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**Seeing earth from moon
important: astronaut**

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

The most important thing humans did on the moon was look back at ourselves, Dr. Roberta Bondar says.

Earth rising from the moon's surface was one of those extraordinary sights "that make us a little different when we come back from space," said Dr. Bondar, Canada's first female astronaut.

She showed the famous photo at a fundraising dinner in Thornhill last week where she talked about how our species is changing the planet.

We can see the changes, year by year, in satellite images, she told 700 people at the annual Charles Sauriol benefit for the Conservation Council of Greater Toronto and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.

In another unforgettable picture from the moon landings, an astronaut leaves his footprint on the moon.

"As far as we know that footprint is still there. As human beings we can't help but make change happen," said Dr. Bondar, a neurologist who made photographs of

Earth in 1992 aboard the space shuttle Discovery.

But we are also uniquely capable of controlling change and of educating others to lessen its effect, she said.

When people want to know whether a change is good or not, they look to science, but scientists don't always have an answer, Dr. Bondar said, adding, "We have to have faith in our gut feeling and our gut instincts."

We have enough science, however, to know the moraine must be preserved; we just need education and political will, she said.

"It's up to us to make sure the governments understand that we believe in preserving things, that we don't want to use everything up."

Margie Smith, who lives on tiny Preston Lake in Whitchurch-Stouffville thanked Dr. Bondar for her speech. "She broke a lot of stereotypes," Ms Smith said.

Land trust president Tom Atkins said his group raised \$400,000 in two years and secured about two-tenths of a per cent of the moraine, 1,600 acres, against develop-

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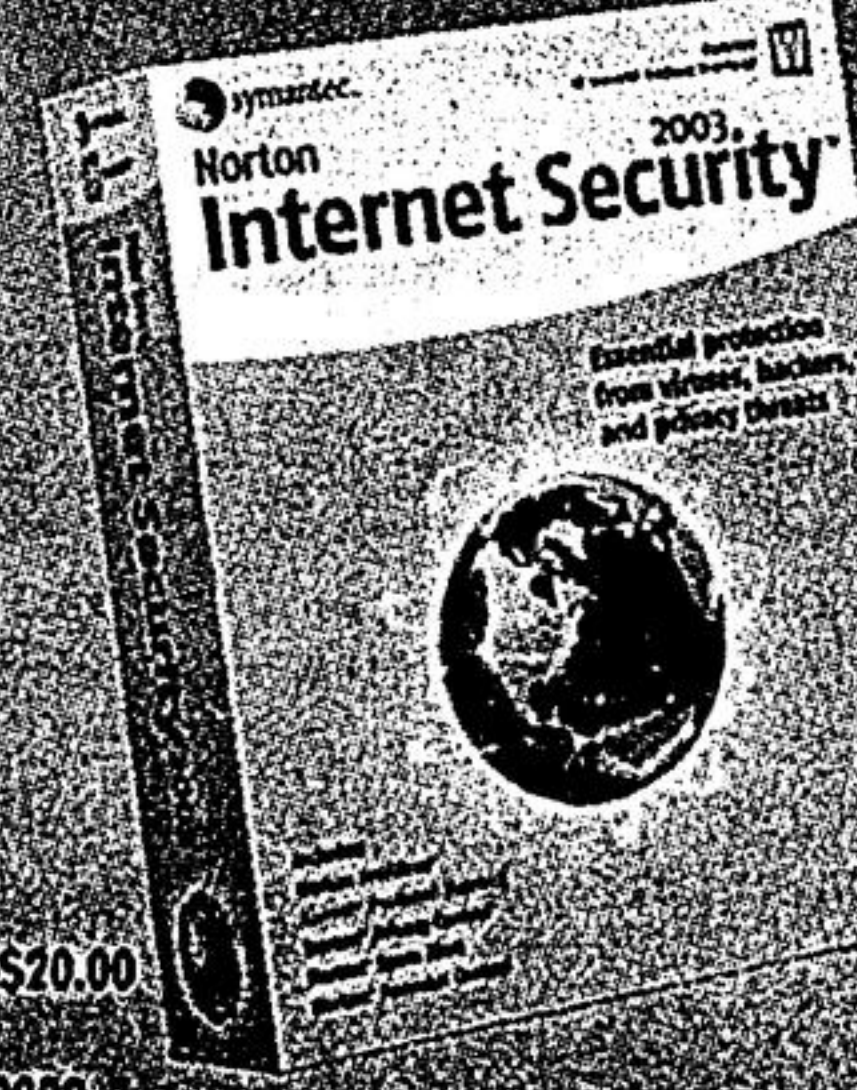


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