment law rules simply by labelling someone an intern. That's wrong.”

– DAVID DOOREY, York University professor
of employment and labour law,
Toronto Star, March 5

Critical Thinking

Understanding how we, and other great apes, understand our world

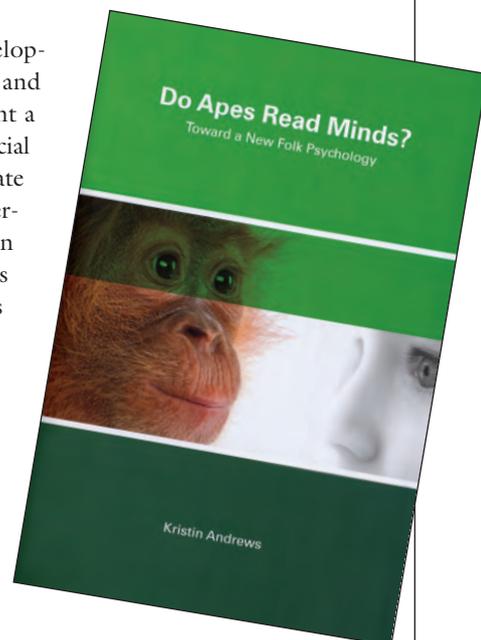
IN OUR DAILY INTERACTIONS with other people – driving down the street, meeting up for lunch, coordinating child care, delegating work – we rely on a common-sense understanding of how minds work, which we can call “folk psychology”, says York philosophy Professor Kristin Andrews. We develop this folk psychology through infancy and early childhood, but it continues to grow and change as we reach adulthood, as we get better at making predictions of what others are likely to do, and better at explaining behaviour.

Andrews wonders what it is that accounts for our amazing abilities to readily understand other people. She says the traditional answer is that humans have an innate ability that may be unique to our species – we can read minds. She says it's not like a mentalist reads minds but, rather, we can interpret people's behaviour as being caused by hidden beliefs and desires. By carefully watching others, we are able to figure out others' hidden mental states and then apply a theory of behaviour to determine what the person is likely to do next.

In her new book, *Do Apes Read Minds? Toward a New Folk Psychology*, Andrews challenges this common view, arguing that we don't see other humans as bags of skin filled with hidden beliefs. Instead, we view each other as fully fleshed-out, complex individuals with histories, social contexts, personalities, moods, emotions and so forth. She draws on extensive research from

social psychology, developmental psychology and animal cognition to paint a rich picture of human social cognition and demonstrate how we solve our interpersonal predictive tasks in much the same way as other apes (such as orangutans and chimpanzees) solve theirs.

Andrews says it turns out we are more like the other apes than we previously thought. While humans have the ability to read minds, we don't need to do it very often to predict behaviour – rather, we do it to explain behaviour. She believes the evolution of this skill coincided with the evolution of morality. Whether the other apes try to explain behaviour, and hence whether they think about others' thoughts or what others should do, remains an open research question. ■



Armor All

Does the water flea's decline mean serious problems for Canada's lakes?

AS A CHILD, chances are your parents nagged you to “drink your milk”. That’s because, with its high concentration of calcium, milk is the perfect bone builder. Less than optimum calcium intake at an early age is almost certain to create health problems later on in life. Well, it’s not much different for *Daphnia galeata*, a.k.a. the water flea (pictured), except that it wears its skeleton on the outside.

York biology Professor Norman Yan and his colleagues from Buffalo State College have shown that low calcium levels in small organisms such as water fleas, which live in Canada’s freshwater lakes, can leave them defenceless. Yan studied the effect of changes in water chemistry on plankton prey defences, specifically examining how lower calcium concentrations affect *Daphnia*’s exoskeleton, which protects it against its enemies. Yan says calcium is a critical element for the water flea and many other crustaceans – the reason being, when calcium levels drop, their exoskeletons become softer and less spiny, making them easy prey.

Calcium levels in the lakes within the Canadian Shield region have fallen by 25 per cent due to decades of acid rain, multiple logging cycles and climate change, says Yan. “What is happening to *Daphnia*, a crusty animal, may also be affecting other calcium-rich animals such as mollusks and

crayfish.[...]Calcium decline may prevent prey from building their normally effective defences against their predators,” he says.

Daphnia form pointy bits on their backs, often referred to as “neck teeth”, to protect them from being ingested once captured by the “phantom midge”, or *Chaoborus*, their most common predator. “Our research shows that along with these

neck teeth, the animals lose two other effective defences,” says Yan. “They can’t make their carapace [the upper section of their exoskeleton] more rigid – the normal response to detecting predators – at low calcium levels. And they can’t outgrow their predator.”

Normally, when a mother *Daphnia* carrying her brood detects a predator, her babies are born bigger and grow faster.

Why worry about the fate of *Daphnia* and other lake plankton? Yan says there are about eight species of water fleas in Ontario and they are our lakes’ principal herbivores. They serve as a natural source of fish food, but also help keep lakes clean by eating the free-floating algae that colour our lake waters. A decline in *Daphnia* means fewer fish and, possibly, “gunkier” lakes.

“At the end of the day, our research shows it isn’t enough to look just at the direct effects of lower [calcium] levels. The indirect effects operating through changes in predator-prey interactions are also important,” concludes Yan. ■



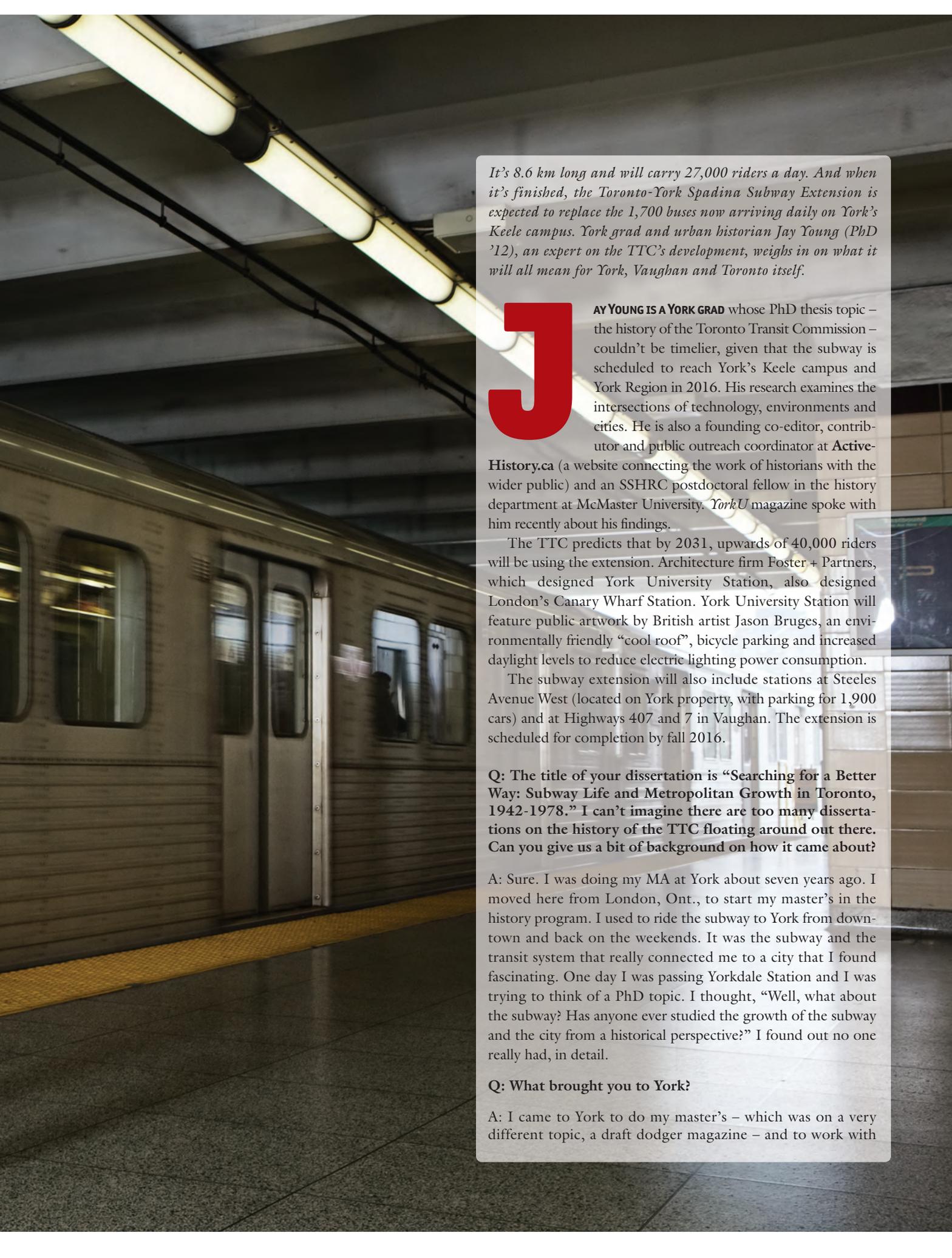


Jay Young wrote the book on TTC history

The Hole Story

BY MICHAEL TODD ● PHOTOGRAPHY BY KC ARMSTRONG





It's 8.6 km long and will carry 27,000 riders a day. And when it's finished, the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension is expected to replace the 1,700 buses now arriving daily on York's Keele campus. York grad and urban historian Jay Young (PhD '12), an expert on the TTC's development, weighs in on what it will all mean for York, Vaughan and Toronto itself.

J

AY YOUNG IS A YORK GRAD whose PhD thesis topic – the history of the Toronto Transit Commission – couldn't be timelier, given that the subway is scheduled to reach York's Keele campus and York Region in 2016. His research examines the intersections of technology, environments and cities. He is also a founding co-editor, contributor and public outreach coordinator at **Active-**

History.ca (a website connecting the work of historians with the wider public) and an SSHRC postdoctoral fellow in the history department at McMaster University. *YorkU* magazine spoke with him recently about his findings.

The TTC predicts that by 2031, upwards of 40,000 riders will be using the extension. Architecture firm Foster + Partners, which designed York University Station, also designed London's Canary Wharf Station. York University Station will feature public artwork by British artist Jason Bruges, an environmentally friendly "cool roof", bicycle parking and increased daylight levels to reduce electric lighting power consumption.

The subway extension will also include stations at Steeles Avenue West (located on York property, with parking for 1,900 cars) and at Highways 407 and 7 in Vaughan. The extension is scheduled for completion by fall 2016.

Q: The title of your dissertation is "Searching for a Better Way: Subway Life and Metropolitan Growth in Toronto, 1942-1978." I can't imagine there are too many dissertations on the history of the TTC floating around out there. Can you give us a bit of background on how it came about?

A: Sure. I was doing my MA at York about seven years ago. I moved here from London, Ont., to start my master's in the history program. I used to ride the subway to York from downtown and back on the weekends. It was the subway and the transit system that really connected me to a city that I found fascinating. One day I was passing Yorkdale Station and I was trying to think of a PhD topic. I thought, "Well, what about the subway? Has anyone ever studied the growth of the subway and the city from a historical perspective?" I found out no one really had, in detail.

Q: What brought you to York?

A: I came to York to do my master's – which was on a very different topic, a draft dodger magazine – and to work with



Marcel Martel, a professor of Canadian history. During my master's I took a course with Marlene Shore, another history professor. Like Martel, she was amazing, and she eventually became my thesis supervisor. It was a great match.

Q: Have you always been interested in the TTC?

A: No. I think it's more of an interest in the city. I wouldn't call

myself a "transit nerd", not that it would be an insult, but I'm more interested in urbanization, urbanism and how cities grow and transform. I could have studied expressways or housing instead, and their impact on city transformation. Interestingly, Toronto was the first city in North America, aside from Cleveland, to start building a new subway system after the Second World War (WWII). So when a historian hears a fact like that, they ask, "Why? What explains that?"

Q: What's the central idea behind your study?

A: Understanding the growth of the subway system and the different meanings people gave the system as it grew. Also, how the subway is a symbol and a microcosm of the transformation of Toronto from the '40s to the '70s.

Q: What are some of the more interesting facts you found as you were writing?

A: One interesting fact is that the original Yonge line really would not have been built if not for WWII and the power of the TTC in Toronto at the time. In 1945, the war was coming to an end and the TTC had been pushing a rapid transit plan for Toronto: [a subway line] from Eglinton to Union Station and a line along Queen Street. The TTC went to city council for contributions to finance it – wanting 20 per cent from the city for capital costs and the TTC would pay the rest, but the city refused. During the war the TTC had extremely high ridership because of gas rationing, so the TTC had huge revenues and it had accumulated this massive cash reserve. It wasn't until the federal government suggested it might provide 20 per cent of capital costs (though it never did) that city council agreed to support it and allowed a public referendum on the subway. People voted for the subway nine to one. And I guess the cliché is "the rest is history", as they say.

So if it wasn't for WWII – which allowed the TTC to build up all this revenue – who knows if we would have a subway system like we do today? It's amazing to realize that the original Yonge line was essentially paid for through the fares of riders. Post-WWII Toronto was headed into the age of the automobile. We'd begun to build expressways, so things could have turned out very differently.

Q: What was the first subway section to be built?

A: The Eglinton to Union section opened in 1954. And there were snide jokes at the time that it was built for the rich. But I would say that although the affluent people in Toronto were huge beneficiaries of it, buses and streetcars were also feeding into the system so it benefitted many people. However, I think the Bloor-Danforth line probably created more social equity because it passed through lower income neighbourhoods.

Q: Do you think your work is particularly timely given the expansion of the subway to York's Keele campus and into York Region?

A: I didn't pick the topic with the idea in mind that in the next 10 years the newspapers were going to be filled with stories about how to build the system we need. But it's interesting that when Torontonians hear about what I've researched, they are indeed interested in my topic because it relates to them. I think that it's definitely timely in the sense that understanding how the system came about may help us make decisions about what we might want going forward.

Q: What can past dynamics around public transit in Toronto teach us about how we might proceed?

A: That's a fascinating question. I think the value of history in any sense is in realizing that things haven't always been this way. Also, understanding the different dynamics that were there from the '40s to the '70s, and that we weren't always dealing with a 416/905 [area code] split. There's the difference of the past – it is like a foreign country. But at the same time, there are many similarities between then and today, for instance, the technological debate or the question of where the money is going to come from. I would say Toronto does have a legacy of success in terms of building transit solutions, and we should keep that in mind as Metrolinx embarks on its regional transportation plan. ■

Due to Construction

Pictures of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension

1. Operations in progress: Locomotive hauling muck inside the tunnel
2. Worker assembling the concrete ring segments inside the tunnel
3. North wall of the structural excavation for the future York University Station
4. South view of the excavation site for the future Black Creek Pioneer Village Station (formerly named Steeles West Station)



Piece of the Puzzle



Trying to demystify one of psychology's most elusive developmental disorders: autism

BY MICHAEL TODD ● PHOTOGRAPHY BY MCKENZIE JAMES

IF, LAST YEAR, you read the *Toronto Star's* in-depth series about autism, you could be forgiven for coming away with the strong impression that Canada has a full-blown autism epidemic on its hands. However, some experts believe these reported increases in autism may reflect those who have always been among us but have gone undiagnosed up to now, rather than representing a growing number of people affected by the disorder. No one is 100 per cent certain. To get a clearer picture of the issues surrounding autism, including what it is, what it isn't and whether or not the increase in numbers is cause for alarm, *YorkU* talked to three experts who are all members of the York Autism Research Alliance (YARA) who have been studying the disorder for, in some cases, decades.

Autism is now recognized as one of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the world. Indeed, in the past forty years diagnoses have increased tenfold. In 1977, only one in 2,500 people were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), while in 2009, one in 106 people were. Interestingly, of those being diagnosed, males are four times as likely as females to have ASD. The numbers vary, but the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently published research findings that one in 88 children – and one in 54 boys – is diagnosed with ASD. The Toronto District School Board now estimates that close to 3,000 students are on the autism spectrum, while the Durham District School Board puts its number at one in 75.

York psychology Professor Jonathan Weiss, past chair of YARA and holder of the Chair in Autism Spectrum Disorders Treatment and Care Research, says autism is like an umbrella encompassing a spectrum of difficulties or impairments. In other words, there is no single presentation of autism; the disorder can vary in severity from individual to individual – while some autistic children may have only mild impairment, others can have serious obstacles.

The autism spectrum of disorders is characterized by impairments in communication and social interaction, and stereotyped or repetitive behaviours (often rocking or hand flapping).

People with autism frequently have unusual responses to others, attachments to objects and can be resistant to change in their routines. Aggressive and/or self-injurious behaviour is sometimes associated with ASD, and thinking and behaving flexibly is often an issue.

In addition, people with ASD can be mentally challenged. In contrast to intellectual disability alone, which is characterized by relatively even skill development, people with ASD show uneven skill development. The milder end of the spectrum includes Asperger's syndrome, but those with the Asperger's are usually high functioning (compared to many others with ASD).

In toddlers, possible signs of ASD include not responding to name, not pointing at objects to show interest and not wanting to cuddle, hug or make eye contact. Because the disorder is so wide ranging, so too are the symptoms, says York psychologist and autism expert James Bebko (also a member of YARA). "It would be better to talk about the autisms, rather than autism, singular; since both the causes and responses to treatments are so varied, it seems unlikely to be a single disorder."

YORK ESTABLISHED YARA several years before the news of increasing autism rates was being reported widely in mainstream media. Weiss, whose work focuses on the mental health issues surrounding ASD, says there was an early recognition, within York's senior administration and within the Faculty of Health, that the University had a critical mass of people from various disciplines working on different aspects of the autism puzzle – from the genetic level in the lab to people like York psychology Professor Adrienne Perry, who is studying, among other things, the effectiveness of intensive behavioural therapy as the treatment of choice for children with ASD.

"We call it the bench to clinic approach," says Weiss, speaking of the breadth of YARA's expertise. "We've got people doing research at the cellular level and all the way to clinical/applied. The primary purpose of YARA was to get researchers to talk together and let each other know what they were doing."

ADRIENNE PERRY (LEFT): ASD has suffered a lot of media hoopla



JAMES BEBKO: York autism research pioneer

According to Weiss, the timing of YARA couldn't have been better. "ASD is now on the public's radar and it's been on the government's for some time," says Weiss. "Stakeholders are now asking for knowledge transfer in research, meaning they really want to see how what we learn in the lab can be applied to understanding and helping people with ASD and their families."

Recently, YARA held an open house for service providers from around the Greater Toronto Area to come and learn about the things it was doing. "It was mostly targeted towards social services, health and education professionals," says Weiss. "The idea of knowledge mobilization/transfer was uppermost in our minds and we had overwhelmingly positive feedback. The

outside stakeholders we invited were very impressed with the cutting-edge research on autism that was being done here at York, and we're hoping they can be part of our future research. We're looking at developing formal partnerships as our studies around autism progress, and thinking about how our research can benefit them as professionals and care providers."

The existence and formation of YARA stands in stark contrast to the landscape 30 years ago, says Bebko, whose research focusses on how children with ASD don't seem to be able to combine visual and auditory cues – an important skill needed in interpersonal relations and to assess a person's emotional state while watching and listening to someone talking.

"When I was hired in 1984, there was no one doing autism



JONATHAN WEISS: People with ASD need our ongoing support

work at York at all,” says Bebko. “And where I worked before as a graduate student, we’d done a quick survey to see how many courses were being taught on autism at Canadian universities around that time and the answer was zero. So one of the first things I did when I got here was propose a course around autism and developmental disabilities. My goal was to try and increase that capacity here, so it’s nice to see that within our department that has now come about.”

ON THE REASONS FOR THE DRAMATIC RISE in autism and Asperger’s diagnoses, Bebko is cautious. Not all odd behaviour necessarily predicates a problem, he says. “Often behaviour that might deviate a bit from the norm might just be social anxiety dis-

order or mere eccentricity. So, in some sense, if the person is mostly comfortable with the things in his or her life and can function, why even call something like Asperger’s a disorder? Where it becomes problematic is when a person’s behaviour makes the individual, or those around the individual, uncomfortable.”

Bebko says on the one hand, public consciousness about Asperger’s and autism is a good thing. On the other, physicians and people on the edges of the health-care field who haven’t been properly trained may be over diagnosing. “Often people make judgments based on one psychological testing scale or instrument. But it takes a lot of training to know how to administer those and interpret the results. Nevertheless, the fact

that parents are seeking expert advice about their children's behaviour early on is good. We know that early intervention is key in treating ASD. I don't think I've ever seen a child who doesn't improve through treatment. The longer you wait the less effective the treatments will be."

Perry says she thinks the recent media hoopla over ASD is the result of growing pressure from multiple sources, especially parental pressure on government. "In Ontario there's just more going on, especially around the intensive behavioural intervention program, which is part of my research. Has it become the 'disorder of the decade'? Yes, it has, in the same way that I think [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder] was last decade," says Perry.

"I don't like to talk about [the recent rise in ASD coverage] as an epidemic," says Weiss. "That makes it sound like it has an illness-based connotation when, in fact, what we are seeing is the result of a tremendous amount of improvement in education and training around child mental health and child development."

Weiss says in the old days of psychiatry, decades ago, those with autism were often institutionalized in homes for people with intellectual disabilities – or worse. In fact, it wasn't uncommon for individuals with severe autistic behaviours to be housed with people who were mentally ill, or put in jail indefinitely. Children along the autism spectrum were often labelled as "childhood schizophrenics". Now, he says, with the advent of autism being a spectrum of disorders, we are seeing more reported cases. "We don't know if there are increased causes of autism or what the causes are, but we do know that over the past 20 years there have been incredible advances in training and measurement of ASD, and awareness of its various presentations. And I think that's why we're seeing different, or higher, rates now."

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC TRIGGERS or risk factors that are known to cause autism? Answer: no. "Even though we have decades of research behind us, autism's actual causes remain a mystery," says Weiss. However, researchers agree that there is a need to

"The outside stakeholders we invited were very impressed with the cutting-edge research on autism that was being done here at York, and we're hoping they can be part of our future research."

understand both the genetic and environmental contributions to the disorder.

"Researchers now concede there appears to be a range of environmental and genetic contributions to autism," says Weiss. "Many genes have been implicated, not just a single gene. And I think we now understand that it's not solely one contribution. We suspect it may also have something to do with how certain genes interact with the environment but, again, no one quite knows how it works."

ASD is now considered a neurodevelopmental disorder, meaning it is a brain-based disorder that is developmental across a person's life. It has a pervasive impact on people's lives in terms of social functioning, independence and how they engage with others. "Because of this, the expression of ASD varies across

every individual, and that's what makes it such a challenge," says Weiss.

But at the end of the day, it was the challenges and mysteries of how best to help people with ASD that drew Weiss and others in YARA into studying the disorder in the first place. "Navigating social situations can be very difficult for people with ASD. They have to work hard in unstructured situations, but many are able to live fulfilling lives, advocate for themselves and provide for themselves. But they need our ongoing research and support." ■

Learn More About Autism

Top websites our experts recommend:

autism-society.org
autism-resources.com
autismontario.com



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Air Born

Lou Wise got the flying bug at 13. He was still in the cockpit 77 years later

BY MARTHA TANCOCK ● PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

TWO YEARS AGO, Lou Wise (BA '71) turned 90 and was still taking aerial photographs of Ontario's rivers, lakes and wetlands. He'd spent three decades – most of his retirement – shooting thousands of slides for conservation authorities, piloting his Piper Cherokee with his left hand and aiming his camera with his right through an opening in the cockpit window. From 1,000 feet up, he was doing his bit to record – and protect – the province's most precious resource.

Thirty years ago, Wise wasn't familiar with the word "conservation". A chance meeting with naturalist Charles Sauriol soon made him a convert to the cause. Now 92, Wise still gives illustrated talks about Ontario's watersheds, especially the Oak Ridges Moraine, to any group that asks. The meandering rivers, marshes and kettle lakes not only sustain animals, plants, birds and humans, "they are just beautiful," says Wise, who donated 3,000 slides of 160 wetlands to the York University Archives six years ago.

Wise became hooked on flying as a boy. In the 1930s, his father, as *maitre d'* in the Royal York Hotel's Imperial Room, came to know Jack Austin, founder of a northern bush plane company. Austin would fly to Toronto on business a couple of times a year and one day he invited the elder Wise for a spin in his floatplane. "My father said, 'I would like that, if we can take my son.'" Wise never forgot the thrill of flying over downtown Toronto as a young boy and taking off and landing in the harbour.

That memorable experience triggered a lifelong passion for flying. In Grade 8, the 13-year-old who dreamed of a future in aviation enrolled in the aircraft course at Toronto's Central Technical School. Unfortunately, there were no jobs in the aircraft industry when he graduated in June 1939. So when Canada went to war the following September, he signed up. For three years, he was assigned as ground crew with a fighter squadron at bases across Canada and in Alaska. By the time he finally earned his wings, the war was almost over. He never saw action.

Wise has always owned a camera. After the war, he combined his passion for aviation with his interest in photography. He worked at Avro Canada as manager of the photography and motion picture department until the Canadian government axed production of the company's state-of-the-art fighter aircraft, the Avro Arrow. Then, he ran the media resources department for the Toronto Board of Education.

In 1964, the intellectually restless father of two was one of the first to enrol in evening courses offered by York's new Atkinson College. He could work full-time while earning a degree part-time. Seven and a half years later, at 50, Wise graduated with a bachelor of arts in English, and would have done so sooner if York hadn't insisted on taking just one course at a time. "I enjoyed the sense of togetherness of a group of adult people going back to school to get a degree," he says.

Meanwhile, the weekend pilot was renting planes and taking aerial photographs for his own amusement. "Photography gave me a reason to go flying," he says. "You can only go to Peterborough for lunch so many times." In 1978, he bought his first plane and one day decided to photograph all the bridges that spanned the Don River. Maybe, he thought, he could sell them to *Toronto Life* or a major newspaper. At the library, he came across *Remembering the Don* by Sauriol and arranged to show the author his pictures. Sauriol, then executive director of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), instantly decided he could use aerial photography in conservation work and pressed Wise to come work for him.

Wise started freelancing for the NCC and conservation authorities in 1980 and continued after he retired in 1984. He would methodically criss-cross rivers from mouth to source, then track their tributaries, circle the marshes and kettle lakes. He set the focal point on his camera at infinity and clicked. "I didn't need to focus. All I had to do was look through the viewfinder," he says.

Busiest from 1988 to 1990, Wise took more than 3,000 colour slides of about 200 Class 1 wetlands from Cornwall west to Windsor, Ont., north to Muskoka and along the Ottawa River. He is proud of his contribution to the work of conservation authorities: "I truly believe, just in terms of quantity, I've done more of the low-level oblique aerial photography than anyone has ever done at any time in the past."

Wise did more than document the state of Ontario's precious watersheds. He became an advocate for treasuring and protecting them for future generations. In the past, he says, swamps, bogs and marshes were something to get rid of. "Every time I speak to a group, I say, this is what we must do. And we must teach our children that this is what we must do," says Wise. "Let the water do as it will, as nature intended. Don't bury streams and make them into sewers. Don't build close to the shore. Stand back from the water. Stand back." It's a powerful mantra. ■





Gold Standards

Coach Dan Church is grooming Canada's women's ice hockey team for the top medal at Sochi

BY MARTHA TANCOCK
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK



LAST MAY, Dan Church and his bride Regan were on their way to Wasaga Beach, Ont., when he got a call on his Bluetooth. It was Hockey Canada's Chief Operating Officer Scott Smith. "Hi, Dan. Scott here. I want to let you know we want you to coach the women's team," Smith said. The team he was referring to was the Canadian Olympic women's ice hockey team – and this was a big deal. Church didn't holler, lay rubber or lean on the horn. He simply carried on driving. "What was that about?" asked Regan from the passenger seat.

"I was expecting a call, just not so early," remembers the quiet, understated Church, who has been head coach of York's women's hockey team since 2004. For two years, he and about six others were in consideration for the job coaching the Canadian women's team that's heading to the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, next February. He didn't have a clue what his chances were, but he was hoping for good news. When it came, "it was gratifying. This is something I've been working towards for 10 years – to put myself in the picture, to be considered," he says.

While working full-time at York, Church earned the highest coaching certification and also freelanced as head coach of Canada's national women's team at various levels of international competition – bringing home a string of gold medals. A month before he got *the* call, he had led Canada's senior women's team to its first world championship gold medal in five years, against the reigning champions, the United States.

Expectations were high for the new coach of the Olympic team. "Last year was a tough grind," admits Church. He was juggling two teams – the York Lions and Canada's senior women's team. When the US recaptured the world title from the Canadians this year, nobody was more disappointed than Church. But out of the defeat came a steely resolve. In July, he and the national team started training in Calgary, now more determined than ever to defend their Olympic gold at Sochi.

A natural athlete, Church excelled at hockey and golf from a young age. He enrolled at the University of Toronto to play varsity hockey but had to give up that dream when he seriously injured his leg. After earning a degree in political science and history, the A-student started competing on the Canadian Professional Golf Association circuit (he still has a zero handicap). He would probably be managing a golf club now if a friend hadn't asked him to coach an atom hockey team.

Church loved coaching and eagerly accepted his next invitation – to coach defence for the Newtonbrook Panthers. Sud-

denly, he was working with "amazing, top-level talent" at the provincial level – former members of the Pink Jerseys, who competed at the first International Ice Hockey Federation World Women's Championship in 1990 and would go on to compete at the Olympics. The University of Toronto Varsity Blues coach Karen Hughes soon noticed the rookie coach, and when she asked him to be her assistant, he dropped his plans for a golf career.

"Hockey has always been my first love," says Church, whose father took him to his first game at Maple Leaf Gardens when he was six. Even though it didn't pay, here was a chance to learn first-hand from "one of the best coaches in the world." Over the next seven years, Church helped steer the Varsity Blues to one national and three provincial championships. York came knocking in 2004.

Church arrived at York brimming with confidence. "I thought I could turn the program around in a year because of my knowledge of the Xs and Os." Then, to his dismay, his team posted one win, 19 losses and two ties in his first season. "That first year was a great lesson," he remembers. "I found out coaching is also about building strong relationships with the athletes." The Lions did much better after that, ranking seventh in Canada in 2009 and advancing to the Ontario semifinals for the first time in 2012.

Coaching is like teaching, says Church. Male players may respond well to intimidation, but female players want to know why they should do something, he says. Effective coaches set consistent expectations and rules, and then help players do their best. At university, athletes evolve. "In first year, they can feel overwhelmed by the demands of school and training, so you're trying to point them in the right direction." (He can relate. He did poorly in his first year at university.) "As they mature, you need to find new ways to relate to them, to help them achieve their goals."

Doing well in school matters more for female hockey players than for males, he says, because they don't have a professional league to advance to.

While his assistant Jen Rawson subs for him at York, Church focuses on grooming Canada's women's ice hockey team to win gold again in Sochi. Then what? "A lot of people think the next step is pro hockey," Church says. "In pro hockey you're hired to be fired." Instead, he wants to return to York. "I really like the positive impact I can have on young people. My goal is to guide the Lions to a national championship and help them become one of the best teams in the country." ■



Larger Than Life

How York's new brand campaign hit the streets and the big screen – big time

BY MICHAEL TODD

THERE'S THAT SAYING IN ADVERTISING CIRCLES, “go big or go home”, and this past year York has definitely done the former. As part of its efforts to convey how a York U education equips students to contribute to and thrive in the world, the University unveiled a compelling, award-winning advertising and marketing campaign last September, titled “This is my time”. The campaign was designed to take York in an entirely new direction by positioning it as distinct from other universities. Ultimately, the goal was to increase the number of top students making York their first choice university.

The campaign featured a series of student testimonials, showing the exceptional ambition and commitment York students have to becoming future global citizens. It also made a strong statement about how a York degree will help students achieve their goals by exposing them to new ideas, challenges and opportunities that will lead them to think bigger, more broadly and in a more global way. The campaign's student headlines are actually first-person testimonials – but with a twist. They are future visions, based on the promise of great accomplishments that the students' York degrees prepared them for. The campaign's approach allowed York to highlight its unique and innovative programs through the voices of its own students.

In other words, the ads tell prospective students that a York education – combined with their personal drive and passion – will get them where they want to go.

In addition to the bold, inspirational photography and striking design, what made York's creative approach unique was the fact that the advertising didn't focus on what these students are doing right now, but rather how they plan to use their York degree to make an impact on the world in the future.

Focused primarily in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) – York and Peel regions, Toronto and Barrie – the advertising ran on the big screen in movie theatres, in university ranking publications and social media, and on bus exteriors, digital mall posters and online, as well as being integrated into York's booth at the Ontario Universities' Fair. In addition, an innovative contest was created with MuchMusic, asking future students to tweet their visions for the future for a chance to win one year's tuition at York.

In fact, the contest winner, Sossina Tilahun from London, Ont., just began the first year of her bachelor of fine arts degree in York's Department of Film. Her vision was to use her film training to help make education accessible to girls in developing countries. She heard about the contest through social media and was shortlisted from more than 800 entries. Current students also had their chance to win free tuition for a year by entering their

visions on York's student portal, which drew nearly 3,500 entries.

On the Keele and Glendon campuses, the campaign became larger than life as building wraps and giant posters appeared both inside and outside of Vari Hall, around the Campus Walk and Scott Library, on York shuttle buses and on the yorku.ca home page.

"Some early markers of success include whether or not our target audience saw the ads, if they resonated and whether or not the ads told them something they didn't already know about York," said Susan Webb, York's chief communications and marketing officer. "Quantitative research showed that parents and prospective students alike find the visions inspiring,

The faculty-focused advertising features thought-provoking headlines demonstrating that York professors are global thought leaders in their respective fields. The ads highlight the great achievements of York professors so students and parents realize they are not only highly regarded academics but also educators that will have a significant influence on the student learning experience.

This year, the campaign will continue to focus on the GTA and will use an innovative mix of advertising media to reach potential students. A new and important addition to the campaign will be specialty television advertising, as well as additional outdoor signs and flags on campus. A new microsite has

Dr. Roger Pulwarty,
Physical Scientist,
US National Oceanic
and Atmospheric
Administration
BSc '86

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prized
education
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on the Intergovernmental
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(IPCC) has swayed world
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group, my
intermodal
system spurs
unprecedented
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Your future starts
at York, with leading
programs like those in
our Schulich School of
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this is my time.

Roy Fain,
Accounting & Marketing,
Schulich School of Business, 2015

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believable and helpful in understanding what York U is all about. All signs indicate that the campaign is working."

Due to its success, the campaign is returning this fall with some exciting new elements. In addition to including more new student visions, it has been expanded to also include alumni and faculty profiles. "The campaign goes full circle this year," said Webb. "We focus on students sharing their visions for the future, alumni who have achieved their visions and faculty who are helping to inspire vision in their students."

The impressive and diverse range of alumni being featured includes former astronaut Steve MacLean, bank CEO Rick Waugh, national news anchor Sandie Rinaldo and award-winning television and film writer for such hits as the "The Simpsons", Joel Cohen. This pillar of the campaign acknowledges the progress some of our most notable alumni have made, from getting a great education at York to making a profound impact in the real world.

launched, featuring the full roster of alumni, faculty and students involved in the campaign and giving users a flavour of campus life at York. There, future students will have the opportunity to enter a contest to win free tuition by providing their contact information to the recruitment office for potential follow-up.

Attracting top-quality undergraduate students is a major element of York's overall success as a postsecondary institution. Capitalizing on our strengths to positively shift perceptions – by linking professional excellence with a York degree – is one way the new branding campaign is helping to differentiate York from its competition and succeed at attracting the best and brightest students.

"York has so many strengths, acclaimed programs and professors, and points of excellence. This campaign will help to share this positive story," says Webb. "As we embark on year two – with quantitative research behind us – we are proud to show York as the progressive and innovative university it truly is." ■

Escape Artist

Kim Dorland grew up poor in Red Deer. Painting was his ticket out

BY MARTHA TANCOCK ● PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

KICKED OUT OF HOME AT 16, Kim Dorland (MFA '03) found refuge in the basement of his girlfriend's suburban home in Red Deer, Alta. Those were dark days, long ago – but rich fodder for the artist, now 39. Since he started producing pretty, neon-flecked paintings of alienated suburban youth killing time in parking lots and bleak woodlots eight years ago, his work has sold out at shows in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Calgary, Montreal, Toronto and Berlin, and has also landed in world-class private and public collections and the homes of wealthy art aficionados. Sometimes collectors just want to “hang out” in his studio, says the York grad. “All because I do this,” he says, waving a hand at giant half-finished canvases – sure to fetch at least \$25,000 each – on the wall in his rented warehouse work space in downtown Toronto.

It's hard to believe that this Canadian art star, this now happily married father of two, was once a listless, alienated Grade 10 dropout headed nowhere. But his destiny changed when he fell in love with classmate Lori Seymour and moved into her family home full of art books like Peter Mellen's *The Group of Seven*. He went on to finish high school with As.

One day while at work in a local hotel, a fellow porter was talking about going to art school and Dorland decided he'd do the same. He'd always had a knack for drawing but had never imagined art as a career. He borrowed his great-grandmother's paints and brushes, and started madly sketching landscapes and nudes. When he enrolled in art classes at college in Red Deer, he discovered he was blessed with talent.

“I grew up white trash and then I crashed the middle class,” says Dorland. “Art was my ticket out of the culture I grew up in. It gave me something to pour all my ambition into.”

Dorland went on to study at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver, and then headed with Seymour to Toronto and its bigger art market. In 2001, Dorland enrolled in a master of fine arts program at York. Going back to school gave him two luxurious years to experiment with style and technique.

A few years later, he began painting scenes about his coming of age in Red Deer and instantly knew what he wanted to do with his art. “I wanted to tell stories, my stories.”

Dorland works from photographs, found images and memory. At first glance, his streets and backyards, bungalows and trailers, Trans Ams and pickup trucks, swimming holes and

bonfires look familiar, even cheerful, edged in the artist's signature psychedelic greens and pinks. Then you notice teenagers fighting on the front lawn, passed out in parking lots or stoned in the woods. Dorland's “natural” world is hardly the pristine wilderness of his hero, Tom Thomson. In Dorland's work, ghostly green elks bump into half-tonne trucks, birch trees are gouged with profane graffiti, zombie sasquatches lurch from the woods and derelict cars rust in the bush. “There's a certain honesty and brutality about it all,” he says.

Next, Dorland explored portraiture. The results weren't pretty. His show “About A Girl” featured huge close-ups of a woman's face smeared with thick oil paint that looks pawed and punched. When viewers recoiled, he was stunned. “I don't see the violence. I think the paintings are tender,” he says. They are paint-made flesh of a loved one. They are of Seymour – his wife, muse and mother of their two boys.

Dorland applies paint so thick he has to anchor it with nails. It can take years to dry. Critics have called his work aggressive and visceral, and a Montreal gallery grouped him with other “extreme” artists who are as compelled by the material they work with as by the image they create. But Dorland resists any label. He's a loner. And he is mellowing.

In two recent shows – “I'm an Adult Now” and “Ghosts of You and Me” – he waves goodbye to youthful cynicism and embraces beauty. “Cynicism becomes very tiresome but beauty never does.” Because of his rootless and impoverished upbringing, there will always be a level of anxiety in his work, he says. But his latest works are layered and subtle, calm and poised, visions of nature and his family, and homages to Tom Thomson. “I'm getting better at making silence.”

These days Dorland is in a sweet spot personally and professionally. Twenty-three years ago, he had no family, no home and no prospects. Now he has all three. Last summer, he was artist-in-residence at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, a gallery reputed for its Group of Seven originals. Some days he hosts millionaire collectors who want to see where he works, but most days he's alone in his studio, preparing for the next show, truly grateful he can make a living as an artist.

“Before I found art, I had no sense of the future,” says Dorland. “I could have ended up in a dead-end job or even jail, not because I was violent but because I was thoughtless. Then I found this. It is all I wanted.” ■



Engineering Takes a Major Step

Breaking ground for the new Lassonde building



DIGGING IN: York breaks ground for the new engineering building scheduled to open in 2015

YORK UNIVERSITY TOOK A MAJOR STEP toward the construction of its new engineering building this summer when it broke ground on the innovative \$85-million project.

The new building will be home to the Lassonde School of Engineering. This is an important milestone in York's longstanding mission to broaden the academic programs available to students, while also supporting innovation and economic development by graduating entrepreneurial engineers with a social conscience and a sense of global citizenship.

The 169,000-sq.-ft., five-storey structure will open its doors in 2015, providing space for three engineering disciplines – electrical, civil and mechanical. Design workshops, project areas,

classrooms and laboratories will be included in the five floors of building. Special emphasis has been placed on social and public areas to encourage undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students to mix with faculty members and researchers.

The design of the engineering building, by Canadian architectural partnership ZAS Architects + Interiors, reflects the Lassonde School of Engineering's commitment to redefining engineering education. Conceived as a cloud, the building will appear to hover over the landscape.

York University is investing \$35 million in the project, including a recent \$5-million gift from Ignat Kaneff, chairman and CEO of the Kaneff Group of Companies. Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has invested \$50 million. ■

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Alumni

WHEN DAVINE BURTON (BA Spec. Hons. '96, JD '99) enrolled in York's kinesiology program in 1992, she intended to stay for just two years. But upon her arrival at York, rugby captured her heart.

There wasn't a women's rugby team at York in the early '90s, so she played on the men's team and became instrumental in the establishment of a women's varsity team. Still involved in rugby today, Burton helps raise funds for the Canadian Rugby Foundation, plays for the Toronto Scottish and Velox Valhallians, coaches high school teams, mentors and referees. She is thrilled that women's rugby will, for the first time, be included in the Pan Am Games when the international event is held at York and other Toronto-area venues in 2015.

"Having women's rugby at the games will give the sport a huge boost," Burton points out. "This will also encourage young players and raise the overall profile of the sport."

After becoming a mother to two boys in her teens, Burton trained as a nurse and dreamed of attending law school as soon as circumstances allowed. She completed her bachelor of arts degree in 1996 and went on to earn a degree from York's Osgoode Hall Law School in 1999.

Today, despite her various rugby involvements and family law practices in Ontario and British Columbia, she still finds time to take part in York's Adopt-a-Lion program, which supports student athletes, and encourages fellow alumni and old friends from her University days to get involved in mentoring and player development.

"It's really important to make a difference," she says. "I remember all too well the financial and other struggles I faced as a varsity athlete and I am thrilled to be able to give back to a program that gave so much to me. That is why I support and strongly advocate for the Adopt-a-Lion program. The students are truly thankful that someone cares."

For more information on the Adopt-a-Lion program, visit yorkulions.ca/adoptalion ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK



Davine Burton

In a league of her own

Class Notes

1975

Bhat, Jayashree Thatte (MSc) has been appointed to the Canadian Race Relations Foundation's Board of Directors. Bhat is a social worker, speaker, writer, teacher and musical performer, active in Canada, India and the US. She is founder of Mugdha, an organization dedicated to raising awareness of breast cancer in rural India. She is also founder and director of the School of Indian Languages and Performing Arts in Calgary, and a board member and teacher for the Calgary Immigrants Aid Society. Bhat studied chemistry at York and then completed doctoral studies in classical music. She is a lecturer in Indian musicology and area chief editor of Indian music at the City University of New York.

1979

Fujiwara, Denise (BFA Calumet), veteran choreographer, dancer and teacher, won the \$10,000 Muriel Sherrin Award for International Achievement in Dance at the annual Toronto Mayor's Arts Lunch in June. She is founder and artistic director of Fujiwara Dance Inventions and artistic director of CanAsian International Dance Festival.

1988

Rogal, Stan (MA) has published his 18th book of poetry, *Love's Not the*

Way To (BookLand Press, 2013). The book is a collection of urban haikus based on the life and works of American writer Richard Brautigan, who famously penned *Trout Fishing in America*.

1991

Morgenstern, Stephanie (MA) is co-creator of "Flashpoint", which ran for five seasons on CTV. She and Mark Ellis won the Showrunner Award for the series at the 17th annual Writers Guild of Canada Screenwriting Awards in April. The series is set in Toronto and based on emergency task force police officers. It also aired on CBS for three seasons.

1993

Klein, Alexis (BA Spec. Hons. Glendon) is chief marketing officer of Global Women Equity Corporation, which this year created the Global Women's Equity Fund. The fund, a first of its kind in Canada, is aimed at socially responsible investors who want to support companies that have made measurable commitments to supporting women.

2000

Kohli, Vikas (MBA Schulich), award-winning composer and music producer at FatLabs audio production studio, has scored several films that



2003: Jill Andrew

have recently won awards, been broadcast or been screened at film festivals. *Mallamall*, a feature documentary shot in India and Canada, was broadcast in May. *Rattan* picked up a Platinum Remi Award at the WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival and was screened at the Cannes International Film Festival. His feature documentary *Alias* had its world premiere at Toronto's Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival. Another film he worked on, *Words To Remember*, was screened at Cannes.

2003

Andrew, Jill (BA Hons. '02 Atkinson, BEd) is a motivational speaker, the award-winning writer of the "Last Word" lifestyle column in the *t.o.night* newspaper, and creator of Curvy Catwalk Fashion Fundraiser, Fat in the City: Monologues of Corpulent Proportions, and Bite Me! Toronto International Body Image Film & Arts Festival. She is a doctoral student in education at York and one of four national recipients this year

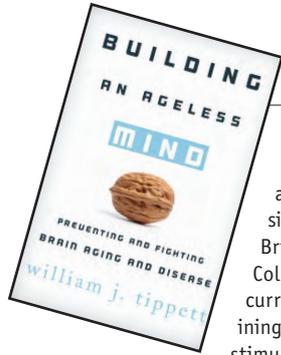
of a \$7,500 grant for postgraduate study from the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada. Andrew has starred in charity productions of *The Vag*na Monologues* and facilitates Bite Me! Monologues, a workshop for survivors of negative body esteem. She has received numerous awards, including the National Michele Landsberg Media & Social Activism Award, the Patrick Solomon Memorial Award in Urban Diversity, two Canadian Ethnic Media Association Awards for best column in *Metro Toronto* and the Endless Possibilities African-Canadian Women's Award. She is also the recipient of the 2012 Barbados Canadian Friendship Scholarship presented by York's Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean.

2006

Tippett, William (PhD) recently published a book, *Building an Ageless Mind Preventing and Fighting Brain Aging and Disease*. Tippett is an assistant professor and principal investigator, founder and director of



1993: Alexis Klein



the Brain Research Unit at the University of Northern British Columbia. He is currently examining how cognitive stimulation programs can change

the course of an illness for individuals experiencing dementia-related disturbances and stroke-related injury. He is an associate of the Centre for Stroke Recovery affiliated with Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

2007

Bertin, Catherine (BFA Spec. Hons '01, BEd Winters) starred in the Spotlight Musical Productions spring show, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, at the York Woods Library Theatre.

Forsberg, Elizabeth (MES) is managing director of Art Starts, a Toronto organization that engages youth in community arts projects. This year, it won the \$15,000 Arts for Youth Award at the Toronto Mayor's Arts Lunch. The organization is



2007: Catherine Bertin

known for painting public murals in inner-city neighbourhoods.

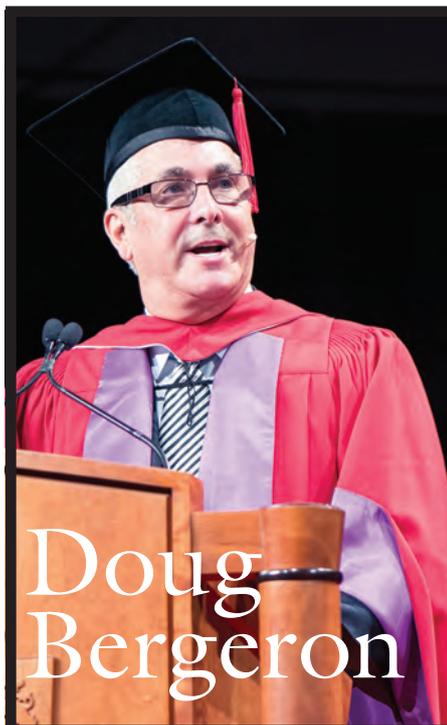
Mari, Joseph (BA Hons. McLaughlin) is teaming up with

former "Second City Television" cast members Tony Rosato and Robin Duke to make *Ciaolom*, a feature-length adaptation of his short film *Pizza Bagel*. After it premiered at

TIFF Bell Lightbox, *Pizza Bagel* was screened last spring at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival and the Cannes International Film Festival. Mari earned a degree in criminology and then launched Roulette Pictures, a Toronto-based film production company. *Pizza Bagel* and *Ciaolom* are both inspired by a partnership between two of Canada's largest Italian and Jewish community centres. *Ciaolom* will profile Mediterranean-style living in Canada and poke fun at cultural traditions and intercultural dating. It will also star York student Michael Pillarella.

2009

Janigan, Mary (MA) is currently working on her PhD in history at York. She won the 2013 J.W. Dafoe Book Prize for *Let the Eastern Bastards Freeze in the Dark: The West versus the Rest Since Confederation*, which examines the extended struggle between the West and Ottawa for control of the rich resources of western Canada. The Dafoe prize goes to the best book on Canada, Canadians or Canada's place in the world. Janigan's book also



York honours philanthropist, technology innovator and business executive

ON JUNE 10, YORK BESTOWED an honorary degree upon Douglas Bergeron (BA '83) for his philanthropy, technology innovation and business acumen.

Arguably one of the Lassonde School of Engineering's most successful alumni, Bergeron earned a degree in computer science in 1983. He later became a rising star in Silicon Valley, combining an innovative spirit with an understanding of technology to create profitable enterprises. The Windsor-born entrepreneur was the longtime head of Verifone, the world's largest supplier of electronic payment systems. His accolades include the 2007 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

A champion of higher education, Bergeron has established programs that promote women in technology, entrepreneurship and leadership, as well as science engineering and mathematics education. He recently endowed a professorship in neuroscience, in memory of his father who had multiple sclerosis.

Last year, Bergeron and his wife Sandra donated \$2 million to establish the Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science & Technology program at York. The new interdisciplinary program aims to give students the tools to translate science and technology innovations into business opportunities, as Bergeron has done. ■

Class Notes

2009: Mary Janigan



made the shortlist for this year's \$50,000 Donner Prize for best public policy book by a Canadian.

2010

Camenzuli, Adam (IBBA McLaughlin) has been living and

working in East Africa. He and a few other York alumni – Sameer Gulamani, Afzal Habib and Michael Stock – have launched Karibu Solar Power (karibusolar.com) to make solar energy and lighting affordable to millions of Africans. Solar energy is cheaper and less harmful to health and the environment than kerosene, now widely used in Africa. Karibu Solar Power was presented at Harvard University's Social Enterprise Conference and recently won the Edge Business Challenge, an international social business competition in Monaco.

2010: Andréa de Keijzer



2012: Raffi Sarkissian

de Keijzer, Andréa (BA Hons. Stong) recently performed an original piece, *Our Last Picture*, at the Harbourfront Centre. The choreographic experiment examined the moments before and after a photograph. In this dance cover of Esthel Vogrig's *Mi Ultima Foto*, de Keijzer challenged conventional notions of originality and authorship in the creation process.

2012

Ohanian, Daniel (BA Hons.) is working as the research director at the Sara Corning Centre for Genocide Education and pursuing a master's degree in history at York.

Sarkissian, Raffi (BA Hons. '06, MEd) is the founder and chair of the Sara Corning Centre for Genocide Education. The centre is named after a Nova Scotia nurse known for saving 5,000 Armenian orphans when Turkish troops set fire to the port city of Smyrna in 1922. The centre was established to conduct research on human rights and genocide-related issues. In addition, the centre helps to share the research with elementary and secondary school students and educators.

In Memoriam

Kormos, Peter (BA '75 Vanier, LLB

'78), former New Democratic Party MPP for Welland, Ont., and a provincial cabinet minister, died March 30. He was 60. Kormos was called to the bar in 1980. He practised criminal law, served on the Welland City Council and won a provincial byelection in 1988.



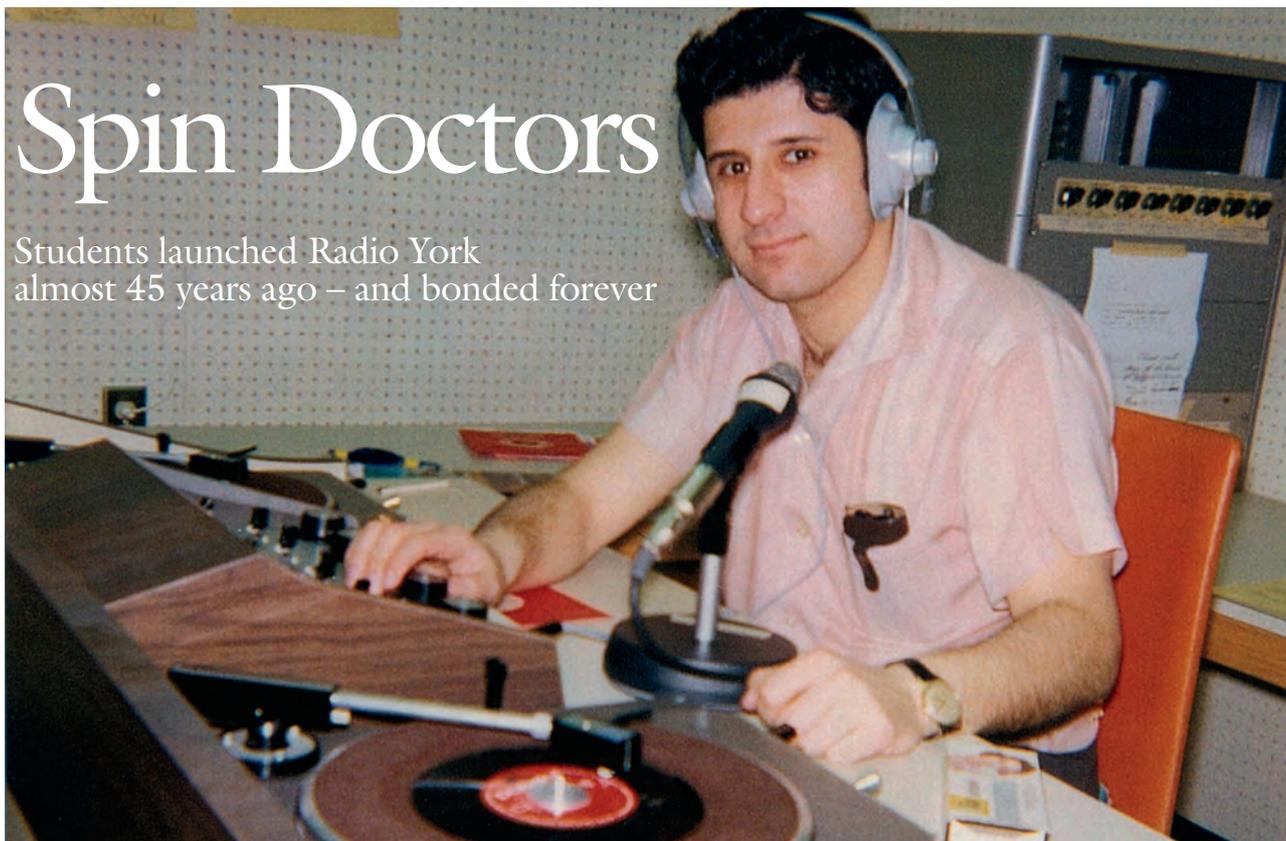
Peter Kormos

He was known as a principled, fiercely tenacious, down-to-earth champion of workers and the disadvantaged. He briefly served as minister of consumer and commercial relations under then-premier Bob Rae and later ran (unsuccessfully) for the provincial party leadership. He exited provincial politics in 2011, returned to law practice and won a seat on the Niagara Regional Council in 2012.

Alumni News

Spin Doctors

Students launched Radio York almost 45 years ago – and bonded forever



LARRY ANKLEWICZ: Radio York's first programming director

FOR THE STUDENTS who launched York's first radio station on Feb. 10, 1969, Radio York was the beginning of a thrilling collective experiment that defined their experience at York. It led some into undreamed-of careers and forged lifelong bonds. A core group has held annual reunions for more than 40 years – arguably longer than any other group of York alumni – and plans to celebrate Radio York's 45th anniversary in February.

The closed-circuit campus station started as a glint in the eye of Bob Wolfe (BA '74). In the fall of 1968, the first-year history student lobbied student and college councils for a campus station. They gave him \$3,500 to buy turntables, microphones, a control console and speakers. Word spread and soon dozens of eager volunteers signed up. Within three months, Radio York was on the air, piped through speakers into hallways, junior common rooms and coffee bars. "Everything came together really fast," says Frances Handelman (BA '73), a theatre student who volunteered to do the typing.

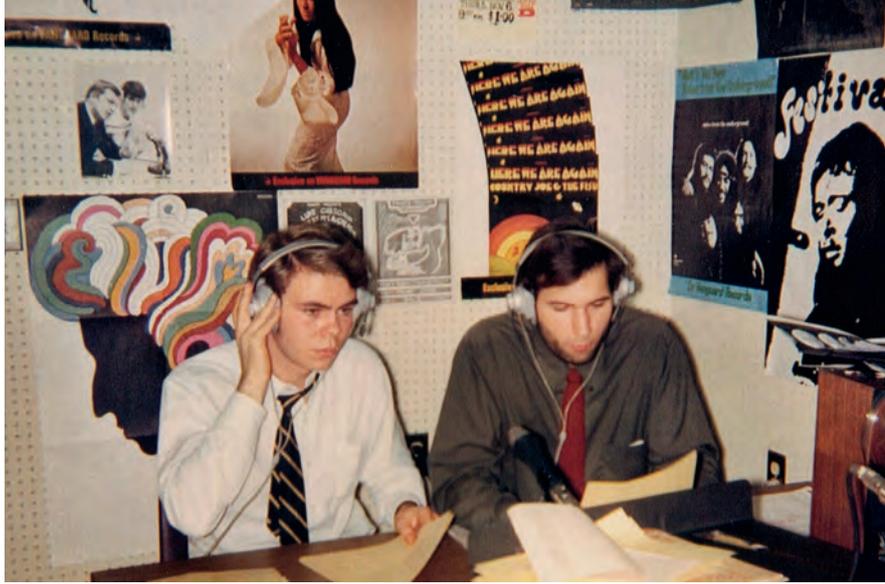
Some volunteers had broadcast experience, but most were starting from scratch, learning as they went along. "It was like creating our own course," said Jamie Crookston (BA '72), Radio York's third station manager. People brought whatever

talents they had to the project. "This became a love involvement with the radio station," he says. "It was radioactive."

From two windowless rooms next to the laundry in the basement of Vanier College, they broadcast jazz, folk, hard rock – no "teenybopper" stuff – and classical music. They still joke about delivering the news "in between rinse cycles". A year later, Radio York went to cable, expanding its reach to Metro Toronto at 97.5 on the FM dial. Two years later, the station moved upstairs to the second floor of Vanier College.

When Radio York launched in 1969, York was only 10 years old. "York was one big experiment," says Handelman.

"It was a phenomenal time," says the legendary Lorne Lichtman (BA '72). He wangled free music from the big recording companies (including Deutsche Grammophon in Germany), free tickets to the Stratford and Shaw theatre festivals, free weekly movie passes and access to the press box at Maple Leaf Gardens for anyone who promised a review. He booked interviews with bands coming to Toronto. One day, CKEY weather reporter Dini Petty even landed her pink helicopter on Vanier Common and dropped into the station to say hello. "No one said we couldn't, so we tried," says Lichtman. "And we were just doing internal broadcasts on a university



campus! It was crazy.”

“We had a go-get-it attitude,” says Crookston. “It was an amazing synergy and a lot of us ended up in the entertainment industry.”

Crookston was a radio announcer for 23 years. Lichtman went into sales with Boot Records, Stompin’ Tom Connors’ record label, then worked for K-Tel

Records and bands like Rush and Kim Mitchell. Steve Harris (BA ’77), the second station manager, is now a television advertising strategist in Colorado. Handelman became a production coordinator and script supervisor for film and television. Larry Anklewicz (BA ’69, LLB ’72), the first programming director and Radio York archivist, is a retired lawyer

who freelances as a film critic. Mark Lewis (BA ’73), Radio York’s technician who studied politics, became an entertainment lawyer. Mike Fletcher, who was the station’s first news director and fundraiser, is now an Ottawa accountant. John Burke (BA ’72), the second news director, rose up the ranks at Global TV and is currently a media strategist.

“They were magical people from a magical time,” says Lichtman, who won’t miss the 45th reunion in February with this “family” of friends. “We worked so hard for a dream and created something out of nothing with our hands and our hearts. That experience has bonded us forever. It was the best time of my life.”

Today, Radio York airs from York’s Student Centre as CHRY 105.5FM. Send your memories of Radio York to us at macdona@yorku.ca ■

Inspiring, Outstanding

York alumni and faculty win Harry Jerome Awards



AWARD WINNERS (LEFT TO RIGHT): Douglas, James, Walker and Williams

SEVERAL YORK ALUMNI AND PROFESSORS received Harry Jerome Awards this year. Named in memory of the legendary Canadian sprinter, the awards are presented annually by the Black Business and Professional Association, and the Royal Bank of Canada, to inspiring and outstanding black Canadians. Of the 16 Harry Jerome Awards presented in 2013, York alumni and faculty members received four.

ANDREA DOUGLAS (MFA ’94) received the Aon Hewitt Excellence in the Arts Award. Douglas is an arts-in-education advocate and the founding artistic director of Children & Youth Dance Theatre, a non-profit dance academy based in Downsview’s Driftwood Community Centre.

CARL JAMES (BA ’78, MA ’80, PhD ’86) received the Nursing

and Homemakers Inc. Professional Excellence Award. The York education professor is director of the York Centre for Education and Community and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

TANYA WALKER (LLB ’05) received the Intellipharmaceutics Young Entrepreneur Award. After working for commercial litigation law firms, Walker started her own firm in downtown Toronto.

RAY WILLIAMS, a part-time music instructor at York, received the Cadillac Excellence in Technology & Innovation Award. Williams is an innovator in digital audio pitch correction software and president of Scarborough-based Music Marketing Inc., a leading distributor of music software and hardware in North America. ■

Giving

Dream Builder

Developer Ignat Kaneff donates millions to York's law and engineering schools

ONE OF SEVEN CHILDREN, Ignat Kaneff did not have the opportunity to attend high school. When he arrived in Toronto in 1951 from Bulgaria, the young immigrant had no money, friends or employable skills, spoke no English and had little formal education. As a result of his life experience, he now places a tremendous value on offering young people the opportunity to pursue a formal education, which he demonstrated this spring by donating \$5 million to support York's new Lassonde School of Engineering.

"It gives me great pleasure and pride to make this gift," Kaneff said. "It is our responsibility as citizens and as a collective society to provide first-class education to our students and the facilities to match it. It enables our students to compete with the rest of the world. I'm honoured that Canada has provided me with the opportunity to support its most important educational institution and our next generation of leaders in engineering, science, technology and research."

After moving to Canada, Kaneff soon found work sweeping floors and eventually working on construction sites where new homes were being built. Five years later, he launched his own construction company. As his business grew, he regularly reached into his pocket to support local hospitals, arts and education initiatives, as well as non-profits supporting children with disabilities in Canada and in his native Bulgaria.

Kaneff's philanthropy and enterprise have brought him many honours, including honorary degrees from York University and the University of Toronto, the Order of Ontario, a Canadian Citation for Citizenship and Bulgaria's Order of Stara

Planina, the highest honour awarded to a civilian.

With education being as important to him as it is, Kaneff ensured that his daughters received the opportunity to attend top schools. Kristina (JD '08), a lawyer, studied at Columbia University, earned a master's degree at Oxford University and then attended York's Osgoode Hall Law School. Anna-Maria, a former Wall Street investment banker and analyst with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation, earned a master of business administration from Harvard. Both now work for the family business, the Kaneff Group of Companies.

This is not the first time that York students have benefited from Kaneff's generosity, which now totals nearly \$8 million. In 2005, the developer made the lead donation to the campaign to renovate and expand Osgoode Hall Law School. Completed last spring, the \$57-million project features an atrium, a reconfigured law library and new student lounges. In recognition of this generous gift, York named the facility the Ignat Kaneff Building.

"Thanks to one of Canada's great builders and philanthropists, our students have exciting new learning environments in which they can thrive and succeed," said York University President & Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri.

To celebrate his latest gift to York's new engineering school, York renamed its research tower the Kaneff Tower at a special event in April. "Dr. Kaneff's generosity will help us educate a new generation of entrepreneurial engineers who, like him, have a social conscience and the passion to achieve their dreams," said Janusz Kozinski, dean of the Lassonde School of Engineering. ■



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