

The East York

OBSERVER

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

CELEBRATING SUDS

■ The Observer takes you inside Toronto's prominent craft brew festival. **Page 7**



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Prue powers through debate

By **JESSE MIRSKY**
The Observer

Religion, all-day kindergarten and a French-speaking school topped the agenda as Beaches-East York candidates debated education on Sept. 20.

The debate, one of many across the province, saw Shawn Ali of the Green Party, Helen Burstyn of the Liberals and New Democrat



■ **SHAWN ALI**

Party incumbent MPP Michael Prue face off at Secord Elementary School to an audience of more than 100 people.

The issue of religious practices in schools came up after audience members began asking questions. Prue's stance was well-received.

"Our public schools are supposed to be secular," Prue said. "In the last election the Conservatives ran on a platform of allowing multi-faith schools and paying for them and got trounced at the polls."

Burstyn was in favour of a more lenient and school-specific approach.

"We respect the ability of students to practice their religions and be accommodated in every school setting if it's a public school in this province," she said.

Green Party candidate Ali chose at times to defer questions.

■ For more, see torontoobserver.ca



Nicholas Pescod /// Observer

Gearing up for election day

An Elections Ontario sign sits out front of the East York Civic Centre, one of several advanced polling locations spread across East York. Advanced polling began on Sept. 21 and runs until 8 p.m. tonight, Sept. 30. Regular election day voting runs this coming Thursday, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. For East York voting locations and other information, visit www.elections.on.ca

Service merger a go

Baby boomers look forward to integration of WoodGreen, Community Care East York

By **ROSS JOHNSTON**
The Observer

Sipping a coffee at the Detroit Eatery on Danforth Avenue, Donald Hobbs shakes his fist in mock fury when told that baby boomers are slowly becoming the largest demographic in Canada.

"We're taking the power back!" the East York resident quips with a laugh.

"But honestly, I'm well aware of the facts and I'm happy to live in a community that treats seniors with respect and dignity."

Hobbs, 65, is referring to the neighbourhood of Toronto-Danforth, one of two

Toronto communities that will soon see an improved level of service and care for seniors thanks to the voluntary integration of two industry leaders.

Community Care East York and WoodGreen Community Services are merging to help provide a better standard of service to seniors and those living with disabilities in both the Toronto-Danforth and Beaches-East York communities.

Both camps joined forces for a public meeting at the York Reception Centre on Sept. 13.

CCEY executive director Barbara Nytko looks to the future for inspiration in the joint venture.

"We see a new reality in which the growing demand for services and care needs to be met," she said. "We need to use innovative ideas and solutions to address those demands."

Nytko is also quick to point out that although changes are afoot, the level of both groups' service and quality standards will re-

main the same.

"I'm actually really excited that even though this integration will allow us to broaden our scope, our clients won't see a change on the front lines," she said. "The same people will be administering their care and delivering their meals. It's that kind of relationship that we're proud of."

Brian Smith, president and CEO of WoodGreen Community Care Services, shares Nytko's excitement. For him, it is a merger necessitated by the current healthcare climate.

"It's a real challenge to find funding," he said. "This integration will allow our clients to live in their community without fear of service cuts or interruptions."



EDITOR'S NOTE:

We're unveiling a new look — as a new school year begins, on the eve of our 40th anniversary!

Conceived by journalism teacher Andrew Mair (also a Toronto Sun editor) and executed by production editor Cheronne Thurab (shown above, with the old and the new), our fresh design tries to put the same conscientious coverage of East York in a more reader-friendly package.

We hope you enjoy!



● For more on this story, please visit us online at torontoobserver.ca

Pape construction nears end

Business owners glad to say goodbye to noise, dust and parking woes



Alima Hotakie /// Observer

Construction workers add the finishing touches to a gas main on Pape Avenue. The replacement of the old gas main caused some disruptions for local businesses.

By ALIMA HOTAKIE
The Observer

Residents and owners of businesses on Pape Avenue will soon be able to breathe a sigh of relief as area construction enters its final phase.

Replacement of an aging gas main began in July, with work stretching from Danforth Avenue north to O'Connor Drive. It is slated for completion within the next few weeks.

Enbridge spokesperson Chris Meyer said an exact date could not be provided, since each customer has to be advised individually.

While some locals understand the work is necessary, many are still upset about its impact on the flow of business.

Irene Bratsos, who works at the Florida Shishkebob House, said construction was terrible for the restaurant's patio.

"People weren't com-

ing as much because of the noise and dust," she said.

She added that she would have liked to see construction crews water the streets to prevent dust from scattering everywhere.

Parking also proved problematic, as customers were forced to find spaces beyond the stores' perimeters.

The owner of The Perfect Fit, Emerald Tharrenos, said parking spaces were scarce during the repairs.

"More people were looking for parking on the side streets," she said.

She said some of her clients were forced to enter through the back doors because her shop's front entrance was blocked.

Meyer said the company tried its best to minimize disturbances.

"We tried to co-ordinate the work to cause the least disruptions," she said. "We organized the work during a specific time period of the day."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Métis rendezvous

The Métis Heritage Guild will host a day of music, dance and film on Oct. 1. Métis Rendezvous will take place at the S. Walter Stewart branch of the East York Library tomorrow from 1-5 p.m. This is a free event.

Breastfeeding challenge

The Toronto chapter of La Leche League Canada is holding its Toronto Breastfeeding Challenge and Walk Oct. 1. at 11 a.m. at the East York Civic Centre. For more information, call 416-407-0168 or send an email to michelle@branco.ca

Early learning centre to open

East York's East Toronto Family Resources will open the Early Learning Centre inside Crescent Town Elementary School this coming Tuesday, Oct. 4. The centre will hold a toddler program for children aged 18 months to two years, as well as a preschool room for children aged 2-5. For more information, call 647-258-9980.

Curtain rises on new show

The East Side Players will present their production of *Lettice and Lovage* from Oct. 27-Nov. 12. The comedic play is about Lettice Douffet, a creative and lively woman who loves theatre and history, but has a difficult time separating the two as she gives tours of a stately English home. For tickets, visit www.eastsideplayers.ca
~ Farhana Uddin



● For more on this story, visit us online at torontoobserver.ca

Speaker blasts city's proposed budget cuts

Plan 'an absolute outrage,' planning council director tells those at town hall meeting

By SIAN DAVIES
The Observer

In the September run-up to city council's preliminary budget decisions, East Yorkers gathered at Eastminster United Church on Danforth Avenue to hear how proposed cuts to the city's budget could impact core services.

In the wake of several public consultations across the city, councillors Mary Fragedakis of Ward 29/Toronto-Danforth and Paula Fletcher of Ward 30 invited locals to a town hall meeting on Sept. 11 to have their say about the controversial KPMG auditors' report.

The consultant firm recommended slicing 10 per cent from the city's budget through cost-cutting initiatives such as closing Rivdale Farm, eliminating environmental programs and reducing the number

of subsidized childcare spaces in the city.

"They (KPMG) did not evaluate the impact of their options," Fragedakis said. "They didn't evaluate how these cuts might affect people's lives."

John Campey, executive director of the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto, was one of the meeting's guest speakers. He said the proposed cuts threaten a wide range of services from well-baby programs to recreational facilities for seniors.

"Looking at the impact of a 10 per cent cut, that will have an impact on our city, literally, from cradle to grave," he said.

The city currently runs 10 long-term care centres for seniors. The KPMG report suggested that nine of these facilities be privatized or sold, greatly reducing the care available for those most in need,



Sian Davies /// Observer

Toronto-Danforth residents line up to have their say about proposed cuts to city services at a town hall meeting on Sept. 11.

Campey said.

"Private operators do what is called creaming; they take residents who are the easiest to care for, the cheapest to care for, and push out or don't admit those who require the highest levels of care," he said.

"Those are the folk, those most vulnerable, those most in need, who will be dumped in the one

remaining facility. That, to me, is an absolute outrage and shame on any administration that would consider it."

Meeting attendees lined up to express their opposition to the proposed cuts.

Jennifer Laidley, a Ward 30 resident, expressed her concerns over the Ford administration's lack of transparency in deciding what services

will be axed.

"A lot of what's going on in City Hall right now is all about abuse of process," she said.

"It's about bullying and it's about doing things in a backhanded manner, without shining the light on decision-making processes."

■ For more, see torontoobserver.ca

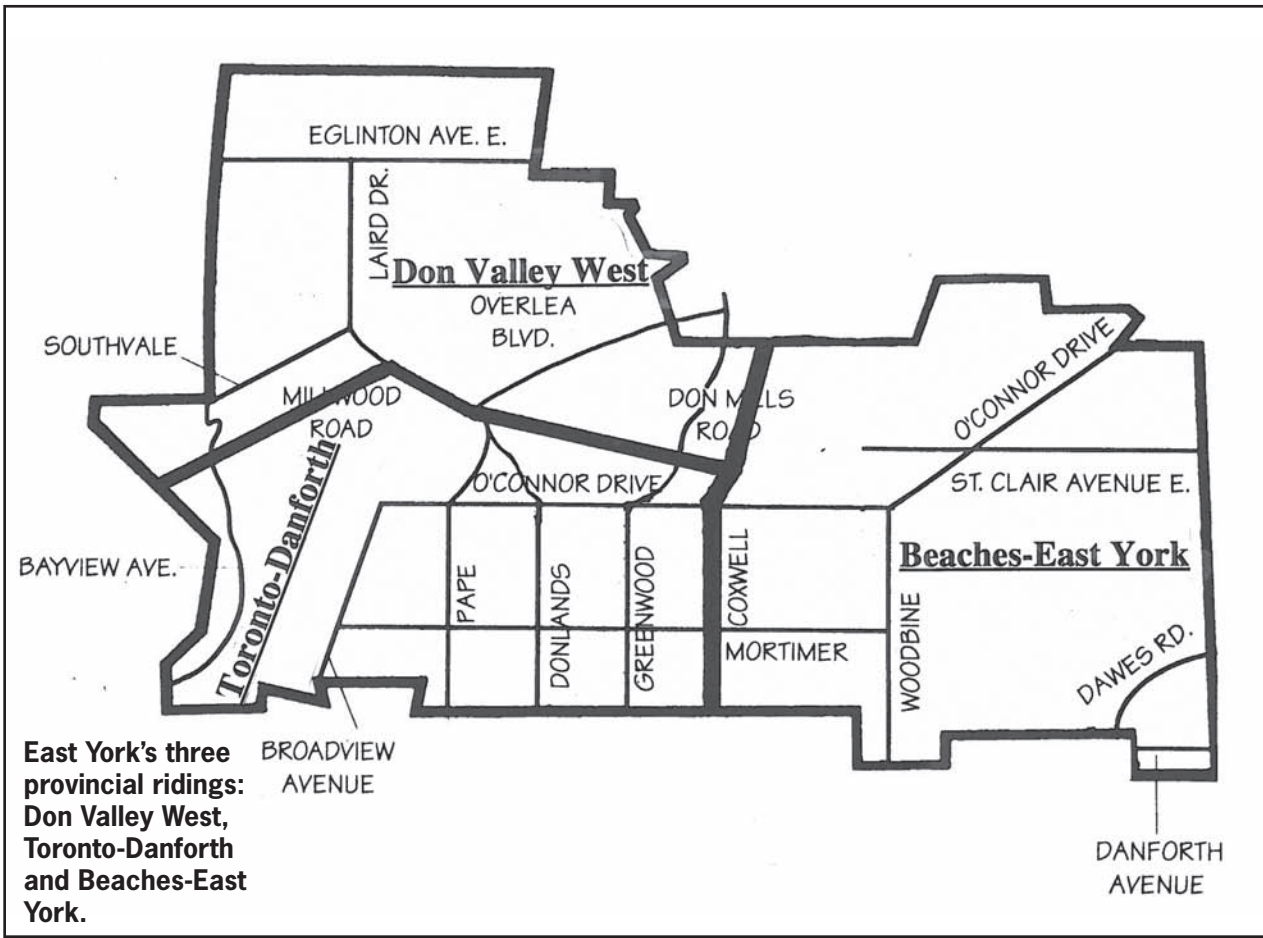
It's time to hit the polls

EDITOR'S NOTE:

As East Yorkers prepare to vote in the provincial election on Thursday, the Observer is turning half of our paper over to pre-election coverage: pages 3-5 preview the races in the three ridings that converge here: Beaches-East York, Toronto-Danforth and Don Valley West. On page 6, you'll find our editorialists' picks for Queen's Park.

Observer reporters will fan out to various coverage points in the ridings on election night — and they'll file the breaking news of the results to our companion website, www.torontoobserver.ca.

We next appear in newsprint on Oct. 14 — when we'll relay all of the colour of election night in feature coverage.



East York's three provincial ridings: Don Valley West, Toronto-Danforth and Beaches-East York.

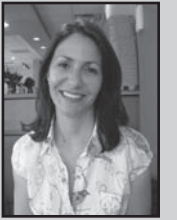
Journalist turns politician

PC candidate wants a change

By MICHELLE GRACE
The Observer

The Progressive Conservative candidate for Don Valley West believes Ontario needs to re-evaluate its approach to health care, education and the handling of finances.

Andrea Mandel-Campbell, a veteran journalist, is a former anchor at CTV's Business News Network and is the author of *Why Mexicans Don't Drink*



■ ANDREA MANDEL-CAMPBELL

Molson: Rescuing Canadian Business from the Suds of Global Obscurity.

"This is an incredible experience for me," she said about running for office.

As a business journalist, she's especially interested in tackling the issues of debt and the deficit in Ontario. She believes the Liberals have "mismanaged" the province's finances, doubling the debt under Premier Dalton McGuinty.

"(The PCs) feel strongly that we can save every two cents per dollar that is being spent," she said.

As the mother of two children, Mandel-Campbell is concerned about education and the future of young people in terms of job creation.

"We have a higher unemployment rate in comparison to the rest of Canada," she said. "In Ontario, the reality is that we haven't recouped the job loss and there is a serious challenge."

The future is now for NDP candidate



■ KHALID AHMED

By BRITNEY BRADY-MAGINLEY

The Observer

The NDP candidate for Don Valley West may be 19 years old, but he says he uses that to his advantage — to get more young people involved in politics.

Khalid Ahmed is a student studying criminology at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT). He grew up in Thorncliffe Park, living there for 12 years before moving to Scarborough. He could have ran in his

local Scarborough riding, but as a Don Valley West native, he believes his time in the area is an asset.

"Other candidates won't have first-hand experience with the issues in Don Valley West. They won't understand the people because they haven't been put in their place, I have," Ahmed said.

As for Ahmed's age, he said he is aware that he has to work twice as hard as other candidates, and stresses that he wants to be a voice for young people.

"Times have changed, and we need a young voice," he said.

"The way we're going, 20 years down the road, there will be no young people in politics. I've met a lot of people who say they're going to vote for me because you are going to be the voice for my children and my grandchildren. And that's something that motivates me."

He also supports the NDP's plan to put \$20 million into the education system and a four-year

tuition freeze followed by the removal of interest from the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).

"That way, students will only pay back their loans. We shouldn't think about profit when we think about education," Ahmed said.

In addition, he wants to build the economy by giving a \$5,000 job tax credit to employers, claiming this will encourage employers to hire more people, resulting in 80,000 more jobs.

Working together to solve issues

By NATASHA JAFERI
The Observer

Having completed two terms since 2003 as MPP representing the riding of Don Valley West, Liberal candidate Kathleen Wynne is going for a third.

Wynne, the former provincial education minister who now holds the transportation portfolio in the McGuinty government, has built her campaign around the issues of education, health care and job creation.

"Investments in education are extremely important for our future, so I want to make sure that we continue to roll out full-day kindergarten," she said.



■ KATHLEEN WYNNE

"I want to make sure that we are able to continue to help young people to go onto post-secondary — whether it's college or university or into apprenticeship programs."

When it comes to health care, Wynne said seniors should receive special attention from the province.

"We need to make sure that seniors have enough home care so they can stay in their homes if they choose to," she said.

When asked about her government's accomplishments, Wynne pointed to full-day kindergarten, 18 new hospitals built in Ontario and the construction of the Eglinton LRT, noted on Wynne's website as "the largest transit investment in a generation."

Aside from her service as MPP, Wynne has had considerable community involvement over the years, from serving as a trustee on the Toronto District School Board to running events in her neighbourhood church.

GP candidate wants a healthier community

By MICHELLE GRACE
The Observer

The Green Party candidate for Don Valley West, Louis Fliss, says that he has a great amount of passion for his community and that he aims to develop a government that works for everybody.

"As a health practitioner, my main focus is the health of my family, clients, neighbours and constituents. In my opinion, the environment is synonymous with one's health," Fliss said.

The Green Party of Ontario perfectly matches his philosophy, he says, which is to create jobs for a 21st century economy — harnessing safe, affordable energy to power our com-



■ LOUIS FLISS

munities. He and the party also want to promote access to quality and sustainable health care close to home. Another plank in the platform: feeding our communities by purchasing from local farms.

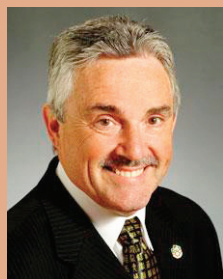
"My goal is to see good 21st century jobs created for the hard-working constituents of my riding, and the rest of the city and province," Fliss said.

Candidates square off

Prue still has 'work to do'

By MICHELLE GRACE
The Observer

Beaches-East York NDP candidate Michael Prue is no beginner when it comes to politics or community involvement. The incumbent MPP has served East York in one public capacity or another for more than 30 years.



■ Michael Prue

But the former borough mayor, municipal councillor and now provincial politician says he still has work to do — and that work can be better accomplished if Ontario voters elect not only him to Queen's Park on Oct 6... but a New Democratic government.

"I have yet to be able to accomplish what I would like to, because I have been in opposition and I'm hoping this time the NDP will be able to form a government," Prue said, "And this is why I am running."

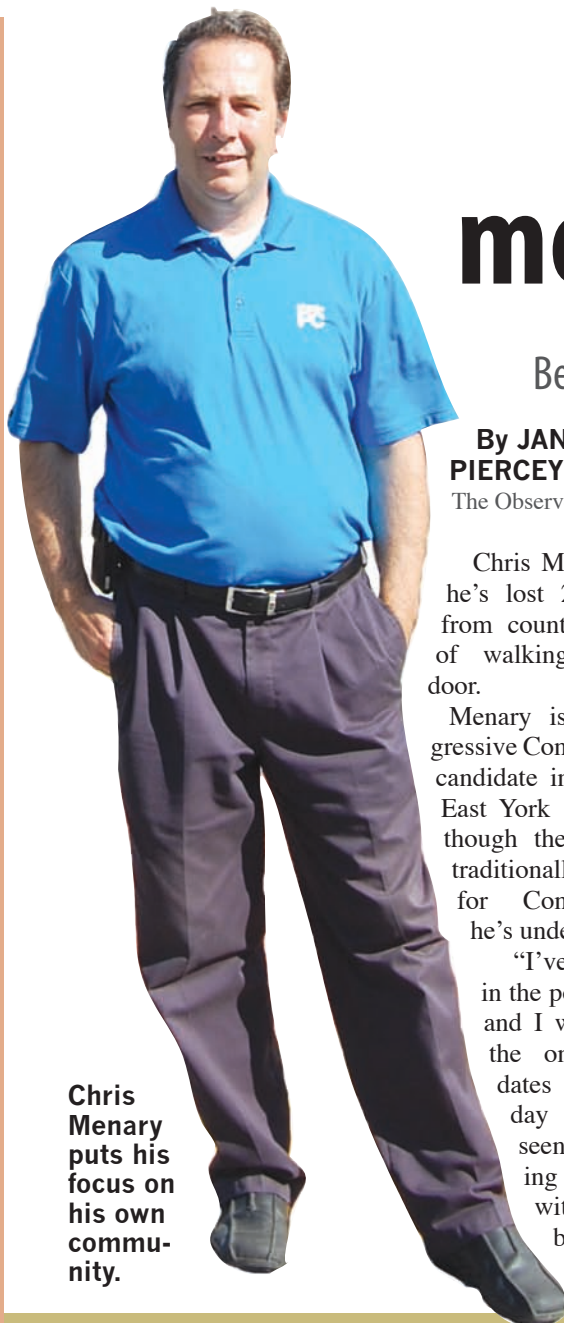


● Get the East York results on election night at toronto.observerver.ca

The fixture on East York's political scene stirred up some controversy earlier in this campaign, when "robocalls" in Beaches-East York invoked the memory of federal NDP leader Jack Layton in trying to round up support for the provincial New Democrats. Provincial party leader Andrea Horwath asked Prue and others who were employing the tactic to stop — and they did.

Prue has lived in Beaches-East York since 1973, served as its MPP since 2001 and acknowledges that he would like to continue working for the community regardless of the size of the NDP caucus, to facilitate changes that will benefit Toronto.

"I really think there needs to be more help with the different neighbourhoods in Toronto," he said.



Chris Menary puts his focus on his own community.

Menary wants more for East York

Beaches-East York candidate wants to see a change

By JANET PIERCEY
The Observer

Chris Menary says he's lost 25 pounds from countless hours of walking door-to-door.

Menary is the Progressive Conservatives' candidate in Beaches-East York — and although the riding is traditionally tough for Conservatives, he's undeterred.

"I've been out in the pouring rain and I was one of the only candidates the other day who was seen walking in the rain with an umbrella," he said.

"I do eight hours of walking. There's not one person that won't tell you that they haven't seen me."

Menary said he feels a special attachment to the community — and especially to Toronto East General Hospital, where he and his children were born.

According to Menary, the Liberal government isn't making adequate efforts to support the hospital.

He said that if elected, he plans to work for more funding for TEGH, as well as more provincial support for community activities.

Already, Menary said, he's involved himself with his neighbourhood through sports and recreational activities for

teenagers.

"I also created a basketball program in East York called East York Basketball for boys and girls to have an opportunity to play basketball in East York for ages from six to 16," he said.

After living and raising his children in East York, Menary said his main concern is to encourage an economic environment in Ontario that will create more jobs.

He added the first order of business for a Progressive Conservative government would be to remove the HST to lower costs for working families.

Menary said the reaction he's received from walking door-to-door has been positive.

Family comes first for GP candidate

By BETH FORD
The Observer

Shawn Ali doesn't have any children, but he speaks about his niece as though she were his own.

"She is my inspiration, and because of her I have recently become involved with 'Because I'm a Girl,' a charity that works to em-

power girls worldwide," he said.

Ali, the Green Party candidate for Beaches-East York, says his passion for art keeps him grounded. He says he spends much of his free time painting.

Having spent most of his life working in retail, Ali says he understands the needs of the hard-working

people in his riding.

"It is one thing to have a job, but another to have one that allows you to support your family and live with dignity," he said. "We have a realistic plan to create jobs that will enable people to maintain a high standard of living as well as their dignity."

Ali says he is conscientious about how he treats the environment.

He plans to improve funding and priorities for transit and healthcare and is a strong believer in funding community health care clinics.

He also plans to make health promotion and illness prevention top priorities.

He also plans to make health promotion and illness prevention top priorities.

Liberal set sights on NDP stronghold

By MICHELLE GRACE
The Observer

Liberal candidate Helen Burstyn says she's determined to bring residents of Beaches-East York a government they can count on.

"My main focus is to get elected MPP so the residents of Beaches-East York have a strong voice in government to represent them effectively," she said.

Born and raised in Toronto, Burstyn has spent most of her life in the city as a community builder for various public services, as well as in non-profit sector in business. She was chair of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, a provincial agency

that supplies grants to not-for-profit and charitable organizations and is currently on a leave of absence from her position as executive lead at the Partnership Project Office.

"I have always had a passion for public service, community service and volunteer work," she said.

As a mother and grandmother, Burstyn said two of her major concerns are education and health care.

"I want to see full-day kindergarten expanded into every school in Ontario. I also want to see our schools continue to be ranked No. 1 in the English-speaking world, our high school graduation rates continue to climb and post-secondary

education to remain accessible — both affordable and available — to all learners."



■ Helen Burstyn

to individuals and families." She also mentioned the government's recent pledge to provide significant support for Toronto East General Hospital, which serves the

residents of Beaches-East York.

"I want to ensure that the hospital expansion continues and that the importance of this institution as one the largest employers in the riding and best-run hospitals in the city is recognized," she said.

Currently, Burstyn serves on the board of Luminato, the international arts festival that was co-founded by her late husband, David Pecaut. She is also the vice-chair of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), the honorary chair of Gilda's Club Greater Toronto and past president of the Canadian Club of Toronto and a director of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

in East York's ridings

Sterling trying to engineer win for Liberals in Toronto-Danforth

By **BRITNEY BRADY-MAGINLEY**
The Observer

As a female engineer, Marisa Sterling says she's not afraid of a challenge, and she wants to take on the role of Toronto-



■ **MARISA STERLING**

long Toronto resident, the Liberal candidate has called East York home for the past 11 years.

In addressing constituents' concerns, Sterling hopes to make gains in educational reform.

"I want to ensure that full day kindergarten is implemented across Toronto-Danforth in the schools as planned and to continue to put programs in to ensure more students will graduate from high school," Sterling said.

"I also want to make sure that families who have university or college students get access to post secondary education and that's what the 30 per cent tuition grant will accomplish for those middle and lower class families in the area."

Sterling also wants to reduce emergency wait

times at Toronto East General Hospital by allowing seniors receive medical care in their homes.

"What I can deliver as an MPP is the commitment to ensure as the hospital goes through its redevelopment, seniors can stay in their home as long as they like and get the healthcare that they need," she said.

"I've spoken with quite a few seniors who are scared they make have to leave their home if they need medical attention or they can't afford to stay in their home anymore."

If seniors need to make renovations to create a more accessible environment, Sterling wants to implement a 15 per cent home renovation tax credit to allow them to make the kind of upgrades needed to remain living in their homes.



Beth Ford // Observer

Candidate (and cricket player) Rita Jethi encourages everyone to get involved in sports.

PC candidate uses cricket to connect

By **BETH FORD**
The Observer

As far as Rita Jethi is concerned, sport is the key to bringing people together and keeping them engaged in the community.

The Progressive Conservative candidate for Toronto-Danforth uses cricket, the sport she grew up with in India, to get to know the members of her community and keep them involved.

"I enjoy encouraging youth and families to get involved in sports," she said.

After immigrating to

Canada in September 1999, Jethi worked hard to obtain her financial service licence. Her goal was to start up a small financial consulting business.

Several months later, her husband, Anil, brought over their two sons. They both currently work as a husband and wife realtor team for Century 21.

Her ambition and strong sense of community are grounded in her upbringing. As a youth, Jethi went against her mother's wishes and threw herself on the pitch

with other young cricket players, both male and female. The feisty young woman believed she could do anything her two older brothers did.

The values instilled by her family are woven into Jethi's political life. She says the idea of getting young people and families back on their feet is what motivates her.

If elected, she plans to get rid of 'red tape' to give all members of the community an equal chance at finding employment.

■ For more, see torontoobserver.ca

Greens seek a fresh start

By **MIKE BEAUVAIS**
The Observer

A palpable appetite for change in Ontario has led Tim Whalley on his maiden voyage into provincial politics.

Whalley, a married father and area resident, will represent the Green Party on the Toronto-Danforth ballot in this Thursday's election. The Green Party's emergence as a viable alternative in Canadian politics helped motivate Whalley to make his debut run.

"I feel that Ontario is

ready for a change and we have a new, real fresh vision for Ontarians," said



■ **WHALLEY**

Whalley, executive director of Scarborough Arts, an area arts organization. "I also feel that we're very fortunate to live in a riding, Toronto-Danforth, which is amongst the greenest ridings in Ontario.

So we're building year after year and Ontarians are really connecting with our message and our focus on healthy and livable communities."

Whalley recognizes that his party remains an underdog in the Ontario political landscape, but believes that voters shouldn't have any qualms about supporting the little guy.

"I could understand if they were maybe leery, maybe 10 years ago," he said, "but we've grown so much in the past 10 years."

Tabuns emphasizes 'quality of life' issues

Zeroes in on transit funding

By **MICHELLE GRACE**
The Observer

Toronto-Danforth incumbent MPP Peter Tabuns says he's campaigning to ensure that Toronto and its needs are not forgotten at the provincial level.

The New Democrats' energy and environment critic has been emphasiz-

ing quality-of-life issues in his re-election campaign.

Many of those issues reflect his background as a former city councillor, and as executive director of Greenpeace.

The voters of Toronto-Danforth sent him to Queen's Park in 2006.

"We need proper funding for transit to ease congestion and reduce air pollution," he said when asked about his platform.

"We have to stop the erosion of public health care and other public services. We have to ensure that life is affordable."

In that regard, he zeroes in on transit.

"The province has to



■ **TABUNS**

come back into funding half of our transit costs, so we can keep transit affordable," he said.

But he also expands the affordability issue: "Public services, particularly health care, have to be properly funded. We will shift the HST off heating and hydro to help people balance their budgets."

Generally, he said, "Toronto is a high-cost city with critical need for public services.

The province has to protect our health and well-being with policies that keep our city affordable and liveable."

Tabuns is one of the founders of the Bain Co-op, which is also known as Riverdale Courts — English cottage-style

complexes that were one of the first social housing developments in Canada. He is also head of Citizens for a Safe Environment in south Riverdale.

Tabuns isn't living in the riding currently, but he lived there for more than 30 years.



● Be sure to check out our election night coverage at torontoobserver.ca

■ EDITORIALS

Wynne to win

Liberal incumbent Kathleen Wynne has the experience needed to serve her constituents

Torontonians are embracing change. That much is obvious — simply from an examination of our federal and municipal election results. Still, in the riding of Don Valley West, where provincial election races have historically been close, voters need to seriously consider whom they elect — and not vote for change simply because change is the political trend du jour. Of all of the candidates, Kathleen Wynne, Liberal incumbent MPP and current transportation minister, has the most experience.



● Follow the results on Thursday night at www.torontoobserver.ca

She's now running for her third consecutive term, and in this election, she, her premier and her party are pulling out all of the stops, particularly around the province's colleges and universities. To begin with, the Liberals have proposed a 30 per cent post-secondary grant for all middle-class families. That equals \$1,600 in tuition relief every year for a full-time undergraduate university student and \$730 for a college student. That's the next best thing to freezing tuitions. They've also proposed creating 60,000 new spaces for post-secondary students and building three new undergraduate campuses for existing schools.

The rival Progressive Conservatives' platform, called "Changebook," also promises 60,000 new spaces for post-secondary students, minus the new campuses and tuition relief. In Don Valley West, Andrea Mandel-Campbell is running for the PCs. She's a former CTV Business News Network anchor and an author. But while the journalist's resume is impressive, Mandel-Campbell's experience in politics is scarce.

Meanwhile, running for the New Democratic Party is criminology student Khalid Ahmed. Late in this campaign, the NDP announced that, if elected, they would freeze post-secondary tuition for four years.

But with due respect to Ahmed — a 19-year-old who has stepped in after the party's original candidate in the riding withdrew — the New Democrats simply don't appear serious about Don Valley West. (Perhaps you can't blame them; in each of the last two provincial elections, they haven't gotten more than 3,000 votes.)

Voters in the riding should stick with an MPP who has not only represented the riding well, but whose party represents the kind of modulated social progress that Don Valley West needs.

~ Jesse Mirsky

Sterling good for E.Y.

Marisa Sterling wants to improve hospital wait times, which is good for the community

She is the healthy candidate for Toronto-Danforth — in more ways than one.

Marisa Sterling runs races, participates in the CN Tower climb, and she is an advocate for the Heart and Stroke foundation.

Now Sterling is also the Liberal candidate for MPP in Toronto-Danforth. And she's worthy of serious consideration.

Sterling has already demonstrated her ability for effective community advocacy through her various volunteer capacities. Outside of her passion for personal wellness, she recently assisted in the creation of a grant program to help over 300,000 Ontario students from kindergarten to Grade 12 with their math and science skills; a reflection of her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Toronto and her more than 20 years of experience in business. But health is where her heart is, and Sterling is a vocal backer of the Liberals' push on issues like lower wait times for key surgeries and free vaccines.

She is also a representative for Fundher.ca (a resource hub that connects Ontarians with female candidates in all ridings).

For these reasons — passionate activism and community connections — Marisa Sterling deserves serious scrutiny by the voters of Toronto-Danforth.

~ Janet Piercey

Prue's eyes are on HST

Beaches-East York MPP incumbent keeps happy and busy by influencing provincial and municipal governments

You would think that a politician with a track record like Michael Prue's wouldn't get very worked up about his campaign. But the New Democrat incumbent in Beaches-East York seems more enthusiastic than ever.

Prue stirred some controversy a few weeks ago, when automated calls on his behalf invoked the memory of the federal NDP's beloved Jack Layton. He backed off when some people on the other end of the phone complained — and provincial NDP leader Andrea Horwath backed them.

But we can see where Prue was coming from. Like Layton, Prue is one of those truly happy warriors in the political arena. And East Yorkers can be excused for seeing a streak of the late MP from Toronto-Danforth in the alive-and-well MPP from Beaches-East York.

It's even more impressive when you consider that Prue's two decades of public service has been to the same relatively compact community: East York borough

councillor and mayor, city councillor, now MPP.

But Prue's presence is felt on the provincial stage as well. He's proud of the fact that this past summer, the Liberal McGuinty government borrowed from his proposal to implement a new photo identification card for Ontarians who don't drive or have a photo health card.

And Prue is a staunch advocate of his party's populist platform: besides things like job creation and superior care for seniors, Prue wants to make utilities more affordable by cutting the HST off of hydro and heating bills; he wants to cut down on the wait times in emergency rooms; and he wants to put an end to ambulance fees.

Of course, the other candidates in Beaches-East York also talk the talk. But for more than 20 years, Prue has walked the walk.

~ Janet Piercey

■ COLUMN

Attack ads may be to blame for poor voter turnout in youths

A ride on the bus can be quite an experience if you sit beside the right people.

A few days back, when stuck beside a trio of 20-somethings on the Carlton streetcar, I overheard them poking fun at an election ad featuring Premier Dalton McGuinty — apparently looking like he'd just awoken

from a bad dream.

I couldn't help but snicker to myself as the three of them talked politics — or, rather, their lack of interest in it.

As the conversation progressed, the two women and one man basically congratulated each other for being politically apathetic.

One of them, an outspoken, well-dressed brunette, seemed to proudly volunteer that in her 27 years, she has never cast a ballot. She gloated; I winced. I felt embarrassed for her.

If she lived in Australia, she'd actually have been fined — because it is illegal not to vote there.

Here in Canada, unfortunately, not everyone believes the old saying, 'Every vote counts.'

With poll stations set up everywhere, why can't citizens be bothered to cast a ballot?

And why does it seem like our politicians are increasingly turning to attacks on their rivals to motivate voters? Some say that if it wasn't for this tacky mud-slinging — especially

attack ads on TV — Stephen Harper's victory last spring would never have occurred.

It does seem that these campaigns are trying to get people off the couch and down to their polling stations by warning them that opposing politicians aren't just wrong; they're bad people — even dangerous.

But whether it's a sign of unsteady times or just typical apolitical behaviour, apathy seems to linger in the hearts and minds of many — like that trio on the streetcar.

Maybe the stridency of our campaigns is actually what's keeping them away; some people may just be fed up with the rhetoric, empty promises and mudslinging.

After all, it's not very inspiring. And it doesn't address the needs of a very uncertain audience living in unstable times.

Unfortunately, it just seems like there's nobody on the political horizon to mobilize the electorate through positive messaging — like Toronto-Danforth's (and Canada's) late Jack Layton.

Beth Ford



The East York

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CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

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■ COLUMN

Age still matters

I enjoy fashion editorial spreads and luxury brand ad campaigns in magazines. The way designers apply their creativity to market products to the world is intriguing. But I noticed many new models gracing these spreads are between the ages of 10 and 14. It seems fashion has a new muse — extreme youth.

This came to my attention when I saw an obviously provocative editorial spread of young Thylane Loubry Blondeau, in French Vogue last Decem-

ber. The spread implied the child was playing dressup — but I thought a 10-year-old lying provocatively on animal skin was unnatural.

Has fashion gone too far?

Sure, I found it unsettling to see a child dressed up as an adult in a magazine meant for adults, but the more I analyzed the photos, I realized this spread was created to provoke minds and bring more attention to the brand — a cynical play on the notion there's no such thing as bad publicity. So is the fashion industry's relationship with youth exploitative?

Blondeau isn't the first child model; there are others a few years older than her who are discovered regularly and appear in advertisements on billboards, runways and in spreads. But the difference is these girls aren't groomed for these fashion shows or shoots as children; they're groomed as near-adults.

To put a young girl in the same category as an adult and to have her body judged in that same light is premature.

While I do think Blondeau and other child models who appear for the fashion industry are beautiful little girls, I also think they need time to grow into women. For now, playing dressup in sexy clothes shouldn't go beyond their mother's bedroom.

Britney Brady-Maginley



File photo

Patrons might have been 'ale-ing' after indulging in Toronto Beer Week at various area bars.

Raise a mug to Beer Week

Alcohol lovers from Toronto and across the GTA celebrate

By **MIKE BEAUVAIS**
The Observer

A sudsy celebration hit Toronto last week, and the Danforth joined the party.

The second annual Toronto Beer Week took over many of Hogtown's bars and restaurants Sept. 16-24, offering patrons the best that local craft breweries

have to offer with the debut of new beers, sampling and dinners featuring beer-matching with the entree.

Jimmy Moxam, manager at Brass Taps Pizza Pub, jumped at the chance for his establishment to get involved in the festivities and support Toronto area beers, calling it "vital."

He credits Mill Street and Steamwhistle breweries for putting the new wave of local microbreweries on the map.

"You've got a small little company, putting them-

selves out there and start producing a lot of quality beers that a lot of people were identifying with and embracing," Moxam said.

"It's actually opened up the doors for the Muskoka, the County Durham and the Spearhead Company. They just bust right through, come in, and they don't face those barriers of people being nervous about making those purchases, because they know that Ontario beers mean quality."

Fabian Skidmore, manager of the Only Café, likens

local craft brewers to "the farmers of the beer world" and believes that Toronto Beer Week helps open patrons' eyes to a superior product made in the area.

"It's brewed just down the road instead of some big facility God knows where," Skidmore said.

As Toronto Beer Week's growth continues, both Moxam and Skidmore shared identical sentiments as to whether their respective bars will extend their participation for 2012: "Absolutely."

TOPS may be poised for decline, says parent of recent graduate

By **MATILDA MIRANDA**
The Observer

Mara Cole is a single mother to three boys, two of whom won a combined total of \$111,000 in scholarships upon graduating from high school. Cole credits her sons' successes to the TOPS (Talented Offerings of Programs in the Sciences) program.

But when it came time for her third son to attend high school, she didn't even consider letting him apply to TOPS.

"He would've been great there," said Cole, the co-founder and past co-chair of the TOPS

parent group. "But how could I let him apply to a program that I don't even know will exist when he graduates?"

The prestigious math and science program was created 24 years ago at Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute, located in the neighbourhood of Thorncliffe Park.

Marc Garneau is 140 per cent over capacity, and the demand for TOPS is also fierce. So a battle has been raging for years over the prospect of moving TOPS to a school that has more space.

Some key veteran teachers have delayed

their retirements in hopes of mentoring successors in case TOPS is relocated, Cole said. But they'll only wait so long, she added, and if TOPS doesn't move by 2012, those teachers will give up and leave — and the program will die within a year.

"TOPS can't be duplicated. It's not just a binder of curriculum," she said. "There's a whole interconnection there that makes the magic, and the TDSB (Toronto District School Board) refuses to acknowledge this fact."

TDSB trustee Gerri Gershon, whose ward

encompasses Marc Garneau, said TOPS is an integral part of the school and can still thrive there.

She said a committee has been created that's going to look into other possible solutions, such as timetable changes that will lead to more room in the school.

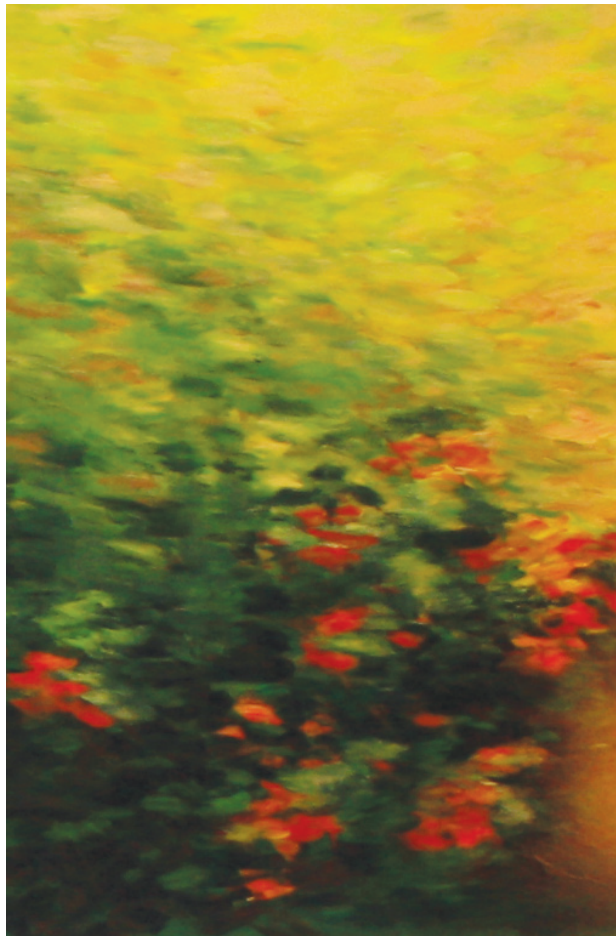
At this coming Wednesday's TDSB meeting, a motion to consider moving the TOPS program will be revisited.

"We're going through a difficult stage right now," Gershon said, "but it's something that I hope that we're going to be able to resolve amicably."



Matilda Miranda//Observer

Senior students of Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute get ready to head back to class after their lunch break. From left are Yasmin Mostafa and TOPS members Kattren Wilfred, Patrick Lung, Jason Chen and Alison Matson.



Viola Visnjevac

Viola Visnjevac's landscape art has been on display this September as part of the Don Valley Art Club's fall art show at the Paper Mill Gallery on Pottery Road.

Electrical engineer turns to art

Artist preparing for Bayview Art Tour in October

By FARHANA UDDIN
The Observer

Not many artists can say they have a master's degree in electrical engineering. In fact, as far as Viola Visnjevac knows, she stands alone in that club.

"I only started painting seven years ago," says Visnjevac, who works for the IT department within the CIBC.

"After my sons went off to university, I found that I had a lot of spare time. I've loved art ever since I was a

kid, so I decided to take it up as a hobby."

After taking classes at Avenue Road Arts School, she realized she had a hidden talent.

It wasn't long before her landscape paintings and



■ Viola Visnjevac

portraits began reaching exhibitions in Ontario and abroad in countries such as England and France. This month, they were on display as part of the Don Valley Art Club's fall art show at the Paper Mill Gallery on Pottery Road.

"I've always been fascinated by impressionism. I enjoy painting landscapes as if they were seen through windows," Visnjevac says, gesturing toward her paintings of water bodies and marshes in Prince Edward County.

"I often use strong contrasting colours with bold strokes to exude emotions," she says.

When she exhibited in London, England, the local artist took along colourful landscape scenes of Southern Ontario.

"I wanted people there to get a feeling about the Canadian landscape and what Canadian art is like," she says.

Frances Craig, president of the Don Valley Art Club, says Visnjevac has a great understanding of art.

"Viola's work is amazing. Like all of our artists, she brings something special to the table," Craig says.

"This is our first fall show of this year and it's been great."

Visnjevac points out that the compensation is not the purpose of her artistic endeavours.

"It's just something that I love to do," she says.

Continuing on the artistic route, Visnjevac is preparing for the Bayview Art Tour in October, which covers more than 24 artists in 16 venues.

Veteran reflects on the past

By NICHOLAS PESCOD
The Observer

Imagine coming to work every day and being discriminated against based on your gender or appearance.

Many women who entered the workforce 30 years ago, including retired veteran and Queen's University graduate Lt.-Col. Susan Beharriell, faced discrimination.



■ Susan Beharriell

Beharriell spoke to members of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) at the Leaside-East York branch on Sept. 15.

The discussion ranged from women in the military to her experiences during her 35-year career and the struggles she faced.

"I was the first and

only woman almost everywhere I went," Beharriell said. "They told me I couldn't complete the same basic training as the men, because women couldn't do that."

Beharriell also faced sexual assault, verbal harassment and physical assault.

"When I joined the forces in 1973 they told me that I could not become an intelligence officer because it said on page 42 of the manual that only men were permitted," she said.

After years of persisting, the Canadian military finally allowed Beharriell to join the staff, but she still faced discrimination.

In 1982, Beharriell was sent to Cold Lake, AB, where she was an intelligence officer and the only female on the base.

■ For more, see torontoobserver.ca

Author shows how to cook traditional food with a modern twist

By SIAN DAVIES
The Observer

East Yorkers enjoyed a taste of the past on Sept. 27 as Dr. Dorothy Duncan, author of *Feasting and Fasting: Canada's Heritage Celebrations*, presented

foods that would have adorned our ancestor's tables.

At a meeting of the East York Historical Society at the S. Walter Stewart library, Duncan detailed some challenges faced by First Nations and newcomers to Canada.

"Today, when we want to make a cake or we want to make some cookies, we toss in a little bit of baking soda, baking powder, cream of tartar or some of those wonderful chemicals that we have available to us today," Duncan said. "None of that would

have been available in 1812."

Duncan said if a housewife wanted something to rise, she had to "beat it like mad," add egg whites and throw in a pinch of pearl ash, a refined form of potash.

"Time was the problem...Finding enough time to prepare the food from scratch, to roll it, preserve it, eat it, clean up, get ready for the next meal and on and on," Duncan said. "I think perhaps we've lost that and we forget how ingenious our ancestors were."

Meeting attendees were treated to aged cheddar cheese, peppermint pastilles and the modern equivalent of "empire cookies," two pieces of shortbread held together with jam, named in honour of the royal family.

First Canadian story for IMAX comes to life at Science Centre

By MIKE BEAUVAIS
The Observer

For the first time in the 40-year history of IMAX cinema, Canada has its first uniquely Canadian film.

Playing at the Ontario Science Centre's OMNIMAX Theatre, Stephen Low's *Rocky Mountain Express* explores the Rockies' vastness while relating the story of building Canada's first transcontinental railway.

Low, director of other IMAX productions like *Titanica*, believes seeing Canadian history come to life on the giant screen is long overdue.

"I think (Canadians) underestimate (themselves)," Low said, addressing the media following the film's premiere showing.

"If you look at the history of

railroads...this is the great railroad story on earth."

Low feels his film is a great teaching resource for a generation likely unfamiliar with the Canadian-Pacific Railway (CPR) story and its massive impact on the country's formation.

"I became more and more concerned that the newer generations don't know anything about the CPR," Low said.

"And yet this was the defining moment in Canadian history. This is the place in Canadian history...if those engines hadn't have climbed those hills, in 1886, it was over. Canada was finished. The Americans would have come in and taken over Western Canada."

With the film depicting events integral to Canada's history, Science Centre staff relished the opportunity to debut it.

"This is the first Canadian story (for IMAX)," explained Dr. Hooley McLaughlin, vice president, Science Experience and chief science officer.

"We've had other Canadian vignettes on things to do with geography and climate, but this is one of the Canadian stories on how Canada was formed. It's incredibly moving."

McLaughlin feels *Rocky Mountain Express* bodes well for a new age of Canadian storytelling in film.

"There's much more concern now about Canada and the future of Canada," said McLaughlin.

"We're talking more as a nation now. We're seeing our role on the world stage and I think we have so many people coming from all parts of the world to live here and they're all passionately interested in Canada.