

# THE MIRROR

SERVING EAST YORK,  
LEASIDE AND RIVERDALE



www.insidetoronto.com

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2009

## Battle on to save Monarch Park pool

DANIELLE MILLEY  
dmilley@insidetoronto.com

For some of the students who use Monarch Park Collegiate Institute's pool, it isn't just a change of pace from the school gym. It's a place where they can "actually be free."

Sharon Gomes is the pool captain for the Danforth and Coxwell avenues area school. She said the pool wasn't just a place where students can be active and where the swim team could practice, but it was also the place where one student said she could move freely.

The high school is an accessible building and its therapeutic pool, where students in the school with special needs or physical disabilities can be active, is closed.

"These are the students who use the pool all the time at Monarch," Gomes said. "That's what motivated me to help Monarch."

Toronto-Danforth Trustee Cathy Dandy said there wasn't a lot of promotion of the unique resource over the years to the larger community to encourage seniors groups or the hospital to take advantage of the community asset. That's changing now.

She also said Toronto District School Board staff used the same criteria to evaluate Monarch's pool as it did other pools and that criteria was whether the pool was needed for physical education by students.

"They didn't account for the fact

>>>PERMITS, page 14

## YOGA CHALLENGE



Staff photo/DAN PEARCE

**EVERYBODY STRETCH:** Yoga instructor Irena Strzinar and students from East York's Secord Public School take part in the National Yoga Challenge last Friday at the school.

## Girl Guides host Breakfast with Santa fundraiser

DANIELLE MILLEY  
dmilley@insidetoronto.com

Local Girl Guides are hosting a Breakfast with Santa in East York to raise money for a special trip to celebrate 100 years of Guiding.

Guide leader Kai Simmons said they are planning on taking the 21

girls on a trip to Europe in 2010 to celebrate the centenary anniversary of guides. The girls have been busy raising money for the trip that will take them to Sweden, Belgium, Iceland, the Netherlands, Denmark and London, the birthplace of the Girl Guides organization.

Many Guide groups in those

countries are also celebrating anniversaries so Simmons said they would like to connect with some of their sister troupes.

"What we're hoping to do is meet up with other groups," she said.

The trip will include a Scandinavian cruise, which Simmons said is interesting because

Agnes Baden-Powell, the founder of Guides and Scouts, took hundreds of youth on a Scandinavian cruise in the 1930s.

The fundraising breakfast, which has become a holiday tradition, takes place Saturday, Dec. 5 at Harmony Hall, 2 Gower St., west

>>>SANTA, page 8



# HEARING LOSS

CAN ROB YOU OF WHAT MATTERS MOST

Book your complimentary hearing assessment today and get back what you've been missing.

www.hearforlife.ca

1573 Danforth Avenue  
416-466-9866

hear for life

Providing sound solutions for better hearing