

Living dead come alive

By Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix



Photo by Annie Sakka

Zombie Jerica Roach is waiting for the walk to start at Toronto's Zombie Walk and Halloween Parade that kicked off from Nathan Phillips Square on Saturday. For more characters of the undead, see page 3.

Thousands of zombies, monsters, ghouls and vampires gathered at Nathan Phillips Square on the weekend for Toronto's 11th annual Zombie Walk and Halloween Parade.

The event began Saturday at noon, when hundreds upon hundreds of zombies, both old and young, with painted faces and masks, started to fill up Nathan Phillips Square in downtown Toronto. Despite the cold and rainy weather, people were extremely excited to participate.

This year, the Toronto Zombie Walk committee decided to invite all other monsters to join in the fun and participate in the parade for the first time in the event's history.

Jerry Thistle is part of the committee that makes the flyers for the event. Despite the cold weather, he knew the event would still be a great success from seeing how devoted people have been in the past years.

"[The obsession of zombies and monsters] I think has something to do with the way society is, honestly. It's that everyone gets on the same playing field when you're a zombie...or a monster. There's no class or anything like that."

Couple Kate Robinson and Patrick Barker participated in the event and were often swarmed by people taking their photographs. Barker is a veteran of going to the Zombie Walk and was in full zombie makeup. He said he loves to dress up, hang out with people and of course, scare people.

Robinson, however, had never attended the event and was interested in going this year.

"This year it's not just a zombie walk, it's also a Halloween parade so I didn't have to dress as a zombie and it's really cool to check out and pose for some pictures."

This year's zombie walk and parade were in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation and their CPR Makes You Undead campaign.

There were many members from the Toronto EMS in full zombie makeup who attended the event. They had their own tent with information on the campaign and were bringing awareness to the public.

"Bystander CPR is key. In the event of sudden cardiac arrest, you have four minutes before brain death starts to occur," explained Don Meikle, one of the many members of Toronto EMS.

"What we want the public to start to understand is that the sooner you get on the chest and the sooner you start CPR, the better chance we have once we get there to bring someone back from the dead."

During Saturday's zombie event, as time went on, more and more terrifying faces filled the square to socialize and browse through the zombie market made up of many different vendors until the long-awaited parade through downtown Toronto that finally began at 3 p.m.

This year's parade marshal was actress, Linnea Quigley, who is best known for her role as Trash in *The Return of the Living Dead*. There was an estimated 10,000 people who participated in the event.

The parade left Nathan Phillips Square and went north on Bay Street, east on Grenville, south on Yonge to Queen and returned to Nathan Phillips for more festivities.

Sheila Copps shares political experiences

By Mitch Ward

The long second floor hallway of the Belleville Travelodge Hotel was filled with noisy conversation and laughter as the members of the Hastings County Historical Society met for their annual members' dinner this past Saturday.

The theme for the evening was women in politics, as well as the preservation of local history. The guest speaker was Sheila Copps, the former deputy prime minister, among other positions, under Jean Chr tien.

Hastings County has a high number of women in political positions. In attendance were two mayors, Bernice Jenkins and Vivian Bloom, mayors of Bancroft and Hastings Highlands respectively, Councillors Jackie Denyes from Belleville and Margaret Walsh from Tyendinaga, the Reeve of Carlow-Mayo Township, Bonnie Adams, and Leona Dombrowsky, former Liberal MP for Hastings and Prince-Edward counties. Denyes, a city councillor for Belleville, said she enthusiastic about meeting Copps.

"She's been in politics for years and years and years, and is really the milestone for women in politics."

After the dinner of garden salad, roast beef, and mocha cake, society member Orland French, a former colleague of Copps when they worked at the Ottawa Citizen, introduced Copps and invited her to begin her speech. She was applauded as she rose, and hugged French



Photo by Mitch Ward

Sheila Copps is applauded as she rises from her seat to speak at the annual members' dinner of the Hastings County Historical Society in Belleville. Copps spoke on the rise of women in politics and the importance of history.

on her way to the podium. Her talk focused on several themes, starting with her experiences and thoughts on politics, her memories from Hastings County, and the importance of keeping history alive and funded, by all levels of government.

"When I was in Azerbaijan, I also had a chance to see an historic site, where six

thousand rock paintings from the Stone Age, are still there. A testament to the love of culture, that has passed between generations and races. In the Stone Age, they were painting pictures of people dancing together. Will we be able to tell our grandchildren that we nurtured our heritage and history? Or will we have bulldozed it

over?"

She went over her involvement in politics and how she worked to bring the preservation of historical places into the main political conversation in the capital. She displayed her dismay and disappointment with the current state of government neglect of the countries historical sites.

Richard Hughes, the president of the society, said he was happy with the evening's turnout and the guest speaker.

"We always try to bring a provocative speaker, a national level speaker, and I find that our political leaders who have had many years of high level politics, are very intelligent people. Generally they can pass on information to us that just amazes us, so it's very enjoyable. The evening was excellent."

Belleville resident Rosalie Spargo, a passionate history buff, said she was very happy after the evening. About Copps speech, she stated enthusiastically, "I thought her speech was excellent. It just gave such broad perspective of where woman have come from in politics and leadership, and she's a role model to all of us. It's been a great evening."

After her speech, Copps talked to anyone who approached her, chatting about history, and how to get into politics and what lessons she has learned. She took time to talk about the speech.

"Because it was an historical society, I wanted to kind of focus in a little on some specific issues to history, but I think the general participation by women was fantastic and the number of women councillors who were here and the number of women here in active political life is very inspirational."

She also mentioned her desire to write more books, but with a focus on fiction rather than non-fiction memoirs.