

Famed Egyptian archeologist really digs his work

By: Ian Stalker

Dr. Zahi Hawass has spent years unearthing Egypt's storied past and in doing so is focusing renewed attention on the cornerstone of the country's tourist trade.



The archeologist -- who frequently appears on television and who often finds himself accompanying foreign royalty, heads of state and celebrities on the sites of digs that seek out reminders of ancient Egypt -- spoke in Toronto recently, a visit that coincided with the Art Gallery of Ontario's hugely popular King Tut: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs Exhibition exhibit. The exhibit, which runs through April 18, has drawn over 250,000 people, and the Egyptian Tourist Authority says it's generating renewed interest in Egypt among Canadians.

Nagwa Korashy, who oversees

the tourist authority's Canadian operation, says its marketing budget in this country has been tripled.

"There pharaohs have left us a great civilization...It's a source of pride when we get to share part of our history with the world," said Korashy while in Toronto for Hawass' talk.

As for Hawass, he promised there are plenty more exciting discoveries to be made in his homeland. "I always say you never know what the sands of Egypt hide."