Acclaimed author Nino Ricci talks about his life as a writer – and writes about his life as a reader

PLUS:
York’s bold new chancellor

The talented couple behind Love, Sex and Eating the Bones

Fighting a lake invader in cottage country
4 Editor@YorkU Even great writers face rejection. BY BERTON WOODWARD
5 Leading Edge York has been so lucky with its chancellors. BY LORNA R. MARSDEN
6 Universe Java Joy…What They’re Reading…The Colours of War…Clean-Up Time…Double Dollars…York Rules!…Hot Buttons…A Mansion Remade…Costume Jewels
12 Big Ideas York helped form celebrated novelist Nino Ricci. BY MARTHA TANCOCK
14 The Lifetime Reading Plan A memoir about growing up reading the great books – like The Love Machine. BY NINO RICCI
18 York’s Bold New Chancellor Former Supreme Court justice Peter Cory is not afraid to say what he thinks. BY MICHAEL TODD
22 The Changing Face of York A look at what’s up – and coming – in the Keele campus growth spurt, with signs to take you there. BY MICHAEL TODD. The Accolade Project captures arts and minds. BY CATHY CARLYLE
26 Cottage Country Invaders Lake doctor Norman Yan is helping to fight the nasty spiny water flea. BY CATHY CARLYLE
28 What It Feels Like for Philip Monk A fabled curator takes over at York’s art gallery. BY MICHAEL TODD
30 Handle With Care Adrienne Rosen delivers the unusual: human ashes, body parts, stem cells. BY MICHAEL TODD
32 Funny Bones York brought together the couple behind Love, Sex and Eating the Bones. BY MARTHA TANCOCK
35 York People Hockey gold-medallist Therese Brisson…Volunteer Marsha Barrow…Banker Lindsay Gordon
38 Alumni A message from the new director…The Bryden awards…Class Notes
42 Back Talk What to say to a Manhattan mugger. BY BARBARA BUDD

SUMMER 2004
Finding Nino

In this issue, we are delighted to showcase the work of Nino Ricci, one of many prominent writers who have passed through the portals of York University. To complement our profile of the award-winning author, Ricci has written a memoir specially for YorkU about his early life as a reader – Dr. Seuss, trashy novels and all – and what it taught him about writing. It’s a good warm-weather read, we hope, for a Summer issue that will be our last for this academic year; the next will be out in September.

Ricci got his BA in English Literature at York in 1981, and has remained warmly in touch with the University. Last fall, for instance, he met with a select group of students at a mentoring lunch organized by the York U student alumni group. The students, as you might imagine, were spellbound.

Here at the magazine, we found that one among us had another connection with Ricci. Long before she came to work at York, staff writer Martha Tancock had known...}

Hail and Farewell

York has been blessed with its chancellors. By LORNA R. MARSDEN

Avie Bennett generously helped individual students realize their dreams – even to see a Blue Jays game

Stewart, agreed to be our next chancellor, and we have had six wonderful years with him. As chancellor, he has assisted the entire academic enterprise with two generous benefactions of Chairs in Canadian History and Canadian Literature. But he has done much, much more. When Pierre Trudeau died, Avie Bennett published a very special edition of the former prime minister’s writings and donated all the proceeds to the Trudeau Travelling Scholarship, intended for a student who must travel to complete her/his dissertation. He has also generously helped individual students to realize their dreams (including one student who came to York hoping to see a Blue Jays game, which he did – as the guest of our chancellor).

Chancellor Bennett’s convocation speech, in which he encouraged the audience to “do things a little differently at York – whoop and holler and jump up and down if you feel like it, for this is a special day and there will never be another quite like it”, has been widely popular with us all – faculty, students and especially the graduates’ families. At his annual post-convocation barbecue last summer, the toshers, in honour of his retirement, appeared in their robes and uproariously recited his speech, almost from memory, to his total delight. There is no question: we love Avie Bennett and while he retires from the chancellorship, we hope he will remain with us at York in many other roles.

And now we welcome with enthusiasm our new chancellor. The Honourable Peter Cory has been a justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, a most distinguished lawyer, citizen, alumnus of Osgoode Hall Law School, honorary degree recipient of York University (1997), outstanding leader of the movement for human rights and civil rights, interpreter of the Canadian Charter. He is widely praised and admired for all these achievements – most recently for his appointment by the governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland as commissioner responsible for reviewing six murder cases of significance to the peace process in Northern Ireland. He has proved himself to be courageous in his defence of the same values that York holds dear: social justice, human rights and the dignity of the individual; the search for truth; Tenstaad’s trust.

Chancellors are the glory of leadership in our institutions. We are grateful for their generosity and benevolence, and we join all the graduates who have crossed the stage to receive their degrees in thanking the previous chancellors and welcoming the Honourable Peter Cory.
Delight like a coffee? Why not head to your neighbourhood Timothy’s café and order a cup of smooth Las Nubes. That’s York’s own brand of premium coffee. It’s brewed from quality coffee beans, certified “sustainable” and nearly all shade grown from farms near York’s Las Nubes Rainforest reserve in Costa Rica, and roasted and packaged in Downview at the Timothy’s World Coffee central warehouse. The Canadian coffee chain launched York’s Las Nubes brand as the coffee of the month in April at its 150 locations across the country.

This unusual marketing partnership between York and Timothy’s was the brainwave of environmental studies Professor Howard Daugherty. In 1998, Daugherty’s friend Dr. Woody Fisher donated Las Nubes Rainforest to York. As director of the Fisher Fund for Neotropical Conservation, which funds biodiversity research at Las Nubes, Daugherty was looking for a way to give nearby coffee growers an incentive to increase sustainable production, and to raise money for research. Over the past four years, the coffee growers had already implemented environmentally friendly agricultural methods, benefiting greatly from research conducted by York students and the Tropical Science Centre of Costa Rica. Daugherty decided to buy 10,000 pounds from the cooperative to test the market in Canada.

Then he approached Timothy’s World Coffee president and CEO Becky McKinnon about marketing the coffee in Canada. Once she was assured that the coffee growers could supply high-quality beans to meet Timothy’s standards, she struck a deal. Timothy’s has just bought 30,000 pounds directly from the growers for $1.10 US per pound—four cents more than the official Fair Trade price and about double the world price for coffee. Timothy’s, already buying in Costa Rica, also agreed to cover the cost of transportation to port, which gave farmers even higher value. For every pound sold, Timothy’s will also donate $1 Canadian to the Fisher Fund, through the York University Foundation, to support sustainability research and community programs at Las Nubes.

“We are very excited about this relationship,” says McKinnon. “We strive to educate our consumers about the link between good growing practices and great tasting coffee. The more coffee sold, the more money goes into research and quality; the more the quality improves, the more farmers get paid. It’s an upward spiral,” says McKinnon.
A York grad finds rare footage of World War II

I Canada wants to rescue its sagging reputation for “clean” dealings at home and abroad, its leaders should listen to business ethicist Wesley Cragg. Last year, the professor at York’s Schulich School of Business brought together experts from business, government, non-governmental organizations and academia to discuss a code of ethics for corporate behaviour at home and abroad. In three days, they drafted standards for corporate social responsibility everyone could agree upon — and government should promote. They called for ethical accounting and auditing procedures, improved corporate disclosure and environmentally sensitive procurement policies, among other things.

Such guidelines could do wonders for Canada’s recently tarnished image of incorruptibility, argues Cragg. Companies that promise human rights, fair wages, safety standards, environmental protection and no bribes, can boost — and won’t bust — their profits and Canada’s global competitiveness. Investors, he says, get better value and predictability for their money.

Cragg’s message couldn’t have come at a better time. The code of ethics was released just as news broke of the federal sponsorship scandal, the biggest in a string of scandals — such as Bre-X, Yorkton Securities and ... a mood to listen. “Businesses in Canada,” says Cragg, “need to understand that ethical standards are a bottom-line issue.”

A corporate ethics report shows what Canada needs to do

I have an immense interest in theories of mourning in the 20th and 21st centuries. I ran out and bought the book as soon as I heard about it.”

By Robert Pogue Harrison

University of Chicago Press

By Clint Twist

Firefly Books

By Robert Pogue Harrison

University of Chicago Press

By Clint Twist

Firefly Books

No student shall refuse to give his name to an officer of the University. A student shall give his Registration Card to an officer of the University upon request.

Going downhill

When weather conditions permit and there is no snow, the ski tow (Glen Don Campus) will be made available for students’ use.

CLEAN-UP TIME

A corporate ethics report shows what Canada needs to do
YorkU Summer 2004

A Mansion Remade
Top designers renovate historic Glendon Hall

Glendon Hall has had a makeover. Not an extreme makeover – just a very elegant one. The Junior League of Toronto selected the historic hall (built in 1924) at York’s Glendon campus as its seventh Showhouse, an imaginative, win-win program in which some of Toronto’s finest designers renovate a prominent building for public viewing. The designers get the glory, charity gets the ticket proceeds and Glendon gets to keep the results.

Fear not – the exterior of Glendon Hall looks much as it did before. But the interior has been wholly repainted, refinished, rebuffed and refurnished. The front and rear gardens have been planted by landscape architects. This constitutes the largest Showhouse the Junior League has undertaken, featuring more than 50 indoor and outdoor design spaces.

The Showhouse version of Glendon Hall is open to the public from May 8 to June 6, 2004. After that, it becomes a college building again. But rooms have been designed to accommodate the Study/Support Program, which helps low-income students prepare for postsecondary education. Ticket details: www.jlt.org or Ticketmaster.

Researchers
Hot Buttons
Psychologist Maryanne Fisher keeps pushing them

Ever since the British Medical Journal published her study of the dimensions of Playboy bunnies in December 2002, Maryanne Fisher has been fielding media calls from all over the world. If reporters weren’t asking about the demise of the hourglass figure, they wanted to know why women prefer cads to dads for short-term sexual partners – another Fisher finding. Surprised by the attention, the recent PhD graduate in psychology was even more stunned by the frenzy over her study confirming that women compete over men, published online in February by the Royal Society in its Biology Letters. While the phenomenon may be no surprise to a casual observer, Fisher’s study was the first to show scientifically that ovulating women will criticize a potential rival’s looks when competing for a mate.

Editors everywhere – from the BBC to The Times of India – found it compelling. Evidence of intrasexual competition is controversial, says Fisher, because psychologists have assumed that women are cooperative, not competitive. As a budding scholar in the relatively young field of evolutionary psychology (concerned with species survival), Fisher is determined to set the record straight and bring a female perspective to her investigation of women’s mating strategies.

Buildings
A Mansion Remade
Top designers renovate historic Glendon Hall

A mansion Glendon Hall has had a makeover. Not an extreme makeover – just a very elegant one. The Junior League of Toronto selected the historic hall (built in 1924) at York’s Glendon campus as its seventh Showhouse, an imaginative, win-win program in which some of Toronto’s finest designers renovate a prominent building for public viewing. The designers get the glory, charity gets the ticket proceeds and Glendon gets to keep the results.

Fear not – the exterior of Glendon Hall looks much as it did before. But the interior has been wholly repainted, refinished, rebuffed and refurnished. The front and rear gardens have been planted by landscape architects. This constitutes the largest Showhouse the Junior League has undertaken, featuring more than 50 indoor and outdoor design spaces.

The Showhouse version of Glendon Hall is open to the public from May 8 to June 6, 2004. After that, it becomes a college building again. But rooms have been designed to accommodate the Study/Support Program, which helps low-income students prepare for postsecondary education. Ticket details: www.jlt.org or Ticketmaster.

Doris Haidner-Seif is the perfect mom to have at Halloween. That’s because she’s not only an expert in costume design, but oversees the York Theatre Department’s wardrobe collection – hats, shoes, scarves, dresses, jewelry, belts and much more.

Other vintage clothes in the collection are a valuable teaching aid, she says. “We’re interested in handmade items,” she explains, displaying a 19th-century Edwardian silk walking dress. “This way students can see how things were constructed. Photos and drawings of period clothes only tell you so much. Here you can look under the fabric. In re-creating costumes for the stage, that’s important.”

Haidner-Seif says she regularly scouts used clothing stores for bargains, but sometimes people send her old gowns and the like. Is there anything she particularly needs? “Corsets,” says Haidner-Seif, noting that they are what gave many period clothes their trademark shape. “You can never get enough corsets!”

Public Speaking
“Today, our immigrants are very different from those we used to get. They are much better educated. When they move to Canada, they don’t restrain themselves to the crowded downtown ghettos. They want to live in a house with a full backyard in the suburbs. And with the massive number of people coming, we are seeing more ethnic neighbourhoods everywhere.”

Lucia Lo, geography professor, on a Statistics Canada report, in the Toronto Star

YorkU Summer 2004

Photography by Rick Reid, illustration by Peter Cebulak of Katherine Newman Design

RESEARCHERS
Hot Buttons
Psychologist Maryanne Fisher keeps pushing them

PUBLIC SPEAKING
“Today, our immigrants are very different from those we used to get. They are much better educated. When they move to Canada, they don’t restrain themselves to the crowded downtown ghettos. They want to live in a house with a full backyard in the suburbs. And with the massive number of people coming, we are seeing more ethnic neighbourhoods everywhere.”

Lucia Lo, geography professor, on a Statistics Canada report, in the Toronto Star

THEATRE
Costume Jewels
York’s wardrobe collection goes through many stages

Doris Haidner-Seif is the perfect mom to have at Halloween. That’s because she’s not only an expert in costume design, but oversees the York Theatre Department’s wardrobe collection – hats, shoes, scarves, dresses, jewelry, belts and much more.

Other vintage clothes in the collection are a valuable teaching aid, she says. “We’re interested in handmade items,” she explains, displaying a 19th-century Edwardian silk walking dress. “This way students can see how things were constructed. Photos and drawings of period clothes only tell you so much. Here you can look under the fabric. In re-creating costumes for the stage, that’s important.”

Haidner-Seif says she regularly scouts used clothing stores for bargains, but sometimes people send her old gowns and the like. Is there anything she particularly needs? “Corsets,” says Haidner-Seif, noting that they are what gave many period clothes their trademark shape. “You can never get enough corsets!”

Photography by Rick Reid, illustration by Peter Cebulak of Katherine Newman Design

RESEARCHERS
Hot Buttons
Psychologist Maryanne Fisher keeps pushing them

PUBLIC SPEAKING
“Today, our immigrants are very different from those we used to get. They are much better educated. When they move to Canada, they don’t restrain themselves to the crowded downtown ghettos. They want to live in a house with a full backyard in the suburbs. And with the massive number of people coming, we are seeing more ethnic neighbourhoods everywhere.”

Lucia Lo, geography professor, on a Statistics Canada report, in the Toronto Star

THEATRE
Costume Jewels
York’s wardrobe collection goes through many stages

Doris Haidner-Seif is the perfect mom to have at Halloween. That’s because she’s not only an expert in costume design, but oversees the York Theatre Department’s wardrobe collection – hats, shoes, scarves, dresses, jewelry, belts and much more.

Other vintage clothes in the collection are a valuable teaching aid, she says. “We’re interested in handmade items,” she explains, displaying a 19th-century Edwardian silk walking dress. “This way students can see how things were constructed. Photos and drawings of period clothes only tell you so much. Here you can look under the fabric. In re-creating costumes for the stage, that’s important.”

Haidner-Seif says she regularly scouts used clothing stores for bargains, but sometimes people send her old gowns and the like. Is there anything she particularly needs? “Corsets,” says Haidner-Seif, noting that they are what gave many period clothes their trademark shape. “You can never get enough corsets!”

Photography by Rick Reid, illustration by Peter Cebulak of Katherine Newman Design
hen Nino Ricci arrived at York in 1977, the farm boy from tomato country in southern Ontario nursed a vague ambition of becoming a writer and signed up for the creative writing program. At 11, he’d penned a notebook novel called “Herbie the Time Machine Bicycle” (see next page). But he’d quit reading for pleasure in high school. It wasn’t cool. “I was very green. I wasn’t well read. I was clearly out of my element,” remembers the celebrated Canadian novelist. He had never heard of W.O. Mitchell, his writing instructor. Three weeks later, he would never forget him. The author of *Who Has Seen the Wind* said Ricci couldn’t write and threatened to fail him if he didn’t drop the course.

Ricci would have left York after first year had not social science Professor Sally Zerker praised his essays and recognized his potential. “It was a big vote of confidence,” he says. From then on, he soaked up all he could from “a lot of very good professors” of literature, humanities and arts. “York seemed to take me into new modes of being.” Mitchell may have driven the creative Ricci into hibernation, but York ignited the intellectual Ricci. “York made me in a lot of ways.”

Ricci never forgot the rebuke from Mitchell (who died in 1998). After earning a BA in English literature in 1981, he taught English in Nigeria for two years on a CUSO program, then...
Saturdays as a Child
I went to the Leamington Public Library, a vaguely neo-classical building with musty aisles and high shelves that was one of the thousands of libraries across North America built courtesy of Andrew Carnegie. I was not an informed reader, but for a while, at least, I was a voracious one, and there were certain shelves there that seemed almost alive to me because of their familiarity and promise, like different countries I visited. It is hard to describe the mix of the plain, hard reality of the place, the smell of the books, the light through the high windows, with the peculiar investment imagination gave it, imagination that started somehow with a book’s simple numinous presence—its bindings and gold lettering, its tissue-protected frontispiece—before I’d read a single word of it.

That I became a reader at all was somewhat of a fluke, given the almost total absence in our home of books. Both my parents had ceased their schooling after the fifth grade, all that was offered back in their village schools in Italy, and while they maintained the highest opinion of books, they did not have any of their own. When my sister graduated from teacher’s college and convinced my father to buy a set of the World Book Encyclopedia as a teaching aid, the decision, made as the salesman sat gravely at our kitchen table in his Sunday best, seemed to bear the momentousness of a marriage contract. It was as if, having determined that books were indeed necessary, we had settled upon these as the ones that would do the trick. Afterwards the whole house seemed to shift with the weight of those tomes in my sister’s bedroom, which on special occasions I was allowed to consult.

To this day I reserve a special veneration for encyclopedias, and indeed can hardly bring myself to write unless I am virtually surrounded by reference books. In those days, of course, I did not know I was going to be a writer, I thought I was going to be a priest. But in this, too, a book played its part: the first and, for many years, the only book I owned, a picture bible that was handed out to newborns in Leamington by the local chamber of commerce. Before I could read I used it mainly for colouring, but once I was able to start piecing my way through it, I was quick to feel swelled with the solemnity of my task. At school, where I happened to mention among my friends that I read the Bible regularly, I was immediately marked out as someone of special virtue and indeed was often consulted on ethical questions, such as the fine moral line dividing “heck” from “hell.”

The dirty truth, however, was that I was not virtuous at all; rather, I was steeped in sin. Again, it was a book that lay behind the matter, in this case Dr. Seuss’s Green Eggs and Ham, which happened to be the first book I ever read unassisted from cover to cover. When I made the mistake of boasting of this feat to my grade one teacher, she held me in at lunch hour and actually made me read the thing aloud to her at her desk while she ate her lunch. I couldn’t quite have put a name to the feelings I had for my grade one teacher, who, fresh out of teacher’s college, must have been all of 19 at the time. But I knew that any closeness to her usually stirred what seemed a entirely healthy commotion in me. That particular day, probably inspired by the ribald machinations of Dr. Seuss, I was overaken mid-sentence by a kind of throbbing sensation and had a sudden image of the teacher sitting next to me completely naked. For long afterwards I burned in the shame of that image, and indeed my bible readings and dedication to the priesthood became my penance for the secret that was clearly already spreading through my soul. All this was to no avail, however, for in later years the secret only grew more general. Indeed, I was only able to exorcise that vision manys years later, by attributing it to a character in one of my novels, who subsequently suffered a steep decline.

In hindsight, then, I can see that the poles of my writing life were already well set by the end of the first grade, in that tension between my picture bible and Dr. Seuss. But my golden age of reading was still to come. It did not begin in earnest until well into the third grade, when one of my brothers, to get me out of his hair, passed on to me his library copy of Pitcher with a Glass Arm, and I discovered that staple of literature, the misfit. Hence began a long association with misfit books—Today I am a Ham, about a boy who does badly at football but finds his niche in ham radios, the Dr. Dolittle series, where the doctor, in his pre-Eddie Murphy incarnation, sacrifices respectability and personal hygiene for his love of animals, the Henry and Ribby series, about a boy and his misfit dog. Those books, along, of course, with the stories of Jesus in my picture bible, helped cement my lifelong identification with the underdog. In later years, I would come to learn that what the underdog suffered from was an incurable condition known as alienation. But as a child what appealed to me in these stories—and in this, again, Jesus, for all his turn-your-cheekness, was the prime example—is the hero’s slow but inevitable revenge against his foes.

Had I not passed through this stage of indiscriminate reading I fear I may never have become a writer at all, and indeed it was during this time that I enjoyed one of my most prolific writing periods, producing stories, including my first novel, consisting of a workbook-length novel, unfortunately lost now, called “Herbie the Time Machine Bicycle.” But already by the sixth grade a decline had set in. The imagined visions of female unclothing had turned into real ones, first through the Reproduction entry in, as it turned out, the World Book Encylopaedia, then through certain publications I did not at the time look at for the articles. In the school library were certain texts with the gilt edged, faux leather look of classics that I knew I ought to be reading—Little Women, The Last of the Mohicans—but inevitably I was drawn to the more lurid books I could get now from my sister’s fiancé: Airport by Arthur Hailey, The Sensuous Man by M. By the eighth grade, I had descended to The Love Machine by Jacqueline Susann. This was a book I was
never able to finish because it was confis-cated by my grade eight teacher (does she still have it? If so, and if she is read-ing this, I wouldn’t mind it back), putting paid to my hopes for the Religion Prize and forcing a de-finitive re-evalua-tion of my choice of the ministry as a career path. I fell into the Dark Ages now known, para-doxically, as High School. Although by this time I had already resolved to be-come a writer in later life, I had aban-doned the two activities that might actually have brought me closer to this goal: reading and writing. One of the few books of any signif-icance that I read in this period was The Defense Never Rests by F. Lee Bailey, the same Mr. Bailey of later O.J. Simpson fame. This was another book about underdogs, in this case the wrongly accused (not a problem, apparently, that Mr. Bailey en countered with all of his clients). Since I already knew by then that you couldn’t earn a decent living as a writer – an impression reinforced by the fact that the guidance office had no career pamphlets on writing, but quite a few, say, on medicine and law – I had already begun to cast about for a fall back. Mr. Bailey, having written a book, proved that you could be both a writer and a lawyer, so for the time being law became my profession of choice. Later, of course, I strayed from this perfectly sensible path as well, even though, being a person of fairly high scruples, I proba-bly would have made a better lawyer than priest.

It was during these years that I read the only ethnic literature that ever crossed my path in my youth: The Godfather by Mario Puzo. The Godfather was an underdog too – he was Sicilian, after all – which made me his immediate supporter; never mind that a few dirty punks had to die so he could rise. While down in New York the Anti-Defamation League was buying out screenings of The Godfather because of its slur on Italian honour, up in Leamington it was the best thing that had ever happened to us Italians; suddenly we had cachet. Also: while Mr. Bailey had shown me you could be a lawyer and write a book, Mr. Puzo, more importantly, had shown me you could be Italian and write one. (I had not yet heard of Dante.) There remained, of course, the small problem that I personally had never actu-ally met a Mafioso or been involved, say, in a blood vendetta. This continued to be a dilemma for me for many years – who in the world could care about a bunch of backwater Italians in some Ontario farm town who made their own prosciutto and had not the remotest connec-tion to organized crime? – until multi-culturalism arrived and turned prosciutto into a household word.

During my time in high school I had a friend, an utter geek (he now works in mergers and acquisitions in New York and lives on the Upper East Side) who used to talk to me sometimes about writ ers like Nabokov and Leo Tolstoy. I was always very embarrassed for him, of course. But I also felt a pang, remember ing those unread classics from elementary school. Toward the end of my high school years, reflecting back on the deso lation high school had been, I went through a phase of reading self-help books, people like Norman Vincent Peale on the power of positive thinking and Dale No-Relation-To-Andrew Carnegie, whose How To Win Friends and Influence People (“Rule Number 1: Smile!”) left me thoroughly depressed for many years. Among the offerings on the self-help shelf at the public library – gone, now, alas, were those days of reverie in Children’s Fiction – was this one: The Lifetime Reading Plan by Clifton Fadiman. Mr. Fadiman, surely a benefactor on the same level as the two Carnegies, had dutifully perused the great works of human civilization, chosen those most representative, and compiled an annotated list for the public’s edification. A quick glance showed that I had not read a single book on his list, and indeed had hardly heard of any of them: The Iliad, The Aeneid, Remembrance of Things Past. All my childhood reading, it seemed suddenly, had been a washout; all the universes I had visited had been for naught. Why had I had the misfortune to be born amongst hapless immigrants? Why had someone not taken me in hand while there had still been hope? It was with a heavy heart, then, that I set out for university, The Lifetime Reading Plan under one arm and my battered self image under the other.

In the years since then, when there has hardly been a book I’ve read that wasn’t prescribed for me in one way or another – and indeed I am still making my way through The Lifetime Reading Plan, which is still in print and still making people miserable – I often long for the days of Airport and Dr. Dolittle, when I could read any bloody thing I wanted. While it’s true that whatever little I know about writing I’m still in the process of learning, what I know about reading I’d already learned by the first grade: read what transports you. If I had never been transported, it would never have oc curred to me to write. That is what I try to remember every day when I put my pen to the page.
TRANSITIONS

Take the elevator to the 34th floor of the Exchange Tower in the heart of Toronto’s financial district, and you step out into a hushed world of dark wood and subdued lighting – home to Canada’s Department of Justice. You also enter the world of York’s new chancellor, Peter Cory. At 78, Cory still works as a senior advisor with Justice Canada. “I come into the office most days,” he says. Today he appears in a dapper suit and tie. His office is a no-nonsense place. Not posh or law firm-like, but comfortably decorated with personal pictures of family and his time in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and boasting a breathtaking view of the Toronto harbour to the southwest.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter deCarteret Cory, former Supreme Court of Canada justice (he retired in 1999), takes over from the popular and personable Avie Bennett, chairman of publisher McClelland & Stewart Ltd., who became York’s 10th chancellor in 1998. But if Bennett seems a hard act to follow, Cory – open, friendly and very focused – is up for the challenge.

Cory has lived through some of the toughest times the 20th century has dished out. He was born in Windsor, Ont., in 1925 and endured economic hardship during the Depression when his father lost much of his investments and his job. “I remember going to the store for a loaf of bread and dropping the dime – it was traumatic,” says Cory. “My father banked in the States and it went under, so all the family savings were lost,

A JUSTICE FOR ALL

Come June, former Supreme Court jurist Peter Cory will succeed Avie Bennett to become York’s 11th chancellor. BY MICHAEL TODD

HANDING OVER: Avie Bennett (left) and Peter Cory

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE
and his US life insurance company went under, too. It was a time you had to live through to appreciate.”

Cory’s family eventually recovered some lost economic ground, and with those troubled years behind him, he joined the RCAF while in his teens. He flew bomber missions over Germany with the 6th Bomber Group. At the end of the hostilities, Cory decided to pursue a career in law and enrolled at Osgoode Hall Law School. Called to the Ontario Bar in 1950, he had been appointed queen’s counsel by 1968 and was elected a bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1971. His appointment to the Supreme Court of Ontario came in 1974 and the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1981. Then, in 1989, he was named to the Supreme Court of Canada, where he helped decide many groundbreaking cases arising from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He was made a Companion of the Order of Canada in 2002.

While Cory is tough and sharp in conversation, there’s also a genuine underlying concern for the social welfare of people and in the role law has to play in protecting the welfare of individuals and society. So it’s perhaps no surprise that he was invited to be chancellor of York. He’ll represent ideals like “critical intellect”, “tolerance and diversity” and “a community of faculty, students and staff committed to academic freedom, social justice and accessible education”, as expressed in York’s Mission Statement.

“It’s a real honour to be part of the educational system,” says Cory, “even if it’s just a ceremonial role. You’re dealing with the next generation of Canadians, the Canadian leaders. And of course I have a particular interest in Osgoode.”

What does he think a good law school’s education should be about? Osgoode, for instance, puts a certain stress on social justice.

“And thank goodness!” responds Cory. “I think it’s just what’s needed. You need dedicated people who will accept lower compensation in service to people on legal aid or who don’t qualify for legal aid but need legal advice. There’s a duty that I think is owed by the legal profession to society. I think law schools should foster the concept of civil rights.” He points to the Charter’s multicultural clause. “The more you see the more you know – that it’s the very Camelot of democratic principles to recognize the worth of every individual no matter what race, colour, creed or nationality, and yet know that they belong to a still greater concept, that of Canada. You begin with tolerance.”

Cory is indeed an expert when it comes to the ins and outs of civil rights. He’s frequently sought out by governments and international leaders for his legal and public policy abilities. In 2002, he was appointed commissioner by the British and Irish governments to investigate six controversial murder cases involving alleged official collusion between members of the security forces and loyalist or republican paramilitaries.

Cory reported his findings in October 2003. After the Irish government made his reports public on the two southern cases, the British government delayed publication on the four Northern Ireland cases, citing security concerns. Leaks to the media had indicated what the bottom line of the reports would be. The families of the victims became extremely concerned. Cory suggested that the result was cruel for the families and that they should be advised of the conclusions to alleviate their concerns. After an additional time had elapsed, and the Northern Ireland Office did not take this step, Cory in January boldly advised the families’ legal representatives that he had recommended public inquiries into all four cases. Only at the end of March did the British government finally publish an edited version of the reports and initiate inquiries in three of the four cases.

How would Cory characterize his life mission, his “good fight” as it were? “You try to do the right thing,” he says. “Probably that’s an egotistical question, the ‘right thing’ in my view – admittedly, who knows! – but you look at the question as widely as possible and ask yourself what’s fair in the situation.”

He will be installed at the Glendon convocation in June. Asked what he expects to do in the job, Cory says, “It’s a great honour to be selected. But I don’t really know enough about the role yet to make any comment worth recording.”

Maybe he’ll be able to create his own role? “Oh,” says Cory, his face lighting up, “Yes! I’d be good at that!”
When everything’s finished next year, space in University buildings on the Keele campus will have expanded by a whopping 43 per cent since 1998. Here and on succeeding pages is a look at what’s up, and coming (including non-University projects), and the new signs that will point you there. 

BY MICHAEL TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK REID

1. **COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING BUILDING**
   - **Opened 2002**
   - Home to the Department of Computer Science and the Centre for Vision Research, the CSEB is the most advanced “green” cold-climate building at an academic institution in Canada.

2. **WILLIAM SMALL CENTRE/ARBREUTUM PARKING GARAGE**
   - **Opened 2001**
   - The William Small Centre (attached to the Arboretum Parking Garage) is named in honour of the late William Small, York’s founding comptroller. It houses Campus Services & Business Operations, which includes Security, Parking & Transportation, and the Computing Commons.

3. **SEYMOUR SCHULICH BUILDING**
   - **Opened 2003**
   - The $102-million new home of the Schulich School of Business includes an airy central marketplace, glass-walled offices, lots of natural light and a 13-storey Executive Learning Centre complete with hotel facilities.

4. **TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING (TEL) BUILDING**
   - **Opened 2003**
   - York University and Seneca College of Applied Arts have jointly opened the most technologically advanced teaching facility in Ontario. Its calm, elegant design looks good too.

5. **STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE**
   - **Opened 2004**
   - Admissions, the Career Centre, the Registrar’s Office, Student Affairs and Student Financial Services are all now conveniently housed in this sustainable building, wrapping around a new parking garage.

6. **THE FOOT ROAD RESIDENCE**
   - **Opening fall 2004**
   - This building will house 430 undergraduate students. Among its environmentally-friendly features is the 1,000-square-metre planted roof that will increase thermal insulation and store ground water.

7. **TAYT McKENZIE EXPANSION**
   - **Expected completion 2005**
   - The athletic centre expansion will reorient the primary entrance of the building towards the south – facing the campus – and will double fitness activity space.

8. **THE ACCOLADE PROJECT**
   - **Planned opening fall 2005**
   - Two buildings, currently known as Accolade West and Accolade East, will provide a welcome 31,800 square metres of new space along the south side of the Harry W. Arthurs Common. Major new performance venues and studios will be included for the Faculty of Fine Arts, plus new classrooms for general use (see page 24).

9. **REXALL NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE**
   - **Opening July 2004**
   - Operated by Tennis Canada, the $45-million Rexall National Tennis Centre, featuring a 12,500-seat stadium court, will replace the old National Tennis Centre as the venue for the top stars of the international circuit each summer.

10. **THE VILLAGE AT YORK UNIVERSITY**
    - **Opening in stages from spring 2005**
    - Tribute Communities’ private development, on land purchased from the University along Murray Ross Parkway off Sentinel Road, will offer upscale residential living next to the campus, in 497 single, semi-detached and townhouse units.
It’s the next great stage. As the newest element in York’s current building boom, the Accolade Project is a $90-million arts-and-minds enterprise comprising two new, airy buildings adjacent to the existing Joan and Martin Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts. With their planned lofty performance halls and ultra-modern classroom facilities, right down to roughed-in stations for the much-anticipated subway to York, the tinted concrete-and-glass structures will stand front and centre along the south side of the Harry W. Arthurs Common.

Partly funded by the Ontario government’s SuperBuild initiative, the buildings will, when they open in fall 2005, further accommodate the double-cohort expansion York is experiencing. Most of the classroom seats are for the general student population, even though more than half the actual space is for Fine Arts students, whose work often requires more room.

Both the Department of Music and the Department of Dance will move into Accolade’s state-of-the-art facilities. Phillip Silver, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, expects that the well-equipped recital halls and studios will encourage more people from the York community and beyond to take in noonday concerts and evening theatre and dance performances.

Accolade East, as it’s currently known, is the larger of the structures (25,000 square metres), located east of the Centre for Film and Theatre. Here, the Art Gallery of York University will find a new home. It will also feature a 325-seat recital hall, a 325-seat proscenium theatre and a 500-seat lecture hall/cinema with projection facilities for every conceivable film format, from digital to 35mm widescreen. The 7,200-square-metre Accolade West, nestled between Vari Hall and Burton Auditorium, will include a student art gallery as well as large lecture halls and smaller “smart” classrooms. “Accolade,” says Silver, “will bring all of Fine Arts together, integrating all our departments into the larger University community – to the benefit of everyone.”

I Ever have trouble finding your way around the York campus? No more. The University has installed a host of bright new campus signs for pedestrians and drivers. They range from major entrance displays to multidirectional walkway signs and campus maps placed at strategic pedestrian junctions. Each building is also clearly identified. Already the signage, designed by Kramer Design Associates, has won several awards.

“You can spot the signs a mile away,” says Richard Fisher, York’s chief communications officer. “The York look – with its red, white and black colours – is forward-looking, progressive and bold. Our new signs reflect that.”

Applause for Accolade

Two artistic new buildings are rising along the Common.

by Cathy Castle

Signing Up

Here’s how to find all those new buildings.
York’s Norman Yan turns his fresh-water expertise on a tiny but potentially devastating cottage-country invader.

BY CATHY CARLYLE

It used to be that a quiet day at the lake was marred only by mosquitoes biting or by fish not biting. Now there’s the spectre of the spiny water flea. It may not cause an itch, but researchers are scratching their heads about just how devastating it could be. The little flea has already gummed up the recreational fishing industry in the Great Lakes, and now there are fears that it will affect sport fishing in Ontario’s inland lakes. Luckily, York biology Professor Norman Yan is on the case.

Yan is a pre-eminent limnologist, as lake scientists are known, well qualified for this investigation. He was one of the first lake experts in North America to investigate the problem of acid rain, and he is now assessing how areas such as Sudbury have made successful recoveries from it. Through a laboratory established in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and built with Canadian Foundation for Innovation funding, he is also studying other problems affecting lakes, such as UV radiation, climate change and invading species. And top of his invaders list right now is the pesky spiny water flea, officially known as Bythotrephes.

Yan focuses on the tiny critters in and around the Dorset Environmental Research Centre, only a half-hour drive from his Bracebridge home in Muskoka. Appropriately, his house is across the road from the north branch of the Muskoka River. It’s an ideal base for a limnologist who spends half the year checking on the animal life in lakes.

Yan admits he has a grudging respect for the little barbed-tailed animals that are “incredibly good at what they do and incredibly versatile. They’re really adept at avoiding predators and catching prey.” Spiny water fleas were first spotted in Canada after they hitched a ride on a cargo ship from Russia in the 1980s. They spread from the Great Lakes, where they began tangling the gear of recreational salmon fishermen, to the smaller lakes in Ontario. They’re now found in more than 50 lakes in this province – working their way to the other half a million – and in the Ohio and Mississippi watershed.

Yan has been establishing whether the water fleas are a threat to native biodiversity. They are, he says. The centimetre-long crustaceans, which he describes as “very live, very colourful and very active”, have been stealthily creeping into the Muskoka lakes, and seem to be here to stay.

What does this mean to the average cottager? The jury’s still out. The worst-case scenario is that the spiny water fleas will ravenously devour zooplankton (tiny aquatic herbivores), depleting lakes of these fish-food delicacies. Fish life would suffer and, ultimately, so would sport fishing and cottage life. There’s more bad news: With fewer zooplankton, there are fewer herbivores, so algae may proliferate, reducing the clarity of the lake waters. Not a pleasant scenario.

“So far,” says Yan, “we haven’t noticed a measurable effect on the amount of algae in these waters. Instead, what we have in some cases is a tapioca-like sludge floating in the lakes – colonies of rotifers [minute aquatic animals]. We believe these colonies are increasing as the spiny water fleas eat the zooplankton. What this will mean in the long term, we don’t know.”

However, Yan is well aware of the impact spiny water fleas have had on recreational salmon fishing in the Great Lakes, and he knows they’re maddeningly difficult to get rid of. “Lots of people have cancelled their annual fishing trips there because the creatures snag the gear. Anglers are unhappy, and this means a loss of revenue for some people relying on the tourist industry,” he says. He also worries about the changing diet of fish in the Great Lakes and Muskoka waters. “We have a huge existing problem with mercury contamination of sport fish,” he says. “The fact that they now eat spiny water fleas, which could also be contaminated, just might magnify the problem.”

Yan wants to see more research effort put into finding out, for instance, if the fish that eat the spiny water fleas are safe and edible. “And what can we do about spiny water fleas if it turns out they are bad? First we would have to ascertain just how bad they are, then find the vulnerable parts of their life cycle. All this costs money.” A challenge, yes. But if Yan is successful at getting to the bottom of the spiny water flea problems as he was with acid rain, the inland waters of Ontario are in good hands.

Yan focuses on the tiny critters in and around the Dorset Environmental Research Centre, only a half-hour drive from his Bracebridge home in Muskoka. Appropriately, his house is across the road from the north branch of the Muskoka River. It’s an ideal base for a limnologist who spends half the year checking on the animal life in lakes.
What It Feels Like for Philip Monk

BY MICHAEL TODD

A fabled curator takes over at York’s art gallery.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE GEORGE
A

DIRENE ROSEN has never lost a funeral urn yet – or a casket. And that’s what you’d expect. No client wants Aunt Mary’s remains ending up in Brisbane instead of Capetown. That’s why clients rely on Rosen (BA Hons. ’94) and her courier company.

Rosen, who graduated from York’s Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, started First International Courier (FIC) Systems, Inc., with two women partners in 1984, partly as a way to pay her way through university. Her business has always been – well – somewhat unusual. That’s because FIC found its own special niche in the super-competitive courier package world. “Seventy-five percent of our business deals with human remains and biomedical materials,” Rosen says.

Those materials include everything from stem cells and umbilical cord blood (used in bone marrow transplants to help leukemia and lymphoma victims) to infectious substances, body donor parts, and clinical trial samples (on which a great deal of research and development money rests). As with anything biological, time, care in handling and security are of the essence. It’s a world where results have to be 100 per cent or entire projects, even lives, can be jeopardized.

Of course, even the best-laid packages can go awry. “We once had a funeral urn that ended up flying in and out of four countries before we managed to catch up with it,” says Rosen. “But that was unusual.”

Guaranteeing things are on time and go where they’re supposed to is Rosen’s job as president and CEO of a company that billed $2 million last year and has 12 employees. “Seventy-five percent of our business deals with human remains and biomedical materials,” Rosen says.

Of course, even the best-laid packages can go awry. “We once had a funeral urn that ended up flying in and out of four countries before we managed to catch up with it,” says Rosen. “But that was unusual.”

Guaranteeing things are on time and go where they’re supposed to is Rosen’s job as president and CEO of a company that billed $2 million last year and has 12 employees. Her deliveries don’t come cheap, but her clients – who also include companies producing time-sensitive legal and financial documents – are willing to pay for the peace of mind FIC promises.

All this is pretty impressive for someone who only had a Grade 8 education and who took philosophy, not business, when she got to York. “Atkinson saved my life,” says Rosen, who remembers clearly the day she arrived at Atkinson as a high school dropout and asked how to get in to university. “They told me you just can’t ‘get in’ like that. You have to write an essay. So I said, ‘OK, have you got any paper?’ Then I sat down at a manual typewriter – I’d never written an essay in my life – and typed one up on the women’s movement in Canada. Then I handed it in to the admissions person. ‘So, do I get in now?’ I asked her. She read it and said, ‘Yes.’ I ended up graduating 10 years later – cum laude.”

Between her teen years and early 30s, Rosen worked a variety of jobs, including as a courier. “I had no formal education. I had to support myself somehow. Starting my own courier business seemed like the solution.”

Despite the success of her company, Rosen still felt something was missing in her life. She wanted an education. Now, at 48, not only does she have her BA from York but she’s close to completing her PhD from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (while still managing to be a mother to two young girls, continue her role as CEO, and pursue her latest hobby – being a hockey goalie).

Because of her life path, Rosen is a big believer in giving back to society. Her company sponsors two bridging bursaries at York for women. The $950 International Courier Award is offered to one or more students proceeding from the Women’s Studies Bridging course into a degree program in any Faculty at York University. Usually those women are single moms and mature students who want to better their lives and need an economic foot up, says Rosen.

Rosen says she vowed that if, one day, she was successful, she’d give others a chance to better their lives through education. It’s a promise she’s... delivered on.

Whether it’s human ashes or an urgent donor transplant, Adrienne Rosen’s unusual enterprise will get it there on time.
A lot of people don’t think there are black people in Canada,” says director and screenwriter David “Sudz” Sutherland, who grew up in Scarborough. When he and his wife, producer Jennifer Holness, tried to raise $2.5 million to mount their first feature, Love, Sex and Eating the Bones, potential backers told them it would flop in this country. You can’t have two black leads, they said. Make one white. Don’t show Canadian money, they said, if you want to reach an American audience. And what’s this about the lead character having a pornography addiction? Forget it.

But after three years of hard slogging, the filmmaking duo finally found the money and shot the film their way. Eating the Bones was released March 5. Before it even hit commercial theatres, the romantic comedy defied nay-sayers and won a host of awards at independent film festivals, including Best Canadian First Feature at the 2003 Toronto International Film Festival. Toronto movie critics loved it. The National Post’s Jason Anderson called it “sly, raunchy and very, very funny.” The Globe and Mail’s Rick Groen said it’s better than a promising first try, it’s a “fulfilled feature.” The characterization, he added, is “neither colour-saturated nor colour-blind, but just bubbles up with a simple effervescence that seems uniquely Canadian.”

That’s how Sutherland and Holness intended it. Children of immigrant Jamaicans, both grew up in Toronto and stayed there to forge careers as independent filmmakers. In the early 1990s, fresh out of York University, they formed a production company and began making music videos for local rhythm and blues, reggae, hip hop and gospel singers. Then they made two award-winning shorts: My Father’s Hands (1999), based on Sutherland’s difficult relationship with his father, and Speakers for the Dead (2000), a National Film Board documentary about descendants of black settlers in Priceville, Ont., searching for their roots. Inspired by Spike Lee, the couple aim to make movies that reflect the black Canadian experience.

Eating the Bones (a metaphor for getting the most out of life) also dares to mock black male stereotypes. “Usually the black man in film is a compilation of super masculine mental, Mandingo and buck nigger,” says Sutherland. “Not Michael.” No, the protagonist is a security guard addicted to porn and unable to rise to the occasion when he falls in love with a real woman. But his colour is ultimately irrelevant, says Sutherland. “It’s a story about a human being which I hope is universal.”

Their next feature mixes up cultures and expectations for laughs and that human touch. An American college basketball star reluctantly agrees to coach a team of native girls on a northern Ontario reserve after his career is cut short by a knee injury. That’s The Way the Ball Bounces.

Sutherland and Holness fell in love at York. He was studying film and she was studying political science. When she graduated with a BA in 1992, he left with one more year to go. She was “on the way to being a deputy minister” before he lured her into moviemaking. He does the writing and directing, she negotiates the contracts and handles the budget. Though they often collaborate – they also have two baby girls – they have forged separate careers writing, directing and producing for television. For Holness, raised by a hardworking single mom and originally intent on law or business school, film hadn’t seemed like a career choice until she met Sutherland. But “going to York really helped shape my world view,” she says. “It made me understand that more was possible than I realized.”
Therese Brisson
MBA student, gold-medal hockey player

Therese Brisson hurls herself into her MBA studies the way she chases a puck down the ice – with the same intensity that netted her Olympic gold in 2002 as captain of the Canadian women’s hockey team. At 37, she’s more than simply a 30-year veteran of the national team and winner of five world tournaments. She also holds a PhD in kinesiology and was a professor in that field for five years at the University of New Brunswick. Since the heady Olympic days of Salt Lake City she’s ditched academia for a future as a strategic planner in health technology or sport education. “I want to have more of an impact,” she says.

Attending York’s Schulich School of Business has given her the flexibility she needed to train for the world women’s hockey championships in Halifax, where Team Canada again triumphed, and complete her MBA this year. The eldest of five children, she grew up playing ringette in west Montreal and has always lived by her father’s motto: “If you’re going to do something, do it well.”

Photography by Geoff George
BANKER LINDSAY GORDON KNOWS the value of a dollar, but he also knows the value of giving back to society at the corporate and personal level. Now president and chief executive officer of HSBC Bank Canada, Gordon, a founding member of the York University Foundation board of directors, was instrumental in HSBC’s donation in 2002 of $250,000 to fund scholarships for York students.

“When we were looking for universities to support in Canada, we chose York among our top three,” says Gordon, whose corporate parent, the London-based HSBC Group, operates in 79 countries and territories. “I think York’s reputation has increased significantly over the last few years. And we liked its multicultural component. It was a good fit with what HSBC was looking for.”

HSBC Bank Canada’s head office is located in Vancouver, and Gordon recently stepped down from the York Foundation’s board after moving there from Toronto to take up the CEO post. But he remains a firm supporter and friend of the University, and his successor on the foundation board, Toronto-based chief operating officer Sean O’Sullivan, will keep the ties between HSBC and York strong. Says Gordon: “I think York is a great university.”

POLITICALLY MINDED MARSHA BARROW hasn’t stopped forging ahead since she was a teenager. Recently honoured with an African Canadian Achievement Award for her volunteer work with youth, Barrow (BA Hons. ’02) has spent much of her young life mentoring youth and tutoring children through Tropicana Community Services and Each One Teach One. “You make time for things you feel are important to you – and giving back to the community, particularly to youth, is something I deem very important,” says Barrow, who holds down a full-time job as a project management coordinator with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

She dreams of carrying her visions further – right into the political arena. Her York professors certainly wouldn’t be surprised to see her enter that field. “She is engagingly helpful and selfless – clearly one of the best examples of what our community and York has to offer,” said a proud African studies Professor Pablo Idahosa.
Dear Alumni

A message from Naguib Gouda

This is my first opportunity to greet you personally since my appointment. I look forward to forming a partnership with you in leading the Alumni and Advancement Services office in directions which intrigue and engage you. Tell me what you are interested in. Let me know if you want to hear regularly from my office (and what you want to hear about). Do you want to have us explore virtual communities which can connect you with other York alumni? What are your affiliations to York? Sports teams? Professors? Departments? Clubs? Colleges?

We need to understand what York can do for you and how we might build programs that add value for you. We expect to do surveys over the coming months and we encourage you to participate. We can only improve our service and connections with you through open and honest dialogue.

We also want to know about what you are doing since graduation. Tell us about events in your life which we can acknowledge, celebrate or even announce in the Class Notes section of this magazine. Please write to me (alumni@yorku.ca).

Y

News:

Naguib Gouda, the University’s new executive director for Alumni and Advancement Services, has York in his blood. Not only is he an alumnus (MBA ’84), but he was born on York’s birthday (March 26, 1959). He has fond memories of his time at York, including an exchange program to France where he and his group worked on their final paper. He kept up his connection with the University over the years, guest lecturing in the DBA program at the Schulich School of Business.

Prior to his York appointment, Gouda held senior executive positions in marketing and project management with such companies as Manulife Financial Corporation and the Bank of Montreal. A skilled, multilingual communicator (he came to Canada from Egypt in 1968), he also draws on his extensive experience at the community level. He has served on numerous boards and committees and as a volunteer fundraiser for a variety of organizations, including The Learning Partnership, Sheenam’s Place, the Toronto Distress Centre and SafeHaven.

“I was looking for a career that combines mind and heart, and I wanted to do it in a place that matters,” says Gouda. “York University provides just that opportunity.” How does he feel to be back? “It feels like home.”

News:

Honoured Guests

The Bruce Bryden awards recognize York alumni and friends who have brought honour to themselves and to York. To recognize and celebrate this year’s recipients, the York University Alumni Association was set to bestow the awards at a gala dinner on May 13. Here are brief sketches of the winners.

Contribution: Joseph Sorbara

Recognizing dedication to the advancement of York University through commitment and contributions.

Joseph Sorbara graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1968. For more than 15 years he has served York. In 1988, he was appointed to the York University Board of Governors where he served for 12 years. In 2000, he was made an honorary board member, and now chairs the York University Development Corporation. He is also a member of the York University Foundation board of directors.

Leadership: Peter Currie

Recognizing a true pioneering spirit in professional life or in any field of endeavour.

Peter Currie (BA ’73, MBA ’78) is vice-chairman and chief financial officer for the Royal Bank of Canada Financial Group. He is a member of the York University Board of Governors and was a volunteer for the York University National Campaign. In 2003, he was named Canada’s CFO of the Year.

Achievement: Janet Green Foster

Recognizing true distinction in professional life or in any field of endeavour.

Janet Green Foster (BA ’69, PhD ’78) has written, produced, filmed and co-hosted numerous nature documentaries, including the CBC television series “To the Wild Country”, “This Land” and “Wild Canada”. Her outdoor and natural history programs have reached a huge television audience over the years, inspiring appreciation for the natural environment and its conservation.

Friend: Tim Price

Recognizing contributions made by people who are not York alumni.

Tim Price, a graduate of the University of Toronto, is Chair of Brascan Financial Corporation. His service to York University is longstanding in both governance and fundraising. In 2002, he became the first Chair of the York University Foundation board of directors and he has been a member of the York University Board of Governors since 1996. He also serves on the Dean’s Advisory Board for the Schulich School of Business.

Who Was Bruce Bryden?

R. Bruce Bryden (1943-1992) graduated from York University in 1964 with a BA in sociology and economics. Bryden’s commitment, respect and contributions helped shape York University. He became founding president of York’s Alumni Association (1965-1966) and alumni member of University Senate (1966-1968). In 1971, he joined the University’s Board of Governors, and in 1974 became a Fellow of McLaughlin College. Bryden served as the first alumni Chair (of only two) of the York University Board of Governors from 1982 to 1992.
Class Notes:

1983

1983
Horne, Sarah (BA Bathsheba) is a graduate of York’s dance program in the Faculty of Fine Arts, and would like to keep in touch with others dancing through life.

1984
Graham, Tom (BA Winter) is principal consultant and graphic designer of his marketing communications company based in Kemptville, Ont., 7Graham & Associates. While at York, Tom was curator of the Student Gallery in Winters College, and he and others founded the Visual Arts Student Council, getting student representation on the Fine Arts Faculty Council. Tom, along with Murray Leadbitter (BA ’75 Calumet), James Newman (BA ’75 Calumet) and Larry Trowell (BA ’76 Winter) formed the Artists’ Country Band while at York and the group is still playing together 30 years later.

1985
Palladini, Grazia-Donata (BA Calumet) is an FSL teacher for Hastings-Prince Edward District School Board. She resides in Belleville, Ont., with her husband and two sons.

1985
Brown, Sharon (BA Spec. Hons., BEd ’83) was a sales representative with Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd. in Oakville, Ont. currently enrolled in the education program at the University of Western Ontario. She recently completed three years of ESL teaching in South Korea.

1987
Koo, Nok Sang (BA Hons. Founders) would like to connect with York graduates from 1984-1985. His e-mail address is n123@canada-11.com.

1988
Khan, Bulasubramanian, Maria (BA Bath) was recently named corporate counsellor of Dimension One Spas (DI), a Vista-based manufacturer of luxury hot tubs in San Diego, Calif.

1988
Horne, Sarah (BA Spec. Hons. Vanier) is an elementary teacher with the Toronto District School Board.

1989
Browne, Sharon (née Levine, BA Spec. Hons. Winters) was married on July 19, 2003, and lives in Burlington, Ont.

1990
Bulger, E. Anne (BA Spec. Hons. Stong) passed away on November 10, 2003, at Markham Stouffville Hospital in Ontario, after being stricken with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease) less than a year earlier. Anne worked at TransCanada Pipelines and ADN Reed Slanhem for nine years each.

1990
Johnston, Grant (BA Atkinson) was killed on March 7, with his beloved wife, Elizabeth, in a tragic head-on collision. Grant was a contracts manager and cost accountant at Accenture Inc. in Ottawa. Residents of Kanata for the past 16 years, Grant and Elizabeth leave behind daughter Julie, a design student at York, graduating 2004; son Andrew, graduating from Georgian College 2004; and one-year-old grandson Eric, Andrew’s son.

Class Notes:

1967
Freeman, Douglyn (BA Spec. Hons. Vanier) has been assistant professor and women’s head coach of Track & Field and Cross Country at Grinnell College, Iowa, for the past 24 years. She and her husband Will (the men’s coach at Grinnell) have three children, Cameron 17, Delride 15, and Nicolas 11.

1968
Hare, Geoffrey C. (BA ’76, MES) was appointed deputy minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal in February, by Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty. Previous positions he has held include assistant deputy minister of Environment, Ministry of Economic Development & Trade; VP and assistant deputy minister of Infrastructure Strategies & Communications, Ontario SuperBuild Corp.; and assistant deputy minister of Capital Infrastructure Secretariat, Ministry of Finance.

1969
Khan, Nok Sang (BA Hons. Founders) would like to connect with York graduates from 1984-1985. His e-mail address is n123@canada-11.com.

1975
Khan, Nok Sang (BA Hons. Founders) would like to connect with York graduates from 1984-1985. His e-mail address is n123@canada-11.com.

1977
Henderson, Heather (BA Spec. Hons. Vanier) has been teaching English in Japan for the past two years and is having a great time. She has seen most of the country and can now speak and write elementary Japanese.

1978
Boitel, Debra K. (BA Stong) is a mortgage consultant for Park Avenue Mortgage Group, New York City.

1980
Wightman, Ian (BA Glendon) heads the project manager for the United Nations technical cooperation in Geneva, Switzerland, for the last 10 years.

1981
Graham, Tom (BA Vanier) is a teaching assistant in the Computer Science Dept. at the University of Western Ontario in London.

1984
Graham, Tom (BA Vanier) is an elementary teacher with the Toronto District School Board.

1985
Graham, Tom (BA Vanier) is an elementary teacher with the Toronto District School Board.

1986
Bulle, Grace (BA Spec. Hons. Stong) passed away on November 10, 2003, at Markham Stouffville Hospital in Ontario, after being stricken with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease) less than a year earlier. Anne worked at TransCanada Pipelines and ADN Reed Slanhem for nine years each.

1987
Footman, Dan (BA Spec. Hons. Vanier) is currently enrolled in the education program at the University of Western Ontario. She recently completed three years of ESL teaching in South Korea.

1988
Brown, Sharon (née Levine, BA Spec. Hons. Winters) was married on July 19, 2003, and lives in Burlington, Ont.

1989
Roche, Ruth E. (BA Spec. Hons. Winters) teaches jazz, ballet, tap and hip hop for Senecca College, Dance Alighieri Academy and the Columbus Centre School of Dance in Toronto. She is also a member of Salsa Team Canada - performing this summer in Puerto Rico for the Salsa Congress.

1990
Vanier) has been assistant professor and women’s head coach of Track & Field and Cross Country at Grinnell College, Iowa, for the past 24 years.
he differences between Canadians and Americans are subtle. Among the differences: Canadians know how to make love in a canoe; and Canadians have butter tarts, Americans don’t. I learned another subtle difference from a New York City mugger about 25 years ago, at a time when it was not only acceptable to wear a fur coat in frigid temperatures, it was wise. I’d been advised prior to my trip that with or without the raccoon coat, one should prepare to be mugged in New York.

“Carry your real stash of cash and ID on the inside of your coat in a small wallet,” advised my savvy traveller friend, “then, in your purse, carry Mug Money – enough that the mugger won’t be disappointed enough to kill you, not so much to ruin your trip if you lose it.” In those days, $57.83 added up to a decent wad. I determined it was an appropriate and realistic amount. I didn’t relish the idea of paying even that sum to a stranger, but was prepared to part with it in a crisis. No one counselled me, however, on what to do if I were asked to relinquish my coat.

On this visit I was fortunate to be staying with friends in an elegant brownstone in a section of Manhattan called Turtle Bay. Safe. Well lit. Within walking distance of Doubledays and Saks. In the other direction were smart boutiques. I’d spent the day Christmas shopping. When leaving my last stop, I asked the clerk which way to walk to get back to my friend’s house. “You aren’t going to walk, are you?” she said. “It’s dark. You should grab a cab.”

Nonsense, thought I. I’d read the magazine articles: “Walk briskly, with purpose, as if you know where you’re going.” (I’d also read in the same columns: “If accosted, start spouting loudly in gibberish, like a thing possessed, so as to freak the mugger out.” I had less confidence in my being able to pull that off, but I’m sure it would indeed have a disarming effect.)

So confidently, I set out briskly, with purpose. All was well for the first couple of blocks until I turned the corner. The residential street was lined with tidy brownstones. Shiny cars parked along the curb. And deadly quiet with not a soul apparent. I was suddenly aware of the sound of my boots on the sidewalk and was thinking how easy it would be for one of those car doors to open onto the sidewalk and how I could be nabbed. No one would be the wiser.

Even as I was thinking that, I noticed him in the gap between two brownstones. It was inevitable. Slipping off his perch he came up behind me, grabbing my left arm firmly, forcing me to a stop.

“Nice coat, lady. You got a watch to go with that?” In the flash of panic when I first saw him, I knew I was about to part with my Mug Money. But my coat! No flippin’ way! And my mother had given me my watch. My heart was racing but with him still holding firmly to my arm, I turned around to look him square in the face.

“Yeah,” I said and gently pulled my arm away. And he let me. (I suppose he thought I was going to hand over the motherlode.) Then I looked at my watch and back up at him and said “It’s 5:37.”

I made to turn away from him and he grabbed my arm again more forcefully. “I didn’t ask you the time, bitch. I said, You got a watch to go with that coat?”

“I’m sorry,” I said, again looking him square in the face. “I’m Canadian. In Canada, when someone says, ‘You got a watch?’ it means ‘what’s the time?’ But I’ve got to get going, or I’m going to be late.” Then I added, “Goodnight.”

And for some reason that I didn’t understand at that moment, he let me go on alone – but he called after me, “You sure as hell must be Canadian. You ain’t no f—-ing American.”

Barbara Budd (BA ’74) is co-host of CBC Radio’s “As It Happens”.

What to say to a Manhattan mugger. 

By BARBARA BUDD

On Canadian Time

Barbara Budd (BA ’74) is co-host of CBC Radio’s “As It Happens”.

42 Yearnd Spring 2004