



**ARGOS FOOTBALL**  
Argos get great reception  
at Scarborough practice  
*See page 8*

**STILL RUNNING**  
Terry Fox Run For Hope  
enters third decade  
*See pages 4 and 5*



# THE EAST TORONTO OBSERVER

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## Community mourns slain UTSC student

**SARAH DEMILLE**  
The Observer

The flag flew at half-mast at the University of Toronto at Scarborough campus on Sept. 18 in memory of a student killed in the August bus hostage attack in the Philippines.

Doris (Chung See) Leung, 21, was killed along with her father Ken



**DORIS LEUNG**

Leung and her 14-year-old sister Jessie Leung on Aug. 23. The family was on the Manila tourist bus when it was hijacked by a former policeman. Leung, who was entering her fourth year of undergraduate studies at the UTSC campus, was remembered by her fellow classmates in the memorial held in the campus's Student Centre.

Pictures of the young woman and bouquets of flowers surrounded the room in which the memorial was

held. The service began with the Principal's message of condolence to the school community and Leung's family and included speeches made by family and friends of the young woman.

"She was an amazing individual, full of ambition and determination," Almas Sultan, a fourth-year health studies student at UTSC said.

"She was involved in various events around the campus and always put other's needs far ahead of her own,"

A Facebook group was created by UTSC students in memory of Leung.

"I created this group to let other students know about the loss that our campus underwent, and to let those who knew her well appreciate the valuable impact that her life had on theirs," said Rupom Rahman, a third year international studies and student at UTSC.

Over the coming months the community will honour the young woman's memory in several ways, according to the Facebook page.



**FIONA PERSAUD/The Observer**

## Gardeners cultivate their skills

Anette Hurliey shows off her prize-winning Chinese lantern plant at the Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society annual flower show. Story on page 7.

# Candidates clash over city's accessibility

## Prospective mayors debate funding for needed facilities

**EMILY HUNTER**  
The Observer

Toronto's next mayor is more willing to construct a single bus stop for disabled people than commit to funding for special-needs facilities.

Every major candidate has promised to construct a new stop in front of Variety Village, where the mayoral debate over disability was held Sept. 16. But the candidates were less straightforward about finding funding for Variety itself.

Variety Village is a fitness and life-skills centre for peo-

ple with disabilities, located on Danforth Avenue. The facility's nearest bus stop is currently a ten-minute walk away and difficult to reach for the disabled.

"We need all the stops to be wheelchair accessible and more of them," spectator Peter Athanasopoulos said.

He says there is a "two-tier" system in Toronto, with only half the transit system accessible.

"If we can make any wins in the mayoral election, it would be to improve transportation for the disabled."

Sarah Thomson says she



**EMILY HUNTER/The Observer**

George Smitherman (left) and Rocco Rossi are among candidates looking to appeal to special needs voters.

plans to expand the TTC's reach by developing the sub-way route with road tolls.

"We have to build a city that is fully accessible."

Joe Pantalone says he would make sure disabled people are allowed to get off

the bus anywhere.

Rob Ford says disabled individuals and seniors should ride for free, but didn't make any commitments.

George Smitherman's platform also includes making transit free for seniors at cer-

tain times.

Only Rocco Rossi made a commitment on the issue, saying if he is elected mayor, disabled people on social assistance will receive a discounted fare.

Variety Village, a centre that supports 3,350 disabled people, has asked for annual funding from the city. The centre is facing operating deficits and had massive layoffs in 2008.

Pantalone says the province should provide funding, but offered to use his name in charity events.

Ford says he could get the private sector involved to donate money,

Smitherman says there could be assistance with the \$15-million special rec-

reation funding proposed for the 2015 Pan-American Games.

Rossi said that the money would come from city spending on daycare, recreation and skills development – all of which Variety Village offers.

Thompson says the solution to Variety's funding is to reorganize municipal government spending

Overall, no candidate committed to funding Variety Village, leaving the center more accessible with the bus stop, but funding still out of reach.

**For the full story and to listen to an interview with the Canadian Paprapalegic Association, go to [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)**

## NEWS

# Road repairs smooth over complaints

Lawrence Avenue East remains open during reconstruction

AMANDA KWAN  
The Observer

A portion of Lawrence Avenue East is being rebuilt after years of complaints from residents about bumpy road conditions.

Lawrence Avenue East from Kingston Road to Beechgrove Drive is to be dug up, given a new base and repaved.

The street has been in disrepair for many years, says Ward 44 councillor Ron Moeser.

"It's almost like going through a speed bump," he said. "I had so many complaints about it."

The first phase of construction, from Beechgrove Avenue to Bennett Drive, started in August 2009 and finished in November 2009.

The second phase, from Bennett to Kingston began this year in August and is expected to be completed in November.

Once complete, no roadwork can be done along that stretch of Lawrence Avenue East for five years. This is due to a city policy that places a moratorium on construction on newly paved streets.

"We invest a lot of money into these roads," Moeser said. "The last thing you need is for people to cut into them again."

When a new property is built, developers have to dig into the road to install underground services.

Moeser said several subdivisions have been built along Lawrence Avenue, creating a patchwork of uneven asphalt.

**We invest a lot of money into these roads, the last thing you need is for people to cut into them again**  
-Ron Moeser

A new Seventh Day Adventist Church is currently being built across from the 43 Division police station, which is within the reconstruction area.

Moeser said the roadwork and subsequent moratorium prompted the church to start building.

"I said, 'If you don't get your hookup for the services and water, you're not going to be able to do it for five years,'" he said.

The busy street will be open during the reconstruction, Moeser said.

But this means the roadwork has to be done in portions.

"It's tough on residents," he said.

"You have to (repair) one side, then go back to the other side. But people have been very patient."



RISHMA LUCKNAUTH/The Observer

Teacher Stephen Tong leads one of Agnes McPhail Public School's new all-day kindergarten classes in a song.

## Expanding days to expand minds

Educators okay with longer kindergarten hours starting this month

RISHMA LUCKNAUTH  
The Observer

The start of all-day kindergarten in Ontario's schools this month has some educators excited about the added teaching time despite the added strain to the system.

Thirty Scarborough schools now offer all-day kindergarten in the first phase of the province's five-year plan. Seven more will offer it next year.

Before the start of the program, every two kindergarteners equalled one full-time student. Schools are now faced with double the number of kindergarteners.

"We have schools in certain pockets of the city that are busting at the seams with five, six portables on site," said Scott Harrison, Ward 19 trustee with the Toronto District School Board. "So when you turn around and

introduce all-day kindergarten, you've now increased that school by however many kindergarteners are at the school.

"Some schools are scrambling trying to find extra space — coat hooks and cubbies, stuff like that — because now they're going to be there for the whole day."

Even with space constraints, the benefits of all-day learning have already been identified, he said.

"The earlier you can get a child to learn, the more they can take in," said Harrison.

Priscilla Yu, principal of Agnes McPhail Public School in Agincourt, says the

program is off to a great start in her school, which currently has two all-day kindergarten classes.

"The fact that the teacher can have more time in the program to consolidate those basic skills through different means, different activities, is a big help," said Yu.

According to the Ministry of Education, about 600 Ontario schools now offer the program. That number is set to increase to 800 in 2011.

Every classroom will be equipped with a teacher and an early childhood educator who will construct a full-day curriculum of play-based learning activities. However, with a

surplus of teachers, this does not mean more jobs for educators.

"Part of the criteria for Phase 1 was low overhead costs," Harrison said. "In other words, find schools that can accommodate the classes with little to no construction costs, start-up costs."

All-day kindergarten is not mandatory and parents have the option of enrolling their children part time. The program is provided at no added cost to families, but before- and after-school programs will be offered at school-specific fees, some of which will be subsidized.

"It's still early," said Harrison. "It just started a week ago so I think everybody is still feeling it out."

"It's an exciting initiative and I think the ministry and the board have done their best to get this program up to a wonderful start," added Yu.

**It's an exciting initiative and I think the ministry and the board have done their best to get this program up to a wonderful start**  
-Priscilla Yu



AMANDA KWAN/The Observer

The second phase of road reconstruction along Lawrence Avenue East began in August and is expected to finish in November.

## Man injured in dash across busy road

RYAN JHAGROO  
The Observer

A 23-year-old man is expected to survive after being struck by an SUV on the morning of Sept. 13 at the intersection of Markham Road and Ellesmere Avenue.

The crash happened shortly before 7 a.m., according to police. The victim was rushed to the trauma centre with apparent head injuries.

Witnesses said earlier the man died from injuries, but police later reported he survived.

Residents of the area reported the man was running across the busy road to catch



RYAN JHAGROO/The Observer

Police survey damage to the SUV that struck a man at Markham Road and Ellesmere Avenue.

the bus when he ran into the right rear side of a Toyota RAV4.

The incident caused major delays as TTC routes and other traffic were diverted

away from the intersection. Police work closed off the area for most of the morning.

# Malvern festival focuses on healthy living

## Despite low attendance, everyone has lots of fun

**ALICE HOANG**  
The Observer

Organizers of Malvern in Motion are mystified as to why the turnout was dramatically lower than previous years.

The Malvern Community Coalition hosted its 6th annual neighbourhood festival, Sept. 11. The event focused on health and wellness by encouraging good eating habits and active living.

Malvern in Motion chair Venesse Lewis says she hoped for a bigger crowd, as nearly 800 people came out last year compared to 200 this year.

Despite fewer people than expected, the grounds outside the Malvern Community Recreation Centre boomed with music, dance, and laughter. The smaller crowd meant more room for kids to play.

Parents and children lined up for free food, including

roasted corn, catered Caribbean food and cake, while youth volunteers handed out soft drinks and popcorn.

Members of the city's police, fire, and EMS departments also came, and were greeted by grinning, giggling kids wanting to get a look inside their vehicles.

Marie Clarke Walker, the local residence organizer, said the goal of the festival is to engage youth in the community and teach them the importance of being involved.

"There is both a youth component and a workshop component so that we can engage youth and they can engage us – frankly, it should be about them engaging us more than us engaging them," Walker said. "This is their community, their future – most of us that are involved are on our way out. So the building is for the next generation and



**ALICE HOANG/The Observer**

City council hopeful Ruth Teale (right) helps facilitate a Good Jobs for All workshop Sept. 11 at Malvern in Motion.

the generation after that."

Agencies including Taibu Community Health Centre and Action for Neighbourhood Change staffed booths promoting strong and healthy individuals and communities.

Labour coalition Good Jobs for All held a workshop educating about the importance of public services in building strong communities and making them accessible to everyone.

"If we let our public services – our schools, our hospitals, our community centres, our libraries, our roads – collapse, it will take more than one or two or three generations to get

them back," Walker said. "If we don't have those things, you're looking at user fees most people won't be able to afford, so they won't be able to have those services that we currently enjoy."



**BRADLEY FEATHERSTONE/The Observer**

Organizer Gisela Bach has been struggling to find support for the cleanup for years.

## Trash outweighs volunteers at Bluffs shoreline cleanup

**BRADLEY FEATHERSTONE**  
The Observer

With the sun rising steadily in a clear sky above the Scarborough Bluffs, Sunday provided the perfect backdrop for the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.

The only problem was nobody wanted to clean. Only six people volunteered their time to help at the Sept. 19 event.

Gisela Bach has been organizing the Guildwood chapter of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup for the past eight years. She said she is frustrated with the lack of interest from the community.

"This never decomposes ever," Bach said, as she held up a Styrofoam food container. "So what it does is breaks apart in very small pieces and floats on top of the water. Then at night feeding animals come up see it as food, eat it, then die because of it. This

is something people should think about but they don't."

Bach and her friend Roy Wright, president of Save the Toronto Bluffs, have made it their mission to keep the bluffs clean, even if no one else wants to help.

Wright said he has personally adopted the beach at the bottom of the Scarborough Bluffs and cleans it on a regular basis.

### Garbage out of reach

He insists that getting access to the areas that need cleaning is as painstaking a task as getting people to volunteer.

"There is no service pick-up for garbage down there, and that's the problem. What I personally have to do, I have to make arrangements with the park supervisor, who has to make arrangements with someone else to get to the conservation

authority to open the gate so we can drive down the service road to pick up all the garbage," Wright said.

Most of the garbage is cups and food containers. One pair of volunteers found a cellphone and a pair of shoes.

"Last year, a cleanup in Burlington found a wedding dress," Bach said.

All garbage found is documented on data cards given to the volunteers when they arrive so they can keep track of what kind of trash they find.

Bach tallies up the data cards and sends the information to the Vancouver Aquarium, where the event originated. The information is relayed to The Ocean Conservancy, which tallies the numbers to find how much garbage was removed.

In 2009, the event cleaned 2,475 kilometres of shoreline, removing over 160,000 kilograms of garbage from Canadian shores.

## Mayoral candidates favour fewer city council members

**JOSEF JACOBSON**  
The Observer

Some of Toronto's mayoral candidates are finding common ground when it comes to downsizing city council.

Rob Ford, Rocco Rossi and Sarah Thomson have all spoken in favour of a private member's

bill, put forward by Toronto MPP Mario Sergio this summer, which would cut the number of councillors from 44 to 23. Sergio said it would reduce civic bureaucracy and save taxpayers

millions each year. "We've already had a vote on this," Ford said. "And there are 15 councillors who support reducing the size of council."

Although this bill is being pushed by conservative mayoral candidates, Toronto budget chief Shelly Carol finds errors in Sergio's math.

"It is important to note that there is always a sur-

plus," Carol said. "[Sergio's] figure was made by adding operating costs and staff costs, but councillors never spend their whole budget."

Aside from salary savings, the city would also reduce other costs, including extended health care, life, dental and long-term disability in-

insurance, pension and severance.

Some local councillors are concerned cuts will affect governance.

"I don't think it's a wise proposal," said Ward 38 Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker.

"I don't understand why people say there are too many councillors. Before amalgamation we had over 100 councillors and we reduced it to 44. I don't think anyone's happier today."

Currently, each of Scarborough's 10 councillors represents about 60,000 residents. If the number of councillors is halved, five Scarborough councillors will represent over

120,000 constituents each.

"I go to people's houses every single week. To double the number of constituents is a challenge," De Baeremaeker said. "The quality of service won't get better."

However, this sentiment is not shared among all Scarborough councillors. Ward 44 Councillor Ron Moeser says that since the number of elected officials in Toronto was cut in half from 106 to 58 in 1998, councillors are now used to overlapping jurisdictions.

"When it came to council I voted in favour of it," Moeser said. "It's a cost effective way to run city council. [The larger wards] would put more pressure on the councillors but I think it could be done."

"I'm willing to have the conversation [about reducing the number of councillors], but it should be in the context of improving governance," Carol said. "If the plan is to cut council to save money, it will fail."

**For up-to-date election coverage visit,**  
[torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)

**There are 15 councillors who support reducing the size of council**  
- Rob Ford



From left to right, mayoral candidates Rocco Rossi, Rob Ford and Sarah Thomson.

# FEATURE

# THIRTY YEARS LATER, SCARBOROUGH RESIDENTS

SAEDA RAGHE & ANGELA ROTUNDO  
The Observer

“One guy had the idea to do something so inspirational that it really stirred up the whole country,” Martin LeMoine says.

LeMoine has been inspired by Terry Fox since he began running his Marathon of Hope 30 years ago. His father, Joe LeMoine, has been hosting one of Scarborough’s annual Terry Fox runs for 27 years in West Hill.

On Sept. 19, a morning full of sunshine, the annual Terry Fox Run took place all over Canada. Scarborough residents came out to Cedarbrook Park on Markham Rd and Old Kingston Rd in West Hill to continue Terry’s run to raise awareness for cancer research.

At the West Hill route, Joe LeMoine continues to see dedicated runners year after year, 20 of whom he honoured with 30-year participation plaques on Sunday.

“When we first began, on that first morning, a group of, mostly runners in those days, climbed the hill in front of 104 Ridgewood Rd and began the first run through the neighborhood of West Rouge,” LeMoine said. “Thirty years later many of those original runners are still coming out to... thank Terry for what he did and carry on his mission to conquer cancer in all its forms.”

Meanwhile at Cedarbrook Park, bikers, runners, walkers and even roller-bladers passed through a scenic wooded trail to support Terry’s dream.

Ken Pearson, who has organized the Cedarbrook Park run for the past 12 years, was motivated by something other than Terry’s vision.

“Well, I got lost on a course because it wasn’t marked properly, and I was so mad at the end of it that I said I could do a better job.”

Pearson used to run it in West Hill, until he heard there were no volunteers to organize the then city of Scarborough’s annual Terry Fox Run. More than a decade later, Pearson continues his dedication to the cause, surrounded by his supportive family, friends and participants.

## Survival Rates Increase

Beverley Stephenson, a longtime marathoner of the Cedarbrook Park run, is one of few people who holds a personal connection to the Terry Fox Run.

“I grew up in Scarborough and I remember being 20 when Terry came through,” said Stephenson. “Since then I’ve run a couple of Marathons but I’ve had a week or so to recover. Everyday he got up and ran a marathon and ran a marathon, and once you’ve run one marathon in your life you realize how incredible it was what he did.”

Since Terry Fox started the Marathon of Hope in 1980 close to \$500 million for research has been raised worldwide.

On Sept. 15 Statistics Canada reported that cancer survival rates since the 1990s are going up. Significantly, some cancers like liver cancer saw survival rates increase from nine per cent to 17 per cent.

The survival rate for Leukemia increased from 44 per cent to 54 per cent, while non-Hodgkin lymphoma went from 51 per cent to 63 per cent.

Some cancers like prostate, skin melanoma and breast cancer had high relative survival ratios: 96 per cent, 89 percent and 88 per cent respectively. Yet pancreatic cancer rates remain low at six per cent.

The results were based on a five-year survival ratio from 1992-1994 compared to rates from 2004 to 2006. The report compared survival rates of people with cancer five years after their diagnoses to people without cancer.

Terry Fox started the Marathon of Hope to help raise funds for cancer research, and to ultimately find a cure for cancer.

According to Pearson, Terry said in his famous speech in Scarborough, “I might not be able to finish this, but if I don’t someone else has to.”

“That’s what everyone else is doing — they’re continuing the run for Terry and in memory of him,” said Pearson.



What’s a little healthy competition between friends? “The Incredibles” team members from left to right, Sanjayan Thampan, Puvu Sinna and William Yu finished the race in just under an hour and all within minutes of each other.



The early morning call time of 8am did not deter the Terry Fox Run cheerleaders, a group of girls from Cardinal Newman high school. **Top Row:** Jessica Glenny, Brianna Martin, Janet Relova, Stephanie Alejandro, Patrizia Geraneo, Jillian Rubinos, Chantal Brasil. **Bottom Row:** Aphrodite Kazandjian, Dominique Andre, Megan Teodoro.



Left: Sally Hill, son Peyton and daughter Calypso enjoy a family day out while taking part in Cedarbrook Park’s annual Terry Fox Run.



Right: Beverley Stephenson is a pro when it comes to races. She has been a marathon runner for over fifteen years.

# THE DREAM LIVES ON

## KEEP TERRY FOX'S HOPE ALIVE



**What does the Terry Fox Run mean to you?**



**The Martinez Family:**

"We've been running for four years at Cedarbrook Park, and we love to support cancer patients and some of our friends."



**Ravina Raveenthiran with dad Mylvaganam Thabymuthu:**

"Because I wanted to show how much I care about Terry Fox."



Ken Pearson, volunteer for Cedarbrook Park's annual Terry Fox Run is a legend to his supportive group of family and friends. Pearson organizes the run every year, and has done so for the last twelve.



**Wanda Wierzbicki, Krystina Elbertsen and Rob Elbertsen:**

"We think it's a good cause and I think there are a lot of people that have had to fight cancer. My dad actually passed away from cancer so that's what actually started it for me."



Toronto Police officers Rob Mackinnan, Marta Bialecka and Paul Tonna came out to show their support for this worthy cause.

**Photography by Saeda Raghe & Angela Rotundo**

## Scarce advertising damages league

It's a new round of sports registration and the Scarborough Hockey Association (SHA) is in trouble. This isn't new.

The Observer previously featured the SHA's challenges to increase enrolment and its struggle to stay separate from the Greater Toronto Hockey League. This season the SHA had to scrap a new development league, an inexpensive bridge between house league and competitive hockey, due to low enrolment. The league would have operated solely in Scarborough, but now players who want to play at this level will have to go through other leagues.

It's a story that's becoming common in Scarborough: hockey teams losing enrolment and Scarborough's immigrant population is to blame. But is that really the truth?

Two years ago Hockey Night In Canada began broadcasting its games in Punjabi and Mandarin, which is a great way to attract more viewers.

The SHA should have taken a page out of the CBC's handbook and stopped and looked at its neighbours.

The SHA spent \$5,000 promoting and advertising its newest program, to its members and held two public information sessions. But how many advertisements went out to new people? How many were placed in mosques, temples, or cultural centres? How many potential Sidney Crosbys live in Scarborough who don't speak English as a first language? We may never find out because they weren't contacted.

It's a shame because the developmental league would have given youth a chance to play hockey at a low price and hone their skills, but by bypassing new recruits the league is ultimately setting itself up for failure. Who knows how many kids would have continued playing in the SHA once they had a taste of the developmental league and started to love the sport? We may never know, and that's the real problem.

- Nadia Persaud

## Declining voters a rising concern

The streets almost ring with a collective groan when election time nears. All the front doors and windows clamp shut to silence the campaign cheers. Pages of newspapers flip faster than usual and tempers rise on televised debates.

It's not that we don't know the vote dates. It's not that we don't know the local candidates and local issues. It's not that we don't support our democratic system. We just don't seem to show up and make our voices count.

In the 2006 election, only 38.3 per cent of eligible voters hit the polling stations in Scarborough. Toronto as a whole saw only 39.3 per cent of voters exercising their right. These numbers were rounded up, according to the City of Toronto.

That is an embarrassing turnout. It's what I'd call an undemocratic turnout. In order to pass a bill, Parliament needs 50 percent plus one member. These voter turnout statistics aren't even close to this number. It's hard to justify a government, especially a local one, when there isn't a sizable number of voters.

Councillors rarely change, and are re-elected by a low percentage of voters. This leaves Toronto in literally the same place as the election before. Issues evolve, debates continue, and tensions remain. New solutions aren't being offered as new perspectives on council are lacking.

Not-for-profit research groups are trying to address this issue. Better Ballots has hosted four town hall meetings across Toronto to get voter input on poll reforms. Among those options are weekend voting and online and phone voting. These are current strategies that are being used in other Canadian cities like Montreal and Peterborough.

Allowing voters to vote from the comfort of their home might be a feasible solution. One of the major complaints I have heard from voters is time constraints. They find it difficult to make it to the polling station because of work and other commitments. Personally, I find that a weak excuse. The polling stations are opened for days and voter statistics seem to guarantee that there is hardly any wait time.

Is this apathy then just laziness? Have Torontonians found it too much of an inconvenience to have a say in how their city is run?

Hopefully I am wrong and voters will realize how important their voice is and be sure to share it on Oct. 25.

- Caitlin Stojanovski



BRADLEY FEATHERSTONE/The Observer

## Kindergarten: quality vs. quantity?

With the school day extended, kindergarteners might be able to hit the snooze button at naptime — but many adults are anything but restful about the changes.

Debate rages over the full-day kindergarten program, estimated to cost Ontarians \$1.5 billion a year, even as the province is facing a deficit of nearly \$20 billion.

While Premier Dalton McGuinty is accommodating working parents, taxpayers are not very happy — especially after the recent introduction of the HST — as a large portion of the province's population will have to pay for the gain of a small demographic.

Some say that McGuinty is making early childhood education and the implementation of full-day kindergarten a political wedge issue.

Some complain the new program is just free daycare — a place for working parents to drop off their kids for the government to babysit.

It seems like the overall sentiment is that parents who don't have to pay for daycare anymore will benefit most from this.

While school is being "enhanced" for kindergarteners, parents won't worry about their kids being stressed from studying.

The *Toronto Star* reported last spring



Alice Hoang

### Will these extra hours of school time benefit children in the long-run?

that Ontario's education ministry said content isn't added to the full-day program and kids won't be tested like in Grade 1. Rather it's a mix of kindergarten and early learning.

Activities grounded in play allow children to learn "more broadly and deeply," but couldn't this be done without making the day twice as long?

Don't get me wrong — kids being able to interact with their peers in an environment that lets them be physically and intellectually challenged is always a plus. But for McGuinty to quote Barack

Obama saying "those that out-teach us today will out-compete us tomorrow" to defend his decision to implement the program and push people to vote liberal doesn't seem to fly in this situation.

My Grade 7 teacher said children don't spend enough time with their families. Kids are at school for six hours, parents come home from work around 5 p.m., mom or dad spends half an hour or so in the kitchen, and the family eats dinner. The kids then shut themselves in their rooms to do homework or chat on MSN.

So the only quality time parents and children get together is that precious hour at the dinner table.

Perhaps McGuinty would like to get kids used to this 21st century family dynamic at an earlier age. But will these extra hours of school time benefit children in the long-run?

The government is imposing a "building for the future" image, but politicians should change the curriculum by taking a "quality over quantity" approach.

Maybe changing public education at the other end of the system might be more sensible.

Then again, who knows? Once upon a time when I came home from my half-day of kindergarten and my dad asked me what I did, I replied: "Just play toys."

THE EAST TORONTO

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# Local artists sing, dance for peace

**PATRYCJA KLUCZNIK**  
The Observer

As cars pulled up in front of Zoom Bar in Scarborough and young people gathered in the parking lot, it was clear something was going on that Thursday night.

Scarborough's talent came together Sept. 16 to perform at Music Brings Peace to raise money for the East Metro Youth Services violence intervention project.

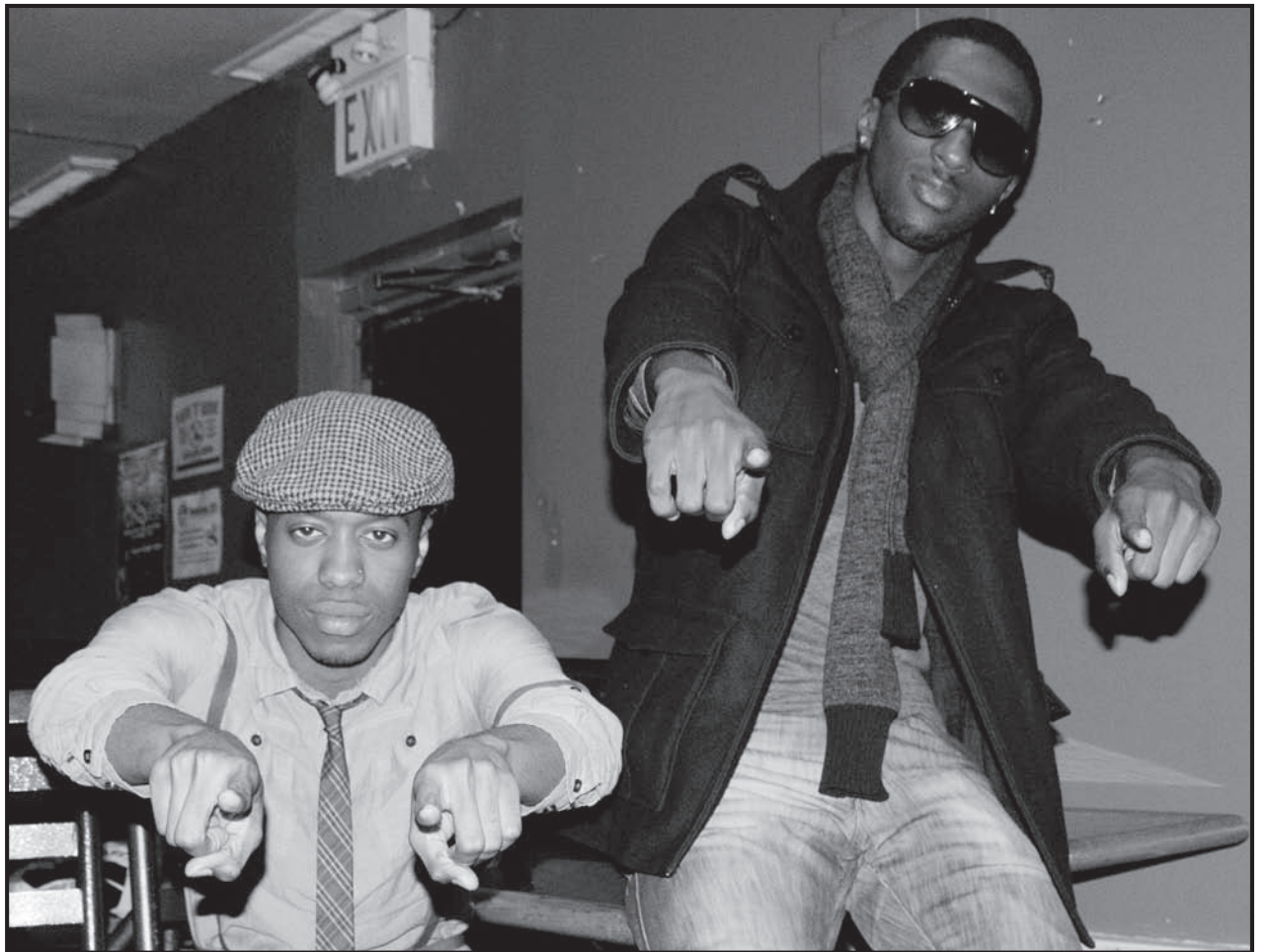
Inside as DJs set up equipment, singers and rappers checked the feedback on the mics, and dancers changed into their performance attire. "The reason why I started this event was because I was sick of what I was seeing on the news and in everyday life, people dying through senseless acts of violence,"

said Myzz Layce, the event coordinator, going by her stage name. "Talented young men going to jail over gun violence. Who doesn't think music brings peace? My main message is, if you have talent, why waste it? So this event is to show youth they should work toward their talent instead of doing senseless things."

East Metro Youth Services is a children's mental health centre serving in East Toronto since 1974, with locations all over Scarborough.

"I work for them, I see what they do and I decided to help them out because they help everybody out," Layce said.

As the first act came on stage, the crowd (mostly teens) took seats by the dance floor or gathered around the



PATRYCJA KLUCZNIK/The Observer

Richard Chippy (left) and Jermal Humphrey perform at the Zoom Bar.

bar. Photographers positioned themselves as the music blared and the show began.

Chukwuemeka "Chuxx" Eke, 22, a rapper of four years, performed two songs.

The next act was Richard "Chipster" Chippy, 23, and Jermal "J.L. Vocalz." Humphrey, 21, Humphrey sang an original track, while Chippy performed original choreog-

raphy. The point of the Music Brings Peace show is to show there are many ways to direct your anger, Humphrey said.

"Direct it to something you're good at, such as

music," he said. "It's also a chance for aspiring artists to get a chance to network."

**For a video of the event, visit [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)**



FIONA PERSAUD/The Observer

Scarborough youth leader Jean Cope, third from right, mentors kids in gardening.

## Flowers a blooming good time

**FIONA PERSAUD**  
The Observer

While would-be Toronto mayors talk about beautifying the city by planting trees and growing food, some local residents are taking steps to do this in their own yard.

They got to show off their skills at the Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society annual flower show on Sept. 11.

"I joined just to learn more about gardening," said Anette Hurlihay, who won first place for her Chinese lantern plant. "A lot of people think if you're part of the garden club you know everything. I don't, I joined because I wanted to learn more."

Founded in 1925, the Scarborough Garden and

Horticultural Society is a division of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Hurlihay said the club holds 200 members and views Scarborough as a community ripe with passionate gardeners of all ages.

"I think that if you teach children at a really young age about gardening, it's something that will stay with them for their whole life," said Jean Cope, Scarborough garden society member and leader of the junior group. The 2010 Toronto Food Strategy report, "Cultivating Food Connections: Toward a Healthy and Sustainable Food System for Toronto," was submitted last June to the Toronto Board of Health. The report revealed the potential that horticulture has for

improving environmental, economic, as well as social and community well being.

Mayoral candidate Joe Pantalone proposed strategies similar to the Toronto Food Strategy Project, promising to plant 1,000 fruit trees each year. Pantalone also proposed increasing the number of community gardens in the city.

The 2010 report found that many youth display an interest in learning to garden and would welcome training and mentorship from seniors in the community who would serve as a resource to the younger generation.

"It's a garden club and we have fun. We learn. We do crafts. We learn about planting and we have a good time," Cope said.

## Sun shines on West Rouge family day, lighting up community spirit

**KIRSTEN PARUCHA**  
The Observer

The West Rouge community was out in full force to celebrate a double whammy of communal milestones.

On Sept. 18, the 17th annual West Rouge Family Day and the 50th anniversary of the West Rouge Sports and Recreation Association held a collaborative outdoor event at the West Rouge community centre.

"It gives us a chance to get out and see everyone," said Don Burnet, founder of West Rouge Family Day. "It lets everyone know they're not alone in the community."

At the celebration, Burnet, 78, was sporting a green t-shirt with "West Rouge Volunteer" written across the front — a vintage piece of clothing insisted Burnet, and an antique since it's one of the first volunteer shirts of Family Day.

Burnet, accompanied by his wife, Margaret, 77, was comfortable wearing the t-shirt without a jacket because he claimed the weather had never turned sour on Family Day.

"I hope I'm not going to break the spell by saying this, but we have not had rain for any Family Days. The sun is shining and it's an absolute beautiful day," said Burnet.

The couple was also out celebrating the anniversary of the community's Sports and Recreation Association. During his time with the associa-

tion, he founded the first ever Family Day 17 years ago.

"To start Family Day, it took a year's worth of convincing the board," recalled Burnet.

The celebration consisted of live music and dance performances, a reptilia show, and games and activities for children.

Snacks were also sold and a special BBQ was available during the lunch hour.

Martin Bugden, current president of the West Rouge Sports and Recreation Association, takes pride in the

annual Family Day, since the association provides funds for the event. According to Bugden, the main purpose of the event is to show the community their appreciation for

**We raise money throughout the year, and then this is the big giveback day - Martin Bugden**

partaking in the multiple yearly festivities and events around the community.

"We raise money throughout

the year, and then this is the big giveback day," Bugden said. "We partner with the City of Toronto, with West Rouge and other sponsors to make today a big success."



KIRSTEN PARUCHA/The Observer

Kids race around West Rouge for family day festivities.

## SPORTS

# Argonauts huddle up in Scarborough

**RYAN JHAGROO**  
The Observer

The Toronto Argonauts ran through offensive and defensive drills for the first time ever in Scarborough last Wednesday, in recognition of their \$80,000 donation to the TDSB football programs.

Coaches and players took to the gridiron at Sir Robert L. Borden Business Technical Institute's football field, marking the return of high school football to three Toronto-area high schools.

Along with Borden, Downsview Secondary School and Thistletown Collegiate Institute are to each receive a \$10,000 donation for the 2010 season.

"In the Toronto area, we lost a lot of schools that did have football. So the lifeblood of the CFL and the universities is the amount of kids that are playing and this is a great opportunity for us to help," said Argos general manager Adam Rita.

The \$10,000 will go a long way to ensuring a revitalized



The Toronto Argonauts practice at Sir Robert L. Borden - marking their first time playing on Scarborough soil.

football program, said Borden head coach, Martin Douglas.

"It's one of the reasons football has dropped off the circuit, because of how ex-

pensive it can be."

The outlook for Toronto high school football was bleak before the donations, said Thistletown C.I. head

coach, Keith Hoare.

"We've got better infrastructure. It's very tough to get funding from schools, for football and other extra-cur-

ricular sports activities."

"It's been close to 20 years, since not having a team," Thistletown running back Tristan Jones said.

"It feels great to be one of the people to start the team back, great for the student population and the community. Now people in the area can come out and see the football games," Jones said.

While Rita, Douglas and Hoare agree the spirit and passion for Toronto high school football isn't at the level of their American counterparts, they also agree that dedicated athletic programs are a step towards that goal.

In total, TDSB high school football will receive \$80,000 as part of a mentorship and funding program entitled Level The Playing Field, a partnership between The Argos Foundation, the Toronto District School Board, and the Toronto Foundation for student success.

Last year, the program helped the return of four TDSB high school football teams.

**For more photos of the Argonauts, visit [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)**

## SHA's struggles continue

Lack of enrollment signals the end to competitive hockey in Scarborough, yet the league remains optimistic

**JOSH UNGAR**  
The Observer

After a tumultuous season last year that saw the remaining competitive Scarborough Hockey Association (SHA) teams amalgamated into the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL), the SHA is ready to turn a new page.

But not without a few minor glitches first. In the off-season the SHA attempted to launch a minor development league to replace their now defunct A-level league.

However on July 24, the development league was grounded before it ever got a chance to take flight.

"It was just the numbers, the same plight as we have been dealing with for some time now," said Ed Wahl, SHA president.

The planned development league was to give kids in Scarborough the op-

portunity to play competitive hockey without having to travel to North York or Toronto proper to find a team. While the league was unable to get going, it wasn't for lack of effort.

"The decision comes after the SHA spent approximately \$5,000 on promotion and advertising of the new program," said Wahl in press release this summer. "We mailed information packages to every player registered in the SHA during the 2009-10 season, conducted two public information sessions and held 13 registration nights in an attempt to recruit youth to the program."

At the time of the decision to cancel the league, only 44 players had enrolled in the program. 152 were required. Wahl still hopes to one day establish the program.

"It's not off the table, we'll bring it to the parents next year and see what the level of interest is like," Wahl said.

After several years of insufficient interest and steadily declining numbers, last year the SHA finally could no longer support their competitive hockey league, forcing the amalgamation with the GTHL.

"You can't run six

competitive organizations when you can't even get 100 kids together," Wahl said.

Regardless of these setbacks, Wahl said the future is bright for the SHA and the league still strives to provide affordable hockey for both competitive and house league players.

"Registration has been very strong this year, hopefully the growing pains are over," Wahl said. "All the publicity we've had, bad or good, it brought attention to what we're trying to do here."

Wahl estimates the SHA will run 60 house league teams and cater to approximately 1,000 players this season through their Scarborough Youth Hockey League. Players who want to play competitive hockey can enroll in the Scarborough Ice Raiders but will be competing in the GTHL.

"Practices are held at our facilities in Scarborough, but the games will be held in North York or some of the GTHL arenas," Wahl said. "It is absolutely more expensive, but it's still the cheapest hockey in the city."

"As much as things have changed, we still try to provide the most accessible, economic hockey in the city," Wahl said. "It's still a work in progress, but things are coming together."



**JOSH UNGAR**/The Observer

The West Hill Blue Jays went undefeated to win the Scarborough championship

## Blue Jays are king of the hill

**JOSH UNGAR**  
The Observer

The big league Blue Jays squad isn't the only ball team in the city racking up the runs this year.

The West Hill Blue Jays proved too much for the competition on the weekend, going undefeated over three games on their way to winning the Scarborough Baseball Association Pee Wee House League championship.

"It was a lot of fun," said Shane Massie, who pitched the final inning for the Jays. "I hope to come back next year and try to win again."

The Jays showcased their offensive prowess by beating the house league champs from the Birchmount Baseball League 11-4 to earn the citywide title at Birchmount

Park. They also blanked the Wexford-Agincourt league champion Pirates 10-0 on their way to the finals.

"When Cassie made the final catch and we won, it felt great," a smiling Massie said after the game as he clutched his trophy.

The two-day tournament featured the three top teams from the Scarborough baseball leagues, including West Hill, Wexford-Agincourt and Birchmount. A fourth team, from the East Toronto League, was unable to attend. "From what I gather, the East Toronto division couldn't get enough players together," said Birchmount Baseball League convener Al McDonnell.

Teams are made up of 12- and 13-year-old boys and girls of all different skill lev-

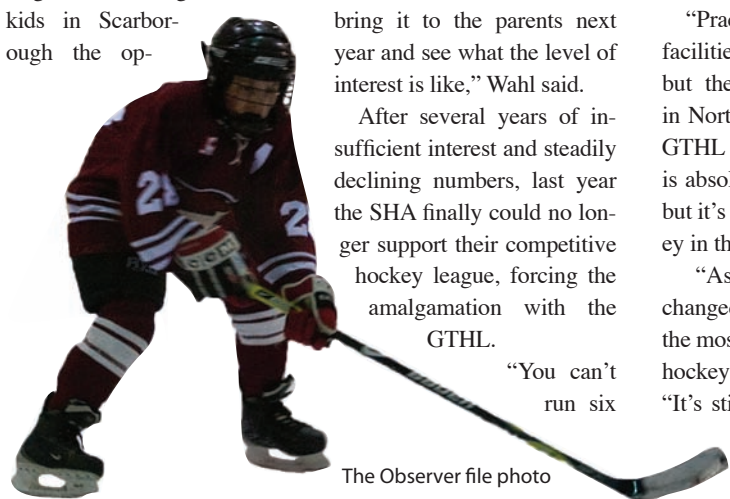
els. The league promotes fair play, equal opportunity and exercise for kids in a generation where physical activity is sorely lacking.

"It helps keep kids outside and out of trouble," said umpire Kevin Marshall. "And even better, it keeps them from playing video games."

Aside from athletic skills, the kids develop lasting friendships and useful life skills.

"As long as the kids are out having fun and learning, it's a good thing," McDonnell said. "They're going to make some errors and miss some catches, but we try to teach them to just keep smiling."

"I love watching these kids grow and get better, some of them I've been watching play for years," proud West Hill parent Eric Brewer said.



The Observer file photo