



GOOD NEWS TORONTO

Our Everyday Heroes

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There's no place like home



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November 7, 2013

In honour of his receiving a North York Urban Hero Award on November 5th we are reprinting our GNT article on Paul Nguyen that appeared in [August 2010](#). Since that time Paul has produced a follow up to the Fifth Estate documentary and was among the first 60 recipients of the Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Prime Minister in 2012.

Twenty-nine-year-old film producer and website developer Paul Nguyen grew up in one of Toronto's most talked about neighbourhoods. Paul has lived within a five-minute walk from the neighbourhood of Jane and Finch all his life, and he couldn't be more thankful for this experience.

Unlike the media's portrayal of Jane and Finch, Paul says that his best memories took place in the areas surrounding his community and the most inspiring people he's ever known have all lived close to home.

With the goal of sharing with Torontonians the realities of the Jane and Finch Community, Paul has created a website called www.Jane-Finch.com, a non profit initiative run by students and volunteers. Together with Mark Simms, Paul's childhood friend who is also the executive producer of the website, Paul decided to create a channel for people to voice their ideas on matters related to the Jane and Finch Community.



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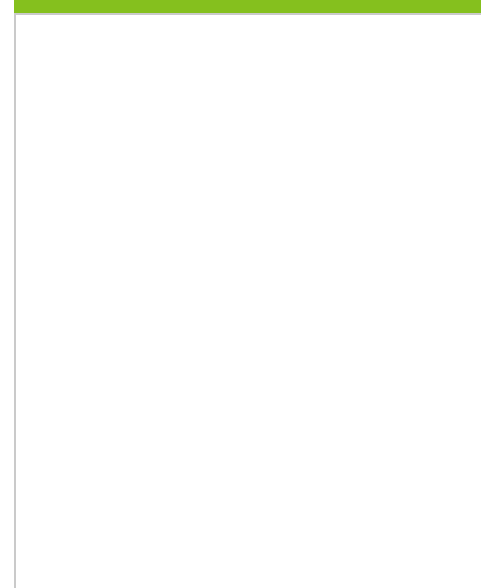
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INTERVIEW FOR EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN



As the first and only project to feature original content about the Jane and Finch Community, the website has anything from historical maps of the area, population statistics, news and events, poetry submitted by anybody who wants to share his/her thoughts, and short videos of speakers who come to speak in the Jane and Finch Community.

Since the creation of the online initiative in 2004, the website has received widespread media coverage and praise from Canadian politicians and community leaders.

"The site has really changed my life. Normally I'm a really shy and quiet guy, but the site has put me in a situation where I meet a lot of people and I learn a lot," says Paul.

"It showed me that children who grow up here must be open to new experiences and talk to people outside of their immediate surroundings. When I used to hang out at the McDonald's outside my house as a kid, I never thought I'd meet people such as the Governor General Michelle Jean, give presentations to top marketing firms downtown, or interview influential figures like the famous coach PinBall Clemons. Kids should really stay open minded if they want to discover their life's passions."



A broadcast of Goldhawk Live on location in the Jane-Finch area.

Left to right- Ward 8 Councillor Anthony Perruzza, CBC host, Dwight Drummond, Paul, and Jane-Finch.com volunteer Sabrina Gopaul.

2007, both Paul and Mark helped co-produce *Lost in the Struggle*, a documentary for the prominent CBC series *The Fifth Estate*. The film features the stories of three young men living at Jane and Finch and their everyday struggles as they face social pressures and issues with the law as they turn from teenagers to young adults. The film is available for viewing on their website www.cbc.ca/fifth/episodes/2012-2013/lost-in-the-struggle-the-next-chapter.

At the moment, Paul is eager to continue fulfilling his dream of drawing positive attention to the Jane and Finch area and informing people worldwide about the beauty and talent this area has to offer. He is excited about enriching his website by having people contribute their thoughts and opinions from all over the world.

Action Item:

Anyone wishing to contribute and/or volunteer can contact Paul by going to www.jane-finch.com.

Paul, who graduated from the York University's Department of Film, had his first experience with producing a movie when his father brought a new video camera home when he was a kid. Both Paul and Mark played with the camera after school just for fun, and before they knew it, their fun turned into passion.

Their childhood passion turned into reality when in

FOCUS FOR OCTOBER: MEDICAL AND HEALING ARTS

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LATEST TWEETS



A Torontonian who has done so much for his community - receiving well-deserved recognition:

<http://t.co/asmsnhbPpx>

#JaneFinch

@directorpaul



RT @directorpaul: Proud 2 get @MetrolandTO/@NorthYorkMirror Urban Hero Award. Thx 2 @chunsumi!

<http://t.co/1ZzHgXT83r>

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RT @_jennhicks:

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