



# OUT THERE

Humber Et Cetera's summer travel & leisure magazine 2003

**Train  
Travel**

**Growing  
Green**

**Job  
Hunting**

**Top-free in Ontario?**

Dear Out There readers,

As this edition of *Out There* goes to print we're settling into spring and looking forward to a nice, relaxing summer, with lots of warm weather.

Traditionally, talk about the weather is what we do when we have nothing else to say, but I think we can all agree that this year it really is worth mentioning. At *Out There* the weather is of particular concern because we are – among other things – a travel and leisure magazine, which means many of our article topics rely on, or are influenced by, specific weather patterns. In fact, this year we even feature a story on summer storms and the people who chase them.

But for those tired of weather talk, we have much more to offer in this issue. Turn the pages to find advice on how to travel inexpensively. Then consider the destinations you might travel to. Whether it's a Mexican nudist resort, Banff, or Burma, we'll tell you what the appeal is, what impact your presence might have, or whether you should consider boycotting these destinations.

If you're staying home this summer, we also offer leisure and tourism right here in the GTA. Consider seeing the sights beneath the city as we take you on a tour of our subterranean art gallery via the TTC. Or spend the day covering a few of your closest friends with welts at one of many paintball facilities.

But if all you're planning on doing this summer is earning some extra cash, we have that for you as well. Read our summer job pieces on tree planting, resumé tips, and job search resources. There's something for everyone.

Whatever you plan on doing now that the lazy days of summer are finally here, we've aimed to include an article that will appeal to you. We hope you enjoy spending the summer with us.



Patricia A. Carvacho  
Editor-in-Chief

*When Patty is not writing and editing articles, she can often be found applying the same skills to fiction. Following graduation, the self-proclaimed sci-fi geek hopes to put her trademark hot pink pen to good use in an editing career.*

Patricia A. Carvacho  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Out There* Magazine



*Out There* Readers  
Humber College  
Summer 2003

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You never know what you'll find in Kensington Market.

Chris Clay

## Little Market, **BIG** City

By Sherri Wood

Whether you're an out-of-towner or a Torontonian, if you're tired of the same old shopping experience and want something different, you're in luck. Kensington Market, located in downtown Toronto, is a hipster's paradise with a small town feel and the benefits of the big city.

Located north of College Street and south of Dundas, the multicultural open-air market is filled with sights, sounds and smells, offering practically everything you need.

Food in Kensington is not only cheap and fresh, but also just as diverse and full of colour as everything else in the area. Coffee, baked goods and other aromas follow shoppers throughout the market. There's a world of delicacies to choose from, with a wide variety of restaurants, fruit and vegetable stands, natural food shops, cafes and fresh fish markets.

"You can pretty much find anything here," says Cece Scriver, second-generation owner of Courage My Love, a vintage clothing store in the market. "Bigger name (stores) can't compete with the positive vibes we give off and the small town feeling people really love."

But what makes this market different than the big names are the owners.

"All of the owners (in the area) are in direct contact with the people shopping here," Scriver says. "The shops are original and unique, and we pick out or make everything ourselves."

That uniqueness is something residents in the market have fought to maintain. The area, which is home to a diverse range of cultures, including Portuguese, Caribbean and Chinese, is made up of closely-spaced beautiful 19th Century homes, and has existed for more than 200 years.

In 1965, a government urban renewal program that attempted to give the market a makeover, was overturned by

protesting residents. One summer, Nike tried to move into the area, but was firmly pushed out by local home and business owners.

And it seems as though commercial resistance is just as strong today. There are currently no large corporations or brand names in Kensington Market.

"It's a mom and pop show," Scriver says. "It's real here."

Travellers can get a taste of that reality at a low cost. The Planet Traveller's Hostel, located in the heart of Kensington Market, is a small Victorian house with a patio that offers visitors a place to stay, breakfast, and Internet access, all for \$20, taxes included.

"This is one of the most lively and colourful parts of the city," Kevin Lorrain, the hostel's manager, says. "This area is so original and people are not typical here."

King's Café, a vegetarian restaurant and grocer on Augusta Avenue, offers inexpensive and tasty food.

"On the weekends we serve travellers from all over the world," says Cindy Wong, assistant manager at King's Café. "This is a meeting place for travellers and locals. People like to meet here because we have a lot of space, a nice atmosphere and affordable food."

Whether you use Kensington Market as a meeting place, or you decide to spend the day browsing the nooks and crannies, one thing's for certain; it'll be a one-of-a-kind experience you won't soon forget.

"Everyone is welcome here," Scriver says. "And the market's unique flavour exists nowhere else."

*Sherri has a Media, Information and Technoculture degree from the University of Western Ontario and freelances as a journalist and pop culture junkie in Toronto.*

## Making a Perfect Match

Spend the summer with Big Brothers and Sisters of Toronto

By Kelly Brenton

Ryan is only 13 years old and he's already thinking about becoming a Big Brother.

"For the things I can give a child," he says thoughtfully. "It would make me feel good."

He's certainly no stranger to the program. Ryan has been a Little Brother to 37-year-old Vince DeLilla for the past four years.

Once every two weeks, Vince and Ryan spend a few hours together. They go bowling, play video games, or watch a movie and indulge in their mutual love of pizza.

They're compatible for two reasons, according to Ryan. "We both like to do the same things, and we have the same interests in food."

When Big Brothers of Toronto arranged their first meeting Ryan's mother Sandy was sure the pairing would work out.

"I had a good feeling the first time I met Vince," she says. "It's been good for both of them, I think."

That's the whole point. While it's undeniable "Littles" benefit from the program, "Bigs" also have tons to gain from being matched up with a little brother or sister.

"It has given me a sense of community involvement, a better appreciation for children and how they operate, the ability to better relate to people who have children and a better sense of self worth," Vince says.

The original Big Brothers program required pairs to meet weekly, at the same time for a set number of hours. Kids had to be between age seven and 13 to participate. Now, there are a variety of options for people with little

time to spare, and kids can remain in the program until age 18.

"The new programs were designed to allow us to service more children by offering more flexibility to volunteers," says Lee Overton, director of marketing and communications for Big Brothers and Sisters of Toronto. "That way, as the relationship evolves, it doesn't feel like you have to come and do it every week."

This flexibility came with the launch of the in-school mentoring program in 1997 and most recently e-mentoring, initiated in January 2003.

With the in-school program volunteers choose a time each week to meet with their little brother or sister on school property.

Volunteers who choose e-mentoring meet with their little brother or sister in person a few times, then communicate via computer for 30 minutes a week from September to June. Both options are available to children ages six to 12.

Making a match costs the organization \$1,700, which means compatibility is key. For Vince and Ryan, shared interests may explain why the pair have been together for years.

Vince says, "we both like outdoor summer activities, movies and cars. He's even developed a liking for Ferraris."

The organization discourages spending on outings by Bigs, and when they start out, they're given a list of 101 suggested activities that cost nothing.

"The stuff children actually get more out of is playing a



Vince DeLilla (right), with little brother Ryan, won the Big Brother of the year award in 2002.

Courtesy

board game together or throwing a football around," Overton says.

Because kids are involved, the application process includes a police check, two orientation sessions, an interview with a social worker and five character references. The pair is then monitored by a case worker.

So what does it take to be a good Big Brother or Sister? "You should be humorous, willing to do a lot, and not be too uptight or serious," Ryan suggests.

Vince credits Big Brothers with opening up the charitable person in him. "All you have to be is a good person. So do it! You'll feel good about yourself. Giving is addictive."

Volunteers must be 19 years of age or older (or 16+ for school-based programs). For more information, visit: [www.bbbst.com](http://www.bbbst.com) or phone 416-925-8981.

*Kelly has a ridiculous memory for celebrity gossip and anticipates becoming the next Bonnie Fuller.*



# Working the Woods

By Alek Gazdic

When Andrew Stapinski trekked out to a small northern town in Ontario to plant trees for the summer, he never thought he'd be back home in Toronto five days later.

"Total hell," the fourth-year University of Toronto student says of his short-lived tree planting career.

That was three summers ago. And it was an experience he'll probably never revisit.

"It was culture shock," Stapinski says. "Up there it's really a different world. It wasn't that I didn't like that world, (it was) just adjusting to that new environment, but with my old environment pulling me back."

Working alone for up to 10 hours a day in extreme weather, facing an overdose of bugs and a shortage of TV appeals to many students because of the potential green you can bag in your wallet to help ease tuition debt. According to [www.debtfreegrad.com](http://www.debtfreegrad.com), an online job resource, experienced planters can make up to \$10,000 in just two months if they can survive the elements.

Most planters do, however, know what to expect before they accept the job, and take the opportunity to test their personal limits.

A typical planting day looks like this: wake up around 6 a.m., start planting around 7:30, return to camp at 7 p.m., eat dinner, have a beer or two, and hit the sack by 9:30 p.m.

Most crews plant for six days, with one day off. On that one peaceful day, most go to town, shower, do laundry and party hard.

Tom White, a student at the Ontario College of Art and Design, says the hard lifestyle proved to be fun.

"It's so nice just to be outside all day, and you're kind of your own boss. As long as you're meeting your quota, you can do pretty much what you want," he says.

That quota means planting at least 1,000 trees a day, or you're wasting your time making minimum wage after equipment costs and a daily camp fee that includes meals.

In his rookie year last summer, White says he averaged 2,000 trees a day and made \$6,000 in his 38-day season in Hearst, a 12-hour drive north of Toronto.

Earning a few cents per tree, most planters chose to work hard rather than smart, he recalls. White was successful because he learned from the camp's top veteran that the fastest way to plant is to focus. Counting the seconds between trees, and seeking to beat that time each plant, was the key.

His experience began, however, in a freakishly cold spring. "In Toronto, we were hanging around in shorts, and while we were driving up to Hearst it got progressively cold and gray," he says. "On the first night it snowed on us and our tent blew down, and we had to move camp at 5 a.m., and it snowed on and off for three weeks in early May."

The experience was not unusual. Agronomists and physiotherapists compare tree planting to the labour and energy level an Olympic decathlon athlete puts out during performance, says John Murray, program development and communications coordinator for the Ontario Forestry Safe Workplace Association.

Murray says tree planting is considered a high-risk occupation, especially in strain and sprain injuries, because of the nature of the work and where it takes place — across rough terrain, up and down hill, walking in brush and along gravel, and through mud and swamps in all types of weather.

Statistics show that one in five planters suffers from some form of injury, the most common being tendonitis in the wrist and back aches.

A University of British Columbia study says the average planter carries a cumulative weight of 1,000 kg a day, across 16 km, bending more than 200 times an hour.

Murray says the one in five injury rate is misleading. "It's maybe even higher than that because planters go through a whole season putting up with aches and pains . . . and tend not to make a claim because they don't want to lose wages. They suffer through. There's probably a lot of injuries that go unreported, just by the nature of getting paid. You don't work, you don't get paid."

"It costs (the Workers Compensation Board), across Canada, millions of dollars a year," he adds.

Despite the aching muscles and hand sores, outdoor enthusiasts say the job is worth it.

Rookie planter Kate Kyle made \$4,000 in her five weeks, but plans to make a lot more when she returns this summer. Since there is a learning curve for rookies, most planters return year after year to maximize earnings with experience.

Profits usually double in the second season, the third-year Ryerson journalism student says. The planting culture becomes a lifestyle to many.

Kyle knows people who first plant in British Columbia and then come to Ontario during the summer.

Working in the middle of nowhere tends to produce close-knit relationships and a language all of its own. A planter suffering from "the claw," for example, is sporting a hand that won't open from its tight shovel grip (even the morning after). "Christmas toe" is when you lose the feeling in your big toe from kicking at the ground to make the planting holes (the lack of sensation lasts until Christmas), and "bag rash" is the sore, raw skin that comes from the constant rubbing of tree bags.

In the forest, the physical components of planting don't paint the entire picture.

Planting "is more of a mental marathon than a physical marathon," says Ross Gartley, administrator for Outland Reforestation Inc. "It can ride you mentally pretty hard."

Being a 6 foot 3 male body builder doesn't mean you're going to be fine, or plant the most trees, Kyle recalls women in her camp who planted more than the men.

Close to 700 million trees are planted in Canada each year. Between 80 to 90 per cent of summer planters are college or university students, doing the dirty job usually in May and June. Applications are available at most university employment centres, although many companies do most of their hiring online.

In the end, helping the environment, getting plenty of fresh air and meeting great friends outweighs the pain and anguish.

"You can put all that crap you deal with in the city, the fast-paced lifestyle, you can forget about that for a few months. You're living a really basic lifestyle. It's nice. It's refreshing after exams," Kyle says.

*Alek enjoys travelling and being at one with nature, but has no immediate plans to tree plant.*

# Steel Town's Splash of Colour

By Jennifer March

This is Hess Village, a leftover from Victorian times and home to numerous bars and restaurants, ranging from British pubs to dance clubs.

"It's one stop shopping . . . once you park your car you can go to 10 different places," says Jim Skaratt, owner of The Lazy Flamingo, a Hess village bar. "And each one's got its own very unique flavour."

It wasn't always this way. In 1969 the historic homes of the area were slated for destruction at the hands of high-rise developers. But local businesses saw the potential, rescuing and renovating the older structures, and the city's entertainment district was born.

The city's tourism planners say the village is a key element in its strategy to attract people to Hamilton. "The appeal is a combination of outstanding experiences. It is aesthetically beautiful and has a real different feel to it," says Ted Flett, a representative of Tourism Hamilton.

Bob Daniels, who has run an art gallery and

picture framing business in the heart of the village since 1980 says the cumulative total of 10,000 visitors to Hess on any given weekend in the summer.

"We don't get tourist busses pulling up to the curb and unloading blue haired ladies, but now there is a huge influx of people coming to the patios," Daniels says.

In the summer, Hess village businesses are filled with visitors to the patios of the many bars and restaurants. "Since most bars and restaurants are housed in old buildings whose seating capacities are only 40-60 patrons, the patios - which can seat 400 thirsty guests - fuel the industry.

"It's a patio organization says Skaratt, who runs the Hess Village Jazz Festival, a major draw for tourists during the second week of July.

The event, which has run for 11 years, is "always a really good time, with really huge crowds. And because it's free, people just flock to the village."

The tourism board's Ted Flett says locals also take advantage of the dining and entertainment in Hess village and for visitors and locals alike, it is a short walking distance to the downtown, theatre district, major museums and other landmarks.

Jazz musician Roger Vallve, who is a frequent performer on the stage at the jazz festival and who has lived in Hess village for more than two years, says the entertainment district in Hess is booming. "There are always festivities in Hess . . . the scene is a must see."

For 22-year-old Jessica Cobian, a four-year resident of Hamilton, Hess Village offers an escape from modern city life. "It's really quaint and old-country-looking. It's one thing about Hamilton that's not gross."

with files from Chrissie O'Brien

*Jennifer enjoys the nightlife and hopes to write for the entertainment industry.*



## Catcall Phenomenon

By Mar Fenech

Nice ass, bitch!

That's how some men try to attract a woman's attention. Catcalling - it's a worldwide phenomenon, shouted in every language at women of every shape, size and nationality. It seems some men think hollering that a woman has "nice tits" is a compliment.

Humber College human sexuality and psychology instructor Jean Jablonski, is astonished that men still catcall at women. She says men do it not only to get women to notice them, but also to impress their friends.

"It has to do with their peer influences," she says. "If they

estly trying to send a compliment, while others are just trying to prove they can say anything to anyone."

Catcalling is not limited to New York or Toronto streets. In Cairo, Egypt, it is illegal for a man to leer at a woman. Egyptian law against verbal harassment states that any person caught hollering at a passerby is subject to a prison term of one month. For repeat offenders, a six-month jail sentence is imposed.

Unlike in Egypt, catcalling in Canada is perfectly legal, according to Sergeant Martin Hunt, a corporate communications officer with the Toronto Police Services. He recalls a situation where criminal charges were laid, but not against the catcaller.

ing girls with the query, "You England?" Yes, I'm a country.

Admittedly, women can be hypocritical. If the guy guilty of hollering is good-looking, all is often forgiven.

Teresa Ciccone, a 22-year-old York University law student says: "It gets annoying when you look and see the person is old enough to be your father, but I wouldn't mind so much if it was some young, solid guy; although, that rarely happens!"

Women are guilty of the catcalling too. The difference is women tend to be far more selective about who they will catcall.

Ciccone says she flipped things around by honking at a construction worker. "He was hot, and he definitely noticed when I

**"It's attention and attention is good, especially when we aren't getting it from those we want it from."**

hang out with a group that does that sort of thing, then they will be influenced to do it. Not all men catcall. I know many men who never do it."

New York-based feminist Amy Richards doesn't find catcalls insulting. This activist and co-founder of the Third Wave Foundation, an online feminist movement, says: "If you are feeling down and someone yells, 'Hey beautiful,' it's bound to have an impact on your self image. It's attention and attention is good, especially when we aren't getting it from those we want it from."

Richards says although she doesn't want to give the men who heckle her satisfaction. "Sometimes they make me laugh. I try to show that I'm humoured, but not flattered," she says. "The people who yell them are a mixed bag, some are just hon-

"A couple of years ago, a female recipient of such calls assaulted the male who made them. She was charged with assault after his parents filed a complaint."

In Holland, catcalls are infrequent, according to Gwenda Swighuisen Reigersberg, 22, who lives in Eindhoven.

"In the bigger cities, the Dutch guys leave you alone," she says. "It's usually the tourists that harass you. I once had a group of men shout 'nice ass mama!' at me."

Residents of the Mediterranean island of Malta call catcallers "Hamalli" - the Maltese equivalent of the North American "trailer trash."

The Hamalli have perfected the art of catcalls, shouting such romantic phrases as, "Hey Sex!" or approaching foreign-look-

catcalled him!"

Gavin O'Leary, who lives in Rexdale, has been the recipient of the occasional catcall. "Believe it or not I have been catcalled in the past, though not as often as I would like. I've had women yell out of car windows and blow kisses while I'm walking or standing at a light or bus stop. It's happened very rarely - maybe four or five times in my life."

While most men will insist catcalls are compliments, and just a way of getting a woman's attention, women know that when they get honked or yelled at, it doesn't necessarily mean they're pretty. They know the only reason they're getting called "sexy," "hot" or even "England" is because they happen to cross the catcaller's path at that moment.

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# Paradise Lost

By Mark Sauner

Banff offers a unique paradise to tourists from around the world, but as sightseers continue to pour into the Rocky Mountain town, that scenic, postcard wilderness has become endangered. It has become a coveted piece of real estate, dividing interests among big business, environmentalists and the Canadian government.

Ski hills, lakes, swanky hotels and forest trails generate an annual \$750 million for Banff, but have been a bane as well as a boon. Critics say, while business has never been better, commercial development has never been more intrusive into Banff's backwoods.

To accommodate the growing number of tourists, more development has taken place, further endangering the park's wildlife.

"Human traffic is already too high," Josh Klein of the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), an independent organization, says. "The numbers continue to grow and cause an incredible stress on the environment."

Because Banff is a national park, the federal government has stepped in, con-

issues here."

Also harming the park's eco-system, is the suppression of natural fires, which revitalize vegetation. Natural bush fires haven't burned in Banff for 70 years.

Ottawa's Bow Valley Report calls for inducing the growth of grasses and bushes, the central foods for many of the park's animals, by controlled fire.

Among the many commercial developments due to spring up in Banff, the construction of the Fairmont Banff Springs Convention Center has caused a stir of international attention.

The 150,000 square foot building is expected to bring thousands more tourists to Banff. This has caused environmental agencies to hold worldwide protests to halt the construction of the building, which many groups say will further threaten wildlife, especially the park's grizzly bears.

"They're putting their bottom line, their corporate profits, in front of the good of the park," Klein says. "In 2001 alone, four grizzlies were killed by human activity."

Two groups, the Mountain Parks



Construction crews are racing against the clock to complete construction of the Fairmont Banff Springs Convention Centre.

ducting several intensive studies of the Banff area, beginning in 1994, and has instituted many changes in how the town will run itself. These studies culminated in the Banff Bow Valley Report.

"I think the biggest benefit from the study is it has focused the town on the benefits to growth limits, heritage tourism, and that Banff cannot be all things to all people," Banff Mayor Dennis Shuler says. "I think the study needs to be considered broadly as opposed to specifics and, in that context, has been useful and considered by the town, probably more indirectly rather than directly."

Among the more drastic government recommendations are a cap on the town's population – currently at 7,600 – at 10,000 residents, no new land allocations for commercial use and quotas on the number of tourists coming into the town.

"The federal government has taken these recommendations seriously," says Tom Hinch, professor of Recreation at the University of Alberta. "There are a lot of

Watershed Association, and the First Nations, both have lawsuits against Fairmont Hotels, actions which Klein and the EIA hope will stifle the hotel's construction.

"They felled trees last summer, they've started to clear the land," Klein says. "They're working as fast as they can before the lawsuits reach the court; before things go awry."

As tourism and development in Banff and surrounding areas inevitably increase with time, the resilience of wildlife in Banff will be tested even further. Banff National Park already supports two major communities, a four-lane expressway, and three posh ski resorts.

The latest government restrictions prompted by the Bow Valley Report will prove to be either prudent solutions to the development problem, or too little too late.

*Mark is a 23-year-old journalism student who currently resides in Toronto.*



## Underground Art

By Renee Borovitch

Ask any tourist to describe Toronto and they'll talk about the CN Tower, great international cuisine, vibrant theatres and an idyllic waterfront. Now some of the city's better known citizens would like to add "underground art" to the lexicon.

Underground as in "subway."

Launched in 1954 and celebrating its golden anniversary next year, the Toronto subway system has grown from the original 7.5 kilometer route from Eglinton to Union Station, to a network spanning nearly 62 km. The newest addition, on Sheppard Avenue from Yonge to Don Mills, opened last November.

That's a lot of display space that Toronto City Councillor Howard Moscoe, for one, would like to see filled with artwork.

"Subway art is essential to making Toronto a great city," he says. "I wish there could be more of it."

The TTC chairman fought a running battle with staff over the need for art. "They did not appreciate the value of it," he says.

The conflict produced some notable successes for art lovers – especially at the Downsview Station which combines coloured tiles with natural light from overhead skylights for an aesthetic masterpiece. "The station is magnificent," Moscoe says, and is not alone in his appreciation of this underground art.

John Sewell, former mayor of Toronto, and supporter of arts, also says there should be more art in the subway stations.

"Most stations have only one piece of art and a lot of empty wall space, that should be used," Sewell says.

Sewell says Queen Street station, with its picture rendition of the former corner of Queen and Yonge streets and the Eaton Centre is his favourite. "It's got William Lyon Mackenzie and Laura Secord," he adds.

The artwork, by John Boyle, is meant to represent the old and new. "I've always been interested in historical things and have tried to implement (that idea) in most of my work," Boyle says.

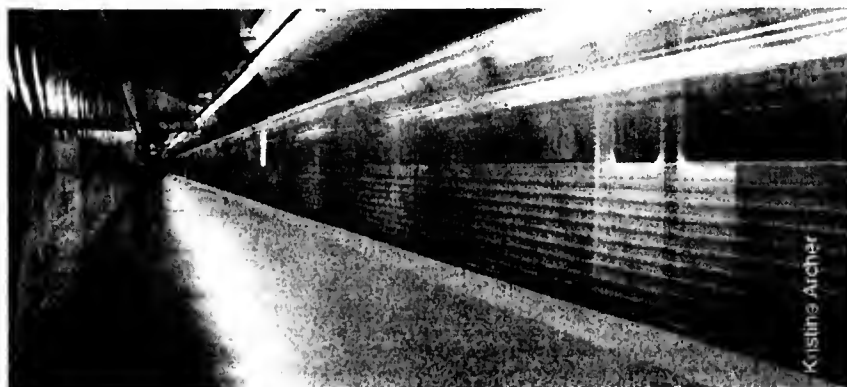
"Art, in any public venue, is more vulnerable than most. I had to think of a way to keep it safe, and as impervious to vandals as possible. To do this I used baked porcelain on steel, and used paint meant for (outdoor) signs," Boyle adds.

Rena Greer a public arts consultant involved with subway art on the Spadina Line displays in the 1970s, and more recently with those on the new Sheppard Line, says "subway art is not new. Cities all over the world are getting involved in it."

She says the process of choosing art for stations is long and detailed.

"There was an open call in the newspapers (for Sheppard Line art) and over 300 people submitted credentials. The process took about six months. We were looking for people who could work in a two-dimensional medium and they had to be part of a design team with the architects."

*A mature student and the single parent of a 13-year-old son, Renee keeps her mind and attitude young with a regular regime of weight training and an unwavering faith in a higher power.*



# Tops Off!

By Sandy Garcia



Top-free activists (from left) Evangeline Gordon, Fátima Pereira-Henson, Julie Goforth exercise their right to bare their breasts in public.

Whatever happened to Gwen Jacob and the battle for bare breasts in Ontario?

The warrior for a "top-free" province won her legal battle more than seven years ago, but since then both she – and her breasts – have dropped out of sight.

In December 1996, the Court of Appeal ruled that top-free-dom is not indecent. This ruling meant women in Ontario could remove their shirts in public without the fear of being arrested or charged with indecency.

According to Fátima Pereira-Henson – a woman's rights activist who went top-free in 1997 – Jacob was forced into hiding because she was constantly being harassed after her top-free crusade in Guelph in 1991. Several attempts to contact Jacob by *Out There* staff were unsuccessful.

Pereira-Henson says Jacob had to get as far out of the public's eye as possible, and avoids phone calls and interviews. "It was just too hot for her. I didn't go out and fight for the right to go top-free. I exercised a right that was mine," she says.

Paul Rapoport, president of the Topfree Equal Rights Association, says women have the right to be as comfortable as men, and not to be stigmatized because their breasts are "different." His organization does not encourage women to go top-free, but strongly supports a woman's choice to do so.

"We don't tell women to go topless, but feel women should be able to go top-free if they want to," Rapoport says.

But he adds there are certain situations where women may not feel safe walking top-free and his organization

acknowledges and respects those.

"There are certainly parts of cities where women wouldn't (want to) walk top-free," Rapoport says. Factors such as location, time of day, number of people, can all influence a woman's choice to bare all. "It all depends on the attitude of the woman."

Rapoport adds there is currently no evidence that going bare-breasted increases the likelihood of violence against a woman or her gender.

According to Pereira-Henson, who went swimming top-free in Cambridge, Ont. in 1997, it was the women who reacted negatively to her decision to bare her breasts.

"For the most part women are taught to feel that other women are competition," Pereira-Henson says. "It was insecure women that were the most outrageous in their disdain of me or of my activity."

Gwen Landolt, national vice-president of REAL Women of Canada, says when women do decide to uncover their breasts in public, they are criticized, ridiculed and hassled. It's no won-

der fewer women are going top-free, she says.

"Why would we ask to go top-free? It doesn't make sense. It's part of our contemporary culture that the breasts are provocative; the breasts are sex objects," Landolt says.

She says women are not going top-free because they have too much dignity to follow in Jacob or Pereira-Henson's footsteps.

Since the Jacob crusade, and Pereira-Henson's swimming incident, reports of women going top-free have died down.

"Many people assume that women aren't doing this anymore, but I think the opposite is true," he says. "Women are doing it from the reports we have, but the media interest for shock value has certainly crumbled, as it should."

*Sandy has written for Metro and can't wait to graduate. She loves being a journalist and hopes to become a reporter for one of Toronto's major daily newspapers.*

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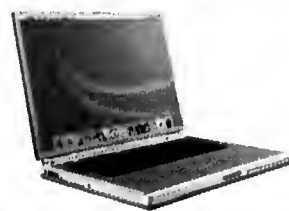
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 Authorized Reseller



# Boost Your Immunity

By Mar Fenech



After having his malaria pills stolen by the military in the Congo (despite sending half the medication to the Canadian Embassy for safekeeping) Humber College graduate David Farrugia was a prime target for the potentially fatal illness.

"I started taking the pills one month before I entered the infected area in Africa, and resumed a month after departing," he recalls. "The corrupt military went on a rampage when their president, Mobutu Sese Seko, did not pay them their salaries. They robbed the post office of everything – including my supply package. I ran out of medicine in the jungles of Congo."

Farrugia, who was cycling through the continent, was bitten by an infected mosquito that transmitted the malaria parasite into his body.

"The pills I was taking at the time only suppress the effects of malaria, they do not kill it," he says. "When I ran out of the pills, the parasite was allowed to roam freely."

Farrugia was visiting a Catholic mission's refugee camp in the jungle when the malaria hit him full force.

"I thought I just had a fever but I was told by a priest that it was malaria and he rushed me to the hospital where Belgian nuns took care of me for five days."

Malaria is one of the most widely spread epidemics across the globe, so it is no stranger to travellers. The acute flu-like illness is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected *Anopheles* mosquito (which mostly bite between dusk and dawn). The parasite can also be spread, although rarely, through blood transfusions, shared needle use, or from a mother to her unborn child.

If untreated, malaria can be deadly, but can often be prevented by using anti-malarial drugs, and by using personal protection measures, like bed nets and insect repellent.

There is no inoculation for malaria. Only pills are available to prevent and combat this illness.

Several factors influence the treatment of malaria, including the species causing the illness, the severity, and the age of the infected person. Travellers must be aware of the symptoms, so if they come into contact with the parasite, they can be treated immediately.

"I had severe chills, and I shook violently," Farrugia, who also suffered joint pain, remembers. "I then had severe sweats to the point where I would drench my bed with perspiration. Then I would become calm and exhausted, so I would sleep until the symptoms returned."

Common symptoms of malaria include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting and muscle pain. Often, an infected person will experience severe shakes or muscle spasms and chills. Accurate diagnosis of the parasite requires a blood test because there is such a wide range of symptoms.

It is vital that those who have travelled to infected regions observe their health upon returning home.

"Always monitor your health," Farrugia says. "Even up to nine months after being back. My relapses of malaria occurred seven months after I was treated in Congo."

Dr. Gerald Brail, of the William Osler Health Centre in Etobicoke, says travellers are no longer able to visit family doctors for travel-related medication and vaccinations.

Immunizations are the responsibility of the traveller, costing anywhere from \$25 to over \$100 per dose, as pre-travel medication was de-listed by OHIP as of July 1, 1998.

"People who visit countries that have diseases like malaria can get their shots at tropical disease centres, like the Malton Medical Clinic, or the tropical disease unit of the Toronto General Hospital," Dr. Brail says. "They're the ones who are authorized to give out the specialized inoculations."

"This isn't such a bad idea, since travel medicine is very specialized," she says. "It is very difficult for a general practitioner to keep current in travel and tropical disease. Certain vaccines, such as yellow fever, can only be given by licensed travel clinics, due to the strict regulations under

which they must be stored and administered."

Although the most common, malaria is not the only disease that can affect travellers. A healthcare advisor will suggest which vaccinations to get depending on your destination, length of trip, type of travel (backpacking vs. all-inclusive resort) and whether there are currently any outbreaks at your destination.

People rarely consider getting vaccines before travelling to Mexico, but Health Canada and the World Health Organization (WHO) report that malaria, cholera, typhoid, dengue fever, hepatitis A, and tuberculosis can occur in Mexico.

Besides sipping margaritas in Mexico, many college students purchase last-minute package deals to head south to Cuba or the Dominican Republic. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting vaccinated four to six weeks before travelling to any of these countries for hepatitis A, hepatitis B, rabies, typhoid and yellow fever.

continuation on page 10...

## continuation of inoculations...

Health Canada says Canadians are especially vulnerable to sicknesses because diseases found abroad are not common here.

Brail also recommends inoculations for anyone visiting any part of Africa or India but cautions, "Beware of anywhere cleanliness and food handling might be an issue. Most of Europe is pretty clean and safe, so you wouldn't have to worry."

Alister Mathieson, Humber College's dean of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism, worked in the travel industry for many years, and says the best way to avoid illness is by following the advice of the Tropical Disease Centre.

"There is no relationship between the inoculations required with the type of (travel) package being purchased," Mathieson says. "Yes, it may be safer to stay in an all-inclusive, but people go beyond the boundaries of the resort and may be exposed to water or mosquitoes in the resort as well."

*A newly certified aerobic instructor, Mar is an avid Lord of the Rings fan who hopes to balance freelancing for magazines with fiction writing.*

**\*\*According to the World Health Organization (WHO), malaria in humans is caused by four different species of the protozoan parasite Plasmodium: Plasmodium falciparum, P. vivax, P. ovale and P. malarie. The most dangerous and severe is falciparum.**

For more information about malaria and other tropical diseases, check out:

- [www.travelhealth.gc.ca](http://www.travelhealth.gc.ca) (Health Canada)
- <http://www.who.int/en/> (World Health Organization)
- <http://www.rph.wa.gov.au/labs/haem/malaria/treatment.html> (Malaria Treatment)

### Travel Clinics in Ontario:

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(905) 828-6000 (905) 828-9372 Dr. Medhat Gindi

Malton Medical Group  
7330 Goreway Drive Suite 22 Mississauga, ON  
(905) 677-4200 (905) 677-0541 Dr. D.A. Lewis

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For more locations see [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspssp/tmp-pmv/travel/clinic\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspssp/tmp-pmv/travel/clinic_e.html)

# Threats to Toronto Tourism

By Mar Fenech and Chrissie O'Brien

Terrorism, war and the outbreak of disease, have all threatened one of the city's biggest industries, keeping Toronto's tourism experts closely watching the world.

"Companies are having real difficulties. There is a lot of pent up fear in Canada. People are putting off travel plans," says Rob Berry a tourism development officer with the City of Toronto.

Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) made Toronto the toxic town as hospitals shut down and masks popped up around the city. Locals tried to find a way out, and no one was looking for a way in.

"Travellers are being cautioned to avoid hotspots, including Toronto," says Tonya Baggs, 20, a third-year nursing student at Humber College who had her internship curtailed due to SARS. "They're telling tourists to avoid the hotspots, so of course it's going to affect tourism. Who would want to travel to a place with a potentially deadly disease? I wouldn't."

John Houghton, vice-president of sales and marketing for the Toronto Convention Centre, felt these effects firsthand when the April convention of the American Society for Cancer Research cancelled due to the SARS scare.

"These people spend a great deal of time in hospitals working with patients, so they cancelled because of SARS," he says.

But SARS is not the only world event to leave the tourism industry gasping for breath.

"The war (in Iraq) and SARS combined has had a pretty major impact, probably a little more significant than 9/11," Berry says.

After September 11, 2001, when airplanes became weapons of mass destruction, the tourist was a species in danger of extinction worldwide. But experts say Toronto has been experiencing a decrease in tourism since at least 1998.

"In the past five years Toronto has seen a decrease in market share compared with other destinations in Canada, specifically Vancouver and Montreal," Berry says.

Randy Williams, president and CEO of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada, says the tourism industry in Canada was worth \$52.2 billion in 2001 and \$51.7 billion in 2002.

"It dropped by what looks like only a marginal amount but the 2002 dollar was not worth as much and the industry has been growing by five or six per cent since 1982."

Williams says this was negative growth due to the effect of world events and inflation. The industry "usually grows on a live per cent average per year," he says.

Statistics Canada numbers for 2002 indicated that tourism to Canada did increase marginally in the fourth quarter, however these numbers do not reflect any effect caused by current tensions over the war on Iraq and SARS.

"We have indicators that the war will have a significant impact depending where you are in Canada," Williams notes. He says that Toronto's tourism may feel this impact as a major international business travel hub, as will Vancouver, which relies mainly on international travellers.

Alister Mathieson, dean of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism at Humber College, who has worked in the tourism industry in the private sector, says during the 1991 war in the Persian Gulf he found there were both immediate and long-term effects on tourism.

"Travel demand is always susceptible to external factors and their degree of severity," he says. "The impact tends to be regional. In war the number of tourists in countries that are separate from turmoil return to normal fairly quickly."

Toronto's Rob Berry says 60 to 70 per cent of visitors to Toronto come from the rest of Ontario.

Of the other tourists to Toronto, 20 per cent are from the United States, 10 per cent from the rest of Canada, and 10 per cent from overseas.

Since the second largest percentage of tourists to Ontario come from our closest neighbours, trackers of Toronto's tourism have felt a real pinch from the problematic U.S. economy, especially in Toronto's booming business industry.

"The real tone is that the sluggish economy in the U.S. is spilling over," Berry says. "Since 9/11 there has been some degree of decline on the business side of things. These are challenging times, and companies are having real difficulties."

Business is another major reason people come to Toronto, yet it is a sector of tourism which has yet to recover from 2001 and 2002.

"We are a very popular convention town because Toronto has the space a major convention needs," Williams says.

He explains Toronto provides companies with facilities that have a required number of hotel rooms and the ability to go indoors from the convention complex to the city.

"The other cities that would offer them this would be in the U.S.," he says.

Houghton says the war has not had a tremendous impact on Toronto's conference business.

"We have a lot of friends in the U.S. who understand the Canadian position on the war."

The American Society for Cancer Research thought it more prudent to reschedule, Houghton says, and have for later on in the year.

Yet both health officials and tourism experts admit SARS and tourism are a moving issue. It's uncertain what the effect on tourism will be until it's all over.

"But there is always light at the end of the tunnel," Houghton says. "People will travel."

**"In the past five years Toronto has seen a decrease in market share compared with other destinations in Canada, specifically Vancouver and Montreal."**



# Park Rules

By Kate Schwass

Nothing spoils a camping trip like getting evicted. "I knew people were there to have fun, but if they broke the rules, it was my job to kick them out," Jeff Bueckert, who worked as a security guard at a conservation area last summer, says.

In order to avoid that unpleasant fate, campers should be aware of the rules:

- Don't burn brush found on your campsite. What might look like dead branches to a camper could be a home to little critters.
- Never leave your campfire unattended and keep it low.
- Don't play loud music, even if it's the middle of the afternoon. The Conservation Areas Act says no person shall "behave in a manner that unreasonably disturbs other persons in the park or unreasonably interferes with their enjoyment of the park."
- Make sure alcohol is permitted at the campground. Many parks prohibit alcohol on long weekends, and most provincial and national parks ban it outright in spring. If you're caught with alcohol – even if you're not drinking it – most parks will kick you out.

"Check out the park rules before you go so you know if there are any rules you can't handle," Bueckert suggests.

If you knowingly break a rule, expect to get a fine or evicted. Park security can evict you at any time. If you cause trouble, they send you home at your expense. If you claim you don't have any money, the police will be called.

*Kate graduated with a BA in English from the University of Waterloo. She came to Humber to pursue her love of print media and hopes to someday become a foreign news correspondent.*

# Camping Virgins

By Liz Byers

Camping can be a fantastic vacation or weekend getaway for anyone. If considering trying your hand at it for the first time, there are certain things you should know before piling in the car with a few friends and heading out.

Camping requires a couple pieces of crucial equipment. Rick Churchra, an avid camper for more than 20 years, and sales representative for Mountain Equipment Co-op in Toronto, recommends a good tent, sleeping bag and mattress.

"Stay away from air mattresses because they do not give you the insulating qualities you need. Get a type of closed cell foam instead."

Churchra adds the most important thing about camping is to be well-fed, warm and dry.

"It is horrible to not get a good night's sleep, especially when you can avoid it," he says.

This news comes too late for Jason Lean, a 24-year-old student attending teacher's college. He and his girlfriend Dana, were camping together for the first time when their air mattress suddenly started to deflate.

"I was just lying there trying to sleep, when all I could feel was air escaping from somewhere," Lean recalls. "Neither of us could figure it out for the longest time."

The next morning Lean solved the mystery. "I took one look at Dana's gold hoop earrings and it simply clicked."

Shannon Moore's first experience with some forest dwellers was also too close for comfort.

"I left the zipper to the tent open an inch at the most because I wanted some fresh air to get in. Boy, was that the biggest mistake I ever made."

As she was about to jump in her warm and inviting sleeping bag, she noticed something out of the corner of her eye.

"I flipped up the covers and there were snails and earwigs



Properly prepare for your great camping adventure.

everywhere. All I remember is screaming and jumping, and tearing out of that tent as fast as my legs would carry me."

Churchra says there are other camping do's and don'ts to keep in mind when exploring the outdoors.

"Never ever have food in the tent. Animals have such a (good sense of smell that even if it is only a few peanuts they will find it."

He suggests packing away food in a locked car or hanging it up in a tree at a decent height.

"Don't be worried about bears as much as skunks and porcupines. Those creatures will gnaw at everything."

Another recommendation is to use a stove rather than firewood.

"A fire pit and gathering wood affects the livelihood of another animal or the entire forest," Churchra says. "And if it is raining, you will always have food to eat."

No matter what you bring or what happens, try to keep an open

mind about the entire experience. "Just like real estate is all about location, camping is all about attitude," Churchra says. "If you want to have a good time then don't let the bugs and dirt bother you. Carry with you a sense of adventure."

Finally, Churchra suggests keeping the whole thing simple. "You don't have to canoe or hike 50 miles your first time out," he says. "Go to a campsite with your car and then you always have a way out if the going gets too tough for you."

Lean says camping is tough work but well worth the effort in the long run. "Leave the city and go see some trees. Get away from all the buildings and see what is really out there."

*Liz is a first-year, post-graduate, j-school student. This "city girl" at heart looks forward to trying her luck in the great outdoors this summer.*

# Toronto's Jellystone Parks

By Ana Maria R. Marquês

Bored of doing the same old thing? Why not try something different, like a picnic. Toronto has an abundance of places where you can enjoy a Yogi style lunch or dinner. All you need is a blanket, some food, a few friends and a Frisbee. You can even bring along your furry friend!

### PLACES TO TRY:

- Parklawn (Lakeshore Boulevard and Parklawn Road)
- Sunnyside Park (Lakeshore Boulevard and Parkside Drive)
- Marie-Curtis Park (Lakeshore Boulevard and Brownsline)
- Lower Etobicoke Creek Park (42nd Street south of Lakeshore Boulevard West)
- Earncliffe Park (Clark Boulevard and Earncliffe Gate – Brampton)
- Chinguacousy Park (Queen Street West and Chinguacousy Road – Brampton)
- Earl Bales Park (Sheppard Avenue and Bathurst Street)
- High Park (Keele Street and Bloor Street West)
- Christie Pits (Bloor Street West and Christie Street)
- Trinity Bellwoods Park (Dovercourt Road and Dundas Street East)
- Rowntree Mills (Islington Avenue and Albion Road)
- Esther Lorrie Park (West Humber Boulevard and Kipling Avenue)
- The Pond (Centre Street and Bathurst Street)
- Guelph Lake (Off 401 in Guelph – 45 minutes from downtown Toronto)
- James Gardens (Edenbridge Drive and Royal York Road)
- Centennial Park (Rathburn Road and Renforth Drive)

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# Riding the

By Laura Kupcis

Students looking to travel comfortably and economically, need look no further than the train.

For travel on home turf, VIA Rail Canada offers packages to suit any traveller.

"The train itself has a certain ambience or appeal as opposed to just riding a bus," says Sherry Brown, marketing coordinator for Travel Cuts. "You can get up, you can walk around, they've got food on board that you can buy. It's also often a lot quicker to travel by train."

VIA employees will also point out interesting places along the trip.

"Many of our employees have been with us for decades and they're basically living memories. They will be able to point out the various details, whether it's geographic details or tidbits of information," Benoit Simoneau, spokesperson for VIA Rail, says.

"It's a unique opportunity to learn about the country's history, (and) you arrive at your destination relaxed and ready to go."

VIA Rail Canada offers various packages for students with an International Student Identity Card (ISIC). This card is available for \$16 through VIA or at any Travel Cuts location, with a passport-sized photo and proof of full-time student status.

"I know that a lot of students are definitely interested in travelling by train in Canada, especially right now," Brown says. "There's supposed to be a big push on seeing our own country as opposed to maybe going to other ones."

For travellers looking to explore Canada, VIA offers a Can-Rail pass, which allows for 12 days of unlimited travel within a 30 day period.

During peak season (June 1 - Oct. 15) students with an ISIC card, can travel for \$610 and adults for \$678. Extra travel days are \$50 per day for students and \$58 for adults. Off-season is \$381 for students and \$423 for adults with extra days offered for \$34 and \$37 respectively.

"It offers a lot of flexibility, so you can hop off and on wherever you want along the way," Brown says.

For those looking to go the step further, VIA Rail, in conjunction with AMTRAK, offers a North American pass, valid for unlimited travel within 30



days.

The pass is available to students for \$926 during peak season and \$652 during low season. Adults can travel for \$1029 during peak times and \$725 in off-season.

Among the many other vacation packages VIA offers, there is also a pass for those who don't have much time, but still want to do a little sightseeing.

The Corridor pass offers unlimited travel between Quebec City and Windsor over 10 days. Student passes are \$212 and adults are \$238, for economy class travel.

"It's cheaper for people who do not want to go across the country," Simoneau says. "It's a very good alternative."

The federal government invested \$402 million in 2000 to be spent over a five-year period to improve passenger rail travel.

"With that money we have upgraded infrastructures; we've renovated stations from coast to coast," VIA's Simoneau says. "We've bought new equipment, new locomotives."

VIA has purchased a total of 139 new Renaissance cars, bringing state-of-the-art technology to the rails, including sleeping cars with private and ensuite bathrooms.

These measures are also expected to benefit the environment. "Just one double rail line not only takes up less space, but is also capable of accommodating the same number of goods and travellers as a 16-lane freeway," says Jean Pelletier, chairman of the board for VIA Rail Canada. "Inter-city passenger rail requires three times less energy than air travel and six times less ener-

gy than travel by private auto-

The proposals would reduce Canada's roads.

"We estimate that once fully implemented, 2,500 fewer vehicles on the road would save the country a quarter of a billion dollars in emissions by over three-quarters

## EUROPE

Other travellers may want to pack around Europe for a different

One option for students is to travel through 17 countries, with either a 25-day or 30-day pass. The number of travel days and the cost vary, with the 25-day pass at \$1914 and the 30-day pass at \$2100.

With the flexi-pass, one can travel for a longer period of time. Ten or 15 days of travel cost \$806 or \$1060.

"You've got a longer time period to spend your trips right in a row. You don't have to spend a few days there," Brown says.

There is also the Select pass, which allows for five adjoining Eurail countries. The cost varies depending on the number of countries



# Is

## Ticket For One Please

By A.J. Wilson

Fearless and self aware, today's student travellers know exactly where they want to go, what they want to do and who they want to be when they get there. Which is why many are choosing to go it alone.

For Ian Monroe, 24, the decision to travel alone from Slovenia to London in 2002 was a practical one.

"My decision to travel alone was really about priorities. I was travelling with a friend who wanted to go further east. I had a tighter budget and a shorter window of time than he did and places I still wanted to see. So we said goodbye, and I went west to Geneva," Monroe says.

Renee Mellow, 24, surprised herself by travelling alone across Europe, while on exchange, in 2002. Travelling alone wasn't on her agenda but when cheap flights appeared, she couldn't resist.

"I was studying in England at the time and finding people to travel with was difficult," Mellow says. "For them continental Europe wasn't anything new. I wanted to live the cliché, and see all the sites from grade 11 history, so I just went and refused to compromise."

Instead of looking at travel as a once-in-a-lifetime event, the way their grandparents might have, students like Monroe and Mellow see solo travel as something to provide them with the experience and confidence they'll need for future travels.

"It took me only a few days in Beijing to realize that tourism isn't just sight-seeing, but what I was doing – taking language classes – was tourism in another sense," Matthew Levine, 23, says.

"Nobody wants to be thought of as the tacky, obnoxious, patronizing tourist, and I think travelling alone is seen as one way of minimizing that stigma."

But it's not necessary to travel halfway across the world to experience travelling alone.

"The thrill of solo travel has everything to do with being alone and nothing to do with where you are. Even the streets of your neighbourhood can feel different if you're alone," Levine says.

Heather Diack, 24, who has criss-crossed Canada alone, from Halifax to Edmonton by bus and train six times, believes lone travellers could reap the same rewards from a trip across New Brunswick as they can from Mexico or France.

"People will always treat a lone traveller as an outsider wherever you are, be it Moncton or Marrakech. Which means the challenges, save for maybe language, will always be relatively the same. You're always going to have to hunt for food, shelter and fun."

But some travellers think travelling alone may result in loneliness. Not necessarily, says Diack, who sees friends less as a buffer against loneliness and more as a tool for remembrance.

"A good companion can act like a travelogue; can testify better than any photograph that you were really there and that it all really happened," she says.

Levine agrees. For him, travel companions offer not so much a protection against loneliness as against trouble.

"While there are few places in the world that are really dangerous for a smart traveller, everybody will be stupid some time, and getting stuck in the middle of the Chinese countryside without any money and without anyone, just sucks."

Reflecting on his own transition back into family life, Levine is convinced that while travelling alone is hardly the romantic rite of passage we hope for, students keep doing it because it's one of the few rites remaining.

"I think people, especially students, travel by themselves because they know it's an easy way to create a new identity," he says.

*A.J. went to Italy in 2002 to learn Italian. She failed the course, but slept in a phone booth with gypsies.*

# Toronto's Music Scene

By Ambarish Maharaj

Looking for a good rock n' roll show? If you can spot Toronto on a map, then you're in luck.

You don't have to wait for the next travelling rock festival because there's no shortage of bands in the city and certainly no shortage of places to see them.

"Compared to other cities in the world, I'd say (Toronto) has one of the best scenes, and it's getting better," Geoff MacDonald, a sales representative at Deja Vu Discs in Ajax, says. He adds the concept of a local music scene isn't a Toronto phenomenon.

Any fan with a casual sense of rock history, he says, should be familiar with the Manchester scene of the '80s, which spawned Joy Division and the Seattle scene of the '90s, with which Nirvana is commonly identified.

But Toronto, he says, can hold its own – even if the city doesn't necessarily have a definitive sound.

He attributes this to the abundance of local independent or "indie" record labels, like Three GUT Records, venues such as Lee's Palace, the Horseshoe Tavern and Sneaky Dee's, and fanzines like *Wavelength*.

Flipping through one of these 'zines, a local music fan is bombarded by an array of album and concert reviews, interviews with local artists and musicians, editorial music columns and local music news.

MacDonald goes on to name a handful of the city's more promising bands like Royal City, Broken Social Scene and the Constantines, as well as a few better-known acts, like soulful, perpetually heartbroken, indie-folk crooner Hayden and Sum 41.

Clayton Churcher sees the Toronto music scene as a vibrant and tight-knit community. Churcher is the drummer of Anagram, an Oshawa-based psychedelic punk band. The band has played at several venues in the city over the past two-and-a-half years.

Churcher attributes the health of the scene to suburban bands. "I found that most bands in Toronto originate in the smaller towns," he says.

McDonald points out that the highly acclaimed indie record label Sonic Unyon, home of popular Toronto bands like the Tangiers and A Northern Chorus, (as well as Montreal's Tricky Woo and Halifax's Thrush Hermit), is actually based in Hamilton.

"Most bands are from the suburbs, or at least most band members are. Very few bands are (exclusively) from Toronto," says Alice Zurawski, a Mississauga resident who attends an average of three shows a month.

According to the label's Web site, it was started by three university students in the early '90s, who also happened to be members of the band Tristan Psionic, but the label has grown considerably since then.

"Although we primarily release material by Canadian artists, we also license records for Canadian release by artists from outside of Canada."

This sort of impressive evolution from humble beginnings embodies the punk rock and indie ethos of DIY, or "do it yourself," a philosophy that has proved instrumental in the growth of local music scenes around the world.

Local shows are more fun to attend anyway, Zurawski says. For someone who loves nothing more than seeing a good homegrown band, there are worse cities to live in.

*Ambarish enjoys drinking tea, collecting baby shark teeth, and stringing antique cellos. He is a Pisces.*

# Bands on the Road



By Mike McCarthy

Sacrificing the certainty of a 9 to 5 summer job to take your startup band on the road is a lot like taking a vacation and getting paid to do it.

To earn good hard cash it may be necessary for a band to venture over the border. But before you load up the van, keep in mind that while touring can be a lot of fun, doing it for a living can have its ups and downs.

These can range from finding a vehicle to travel in, to crossing borders and getting dates lined up in various cities. But the main problem seems to be actually getting paid for the shows you play.

"It all depends on how many people show up versus how much money the promoter stands to make. I personally have no problem taking a financial hit for a band so they will be better off on the road, but some promoters aren't like that," Toby Milton, a Toronto show promoter, says.

Yet, some bands have encountered obstacles when it comes to getting paid. Matt Wesley, singer for Ontario punk band The Getaway, says they have had to walk promoters to the cash machine in order to get their money.

On the other hand, Ontario rockers Kitchens and Bathrooms have had better experiences in terms of receiving payment after a performance.

"Some shows we were making like \$500 and others we were making gas money. It worked out pretty well in the end," guitarist/vocalist Phil Williams says.

When you and your bandmates set out on the road for an extended period of time your vehicle of choice will become your home on wheels for the duration of your tour. This means factoring in costs like maintenance and fuel.

"Gas! It sucks! I wish all cars were electric or something, gas is so expensive," Williams says. "You'd think it would be so much less in the prairies, but it's actually more expensive sometimes. But gas in the U.S. right now is out of control."

Planning to play American shows is one thing, but making it happen is some-

thing totally different. Canadian bands face currency issues, problems finding contacts in different cities and border crossings that don't always go so well.

"It is getting really hard for Canadian bands to get over the border and into the United States," Milton says. "There are several ways to do it, the right way being to get your papers from U.S. customs, but now I have heard that papers don't even get you across sometimes."

The unpredictability of the U.S. borders cause headaches for Canadian bands every year and it seems no one has a way to guarantee a hassle-free crossing.

"The only way to make sure you get across with no problems is to cough up \$1000 per band member and get working visas for the States," Milton says. "And now it is rumoured that they may stop letting people do that as well."

However, some lucky bands do fall into the States unscathed and then have a wonderful trip ahead of them.

Getting tours planned and hooked is a skill that comes naturally to some, but with difficulty for others.

"Our first two tours were booked completely by me," Williams says. "Our most recent tours have been booked by touring agencies in the U.S. But we're still pretty active in getting things booked."

Wesley has a similar story. "We started out booking ourselves. Then we had a friend do it, and then we got picked up by a booking agency."

The whirlwind of touring abroad can seem dizzying at times and not worth the trouble. If it weren't for the stories bands come back with then it would probably be just that – not worth it.

"Touring is so fun, and half of it is all about acting like an ass cause you're far away from home and chances are you'll never see most of the people you meet again anyway. Everyone should go on tour at least once," Wesley says.

*Mike is a 22-year-old journalism student who is in a crappy band. To hear his audio mess visit [www.killman-nequin.com](http://www.killman-nequin.com).*



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# Insurance: Don't Leave Home Without It

By Ashley Martin

Travellers are prepared to max out their credit cards or spend their last cent on a plane ticket or rental car, but many fail to consider putting a few bucks aside to purchase travel insurance.

Ray Battison, a Toronto-based insurance broker, says students often get the lowest premiums.

"Because students are so young, the premium is very low in relation to older (people) buying the same plan," he says.

Battison says that a trip cancellation would irritate anyone, but without the purchase of cancellation insurance, a traveller could stand to lose the entire cost of the trip.

Natalie Correia, senior marketing coordinator for Ontario Blue Cross, says there are several packages available for students, that insure travellers for both medical and cancellation concerns.

"The average premium for a daily travel plan of 14 days for a student up to age 34 would be \$38," she says. It is also possible to purchase an annual travel plan.

"This multi-trip plan enables the student to take as many trips of the selected duration outside of the province within a one year period," she says. According to Correia, this plan would cost a student \$84.

The tragedy of 9/11 rocked the world and the travel industry, and has led many insurance companies to include terrorism coverage in their policies.

"Our policies have been amended to include partial coverage for terrorism since the events of September 11th. However, acts of war are still considered an exclusion under our plans," Correia says.

The Government of Canada Web site ([www.voyage.gc.ca](http://www.voyage.gc.ca)) provides travel advisories – classified as general advisories, security advisories, health advisories, civil unrest, and more recently SARS – to travellers whose vacation plans may be affected by current events.

Battison says a trip can be cancelled based on a travel advisory if it is issued after the insurance premiums are paid. "All trip cancellation policies are different," he adds.

Battison says terrorism, civil commotion and war are common exclusions in policies, and increases are probably due to more general expense factors, like reduced negotiated price settlements with American health providers.

Purchasing insurance is up to the traveller, but by doing so they may save themselves grief and hassle and better enjoy a well-deserved vacation.



Ashley took an extended reading week this semester so she could be well rested and relaxed to fact check.

## Bare in the Air

By Karli Vezina

You're dozing off in your window seat on the plane. With headphones crooning you drift off to sleep and have the dream where you suddenly realize you're not wearing any clothes. You wake up and realize it wasn't a dream, you *are*



Travellers can leave it all behind – including their entire wardrobe.

naked, but so is everyone else.

Although Castaways Travel specializes in "clothing optional" trips and cruises, Nude Week itself is a first for the Texas-based company and Mexico's El Dorado Resort & Spa.

Waking up is hard enough, never mind finding something to wear too. So if you'd rather scrap the fashion blues, Nude Week in Cancun, Mexico, via the first ever nude flight, should be right up your alley.

"The only reason to buy the ticket is to do something that's never been done before," Donna Daniels, co-owner of Castaways Travel, says.

Naked-Air, the chartered flight for the trip, is a Boeing 727-200 with room for 170 passengers. Due to publicity, the name of the airline, flight times and identities of crew and passengers, are being kept confidential.

Tourists don't have to fly with Naked-Air to get to the El Dorado, but roughly half of the 177 rooms at the resort will be held for those who do.

Magda Mohos, a travel agent for Avenue Travel in Toronto, says novelty trips like this one are successful because people of all ages like to explore new things, while catching some rays.

According to Castaways, only those 21 and older can participate, but the youngest traveller this year is about 30. "The average age is 45-60, and the total range is 30-70," Daniels says.

"It's something different to do," Mohos says.

That doesn't mean only young people are going to nudist beaches and colonies. Mohos says people of all ages practice nudism.

The flight to Cancun leaves May 3 from Miami International Airport, returning May 10. Both flights will allow passengers to remove their clothes, once the plane reaches cruising altitude.

Guests will however, have to dress to leave the plane and get to the resort. Once at the resort, guests will only have to cover up their personals in the reception area (a courtesy for unsuspecting delivery boys and girls), and anywhere else outside the resort.

Although it may be hard to keep eye contact with fellow passengers, sexually suggestive behaviour or advances are not permitted on the flight and will be strictly monitored, so travellers must be on their best behaviour.

If you're wondering about the flight crew and their attire, don't fret. The pilot and flight crew will be clothed at all times.

The exposed skin of passengers means hot beverages will not be served on the flights, but there will be pop, juice and wine available.

Commemorative towels will be provided for sitting on during the flight and around the resort.

Taysha Warman, a second-year photography student at Humber College's north campus, says she wouldn't fly in the buff, but doesn't think there's anything wrong with others wanting to partake in a piece of history.

"I'm not used to being naked in public," she says. "It's just not my thing."

If Canadians want to get in on the deal all they have to do is get to Miami in time for the connecting flight. A lot of people from Florida are landing in Miami on the Friday and staying overnight to catch the plane the next day.

It'll cost Canucks anywhere from \$415 to \$450 (Cdn) to get from Toronto to Miami. From there, the connecting Naked-Air flight from Miami to Cancun round-trip is \$499 US (\$720 Cdn) per person.

Karli is a 21-year-old journalism student who currently resides in a house.

# Your Home Away from Home

By Jason Paradiso

Jackson Craig barrels down the four-lane highway under the pulses of overhead streetlights.

Craig has been all over the country and around the world, living in hostels, and he's on the road again. This trip is a short one,

only to London, Ont., to visit a friend. In a few weeks it's all the way to Victoria, B.C.

"I've been home for a while now, living with my parents. It's nice to see them, but I have to leave. As soon as I pay for this car," he says, as he caresses the steering wheel. "I'm gone."

Craig has been backpacking and hostelling for the last three years and recently returned from a trip which took him to Australia's Gold Coast, New Zealand and Fiji.

He first became interested in this type of travel when he and his brother moved out west for a time. When his brother had to return home to complete university, Craig saved up to go back out on his own, making his new home the hostels that he found on his travels.

He says hostels vary from place to place. Some have 20-person dorms with bunk-beds while others have private four-person rooms. Even the level of cleanliness varies.

"Like the hostel in Ensenada, Mexico. It was absolute dirt. There was one bed in the room. (My friend and I) laid our sleeping bags on top of the sheets and wouldn't even touch the covers. There was no ceiling so I could literally crawl over and get into the next stall," Craig recalls.

"Portland, Oregon was another place where we wouldn't touch the covers, I mean, they had hourly rates, and we opened one of the drawers, and (found) a syringe."

To avoid staying in a hole-in-the-wall hostel or on the streets, travellers may find it beneficial to call ahead and reserve a place, or at least do a bit of investigating before setting out.

Travellers can purchase books that list hostels, and give brief descriptions.

There are also organizations like Hostelling International (HI) which regulates and monitors more than 4,500 associate hostels, keeping them to a certain standard.

It's even possible to book reservations online at an affiliated international Hostelworld hostel through [hostelworld.com](http://hostelworld.com), [hostelbooking.com](http://hostelbooking.com), or [hostels.com](http://hostels.com).

"I never called ahead because I never really knew where I would be," Craig says. "I mean, who wants to be out exploring a new part of the world and then have to stop and (book ahead)?"

Hostels don't require reservations but, depending on the time of day and season, there may not be vacancies.

Hostels can be a cheap form of accommodation, and they can be even cheaper at HI hostels if you become a member.

Hostellers don't need to be HI members, but membership cuts down on the cost of a night's accommodation (a \$2 to \$6 Cdn discount depending on the hostel), and gives members discounts on local attractions, museums, restaurants and bus passes.

Memberships can be bought at all HI hostels and gift shops, as well as a wide variety of travel agencies around the world.

Non-members pay a small additional fee (about \$3) and are given guest membership cards and a stamp.



To keep from living in his car during his travels, Jackson Craig takes advantage of hostels in North America.

Travellers collect stamps every time they stay at an HI hostel. Once the card has six stamps it serves as a member's card.

But no student should travel, or even go to school, without the benefits of an International

Student Identity Card (ISIC). At a cost of \$16, it not only gives students ages 12 and up discounts on the same things as an HI membership, but also discounts on airfare, train tickets, and recognition of their full-time student status around the world.

After staying in South Carolina, Craig found his way across the United States and wound up in Vancouver with little money.

"It's the people you meet that make staying at hostels worth it," Craig says. "That's another good thing about hostels. If you're looking for a job, or a house, or to buy something, or a ride to somewhere, you'll find it."

Craig found a job in Vancouver through an English hosteller he met while travelling. "He worked at (Steam Works Restaurant) and he was quitting, so he told my buddy and I they were looking for bussers," Craig says.

"If you go to a hostel and you have no money and you want to work for them washing dishes or whatever you can stay for free."

Craig and his friend even found a ride to San Diego while staying in a hostel.

"It was like a drive-away program. It was posted on a bulletin board. A lady was moving from Victoria to Mexico, but she only needed us to take her '96 Jeep Grand Cherokee to San Diego. It takes five days to do it. We did it in six-and-a-half," he says with a laugh.

One of the most important things to do when you're backpacking, Craig says, is pack lightly. Make a list of the things you're going to take with you and then see what can actually fit in your bag.

"Half the time you're going to be lugging all of your stuff around with you. The other half you're going to be leaving it unattended."

Craig never experienced any problems with theft except for one t-shirt that was stolen while it was hanging to dry. It's bound to happen. That's humanity," he says.

Craig never felt worried about his physical safety either, even when he ended up in Inglewood, California.

"(The hostel) was like an old motel. It had a pool in the middle, two bars, a restaurant and a whole bunch of rooms. It was cool, there were all these palm trees in the middle of the hood," Craig says.

"The night I got there, the shuttle driver told me, 'Don't go outside at night. Our night driver was just mugged right in front of this building,' but it was like a compound so I wasn't worried staying there."

Even though the thought of travelling alone can

be intimidating, Craig says it's an opportunity that shouldn't be missed.

"A lot of the great things that have happened to me by serendipity, have happened in hostels. It's just such an opportunity to meet people from all over the world who are like-minded in the pursuit of fun and adventure in another place. It's incredible. I've met some amazing friends from just staying in a hostel."

Jason is a man of few words . . . see what he means?



Jackson Craig



# The Best Seat in the House

By Christina Gelinis

With the sun finally breaking through the clouds, restaurant owners rub their hands together with visions of umbrella-adorned tables and crowds of thirsty patio goers.

"(The patio) reenergizes the business in the spring," says Tom Wideman, owner of Moose Winooski's restaurant in Kitchener. "It's a long time between seasons and opening the patio creates a new buzz and energy."

Patio season boosts visitors' spirits, he says.

"After being penned up all winter, lots of people enjoy being outside," he says, recalling one balmy spring day when the weather turned gloomy on the crowded patio.

"People love to be outside so much (that) they will stand in the pouring rain."

Mike Bac, a patio-goer from Mississauga, says he and his friends will wait the extra couple of minutes to get a seat outside.

"The fact that it's nice and sunny, a beer or even a coffee tastes better when you're outside rather than a dark café or club," Bac says.

For some restaurants, like Hemingway's in Yorkville, patio season lasts year-round.

Aside from the summer curbside patio, Hemingway's features a year-round heated rooftop patio.

"In the winter months, it's more airy," owner Martin McSkimming says. "If there is sun shining, it doesn't feel so gloomy."

Although some customers find the winterized patio, with covered sections and large heaters, a refreshing change from sitting inside, most revenue is generated during the summer.

For companies like Molson, patio season offers added promotional opportunities. David Jones, director of public relations for Molson Ontario/West, says that in addition to beer, the company also produces cool patio stuff, like umbrellas, buckets and large serving bins.

"The patio is certainly an important part of what we do, but it varies from location to location. Each patio is different," he says. "The



tables inside the bar may be empty but the patio is the place you want to be. It functions as having the best seats in the house."

Patio patrons will even disregard the lack of music or any form of entertainment to enjoy the best seats in the great outdoors. Hemingway's 12-year-old patio does not boast any entertainment, but is filled to the 320-person capacity during the hot summer months.

"I guess people just like to enjoy the outdoors," McSkimming says.

For Bac the attraction is the fresh air. Yet, many establishments have built patios to accommodate smokers, since the province instituted new smoking bylaws, banning smoking in Toronto's bars and restaurants.

Whatever reasons patrons have for choosing a patio in the summer, McSkimming says his establishment has to expand the regular staff of 45 to about 100 to handle the patio rush.

"When the warmer weather comes in April, May, June, everyone in the city is scrambling to get enough staff," he says.

Wideman agrees, and says the patio adds significant square footage in summer months, as the indoor restaurant's seating capacity of 230 can be boosted by 180 customers.

The Moose's "patio night" on Thursdays is an example of this boost. The crowd lined up outside the restaurant can wait almost two hours to get a spot on the coveted patio.

"Our Thursday nights are an anomaly of sorts. We are first and foremost a restaurant, but we have a unique environment," he says. "The patio is surrounded by nice landscapes and when the weather's nice, people want to be outside. That's the bottom line."

*Christina, known as Beulah to her friends, can always be found in line for a seat on a patio. When not enjoying a cool beverage in the sun, she can be found photographing bands at remote locations.*

# Cheers

By Kristine Archer

If there were such a thing as a Canadian national drink, beer would fit the bill. Luckily, those in the GTA, devoted to draught have many options with which to whet their whistles. Just ask beer aficionado Oliver Dawson. He runs a Beer Lovers' Tour of Toronto that visits microbreweries and pubs in the city.

"My whole thinking is let's just take people to the places where great beer is brewed," says Dawson, who also teaches a course in beer appreciation at George Brown College. "The idea is to take people on a taste adventure."

Toronto's newest brewery is banking on that adventurous spirit. Mill Street Brewery, which opened in December, offers some alternatives to mainstream brews.

"The flagship brand is (the) Mill Street Original Organic Lager," says Steve Abrams, business manager for Mill Street. "It has 100 per cent organic ingredients. We are trying to appeal to health-conscious, organic consumers."

The brewery also offers a more traditional pale ale and a unique coffee porter, combining beer with coffee.

So, why are Canadians so enamoured with their beer? Dawson points to our history.

"It's our heritage," he says. "The heritage of brewing goes right back to the very beginnings of European history."

Dawson also notes the quality of Canadian beer – often praised by Canucks as far superior to its American counterparts – must be evaluated within the context of the tradition

of European brewing.

"Canadian beer is very well known in the States, but as soon as you cross the ocean, (Europeans) think of our beer as pretty much the same (as American beer)," Dawson says.

Outside of the mainstream, you can find craft brews that are up to international standards, Dawson says. Many North American breweries have become creative in the past 20 years, experimenting with different flavours.

"North America rediscovered brewing in the mid-'80s," he says. "You have a whole generation that's actively in pursuit of interesting beer, and you've got young brewers who are ready to deliver."

Dawson sees it as an inevitable progression. "It's a natural evolution of the art of brewing and the interests of the consumer," he says. "As consumers become a little more adventurous and sophisticated in their tastes, they're going to be that much more willing and ready to try beers that are integrating other ingredients."

Toronto bar C'est What features a selection of these out-of-the-ordinary brews. It offers five house brews including its own coffee porter, a hemp ale, a rye beer, a mild brown ale and Al's Cask Ale, an India pale ale.

Food and beverage manager Christopher Sands says C'est What focuses on local brews, not even offering traditional mainstream brands.

"(Customers) are forced to look at our beer list," Sands says. "The next thing you know, their whole table is drink-

ing (a new beer)."

When it comes to evaluating a new beer, there are more factors to consider than one might realize.

"Beer is fundamentally an interaction between bitterness and sweetness," Dawson says.

A more sophisticated alternative to the pub crawl, the Beer Lover's Tour can be enjoyed by all aspiring-brewmasters.

To sign up for a tour see: [www.beerlovers-tour.com](http://www.beerlovers-tour.com).

*Kristine hopes to one day start her own lifestyles publication. She plans to spend the summer job-hunting.*



# Backpacks Fit for a Woman

By Izabela Jaroszynski



Izabela Jaroszynski

Two weeks into a backpacking trip across Europe, a dull throbbing pain in her shoulders, her back stiff and neck aching, 24-year-old Gabriella Alcalde knew she'd made a mistake.

With two months left on her trek, Alcalde knew her borrowed backpack wasn't up to par.

Jay Mahta, a consultant at Le Baron Outdoor Clothing, has helped many people find the right pack. The key, he says, is to try before you buy.

"If the pack does not feel right in the store, it won't feel right on the road," Mahta says. "Always try a few on to see what feels best and take your time."

Having a properly fitted backpack is essential to any successful trip, he says.

Whether planning a sightseeing tour across Europe or a trek through western

Canada's rugged landscape, the method for choosing the right backpack is essentially the same.

"Fit is the most important element when choosing a backpack," says Dave Robinson, a representative from Toronto's Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC).

The fit of a pack is measured by torso length, not overall height, Robinson says. "It is measured between the (bottom of the spine) and the seventh vertebrae."

Since most standard backpacks are specifically made to fit a man's body, it is especially important for women to be careful when selecting a pack.

Shoulder straps on most standard backpacks are too wide apart for a woman's frame. According to MEC, it is essential to find a pack that sits comfortably on the shoulders and does not slip off sideways.

The hip belt – the padded strap around the hipbone – also needs to sit in the right place. The hip belt helps take the weight off the shoulders by distributing it to the waist.

Improper pack length, or a pack that is too long for the torso, can cause the strap to sit lower than it should. If this strap falls lower it cannot perform its duty, often making it unbearable to wear the pack.

Most backpack specialists, like MEC and Lowe Alpine, carry models specifically made for women. "Women's packs measure shorter. It's not a big difference, but they are slightly smaller," Robinson says.

Hip belts, he says, are also made differently. "Some are sewn on a slant so that the belt will have a pivot to it. Most men's belts are made straight." Since women's hips tend to flare, having a straight belt can be uncomfortable.

Dr. Dave MacAskill, a chiropractor from Oshawa, says carrying a backpack that doesn't fit properly can lead to vertebral subluxation.

"Subluxation is linked to headaches, neck and back pain – even constipation," he says, adding these problems can be treated with regular visits to a chiropractor.

Magda Skiba, a 22-year-old University of Toronto student, reconsidered taking a backpacking trip

through Europe, because of potential damage to her spine.

"I have always wanted to go backpacking, but some of my friends who have gone are now complaining about back problems," Skiba says. "I am afraid that if I go, I will have back problems afterwards."

But MacAskill says following a few simple rules can help prevent injury.

He is part of Backpack Safety International, a program designed to teach grade four and five students about the importance of a good backpack. He says the rules he teaches these students can apply to anyone carrying a pack.

"Only carry the essentials," he says. "Leave all the nice stuff behind."

He also emphasizes the need to pack properly. "Put the things that weigh heavily as close as possible to your back," he says. "Make sure you equally distribute the weight, so that not all of it is on your right or left side."

For extra protection, MacAskill advises buying a backpack that has a padded backing so that sharp objects don't poke your spine.

Equally as important is to take breaks, he says. "Give your back a rest every now and then so that it is not constantly strained." MacAskill suggests periodically taking off the backpack and doing some stretches.

After spending hard-earned money on a backpacking adventure, it only makes sense to put some extra thought into your backpack.

Now, months after the trip, with her back recovering and her pack safely returned to its owner's closet, Alcalde can finally admit she learned a valuable lesson: "Even more important than what you pack for your trip, is what you pack it all into."

*Izabela is a first-year post-graduate journalism student. She is an avid backpacker and enjoys travelling throughout the summer.*

## Australian Rite of Passage

By Roo Guilherme

No matter where you are in the world, it seems you can't get away from that Australian accent. For these travellers from the Southern Hemisphere, backpacking takes on the meaning of a rite of passage they call Walkabout.

Andrew Brennan, an avid backpacker, has visited every continent but the two poles – and all before his 23rd birthday. It might be hard for a Canadian to imagine why he'd leave the sandy beaches of Australia, but to Brennan, seeing the world has a unique appeal.

"I wanted to learn about different cultures and different experiences," he says. "I honestly think there's a lot more to be learned from travelling the world than in a classroom."

Adrian Mattes, a former teacher in Australia, says travelling for Australians derived from aboriginal history.

"At some point just about every Australian 20-something goes to London or something on a work or holiday visa," Mattes says. "It's part of aboriginal culture. They're a nomadic people and walk from one place to another because they didn't build houses. In many ways,

"Being a geographically isolated country, things outside stir more curiosity," Price says. Price adds that not all Australians choose to leave their homeland.

"You don't necessarily have to leave the country for Walkabout. We have mountain ranges, developed cities, desert, beaches and farmland."

Brennan's trip lasted over two years with a final price of almost \$14,000 Cdn.

"I worked my ass off to save the money so I could get out of Australia and see the world," Brennan says.

Brennan's adventure began in Africa where he travelled to remote locations and spent time with local tribes. The majority of his trip was taken by bus except for inter-continental journeys where air travel was required.

"This trip is not about luxury," Brennan jokes.

But there was one place Brennan knew he wanted to stay for an extended period of time, a place he heard showed hospitality towards Australians.

**"Walkabout is an Australian Aborigine tradition. It's about survival. It's a rite of passage."**

they were married to the land."

Walkabout is popular among Australians in part because it will be a long time before they get to travel again.

"Going anywhere from Australia isn't cheap because we're so far from everyone else," Brennan says. "Once you use up your working visa you're not allowed to get another one ever again. So it's a one-time deal."

It also has a special meaning for fellow Australian Grant Price, who was born and raised in Sydney.

"Walkabout is an Australian Aborigine tradition. It's about survival. It's a rite of passage," Price says.

Price also feels it's become something more than just sightseeing in a foreign place.

"It can be applied to all Australians, men and women of all races," he says. "Walkabout is going and facing the unknown, in a new country – or even continent – and learning something about yourself."

Australia's remote location is another reason why Walkabout is such an integral part of their culture.

"I knew I wanted to stay in Canada for a while, work and earn more money near the end of the trip. The visa lasts for 12 months and starts from the day you enter the country," Brennan says. "Some people even combine working visas so they spend one year in Canada and one year in say, the United Kingdom."

The Australian government also allows four weeks of paid vacation leave as opposed to Canada's lawfully regulated two weeks, demonstrating the importance of travel to Australian culture.

"We are a society that seems to thrive on pushing boundaries, experimenting," Price says. "I think we are really known as a sporting nation, that is pretty laid back, with a leisurely lifestyle. I think that is the backbone of the four weeks. But travel is definitely part of that lifestyle."

*Roo is secretly in love with Out There's Editor-in-Chief. His participation in this magazine is directly related to his undying affection for Patty Carvacho.*

# Where the Streets Have Your Name

By Chris MacKinnon

## CHRISTOPHER AVE

The tools of Brian Hall's trade are a few maps, a head full of local history and the largest street name database in the country.

Toronto city surveyors, like Hall, have been busy since the 1998 amalgamation, when the city's catalogue of street names exploded to over 10,000.

"It's been tricky," he says of the task of sorting through the thousands of new street names the city inherited from the former municipalities that became part of Toronto.

"There are three George Streets in Toronto right now and that's a problem for police and ambulance; not to mention pizza delivery people," Hall says.

He'll be working hard over the summer on a process to refine Toronto's unwieldy street file.

In other parts of the province, local officials are going down other roads.

Two summers ago Hamilton renamed one of its city streets Pat Quinn Way in tribute to the head coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Last summer it was Thunder Bay's turn, naming a street in honour of Paul Shaffer, David Letterman's bandleader and sidekick.

Most streets named after people tend to honour politicians of yesteryear, or historical figures.

In fact, naming streets after living people is rare. Toronto's official street naming policy says naming a street after someone still living should be avoided except in exceptional cases.

Toronto City Councillor George Mammoliti received a crash course in the clauses of the city's street naming policy last year after plans for a Manimoliti Way were blocked.

Mammoliti and other aspirants to street name immortality are still able to get their wish. For \$19.95, the Web-based Illinois company *personalcreations.com* will ship

anyone a personalized street sign inscribed with his or her name.

That's probably about the only way most of us will get the same treatment as Shaffer or Quinn.

The next best thing is to find real streets bearing your first name.

Circle it on the map then make the journey with a friend to get your picture taken on your very own street. You might end up in some tiny town off the beaten track, or just around the corner.

People named Emily or Michael don't have to look far. There are Emily Streets in Toronto, Grimsby, Sudbury and Orillia.

Michael Avenues can be found in Thorold and Beamsville. There are Michael Streets in Kitchener and Angus, and Michael Way is in Markham.

Like cartoons? Animated first-name street names spotted around the province include Beavis Boulevard in Peterborough and Homer Drive in Burlington.

Thirsty for somewhere to go in Markham? Try Bud Lane.

Street naming isn't just a matter for bureaucrats and clerks anymore. Hundreds of Toronto residents have contributed to public meetings for the city's 2003 street renaming project.

In the meantime, anyone who doesn't have an eponymous street can still create a summer to remember on Memory Lane in Bracebridge. Or, if a laid-back jaunt to the West Coast is in your summertime plans, head to Easy Street in North Vancouver.

In his Toronto office, Brian Hall calls up one more name with a few final taps at his keyboard.

"There it is," he says. "Brian Avenue in North York."

*Chris is a Humber Journalism student who is planning summer trips to Hollywood North, The Golden Horseshoe, The Canadian Shield and The Windsor-Quebec Corridor.*



# Dollars and Sense in Burma

By Melanie Béchard

Rarely does the average traveller consider where their tourist dollars go. In some cases this money ends up in the hands of dishonest governments, harming the very people who work in the very resorts that are so popular with tourists.

One such place is Burma, renamed Myanmar by a corrupt military junta that has ruled the country since 1962.

"Tourism enslaves the Burmese people," says Than Aung, vice-president of Burma Watch International, a Canadian group based in Edmonton. "Tens of thousands of civilians are being forced by the military government to work without pay, to build bridges and construct roads."

The National League for Democracy (NLD), a Burmese political party led by Aung San Suu Kyi, was democratically elected in 1990. But the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), formerly the State Law and Order Restoration Council, has refused to hand over power.

Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her non-violent efforts to bring democracy to Burma. She was kept under house arrest by the SPDC from 1989 to 1995, and again from 2000 to 2002. Burma's military regime has a history of imprisoning political dissidents, some of whom have died in prison.

Suu Kyi called for an international travel boycott of Burma in response to the SPDC's naming 1996 "Visit Myanmar Year." Organizations around the world support the boycott as an effective means of cutting off one of the regime's sources of income and "as a pressure tool on the military junta to come to the negotiation table called by the democratic movement," Than Aung says.

Because the SPDC owns many hotels and the only domestic airline, much of the money tourists spend goes directly to the military leaders.

"Tourism dollars only support the military regime and fuel its oppression," Than Aung says.

The boycott has received support from trade unions around the world, and human rights groups in Canada, Australia and the United States have urged corporations to sever all ties with Burma until democracy is restored.

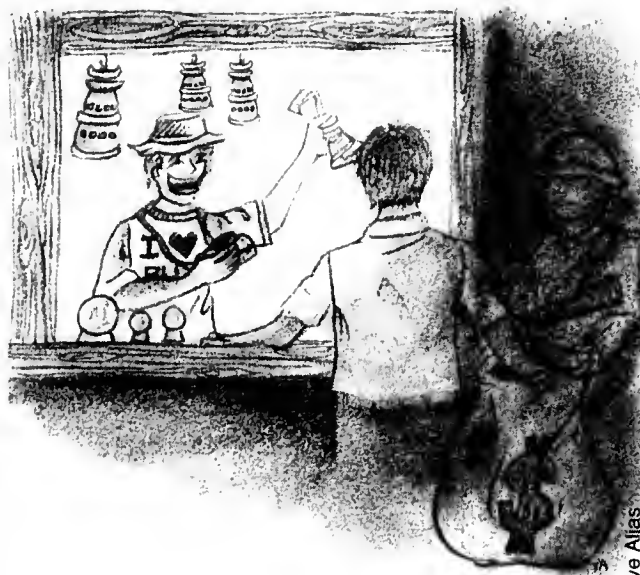
Not everyone is complying, however. Asia Transpacific Journeys, an American company that sells adventure travel packages to destinations around the

takes at least 200 people to Burma every year. The attraction, he says, is "the culture, it's untouched. It's a unique destination. That's what people are looking for in adventure travel."

While it may be possible to avoid spending money at government-owned businesses, the SPDC has found a way to make sure it gets some hard currency in its coffers. Tourists are required to exchange \$200 US into Foreign Exchange Certificates (FEC). However, Hobson says even this can be avoided.

"If you were to go there on your own, then you would have to do that. But we preauthorize (travellers' visas) with our local operator over there," Hobson says, avoiding the need for the exchange into FECs.

The decision remains up to the traveller to decide whether he or she wants to risk supporting a military regime with tourist dollars. Isolating the SPDC from the outside world may also mean isolating the Burmese people.



Virve Aljas

world, offers a 17-day trip called "Burma: Land of the Golden Pagoda."

While the company does not approve of the SPDC, it does not approve of the travel boycott either.

"Our stand as a company is that we don't accept Burma's government," Jarrod Hobson, trip coordinator, says. "Boycotting Burma doesn't really help the people and doesn't really provide insight to travellers on how Burma is run. It's kind of just closing the door on them rather than trying to help."

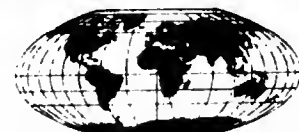
Hobson says because there are some private enterprises, it is possible to see the country without supporting the military regime.

"People going to Burma and supporting the local businesses rather than government hotels and government tourist agencies are helping the people rather than hurting or oppressing them," Hobson says. "A lot of the tour operators are basically run by the government, a lot of the hotels are as well, and we don't use those."

The boycott has not affected the business. Hobson estimates that Asia Transpacific Journeys

*Melanie Béchard is an aspiring foreign correspondent who has written for the Toronto Sun and the National Post. Melanie has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Guelph, and loves dogs.*

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# SPLAT!

By John-Paul McNally

The average paintball is designed to break on impact, but travelling at a velocity of several hundred feet per second, it will still leave its mark.

Considered an extreme sport, paintball is one of the fastest growing games in the world. According to American Sports Data Inc., there are more than 650,000 participants in Canada alone, surpassing snowboarding as the third most popular extreme sport in North America.

"We are not trying to promote war or anything of the sort," Jeffery Espejo, representative of the Canadian Paintball Association in Alberta, says. "We are just trying to promote having fun and a good time. If anything, I hope the role paintball plays in people's lives is to bring them closer together, learn teamwork and keep them active."

Paintball is a game where players attempt to eliminate one another by firing high speed paint-filled balls out of a compressed gas gun, called a paintball marker. The game takes place in an open, controlled environment, and has been growing in popularity 20 per cent larger each year since 1995.

"There is nothing more important for the growth of this sport than new players," Randy Nolson, co-founder of Ontario Paintball, says. "Whenever I'm at a public field I try to remain as approachable as possible so that new players to the sport can ask questions and learn about paintball."

The game consists of

several "war-game" scenarios. Players divide into teams and can play a capture-the-flag game, shooting whoever gets in their way.

Speedball, a game played by more serious paintballers, has players divide into teams to systematically eliminate one another. The team with the last person standing wins.

Paintball was originally played in wooded areas with single shot "pump" paintball markers. The game has since developed into a fast-paced recreational and professional activity anyone can play on both outdoor and indoor paintball fields.

"The fact that virtually anybody can play without any real advantage or disadvantage makes paintball truly an exceptional sport," Nolson says. "There's really no other sport I can think of that has this quality."

Although the average paintball is fired at roughly 250 feet a second, safety precautions and equipment used during play have helped make paintball injuries almost non-existent. According to the National Safety Council, paintball has fewer injuries than archery and bowling.

"With the high level of protection gear and safety procedures, this is one of the safer sports you can get involved in," says Chris McLeod, winner of the gold medal for the combined paintball event at the 1998 Can-Am Police-Fire Games. "Most injuries that do happen are relatively minor and typically athletic in nature, as one might sustain playing basketball or soccer."

With protective goggles and clothing, a standard safety routine including barrel-blocking devices and solid overall player awareness, teams aren't hampered by injuries, and casual play rarely results in participants getting hurt. Injuries such as pulled muscles, scratches and bruises are the most common.

Keeping paintball safe and taking it seriously, however, can sometimes bring the price range for equipment and play times into the thousands of dollars.

Paintball markers can range in price from \$200 to \$3000. Upgrades to improve performance, aim, consistency and style, can add on several hundred dollars. Other upgrades include barrels, triggers, chronographs to manage ball speeds, and gun parts.

"It can be an expensive sport," McLeod says. "But like any other sport, you can invest as much or as little as you like. Someone playing two or three times a year would obviously not buy the top of the line marker, just as a casual golfer is not going to buy \$2000 golf clubs."

The addition of special protective paintball masks, optional uniforms, compressed air tanks, hoppers (a tube that feeds balls into the marker) and many other devices, can be heavy on the wallet. Experts say beginners should try renting or purchasing a low-end gun and a high-end mask.

Average rental costs normally range from \$30 to \$45 for several hours of play time, a marker, a mask, and 100 paintballs. The player may have to purchase additional paintballs and/or compressed air for their marker during play.

In the GTA there are several areas where both new and old paintball players can play. Area 51, Badlands, and Sgt. Splatters are a few of the recreational playing fields. All these fields allow both rented and owned paintball markers, so new players can get in on the action.

*John-Paul lives in Brampton, Ont., and aspires to become a sports journalist. He has been published in the Toronto Sun and the Brampton Guardian.*



Courtesy

**Randy Nolson's TIPS FOR BEGINNERS:**

- Bring some friends along.
- Try different fields to see which suits your style of play.
- Find people to play with who are at your level, or who are willing to help you improve your skills.
- Take your time before buying equipment to find out what will best suit your individual needs.
- Never spend so much money on equipment that you can't afford to play, but buy the best you can afford.
- Don't be afraid to ask people if you can try their markers – paintballers love to show-off their equipment.
- Always practice safety on the field and in the staging areas. **Keep goggles on** and use barrel blocking devices, always!
- Most importantly: **HAVE FUN!**



Courtesy

# BLEEDING the culture

By Sam Toman

Romania is not exactly a tourist Mecca, but with the creation of a theme park, the former communist country is eager to change that. Hoping to capitalize on foreign tourists' obsession with vampires, this country is building Dracula Land, an amusement park based on the legendary Count Dracula.

Not everyone is amused.

Critics have argued that the park is just a flimsy attempt by foreign investors to exploit the already misunderstood myths involving Romania.

"The proposed Dracula park will exacerbate the confusion that exists about the nature of the loose connection between Count Dracula of western popular culture and the Vlad Dracula of Romanian history," says Dr. Elizabeth Miller, a retired professor of English at Newfoundland's Memorial University, and one of the world's leading authorities on Dracula.

Supporters believe that in a country so full of hardship, development should be encouraged by any means necessary.

"I think that any foreign investment should be welcomed," says Corina Romosan, a Romanian-Canadian working for Agenda Canadiana, an organization that helps Romanians in Canada maintain their cultural heritage. "Any money that can come into Romania is good for Romania."

The creation of the park could be an economic boost for the country that has seen itself slip behind its former Soviet-Bloc neighbors in terms of economic development.

The transition to capitalism has not been smooth. The average Romanian makes less than \$180 a month and unemployment is a major problem.

The park, to be built in a small town outside of Bucharest, is a partnership between the German investors responsible for Westernstadt Pullman City (a wild-west theme park in Bavaria) and the Romanian Ministry of Tourism.

Dracula Land, a \$32 million project, will have all the usual theme park standards – fast food restaurants, a castle, a gift shop, rides and an awkward attempt at education: The International Institute of Vampirology.

Promoters hope to attract one million visitors a year and create more than 3,000 jobs, with many more trickling down to other service areas, such as accommodation and transportation.

Like George Washington in the United States, Count Dracula, or Vlad the Impaler, is an iconic figure in Romania who is largely credited for national independence. By ruthlessly skewering prisoners of war on stakes in front of watching Ottoman invaders, Vlad inspired terror in his enemies.

After repeated invasion attempts ended in bloody defeat, the Ottomans realized Romania wasn't worth the price of admission and decided to attack elsewhere.

In 1897, Irish author Bram Stoker came across the legend of Vlad and decided to use

him as the basis for his fictitious book about a blood-sucking vampire named Dracula. Later, western movies adopted the character and further manipulated his legend, indelibly linking Transylvania with the night stalkers.

"As for Romania, while its folklore does include supernatural beings that share some of the traditional characteristics of the vampire, the blood-sucking creature as we know it today, and which I expect the theme park to be using as its model, is the product of western literature and film," Dr. Miller says.

There is some concern the park will feed these stereotypes, and that it "reduces Romania in the eyes of foreign visitors to the 'home of vampires'," adds Miller, who is also the president of the Canadian chapter of the Transylvanian Society of Dracula.

Undaunted by criticism, the Romanian Minister of Tourism, Dan Matei Agaton, is determined to go ahead with the park.

"Legend and history. Reality and Myth. A juxtaposition orchestrated l'americaine on a 100 per cent Romanian score," Agaton says in an official press release describing the park.

Supporters say Romanians are not doing anything new. They are simply doing what western-style capitalism does best – synthesizing a product which they can sell to outsiders.

Despite this, a virtual network of opponents has organized on the Internet to put an end to the park. Say No To Dracula Park! is a Web site archiving literature devoted to driving a stake into the heart of the venture.

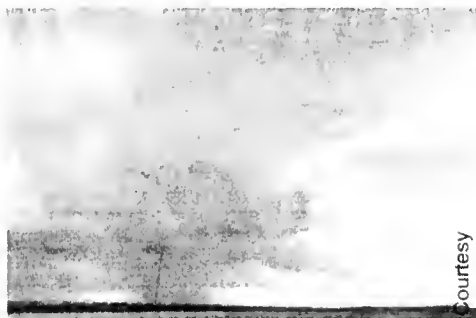
Documented opposition on the site includes church groups opposed to the park on the grounds that it encourages Satanism. The site also lists sources that claim the Romanian government is suckering its already cash-strapped population into investing in a plan that is by no means a sure thing.

To a Romanian, it must seem as though the whole world is conspiring against the proposed park. But so far they have gritted their teeth, weathered international opposition and, with Romanian determination, charged forward. In an odd twist, there is only one more western challenge to the park, and it's a challenge they might not be able to meet.

The popularized version of Dracula, with fangs, a cloak and pale white skin, a version the park hopes will attract people, is actually owned by Universal Studios, and it is not about to let anyone make money from the "brand."

If negotiations between Universal Studios and the Romanian Ministry of Tourism for the intellectual property rights to the popular image of Dracula stall, the park might not see the light of day.

*Sam is a starving writer trying to make it in Toronto. He loves coupons, electric guitar and dented tuna. If tuna is indeed brain-food, then that really doesn't bode well for Sam's brain.*



## Weathering the Storm

By Tim Twydell

When George Karounis is on vacation, he doesn't lie on the beach taking in sunrises, he waits until the storm clouds come out. Then he jumps in his pickup truck outfitted with radar, barometers and weather predicting equipment and heads for the cloudy skies.

Every May, Toronto-based storm chaser Karounis spends a month chasing tornados in the American Midwest. Tornado Alley stretches through 10 states in the Midwest from Texas in the south to the Dakotas in the north.

While most of the day is spent checking weather updates and local forecasts for pockets of unstable weather, by 5 p.m. that changes.

"Late afternoon most severe thunderstorms flare up," Karounis says. "The atmosphere has had all day to destabilize and storms start to form. If we're lucky a storm will erupt in our target area. Once a storm is targeted we navigate towards its southwest flank. This is where the warm air is rising up into the storm,

"This is easier said than done. Bad roads, construction, cities, livestock and roadwork, work against us getting into

position. All of this, plus a fast-moving storm with hail lightning and blinding dust, make taking pictures difficult."

Karounis has been chasing storms for the past six years. In that time, he's had several close calls. He has had lightning strike so close to his car that the tires were smoking. But when asked if he would ever stop, Karounis replies, "Just try to stop me."

Tornado Alley sees up to 1,000 tornados each year. In comparison, Canada has far less activity.

Environment Canada estimates that 100 tornados touch down each year in the entire country.

Canada's tornado alleys stretch through southern Ontario, Alberta, south-eastern Quebec, southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba through to Thunder Bay. The interior of British Columbia and Western New Brunswick can also see tornado activity.

Tornado season runs from March to August, with the peak season arriving in the summer in June and early July.

The worst tornado to ever hit Canada struck Halifax in 1921. It caused 28 deaths, injured hundreds and cost \$4

million in damages. Edmonton was struck in 1987, causing 27 deaths, injuring 300 and costing \$250 million in damages.

Rob Kuhn, a severe weather meteorologist in Toronto, offers tips for people to protect themselves if they see severe weather forming. If outside, a car is a safe place to wait the storm out.

But if a tornado begins to form and the winds increase the best thing to do is lie down in a ditch, away from the vehicle.

The worst thing is to hide under a tree as the risk of lightning strikes increases. The closer to the ground, the safer.

Inside, the safest place is the basement and it's best to stay away from any windows. If there is no basement, the bathroom is a good alternative.

*Tim is an aspiring author and part-time waiter who wants nothing more than to win the lottery, retire and write Catcher in the Rye Part II.*

## Find the Job

Now that school is over, what are you going to do with all your spare time? Many of us will be looking for a summer job.

Finding the right job is as easy as 1-2-3, if you know where to look. There are hundreds of online resources that offer seasonal/summer jobs in Canada, specifically for students.

You can find your dream summer job in every industry from landscaping to office administration. Try these sites, and don't forget to check the classified sections in your local papers and employment/career newspapers.

[www.workopolis.com](http://www.workopolis.com)

[www.workopoliscampus.com](http://www.workopoliscampus.com) (register as a Humber student and get access to a special job bank – posted by Humber's Career Centre)

[www.hotjobs.ca](http://www.hotjobs.ca)

[www.torontojobshop.com](http://www.torontojobshop.com)

[www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca)

[www.monster.ca](http://www.monster.ca)

[www.gov.on.ca](http://www.gov.on.ca)

[www.summerjobs.com](http://www.summerjobs.com)

[www.cooljobs.com](http://www.cooljobs.com)

[www.find-a-job-canada/students-job.com](http://www.find-a-job-canada/students-job.com)

[www.alltorontojobs.com](http://www.alltorontojobs.com)

[www.torjobs.com/forums](http://www.torjobs.com/forums)

[www.city.toronto.on.ca/parks/hiringnow.htm](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/parks/hiringnow.htm)

[www.ontarioparks.ca](http://www.ontarioparks.ca)

[www.jeffgaulin.com](http://www.jeffgaulin.com)

[www.find-a-job-canada.com/student-jobs.htm](http://www.find-a-job-canada.com/student-jobs.htm)

[http://youth.hrde-drhc.gc.ca/programs/summer.shtml](http://http://youth.hrde-drhc.gc.ca/programs/summer.shtml)

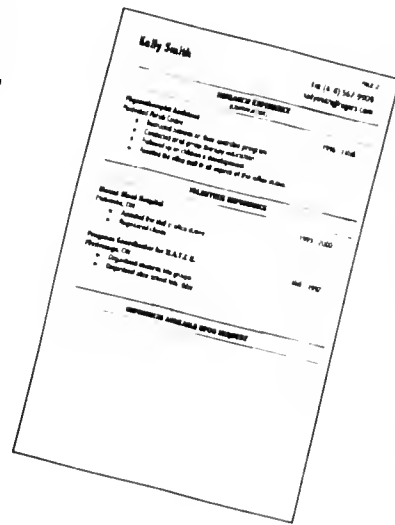
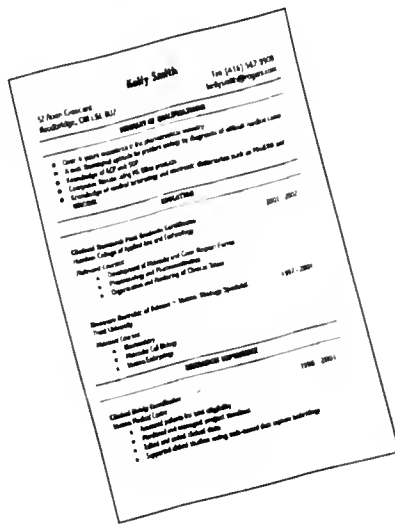
[www.youth.gc.ca](http://www.youth.gc.ca)

[www.jobpostings.ca](http://www.jobpostings.ca)

[www.jobs.gc.ca/fswep-pfete/](http://www.jobs.gc.ca/fswep-pfete/)

-AMM

# Get the Job



By Ana Maria R. Marquês

Now that you've found the job of your dreams (at least for this summer), it's time to sit down and prepare yourself for the application process.

According to Amanda Schaub from Humber College's Career Centre, once you have a job in mind, you will need to update or create your resume. "Resumes should always be changing. Every job you apply for will require different skills and qualifications and you want to make sure you highlight them appropriately."

The first thing Schaub says you should do before beginning your resume is, "Sit down and make a list of all of your qualifications; reasons why you should get this job."

By doing this, you will gain a clear understanding of what you think your skills and abilities are, and ensure you don't miss including something important on your resume.

Once you have done this, you are ready to begin creating your resume.

Schaub says the most important items to include on your resume are:

#### Professional Qualities/Skills

These include any computer, writing or business skills you possess that would relate to the position you are applying for.

#### Education

List your most recent education first. "Avoid listing your high school in this category," Schaub says. "Most employers are not concerned with this. Besides, your post-secondary education is what is really important."

#### Work Experience

Always list your most recent experience first. Be sure to include your job title and responsibilities.

#### Volunteer Experience

List any relevant volunteer experience you may have, including co-op placements and internships. If you have no previous work experience, this is where you can show your knowledge and experience in a field.

"Volunteer experience is important in showing your character," Schaub says. "If you have never had a job before but you have volunteered in a daycare, this says a lot about who you are."

#### References Available Upon Request

"Never list your references on your resume. Type them out on a separate sheet of paper and have them with you," Schaub says.

"You don't want everyone having this personal information. You want only those who are truly interested in you to have (it)."

Never offer these to a prospective employer, rather, let them ask. "And make sure you ask those you have listed as refer-

ences before you give out their names. This way they can be prepared if and when the employer calls," she adds.

If you have no work-related references, try asking one of your instructors or program coordinator if they will attest to your abilities. "They can say that you are able to do a job, especially if the job is in your field of study," Schaub says.

If tackling this task alone seems impossible, you can always make an appointment at the Career Centre and work with trained personnel. "Bring in your current resumé, or information, and we will go through the process with you to create a resumé specifically for your job choice," Schaub says.

Once you have sent off your resume, there may be a waiting period for you to receive a call for an interview. While you wait, you can brush up on your interview skills, and prepare yourself for possible questions.

Before going to any interview, you should prepare yourself for any type of questioning. "Employers can ask you anything from 'How did you get into this field?' to 'What salary would you expect to earn?'," she adds.

Schaub suggests visiting the Career Centre for a mock interview session with an employment advisor. "They will ask you some field specific questions that often come up in interviews."

At the end of most interviews, the potential employer is bound to ask you a few questions. This, Schaub says, is to gauge how interested you are in the position.

"One should always be prepared with a question or two to ask the interviewer. This will show them that you have a genuine interest in the position and company," she says.

All the services offered at the Career Centre are free to students and include: access to job postings, individual employment advising, career resources, resume writing, cover letter writing, mock interviews, workshops, access to computers, photocopiers, fax machines and laser printers. "You can even get business cards made," Schaub adds.

The Humber College Career Centre is open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., throughout the summer. You can find them in H107 at North Campus and A120 at Lakeshore Campus. To book an appointment call 416-675-6622 ext. 4966.

*Ana Maria, a shopaholic, is an aspiring novelist with dreams of one day owning her own public relations firm.*

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ASAP**



# What's On ...



## Where's the Reality?

By Chrissie O'Brien

Summer is upon us, and that means there will be a number of shows, concerts and events in and around town for you to check out. Here's what's happening:

### APRIL

- 1-27 World Stage Festival on various stages
- 18 - Groove Armada at the Opera House
- 20 - Jurassic 5 at the Kool Haus
- 22 - And You Will Know Us By The Trail of The Dead at the Opera House
- 22 - Saliva at the Government
- 22 - May 10 George Orwell's 1984 at the Toronto Centre for Arts
- 26 - Kazzar and Live On Release at the Opera House
- 29 - Goldfinger at the Kool Haus
- 30 - Concrete Blonde at the Horseshoe Tavern
- Shaw Festival opens its 2003 season (through November)
- Stratford Festival of Canada opens its 2003 season (through November)

### MAY

- 2 - I Mother Earth with Clark Nova at the Opera House
- 4 - Paramount Canada's Wonderland opens
- 4 - Soulfly at the Kool Haus
- 7 - Pete Yorn at the Government
- 7 - Matchbox Twenty at the Air Canada Centre (ACC)
- 10 - The Guess Who at the John Labatt Centre
- 13 - Red Hot Chili Peppers at the ACC
- 15 - Toronto Sports weekend (15-19) Multiple venues at multiple times
- 24-25 - Doors Open Toronto (10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily)
- 28 - Staind at the Kool Haus

### JUNE

- 6 - Poison at the Molson Amphitheatre
- 10 - Boston at the Molson Amphitheatre
- 11 - Ozzy Osbourne with Finger Eleven and Voivod - ACC
- 11 - Coldplay at Molson Theatre
- 12 - Dixie Chicks - ACC
- 20 - Toronto Fire Fighter Calendar Competition - ACC
- 21 - Great Big Sea at the Molson Amphitheatre
- 23 - Neil Young at the ACC
- 27 - Ray Charles at the Hummingbird Centre
- 28 - Pearl Jam at the Molson Amphitheatre
- 28 - July 1 - CHIN Picnic Multicultural Event - National Trade Centre Exhibition
- 29 - Pride Parade
- 29 - Santana at the Molson Amphitheatre
- 30 - Ben Harper and Jack Johnson at the Molson Amphitheatre

### JULY

- 1 - Centre Island park facilities open
- 3-4 - Norah Jones at Massey Hall
- 11-13 - Molson Indy - CNE grounds
- 29 - Christina Aguilera and Justin Timberlake - ACC

### AUGUST

- 3 - Caribana Parade
- 4 - Caribana Carnival
- 14 - The Honey Jam at the Phoenix Concert Theatre
- 15 - September 1 - Canadian National Exhibition open
- 16 - Steppenwolf at the Agricultural Centre

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 - Edgefest II at the Molson Amphitheatre
- 4-13 - Toronto International Film Festival
- 5-7 - National Bridal Show - International Centre, Airport Road
- 19-21 - Canada's National Bridal Show - Metro Toronto Convention Centre
- 19 - Diva's Live in Concert at the Molson Amphitheatre
- 27 - Harley Davidson: Open Road Tour, Barrie-Day 1 at Molson Park
- 30 - R.E.M. - ACC

compiled by Ana Maria R. Marquês and Jason Par:

With the summer sun beginning to burn hotter, reality TV shows seem to melt away, leaving fans with nothing but re-runs. Or worse yet, actual reality.

Fans of such shows as *Survivor*, *Fear Factor* and *American Idol* can create their own reality-based fun, whether the networks take the summer off or not.

For *Survivor* fans who can't bear the thought of a summer waiting for the next exotic destination, Ontario's many campgrounds can fill the void.

A campsite for nine people at one of Algonquin Park's four peripheral campgrounds costs only \$8 per person a night. There are no port-o-potties, and if you leave the soap alone for a couple of weeks, you'll soon have the musk of a true survivor. Anyone can put together a relay race for food or an "immunity idol" of your choosing. Spend a week or two kicking people out of the tent or trailer until a winner is determined.

The basic premise of *Fear Factor* is to test your limits. Host, Joe Rogan deposits a bowl of something unfamiliar in front of a contestant and tells them they must eat it or face elimination.

Well, they don't eat bugs only on TV. You can buy beetles by the pound during the summer at the St. Lawrence market - they're great for protein. If you're looking for reality that's a little less exotic, try any restaurant you've never been to, or any type of cuisine you've never had. Sushi anyone?

Ever been to a karaoke bar?

All karaoke fans are surely *Canadian* and *American Idol* fans - they have to be.

A group of strangers get up to sing songs written by other people, are judged by their peers and receive applause and accolades from the audience.

Sure there's no recording contract and Simon Cowell's not there to shatter dreams of making it big. But there's always someone making nasty comments about the people on stage. You just have to find them. It's a great night out for a group of friends, and someone in the end can be the *Torontonian Idol*.

Reality shows like *Match Maker* are just the same old dating game we singles play. *Match Maker* just put it on wheels.

You really don't need the stretch limo or closed circuit video to help hook up a friend. Take a friend to one of the great bars in Toronto's entertainment district and find some bachelors or bachelorettes. After all, there's nothing better than a good excuse to go for drinks with some friends.

Life is reality; all that's needed is to make your own rewards.

*Chrissie found that life helped her learn to think. Her honours degree in English literature helped her learn to read. Her journalism diploma from Humber College helped her learn to write. She aspires to build on this lifelong relationship with words putting pen to paper or massaging the keyboard anywhere she can.*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**ADVERTISE IN THE HUMBER  
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# Humber Students' Federation

## *HSF Mission Statement*

To advocate on behalf of the membership of the Humber Students' Federation, to protect the quality of education and student life at Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, to improve and increase the services provided to students of such College, and to promote student participation and awareness.

### **2003-04 Executive**

President: Valerie Rothlin

VP Administration North: Nadia Conforti

VP Administration Lakeshore: Kevin Bagnall

VP Campus Life North: Jen Green

VP Campus Life Lakeshore: Stephanie Boreland



### **Services**

- ◆ Graduation Photos
- ◆ Health and Dental Insurance Plan
- ◆ Free Legal Advice
- ◆ Distribution of IT Fee
- ◆ ISIC Card
- ◆ Exclusive Card
- ◆ Used Books Service-Lakeshore Campus
- ◆ Student Appreciation Awards
- ◆ Student Art Show
- ◆ Peer Tutoring
- ◆ Games Room Facilities
- ◆ SAAC NET Computer Labs
- ◆ Member of CSA-  
(website: [www.occsa.org](http://www.occsa.org))  
student advocacy with the  
provincial government

### **Accomplishments**

- ◆ Dental Plan
- ◆ New Governance Structure
- ◆ HSF Bursary
- ◆ Discounted TTC Metropass
- ◆ Donation to the reconstruction of the Humber Arboretum
- ◆ Donation to the construction of the Athletic Centre
- ◆ Incorporation of Student Government
- ◆ Maintenance of SAACnet Computer Labs
- ◆ Development of the Student Centre
- ◆ Co-Funding the Health Centre
- ◆ Donation to CANCOPY for Library Resources

### ***Want to be part of the HSF? Why not be a Program Rep?***

#### ***What is a Program Rep?***

A Program Rep represents the students within their academic program of study. A Rep facilitates communication between the Humber Students' Federation and the members of the program of study from which the Representative has been elected. You would be required to keep students of your respective program aware of events and initiatives occurring with the HSF. As well as attending and participating in meetings organized by the respective schools' Director.

## **HSF**

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