



Wind issue sways votes

By **JANICE YEUNG**
The Observer

The Liberals may be finding it harder to hold their traditional support base this year due to widespread opposition against wind turbines at the shoreline of Rouge River and the Scarborough Bluffs.



■ **LAFORET**

With the Liberals holding all of Scarborough's six ridings, the Progressive Conservatives have found one big reason to sway voters' decisions in this year's election.

Ever since the Liberals flushed out their Ontario Green Energy Act in 2009, concerns have been raised over whether renewable power is ultimately beneficial for Ontario citizens.

"The Liberals don't care about science, democracy, or reasonable economics," said John Laforet, president of Wind Concerns Ontario and resident of Scarborough-Guildwood.

■ For more on this story, visit torontoobserver.ca

The Grits might lose votes in the coming election due to local residents opposing wind turbines.



Jessica Moy /// Observer

Walking for home, away from home

Hundreds of Tamil Canadians and friends stretch before their five-kilometre walk at Thompson Memorial Park on Sept. 18. Organized by the Canadian Tamil Congress, the event raised \$52,000 to support advocacy in Sri Lanka. See story on page 7.

■ ELECTION 2011

Scarborough Grits change strategy

Immigration and economy are hot topics for Oct. 6

By **AAKANKSHA TANGRI** and **JAMES WATTIE**
The Observer

With Scarborough playing a major role in electing right-wing mayor Rob Ford and Stephen Harper's federal Conservative government, PC leader Tim Hudak can only hope his party receives the same response from the suburbs in the provincial election.

Earlier this year, Scarborough, traditionally a Liberal stronghold, shifted gears during the federal election with only two Liberal candidates elected to the six ridings. Some observers see the dismal Liberal performance in the federal election affecting their strategy in the provincial campaign. "[The Liberals] are very conscious of the need to ap-

peal directly to immigrants to offset the perceived gains of the Conservatives," said Christopher Cochrane, University of Toronto political science professor. "They attempted to do so at the beginning of this campaign by promising a tax incentive to companies for hiring certain categories of immigrants."

The departure of long-time Liberal MPP Gerry Phillips in Scarborough



■ **GERRY PHILLIP**

ough Agincourt gives the Progressive Conservatives a chance to scoop an important seat. Liang Chen hopes to do so over Soo Wong, who replaced Phillips as the Liberal contender.

Another Liberal MPP not seeking re-election is Wayne Arthurs of Pickering-Scarborough Southeast. Tracy MacCharles will be taking Arthurs' place as the Liberal candidate. She faces plenty of opposition as PC Kevin Gaudet and New Democrat Nerissa Carino hope to end the Liberals' eight-year run in this riding.

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



Aakanksha Tangri /// Observer

PC candidate Gary Ellis meets with a supporter.

Star candidates face off in Guildwood

By **AAKANKSHA TANGRI**
The Observer

Residents of Scarborough-Guildwood can expect a tough race to Queen's Park on Oct. 6. The two main contenders are Liberal stalwart Margaret Best and Progressive Conservative Gary Ellis.

Ellis, a key recruit for the PCs, is a familiar face in the community

through his work as a former superintendent of 42 and 43 Divisions.

He chose to run after seeing the current state of the economy and talking to students who were unable to find jobs, said Ellis, director of the justice studies program at the University of Guelph-Humber.

■ For more on this story, visit torontoobserver.ca

Zoo chair pushes for sale

By JAMES WATTIE
The Observer

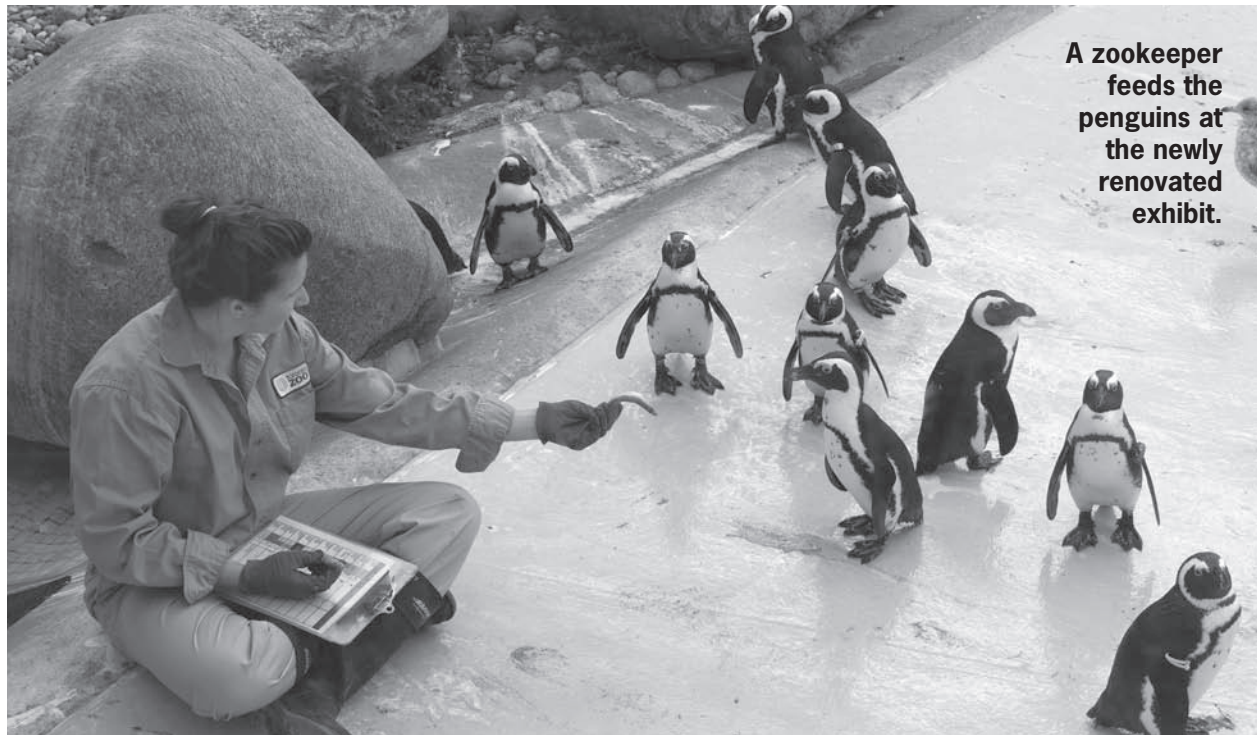
“The city should not be in the business of running a zoo.”

Or at least that is how Joe Torzsok, chair of the Toronto Zoo board, feels about the recent recommendations concerning the City of Toronto selling the zoo to a private business as one of the ways to the city's budget woes.

Ultimately, he said, it is the decision of the entire board, not his alone.

“Newer, better models exist than the one we currently have from the 1970s,” he said.

“Times change, the zoo needs to change with



A zookeeper feeds the penguins at the newly renovated exhibit.

James Wattie // Observer

them.”

Torzsok said the zoo has grown past the point where it needs to be closely managed by the City of Toronto.

Mayor Rob Ford has claimed there are plenty of potential buyers, even some

that want to extend the zoo into a theme park.

A KMPG sevice review in July originally suggested selling the Toronto Zoo, along with the city's farms.

Ford claims the city will face a budget gap of \$774

million in 2012, however City Mayor Joe Pennachetti says it is closer to \$500 million to \$600 million.

The Toronto Zoo has an annual operating cost of \$11 million.

Council will consider

the proposals to cut costs on Sept. 26.

Torzsok says a sale of the zoo may not be the only option.

“If it comes down to a sale, we will cross that bridge when we get to it.”

Toronto art funding cuts on hold



Jessica Lee // Observer

Susan Crocker of the Toronto Arts Council addresses the public on Sept. 15.

By JESSICA LEE
The Observer

After a weekend of efforts to stop Mayor Rob Ford's slashing of the city's budget, it appears arts grants are safe.

“It seems at this point that arts grants are going to be protected,” said Susan Wright, director of operations at Toronto Arts Council.

For now, the decision to

cut funding has been deferred for a later date.

Toronto arts grants runs at approximately \$16 million annually.

On Sept. 15, the Toronto Arts Foundation held a press conference at Roy Thomson Hall, addressing the damage a cut to arts funding would do to the city.

“We support the arts... because we want the very best people to work in

our companies,” said Jim Fleck, president of the Art Gallery of Ontario.

“And one of the ways is to provide an environment that is stimulating and that will bring them to the city. Knowledge workers can go almost anywhere they want and we want them to think of Toronto as the place they want to live.”

■ For more of the story, see torontoobserver.ca

~ Jessica Lee

Kingston Road renos hit roadblock

CHANTELLE HENRIQUES
The Observer

Kingston Road may finally undergo a makeover.

More than 100 residents living near Kingston Road have signed a petition to stop the construction of townhouses on Beechgrove Drive.

Alga Roberts, a resident of West Hill, says she is concerned about the problems these new townhouses might cause.

“It doesn't seem like a real good area to me. There's so many [houses] going in and I'm worried about the traffic congestion it might cause,” Roberts said.

Residents said the new houses would allow



Chantelle Henriques // Observer

Dave Martells stands before the showroom pavilion at Kingston Road and Beechgrove Drive, hosting the future home of single-detached townhouses.

only one parking spot per person.

But some residents say the construction of new homes may not be a bad idea.

“The new houses will only add a few more cars on the road. Residents are just concerned that it will lower the value of their homes,” Dave Martells

said.

Residents say Coun. Ron Moeser will put an end to the project if enough concerns are voiced.

Trustees urge voters to put education first

School board hosts forum for Ontario election

CHRISTINA CHENG
The Observer

Education was the topic at an evening forum organized by local school boards on Sept. 19.

In preparation for the provincial election on Oct. 6, trustees of the Toronto District School Board hosted open forums at local schools to encourage voters to take part in the local provincial election and push candidates to take a stand on the importance of public education.

“It is important for people to be given every chance possible to hear the opinion of local candidates, understand the issues and ultimately support the process for voters to make informed decisions — especially on education matters,” said school board chair Chris Bolton.

Trustee David Smith of Scarborough Centre said he believes in getting children ready for life. “As your trustee, it is my primary goal to provide a healthy and safe learning environment,” he said.

■ For more of the story, see torontoobserver.ca

New centre cuts commute

Warden Woods community facility opens

By NATALIE SEQUEIRA
The Observer

For mothers like Nanette Malungkit and Niky Stavarakis, the newly opened Warden Hilltop Community Centre means a variety of facilities in a more convenient location.

At the grand opening on Sept. 17, Malungkit said she was going to bring her son to the centre.

"I'm definitely signing up [my son] Nathan for creative playtime," she said. "And when he's tired, all I'll do is take a few steps and I'm home."

Before the centre opened, Malungkit and Stavarakis would commute to the Birchmount Community Centre.

The new centre, located near Warden Avenue and St. Clair, will serve the Warden Woods neighbourhood of Ward 35.



Natalie Sequeira // Observer

Councillor Michelle Berardinetti and Jeffrey McCarger join community members in cutting the ribbon at the opening of the Warden Hilltop community centre Sept. 17. McCarger worked on the land when it was a stable.

"I [really like] the facilities and location," Stavarakis said. "It's a beautifully done centre, and everything's clean and new so that's great."

Ward councillor Michelle

Berardinetti, who has advocated for the building of the centre through her time in office, said that the centre will be what brings the community together.

"Because it's more of a suburban neighbourhood," she said, "it lacks that common core... It will be a hub for people to come together."

The centre, which has been

planned since 2001, features a green roof, solar power and a geothermal heating and cooling system.

■ For more, see torontoobserver.ca



Chantelle Henriques // Observer

Trustee David Smith (centre) talks to teachers at Woburn Collegiate in Scarborough.

Scarborough schools get techy

By CHANTELLE HENRIQUES
The Observer

Helen Stavros signed her child up for new computer classes offered at her school, expecting her to become the next Bill Gates.

But the programs failed to live up to their promises.

"They are coming up with all this fancy stuff, but when are they going to implement it?" Stavros said.

Stavros was one of 100 parents who came out to the education forum held at Woburn Collegiate on Sept. 15, in Scarborough.

Trustee David Smith of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Scarborough Centre ward, came out to talk about

some of these new programs and how they would benefit students.

Recently, the TDSB has started certain specialized programs in "high priority" schools, in an attempt to foster better learning environments.

Smith admitted that the state of the program is not yet at the level he envisioned due to a lack of money. While a set date has not been established for Scarborough schools and when they can expect more funding and more programs, Smith assures that they are a definite addition to the future of schools.

The programs will be added to curriculums in TDSB schools over the next three years.

■ For more, see torontoobserver.ca

Centennial library hits the books

By JANICE YEUNG
The Observer

Centennial College's new library at Progress Avenue is a real eye-catcher.

Situated at the intersection of Highway 401 and Markham Road, the design of this 103,500-square-foot facility was headed by Diamond + Schmitt Architects.

The College spent \$34-million to create



Janice Yeung // Observer

the four-storey library, which opened Sept. 8.

"There are over 1,000

new classroom spaces, a lot more computers and a lot more student space," said Sydney Browne, the principal architect.

"The building [also] ranks very highly in energy efficiency."

The centre is framed by large dark bricks and tall copper-coloured glass panes.

Its four-storey green-living wall makes a big statement.

Seat filled at Scarborough hospital

By MARYAM SHAH
The Observer

Many people may not know this about Stephen Smith, but the man is better acquainted with flying than healing.

The father of three worked in the airline industry for 20 years before joining the board of directors at Scarborough Hospital. He was recently appointed the new chair of the board, taking over from Michael Mueller.

"I've only ever been to a hos-

pital twice in my life," he laughed. "Tonsils and football injury, about 30 years ago. Since then I've only been to the hospital to visit people, twice for my wife. We had

twins."

The hospital board meets for a total of 18 hours each year. Its job is to provide the infrastructure for the hospital's staff to do their job.

"Healthcare is a business," he said. "As the board our primary job is to hold the hospital and the management team accountable... And then we make sure that they are doing what they said they'd do."

■ Find out at more at torontoobserver.ca

■ **Stephen Smith**



NEWS FLASHES

Knife attack in restaurant

Two men were sent to the hospital after they were stabbed in a Scarborough restaurant at McCowan Road and Finch Avenue East this past Tuesday.

Man shot dead in local bar

48-year-old Evrod "Rockfort" Gordon died after being shot in a bar on Birchmount Road last Saturday.

Anyone with information should call the homicide squad at 416-808-7400 or Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477).

Rouge Park wanted by bikers

The International Mountain Bicycling Association are seeking access to Rouge Park trails, citing wear-and-tear by hikers is similar to mountain bikes and both should be allowed.

Walmart tests out small stores







Scarborough became the new sampling ground for Walmart Canada's smaller stores, redesigned within bought-out Zellers stores. The first one will open early next year in eastern Scarborough.

Sexiest candidate is not Hudak

Blogger Zach Bussey decided to spice up the Oct. 6 elections by making people vote on "Ontario's Sexiest Election Candidate" on his website. PC Leader-Hudak lost against his competition in a recent poll.

Meet your Scarborough







SCARBOROUGH-
AGINCOURT

  SOO WONG	HEALTH CARE “We want to focus on the growing senior population, and increase personal support hours for seniors who have care issues.”	ECONOMY “We have to address the issue of the health sector, making sure our employees are healthy with the skills and education to have a robust economy.”	EDUCATION “We want to reduce tuition fees by 30 per cent for low and middle-income families, create 60,000 more spaces for post-secondary students.”	TRANSIT “We are the only government to make sure GO [transit] will be efficient. Wait time will be 15 minutes or a refund.”	
	  LIANG CHEN	“I believe in putting the patient front and centre. This means placing the focus on them and not on bureaucrats.”	“Too many times I have seen my former students struggle to find a job in this economy. The jobs that were promised to them disappeared.”	“As an educator, I know the importance of giving teachers the freedom to teach. We should give them more discretion in the classrooms.”	“Any plans for public transit expansion will need to involve Scarborough-Agincourt. I [want] to work with Mayor Rob Ford in creating the best affordable public transit system.”
	  PAUL CHOI *	We want to cut wait times in emergency rooms by half and eliminate waits for long-term care and home care.	We want to take the HST off daily essentials including hydro, home heating and gasoline and shifting the tax burden back to corporations that have already seen big breaks.	We want to lower education fees for post-secondary education.	Freeze transit fares and make sure there is no dramatic increase in fare prices for the next few years.

Also running: Pauline Thompson, Green Party

*Taken from party platform







SCARBOROUGH-
GUILDWOOD

  MARGARETT BEST	HEALTH CARE “Rouge Valley Health System’s Centenary Site which is in Scarborough-Guildwood has seen its wait time drop by 23 per cent.”	ECONOMY “We are en route to getting rid of our deficit and transitioning to a knowledge-based and innovation rich economy.”	EDUCATION “Full-day kindergarten will be offered in all 21 schools in Scarborough-Guildwood by 2012, benefitting 1,700 children and their families.”	TRANSIT “We are making massive investments in the Eglinton underground LRT. We are moving forward in expanding GO train services.”	
	  GARY ELLIS	“We are committed to investing in health care and adding \$6.1 billion to our health budgets over the next four years.”	“A stronger economy results from competitive taxes, less regulation on small business and stable, predictable electricity rates.”	“We will implement full-day kindergarten for all schools. We will let teachers decide if students can use their cellphones in class.”	We will offer a balanced transit and transportation plan that stops the war on the car and we will respect local decision making in transportation decisions.”
	  LORRI URBAN*	We believe in change that makes health care reliable and affordable.	We will start removing the HST from gasoline by one percentage point a year. These are daily essentials that don’t need a new tax.	We want to make physical education mandatory and ban advertising of junk food.	We want to share the cost of transit equally with municipalities to ensure affordability.

Also running: Naoshad Pochkhanawala, Green Party

*Taken from party platform

SCARBOROUGH-
ROUGE RIVER

  BAS BILKISSOON*	HEALTH CARE We will continue with our achievements and look to expand our wait time efforts to include emergency room visits.	ECONOMY We want to expand our Next Generation Jobs Fund to \$1.15 billion to support job creation in Ontario.	EDUCATION Our education platform commitments include continued investment in our schools and in our education staff.	TRANSIT We’ll continue with the largest transit investments in Canadian history in municipalities across the province.	
	  KEN KIM	“We will introduce a rigorous system of patient satisfaction and health outcome measures.”	“Scrap eco taxes. No more mandatory smart meter tax machines. HST off of hydro and home heating.”	“Implement full-day kindergarten for all schools, reinstate the fall report card, create up to 60,000 post-secondary spaces.”	“\$35 billion over three years on infrastructure. Use innovative technologies to reduce congestion.”
	  NEETHAN SHAN*	We believe the size of your wallet shouldn’t affect the quality of the health care you receive.	Small businesses employ thousands of Ontarians, including many entrepreneurs struggling to get started. We will reduce the business tax rate to four per cent.	We believe in getting the education you deserve without obtaining a ‘mountain of debt.’	We will tell municipalities to freeze transit fares at current levels for four years.

Also running: George Singh, Green Party

*Taken from party platform

provincial candidates

SCARBOROUGH-SOUTHWEST

Liberal



LORENZO BERARDINETTI

HEALTH CARE

"We've built 18 new hospitals and hired thousands of doctors and nurses. We went from the longest surgical wait times to the shortest in all of Canada."

ECONOMY

"I will advocate for the creation of training programs and tax credits that will help Ontarians train for new jobs and get them back into the workforce."

EDUCATION

We'll make sure any family that wants their child to attend full-day kindergarten will be able to do so by 2014.*

TRANSIT

"We need an expanded transit system to help alleviate the traffic and smog that surround our communities here in Scarborough Southwest."

PC



MIKE CHOPOWICK*

We will increase annual investments in healthcare by more than \$6 billion by the end of our first term.

We will introduce a Small Business Bill of Rights to recognize that they are the engine of growth, job creation and prosperity.

We will increase spending on K-12 education by \$2 billion by the end of our first term.

We will invest more than \$35 billion to pay for new infrastructure — much of it in transit and transportation — over our first three years in office.

NDP



BRUCE BUDD*

We want to make sure that we fund homecare better and chronic care, so people can leave hospital earlier.

The first thing we would do is stop the annual decreases in corporate tax rates that have been going on over six years.

College and university tuition levels are just out of sight. And we feel that should not be happening.

We need a rapid electrification of the GO system and the integration of the fares between GO and the TTC.

Also running: Robin McKim, Green Party

*Taken from party platform

Liberal



BRAD DUGUID*

HEALTH CARE

We have worked hard to rebuild our province's public health system. We will continue building on our strong foundation.

ECONOMY

Following years of neglect by the PCs and the NDP, we have worked hard to rebuild Ontario's aging infrastructure.

EDUCATION

Once full-day kindergarten is fully in place, we'll make sure all schools offer after-school programs for children aged 6-12.

TRANSIT

We'll expand service by delivering full-day, two-way GO train service on all corridors — that's 71 million fewer car trips annually.

PC



CAROL WILLIAMS*

We have implemented the 10-year federal-provincial health accord, providing predictable transfer payments to assist in strengthening health care services for Canadians.

Our low-tax plan is helping businesses create jobs. We're reducing taxes on hard-working Canadian families, because we understand that household budgets are tight.

We will establish a Children's Arts Tax Credit, to cover up to \$500 per child in qualifying expenses for eligible arts or cultural activities.

We established the Public Transit Tax Credit to encourage the use of public transit and help protect our environment.

NDP



KATHLEEN MATHURIN

"I would invest in front line services and patient care, so that Scarborough residents have access to a primary care provider. We need a health-care system that responds to the needs of Ontarians."

"With a Buy Ontario program, we can ensure tax dollars are spent in Ontario to create local jobs. We would reward good corporate citizens that create good, long-term jobs."

"We must tackle high tuition rates by freezing tuition fees and help students deal with rising debt. We would support quality, accessible and affordable education."

"We would be willing to partner with municipalities to share the operating costs to ensure that transit systems in Ontario have stable, sustainable funding."

Also running: Jeff Mole, Green Party

*Taken from party platform

Liberal



TRACY MCCHARLES

HEALTH CARE

"We've had fantastic progress in a number of things, from cancer survival rates to having longest surgical wait times to the shortest."

ECONOMY

"We have created more full-time jobs this year than all of Canada. We're doing well in the recovery on the job front."

EDUCATION

"There's a huge investment in education. One thing we're looking at is a 30-per cent reduction fee for college and university tuitions."

TRANSIT

"One of the biggest commitments in our platform is to have all day, two-way GO trains."

PC



KEVIN GAUDET

"We haven't seen any improvements in health care by the McGuinty government. We want to reduce wait times, so that people don't have to be waiting in hospital."

"We want to move away from high taxes and focus on meaningful tax reliefs — putting more money in people's pockets."

"Parents should have more of a say in their children's education. We want to put the right tools in the hands of teachers such as more technology."

"We want to invest money in infrastructure for transit so transit is more accessible. Inaccessible transit is an issue for the residents of Pickering-Scarborough East."

NDP



NERISSA CARINO

"Too many wait too long for doctor appointments. We are focused on supporting, re-inforcing and building front line services so that we get the care that we need."

"The Ontario NDPs are committed to ensuring we create and protect quality jobs in Ontario. We will focus on rewarding companies that create jobs for Ontarians."

"Thousands of our children needing special education are on wait lists. We are paying the highest post secondary tuition rates in all of Canada."

"The ONDP will be providing municipalities with 50 per cent of the operating costs in exchange for a transit fare freeze."

Also running: Kevin Smith, Green Party

*Taken from party platform

SCARBOROUGH-CENTRE

PICKERING-SCARBOROUGH EAST

EDITORIALS

Economics 101

Investing in education leads to a better economy

It's easy to understand educated people may be more skilled, enabling them to be more productive than the less-educated population. They tend to make more money, pay more in taxes, commit fewer crimes and require less public assistance.

They also naturally have more to invest. All of society benefits from the resulting production of goods and services. So, we see, more education leads to more wealth developed for investment, which creates more capital.

It is a cycle of positive benefits.

Canada still has huge funding gaps among students of different backgrounds and incomes, and many students are stuck without quality teachers. Every child has the right to quality education, but parents are left more and more to fundraise in order to afford school programs and supplies.

An increasing number of students are opting out of university because they can't afford it. Tuition fees have been rising at staggering rates while jobs are being cut massively. A year ago, the federal government planned to allocate \$16 billion for 65 fighter jets. Couldn't they spare some for education?



Please visit our Opinion section on torontoobserver.ca

There is no question that investing in education improves the economy significantly. Education is good for the person and good for society.

Strangely, during the current provincial election campaign, parties haven't been addressing education much, other than the issue of full-day kindergarten.

That's why it's up to you to raise your voice and start the discussion about education. If politicians aren't discussing the issue, maybe it's because we're not making enough noise. Ask the critical questions. Make sure you know who you're voting for on Oct. 6.

~ Mersiha Gadzo

City transit ill

The GTA needs a 21st-century transportation infrastructure for our growing population

TTC ridership is expected to increase to 503 million next year, the transit authority says. At the end of 2010 there were 477 million rides, up from a projected 462 million. Judging by these figures wouldn't it be fair to understand that transportation use at all levels is going to increase?

According to the Ontario Ministry of Finance, the Greater Toronto Area is projected to be the fastest growing region of the province, with its population increasing by 3 million, or 47.7 percent, until 2036. The GTA's share of provincial population is projected to rise from 47.1 per cent in 2010 to 51.8 per cent by 2036.

Drastic changes are going to have to take place with our transportation in order for this increase in commuters to get around. This is impossible while the TTC is facing an \$85-million shortfall in the 2012 budget.

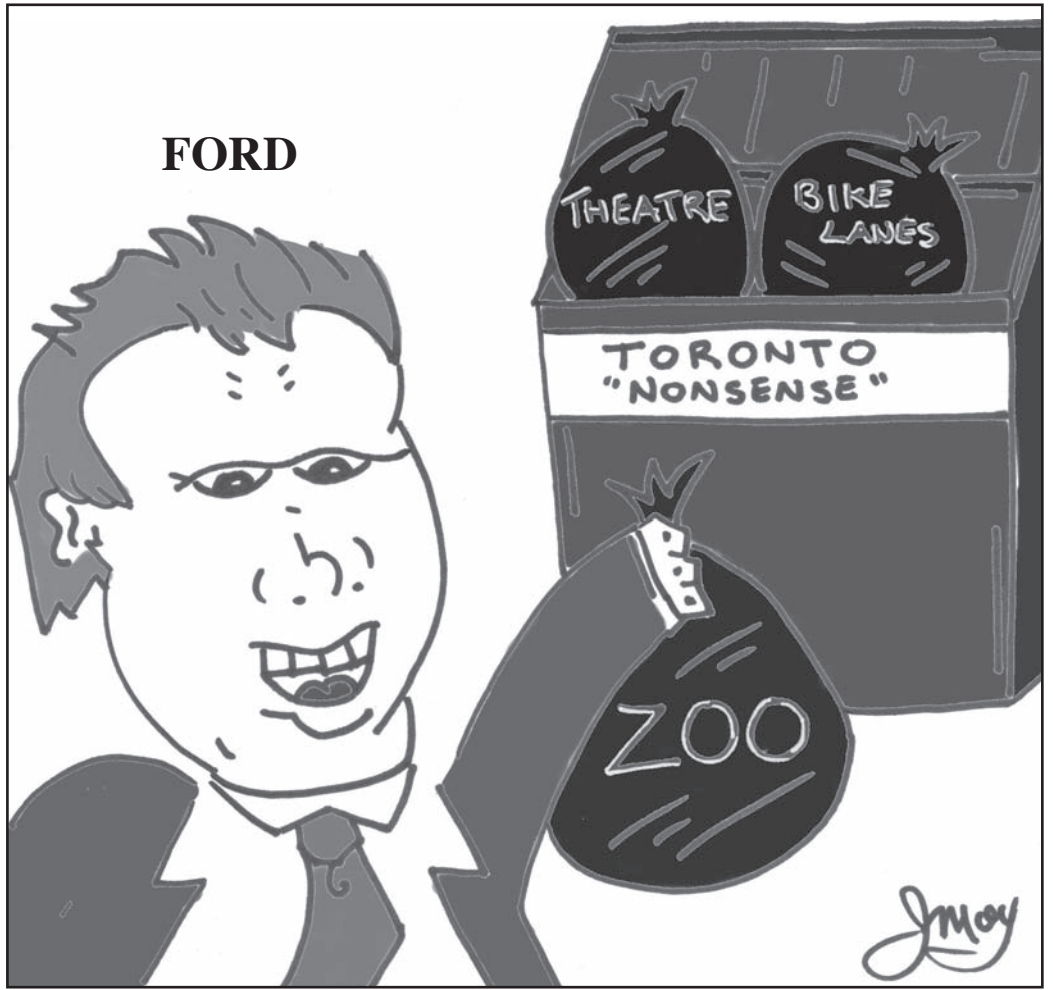
Our roadway commuting times are ranked as the worst in North America—worse than New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

So with public transit and roadways already failing us, aren't we going to have to look at cultivating every form of transportation available to us?

This of course leaves us with the heel-toe express and good old pedal power, which has been transporting us from Point A to Point B since the 1860s.

Yet our current mayor and city councillors feel it's unreasonable to extend our existing bike lanes to help keep our congested city moving. A bike lane is put into place to help regulate and control a system of transportation other than the almighty internal combustion engine. Without regulation and control, we are left with anarchy, which is what is currently taking place over the GTA.

~ Cole Carruthers



COLUMN

Scarborough: What the media doesn't tell you

It's no secret that Scarborough doesn't have the greatest reputation. The word itself brings on negative associations of drugs, crime and violence, and it's been like this for quite some time. How much of that, though, is based on actual fact?

It's easy to dive into the stats — and once you do, it becomes ap-

parent that crime rates are dropping — but no matter how positive the fight on crime is going, the negative stigma still seems to stick with the Toronto suburb.

Having lived in this part of the city my entire life, not once have I ever felt in danger, anxious or scared to walk the streets by myself.

Even Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair, a graduate of the same Scarborough high school I attended, has said on multiple occasions that he prides himself on 42 Division being the safest in the city.

If the declining crime rates are not fixing Scarborough's "dangerous" image, then what is causing it to begin with?

I believe a lot of it has to do with media perception. It seems to happen that every time a crime takes place in Scarborough, the media file it under "Yet another Scarborough (insert crime here) story," taking the dangerous, crime-ridden

neighbourhood angle. It makes for great, enticing news — I can completely understand why they take that route. Ratings are the life-blood of any media outlet.

With national television news broadcasts, major newspapers and radio stations feeding the rest of the city, province and country with the "dangers of Scarborough," it becomes much easier to see why those not living in the suburb are definite in their (mis)judgements.

This is not to say there aren't pockets of the Toronto suburb that can't use some work, but it's unfair to judge a positively changed area based on its regrettable past.

What is it we can do as a community to ward off this negative perception? Well, it's not something that can be fixed overnight, but there are things we Scarborough residents can do to reinforce our neighbourhood's new, positive image.

We need to ignore the

negative media. It's not worth getting frustrated over false perceptions of our end of the city. Continually hearing bad things on the news will make us believe it is true — we can't let that affect us.

We also need to continue the way we were going. Scarborough has taken a turn for the better, and we want to continue along that path. Participating in community fundraisers, outdoor barbeques, artistic performances — the list goes on. We need the pros to outweigh the cons. The media can't say anything negative if we don't give them the chance to.

What it all comes down to is respecting our community. Taking pride in where we live, who we are and what we do is not something that will go unnoticed. We, as a community, need to unmask Scarborough, and show the rest of the city, the province and the country exactly why I'm proud to call Scarborough home.

Andre Thurairatnam



A DREAM COME TRUE

Habitat fundraiser aids special needs family

By **ANDRE THURAIRATNAM**
The Observer

In just over a week, the Shanmugalingam family will be one step closer to moving out of their cramped highrise apartment and into the home they've always dreamed of.

Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with the Toronto emergency, fire and police services, have been raising funds all summer to build two wheelchair-accessible homes in the Victoria Park and Danforth avenue area.

The eight day 911 Build Blitz began Sept. 17 and is the first step toward construction on the homes where over 1,200 volunteers are expected to attend.

With both her daughters being special needs children, Mathi Shanmugalin-



Andre Thurairatnam // Observer

Level 1 paramedic Eladio Francisco was one of the many uniformed volunteers at Boston Pizza at Warden and Eglinton Avenue participating in the celebrity servers fundraiser last Monday night.

gam and her husband were in dire need of a change.

"My children are totally developmentally delayed, and in wheelchairs. We need to give them all the care [they need]," Shanmugalingam said.

"We are [currently] living in a very high-rise apartment on the 17th floor. We always have a problem with the wheelchairs

and elevators. Especially with the two of them, it's very hard to get them in at the same time. Usually we have to go in one-by-one."

Habitat for Humanity is not giving the Shan-

mugalingam family a hand out. The full cost of the home will be paid back by the Shanmugalingam family on terms they can afford over the next 25 to 30 years. These terms in-

clude no interest and no down payment on the home.

Habitat for Humanity representative Angela Solomos explains this is one of many ways the organization is trying to break the cycle of poverty in the city.

"Families come to Habitat for Humanity because they're looking for an opportunity to get out of poverty housing," Solomos said.



● To view a photo gallery on this story, visit us online at torontoobserver.ca

UTSC students help Africa

By **KAYLA KREUTZBERG**
The Observer

UTSC students launched a fundraising campaign that con-

cluded on Sept 15. They raised \$125,000

for famine relief victims in Somalia.

The event showcased local performers, as well as a keynote speaker, Dr. Shazia Malik, who had been working in Somalia in August for 10 days.

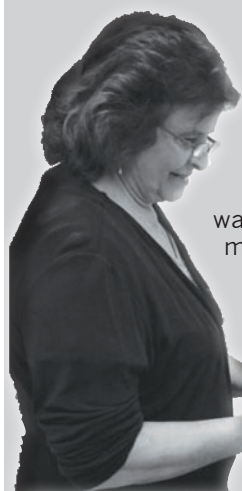
All the funds raised will be going to the International Development and Relief Foundation in East Africa.

■ For more, see torontoobserver.ca



■ **Shazia Malik**

Where's your head at?



On Sept. 15, The Scarborough Hospital joined with mental health experts to show community members just how vital the brain's health really is.

The event welcomed community members to visit various information booths. The event was titled Breaking Barriers: Stigma, Families and Mental Health.

~Erica Tiangco

■ For more, see torontoobserver.ca

Doy Pandoo learns more about mental health.

Walking for their rights

Canadian Tamil Congress raises \$52,000 in march for Sri Lankan charity

By **JESSICA MOY**
The Observer

A sea of yellow T-shirts flooded Thompson Memorial Park as hundreds of Tamil Canadians walked in the third annual Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) walk-a-thon.

On Sept. 18 David Poopalapillai, national spokesperson of the CTC, and hundreds of

walkers, donors, business groups, community leaders, Tamil Canadians and friends tied their shoes for the five-kilometre charity walk.

The walk supported the protection and promotion of human rights in Sri Lanka.

"We come from a country where human rights are being violated. There's no media freedom in Sri Lanka." Poopalapillai said.

"There's no big voice. Countries like Sri Lanka pay only the lip service when it comes to human rights, so Amnesty [International] stands very tall, bringing out those human rights violations to the outside world."

The CTC, a non-profit organization, which serves as a voice for Tamil Cana-

dians, holds a walk-a-thon every year to raise money in support of a charity they believe is most deserving.

This year, they chose Amnesty International, which is also celebrating 50 years of protecting and promoting human rights.

Jey Jeyakanthan, a volunteer for CTC and fellow

walker, moved to Canada from Sri Lanka 15 years ago.

"Back home there are so many human rights violations going on. The main thing people have to have is the equality to live in a democratic society." Jeyakanthan said.

■ For more, see torontoobserver.ca



Jessica Moy // Observer

National spokesperson of the Canadian Tamil Congress, David Poopalapillai (far right) joins hundreds of other supporters in a 5-km walk.

LINGUISTIC LARKS

Category

Big 4 sports teams. (MLB, NBA, NFL, NHL)

○ I ○ N S

CO I T A O

○ H U ○ R

○ G I

City that lost a team twice in one sport.

With the letters given, guess the horizontal clues. Work your way to the vertical clue.

Unscramble the circled letters to form the final answer.

By Kyle Larkin



● To view a photo gallery on this story, visit us online at torontoobserver.ca

Get in a HUFF about hand hygiene

By MARYAM SHAH
The Observer

Your local hospital now has a sanitary sense of humour.

The Rouge Valley Health System decided to compete with Toronto International Film Festival this year by launching their own film festival. This one revolves entirely around hand hygiene.

The Hands Up Film Festival, or HUFF, is part of a hand hygiene campaign aimed at making staff across Scarborough hospitals meet 100 per cent hand washing compliance rates. It goes on till Sept. 26.

Votes are cast online for the best minute-long videos.

"We thought, isn't TIFF happening in the fall?" director of infection prevention and control

Paula Raggiunti recalled. "That's where HUFF came to be."

The festival launched the same day as TIFF.

"It was a red carpet event with an actual red carpet!" she said with a laugh.

One of the more memorable videos is a take on the Old Spice television spot. Another features a Purell sachet in place of a condom, as a couple learns about hand hygiene in the back of a car.

The film titles are also a shout-out to popular culture. One is called *Clean Your Hands Like Jagger*, after the hit Maroon 5 song "Moves Like Jagger."

Visitors, volunteers and the general public can help save lives by complying with hand sanitizing standards every time they visit a healthcare facility.



Maryam Shah // Observer

Jayshree Somani (left), and Paula Raggiunti demonstrate hand cleansing at the Hands Up Film Festival in Rouge Valley on Sept. 14.



Kayla Kreutzberg // Observer

Radoslaw Kudlinski positions the lights inside the Super It gallery, revealing Blue Republic's garbage inspired art, which is on display until Nov. 2.

Scarborough's about to get really trashy

By KAYLA KREUTZBERG
The Observer



To watch a video on this story, visit us online at torontoobserver.ca

Garbage has a new place at the Doris McCarthy Gallery at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus.

Artists Anna Passakas and Radoslaw Kudlinski's multi-disciplinary show, *Super It*, Blue Republic features an artistic take on trash until Nov. 2.

"We have taken poor kinds of discarded materials that have basically lost their meaning, things that you would usually find in the garbage," Passakas said describing the installations in the gallery.

"We pick them up and we

give them a different meaning through placing them in special context."

Erin Peck, coordinator at the gallery, said the exhibition was well attended.

"We're just concerned about what's happening in the world, what's happening right here in Toronto (...), there are a lot of problems," said Passakas about the message Blue Republic is trying to send.

The water drawings Blue Republic showcases are in the centre of the world, which refers to the physical and

mentally crippled troops from Afghanistan.

"You can read art in a textbook or read about exhibitions," said Jessica Thalman, gallery assistant.

"But being in front of the artwork itself is totally different.

"Being in this space," she added, "having this presence makes students understand art in a physical way where they wouldn't necessarily be able to in a classroom.

The artists will be back on Sep. 23.



UTSC students get their ARTSIDEOUT

Dozens of artists and performers display unique talents

By ERICA TIANGCO
The Observer

With autumn approaching, October is known amongst many in the GTA as the month of art. With *Nuit Blanche* underway, the Scarborough community will have its own version of an outdoor art festival as the University of Toronto

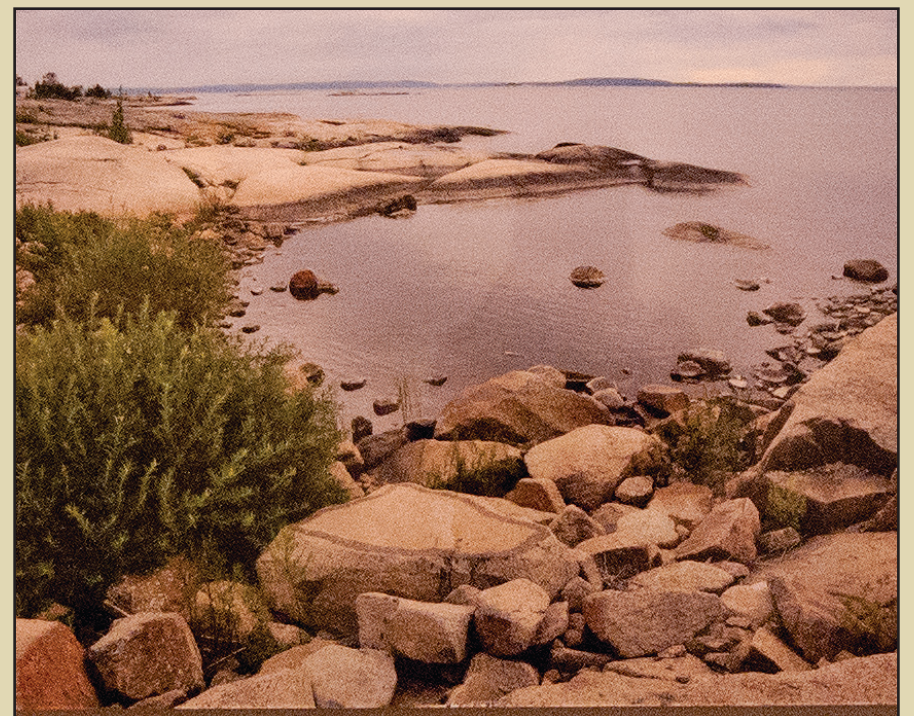
Scarborough (UTSC) campus grounds will transform into one blank canvas.

On Oct. 6, students will have the chance to showcase their talent as they invite community members to participate in the day-long festival. The annual art event titled ARTSIDEOUT (ASO) is now in its fourth consecutive year and

couldn't be stronger according to Artistic Director, Mike Miljanovic.

"Since its foundation, ASO has grown into the largest art festival on campus, and has become a regular event at UTSC," Miljanovic said.

The event will feature the work of more than 40 artists and 20 performers.



Kayla Kreutzberg // Observer

An example of the Water Drawings series by Passakas and Kudlinski, showcased by Blue Republic at the Doris McCarthy Gallery.