

Bachelor of Education in Adult Education Degree and Certificate Programs

INFORMATION SESSIONS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14
3 - 4 p.m. OR 6 - 7 p.m.
Room D3-10

Progress Campus, Centennial College
941 Progress Ave., Scarborough (South of Hwy. 401, east off Markham Rd.)

In co-operation with Centennial College, Brock University offers BE in Adult Education degree and certificate programs. Study part-time to enhance your understanding and application of adult education principles and practices. Courses are offered on Saturdays at Centennial College or online.

The program is designed for those working or aspiring to work in adult learning environments including health care, human resources, business, social services, industry or formal academic settings. Applications are now being accepted for the Winter 2006 session. For application information for the BE in Adult Education, visit our website at <http://adult.ed.brocku.ca> or call Sandra at 905-688-5550, ext. 4308, or e-mail: sandra@brocku.ca.

Brock University

SI0105

Residents pay to clean up graffiti

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
Staff Writer

On the side of an old building and in the back of a strip mall.

On mail boxes, stop signs, hydro poles and bus shelters. Graffiti can be found no matter where you look.

"Look past the people, past the cars and all the trees and it's there," York Regional Police Det. Const. Mark Altermann said.

Police know those responsible for graffiti range from budding criminals cutting their teeth on vandalism and destruction of property to talented young artists who practise their craft under cover of darkness.

They also know, no matter who is responsible, it is a crime and clean up costs can range into the thousands of dollars.

But is it a petty crime or a serious one and can graffiti still be considered art, even though it's illegal?

St. Robert Catholic High School Student Greg Maclean, 18, said most of the graffiti he's seen

is clearly art, not vandalism.

"I knew somebody who was into graffiti; for him it was an expression," he said.

But it's not art or vandalism, just teenagers fooling around, Richmond Hill resident Eugene Lim, 18, said. "They're just trying to waste time," he said.

Regardless, police take the issue seriously, subscribing to former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani's broken windows theory, which includes attacking small problems like broken windows and graffiti before they can fester into larger ones such as drugs and violent crimes.

For most people living in an urban area like York Region, Det. Const. Altermann said graffiti blends into the background.

But an abundance of it on playground equipment in a park may have us thinking twice about walking near that spot at night, or a wall full of it outside a doughnut shop could have us travelling further up the road to buy a coffee.

There are three types of graffiti:

- The overwhelming majority is known as tagging. From simple signatures to artistic murals, tagging is an urban expression rooted in hip-hop culture.

- Another 5 to 10 per cent is gang related. Gangs use graffiti to identify turf or make threats against other gangs and;

- A small percentage is hate related.

Cleaning even a small tag off a mailbox can cost as much as \$500.

And whether it's through taxes, phone or hydro bills, when graffiti artists strike, that clean up cost is passed on to residents.

If it's not cleaned up, Det. Const. Altermann said, graffiti artists will return to the same spots until an entire neighbourhood is eroded.

Whether graffiti is art or a crime doesn't matter to Det. Const. Altermann or officers.

They just want to keep York clean.

—With files from Adam Tonon

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