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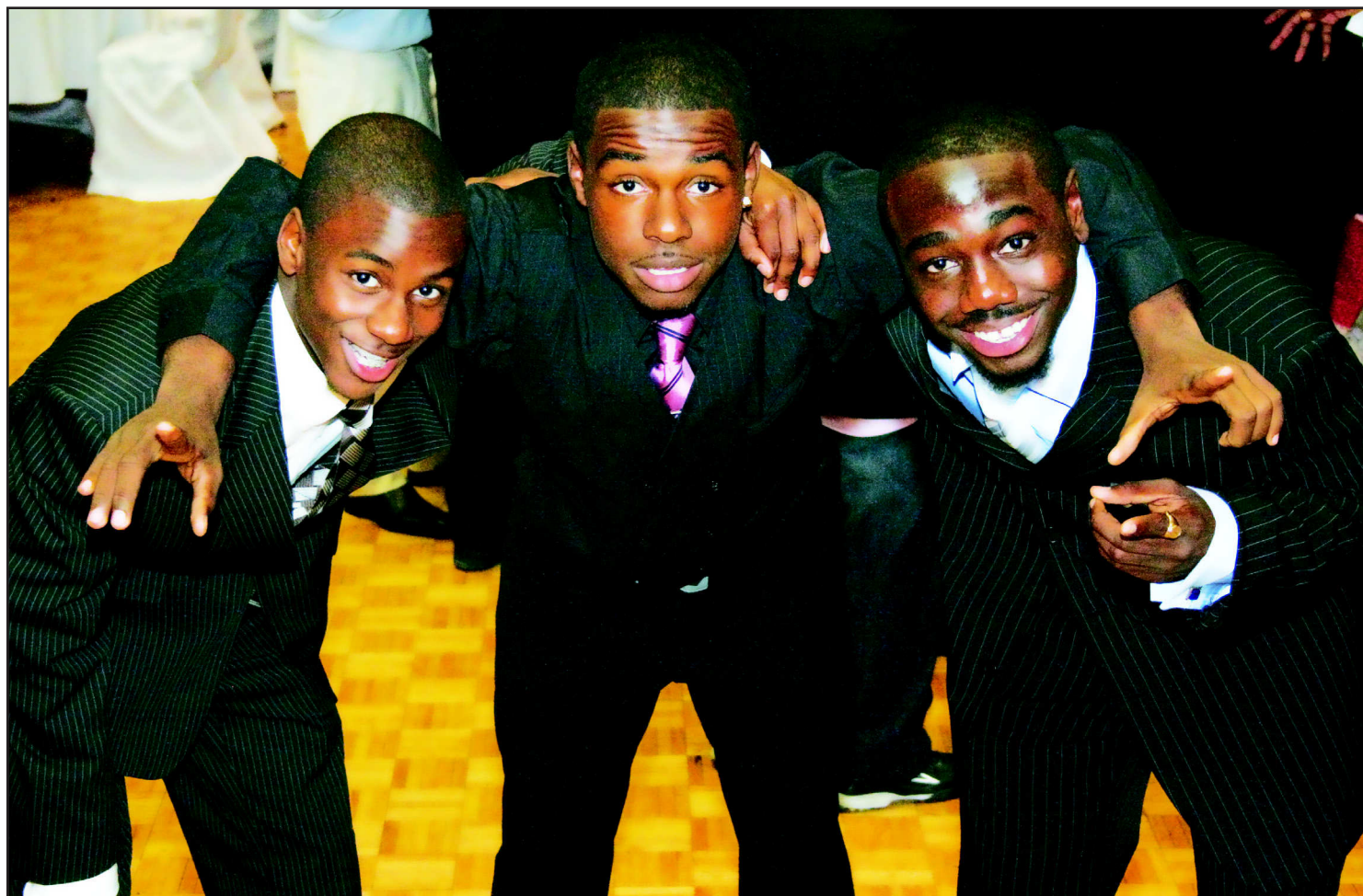
THE EAST TORONTO

# OBSERVER

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MATTHEW ALLEYNE/The Observer

## The future of Malvern soccer

O'niel Morris, left, Jamal Comrie, centre, & Nigek Bucknor, right, giving one last huddle in celebration of the Malvern Lighting under 16 boys 2009 season. See page 8.

## 44 years for Leafs fans' dream of tickets

MATTHEW ALLEYNE  
The Observer

Imagine being a Toronto Maple Leafs fan and dreaming of having season tickets for years, then one day you get a letter reminding you that you're on the coveted waiting list. For many, it would be cause for celebrating, but for Jacquie Banner, it was like having her dream slightly out of reach.

Banner's biological father had signed up to be on the waiting list for season tickets in 1965 when her brother was born. Unknown to her, every year a renewal letter would be sent to her family home and was returned with the answer of yes.

Two years ago, Banner first found out about the renewal letters being sent. She enquired if the name on the waitlist could be transferred over to her, seeing that she was her brother and biological father.

### Die-hard fan

"I've been a fan since July 17, 1967," Banner said jokingly, the date of her birthday.

Banner grew up, like many Torontonians, as a die-hard Leafs fan. Every Saturday night she would watch the game with her brother and her grandfather. She rarely misses a game, going to about three or four per year when she can afford to get tickets.

With consent from her biological father, the transfer was approved by the Leafs. The shock came when Banner contacted the Leafs and found out her current position on the list.

"I e-mailed the Leafs, and was told that I was 5,576 on the list, which came as a shock that after 40 years I still could be so low down on the list," she said.

See MAPLE LEAFS, Page 2

# Librarians threaten strike

Staffers ask for job security, full-time hours and benefits in the wake of increased public library usage

### TRISTAN CARTER

The Observer

Toronto Public Library workers have voted in favour of strike action that could occur as early as November.

Eighty-six per cent of respondents in Toronto Public Library Workers Union (TPLWU) Local 4948 voted on Oct. 8 to support a strike.

### Part-time workers

"We want to maintain good jobs in the library," said Maureen O'Reilly, TPLWU spokesperson and chair of the bargaining committee. "There are a large number of our workers who are part timers and that means they have no benefits."

Currently 50 per cent of the workforce is part-time.

Library workers are not the

only ones concerned about the lack of full-time job opportunities.

LCBO workers nearly walked off the job this summer due to similar issues.

Library workers are also dealing with a reduction in staff while experiencing an increase in clients.

"Since the early 1990s, we've lost 200 full-time equivalencies," O'Reilly said. "If you go on to their website, you can see firsthand they are the most well-used public library, actually, in the world. It sometimes goes back and forth between Hong Kong and Toronto."

Many of the job cuts may have been made in anticipation of a dip in public library usage, but that has not happened.

"They did say 10, 20 years ago that public libraries

would be dead with the advancement of the Internet.

"Quite contrary to that, if you check their usage statistics, we are busier than ever," O'Reilly said.

Toronto Public Libraries check out more than 30 million items a year.

Still, technology and the Internet have changed the way people access library resources.

"I use the TPL website. What I usually do, I order books and then put them on hold from home," said Bianca Delgado, a student at the

University of Toronto.

It has come to a point where people don't need to interact with librarians.

"They're introducing self-check-out machines," O'Reilly said. "We're supportive of new technologies, we are library workers after all, but it can't be at the expense of a well-trained, professional workforce."

Some library patrons do not see the need to replace experienced librarians.

"I go to the one near Highland Creek. They're nicer there. They do help me when I go. When I ask them

There are a large number of workers who are part-timers and that means they have no benefits.

- Maureen O'Reilly

questions they physically go and get the books that I need," Delgado said.

After receiving \$3 million from Ottawa to renovate the Toronto Reference Library, Toronto Public Libraries are now asking the city for an additional \$20 million to extend library service hours until midnight.

### No point

Library workers oppose this idea for two reasons.

"You're not going to see a full library service provided. You're basically going to see a warehouse style of library service. So, few staff, little access to material, basically just an open room," O'Reilly said.

Delgado does not personally see a need for the extended hours.

## NEWS

# Fence approved for Buddhist centre

## Fear of vandalism prompts facility to seek barrier that exceeds Toronto bylaws

**PHIL SMALLEY**  
The Observer

The Toronto Buddhist Centre off Kingston Rd. may have gotten its wish.

City councillors allowed a compromised height of 1.5 metres (five feet) for a fence to surround the building's perimeter.

The centre had applied for construction of a fence around its property but wanted to surpass the city bylaw of 1.2 metres (four feet).

It claimed the greater height is needed due to an increase in vandalism on the property and concern for the safety of the building and its members.

Last May, a fire broke out at the centre, believed to be an act of arson.

The meditation centre came to Scarborough community council with an application to build a fence 3.4 metres (eight feet) high.

Councillor Paul Ainslie said the way the temple went about the application helped them get permission.

"It helps that the church had yet to build the fence," he said. "Often people will construct something outlandish, receive a fine and then appear before community council."

The construction of the fence was also a key issue. Had it been made of wood, the council would have declined it outright.

"It is a well-designed fence and gate of iron rods that has minimal visual impact on the surrounding community," Ainslie said.

"This is a religious organization which has always strove to be an integral part of the West Hill community. They designed a fence that reflects well on the design of their property. It complements the setting of their facility on the banks of Highland Creek," Ainslie said.



PHIL SMALLEY/The Observer

The Toronto Buddhist Centre near Kingston Road asked the city to allow a fence that is higher than allowed by bylaws to protect it from vandals.

## News Briefs

### Donate for a good cause

The Canadian Blood Services will be at Malvern Town Centre on Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at centre court. Residents are encouraged to donate their blood for a good cause. It's on you to give.

### Suspect wanted after shots fired

Police were called to the Kingston and Markham roads area Sept. 26 after gunshots were reported around 10 p.m. outside an apartment building. The suspect is described as light-skinned, aged 17-18, 5-foot-6 and wearing red and black clothes. Anyone with information should contact Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477) or 222tips.com.

### Water treatment plan available

Toronto residents who'd like to see what the city is planning for its four wastewater treatment facilities have until the end of the month to do so. The Biosolids Master Plan is available for east Scarborough residents to review at 255 Morningside Ave. (416-396-8881). For more info, visit [www.toronto.ca/biosolids\\_masterplan](http://www.toronto.ca/biosolids_masterplan).

### Malvern hosts history month

October is Women's History Month. Malvern residents are invited to celebrate women's history at the Malvern Family Resource centre. To participate and learn about women's history, drop by on Oct. 30 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### New musical on at Scarborough

Catch the new musical *Nine* this fall at the Scarborough Music Theatre running from Nov. 5 to 21. The musical is about a film director trying to come up with a plot for his next film while being beset by beautiful women. For tickets, call 416-267-9292 or order online at [scarboroughtheatre.com](http://scarboroughtheatre.com).

# Licence checks supported by local business



TRISTAN CARTER/The Observer

Randy Zhang of Ted's Restaurant applauds the police for checking licence violations.

**TRISTAN CARTER**  
The Observer

Local bars and restaurants have been charged following 32 unannounced premises checks by 43 Division police.

The project, which concluded on Oct. 8, saw officers of the Major Crime Unit, in conjunction with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission, visit venues across southeast Scarborough searching for licence violations.

Some restaurant owners welcomed the initiative.

"It's good for every restaurant," said Randy Zhang, owner of Ted's Restaurant at 404 Old Kingston Road in

Highland Creek.

"You don't want people to get drunk and stuff like that."

The police did not check Ted's during this project but Zhang said he's never had any problems.

"It's a family restaurant here," he said.

Charges laid during the project include overcrowding, blocking emergency exits, unsanitary conditions, permitting the removal of liquor, allowing customers to smoke tobacco and permitting the use of marijuana.

Officers from 43 Division did not return calls seeking comment.

# Maple Leafs season tickets scarce for those on list

From Page 1

Maple Leafs representatives were unavailable for comment before presstime, but in the e-mail sent to Banner, Lara Brown, coordinator services for Maple Leaf sports, said the organization cannot account for what was done 40 years ago.

"Unfortunately, no formal process was ever in place,

this is the first time," she said. "The list started in the Gardens, they had binders and binders of hand-written requests that had to be sent in every year in order to stay on the list."

The e-mail said information from the binders was put into an electronic database.

According to Brown, only one or two season ticket holders do not renew every

year. This is no surprise to Banner's friend Jim Hughes, whose family has had season tickets since 1931.

"My great-aunt had done some accounting work for the Leafs when the Gardens was being built, and as compensation she was given season tickets," Hughes said.

Hughes was given the tickets from his father when he was 22. The value of the

tickets to his family today are priceless.

"They are a family asset and I hope it will stay in my family for generations to come."

Banner has since asked to be moved up on the list. She was told there are roughly 2,500 people ahead of her.

"I bleed blue," says Banner. "Win, lose or draw, they are still my Leafs."



JACQUI BANNER

# 20-year tradition still fresh with hikers

## Eco-exploration highlights Rouge Park's hidden treasures

RIMA RAMOUL  
The Observer

For Alan and Dianne Doucette, hikes in the Rouge Valley have become a tradition.

The couple comes three to four days a week to take in the sights around the park.

They've been doing this for 20 years, but Alan says they're not at all bored.

"We want to learn more about the trails, so after doing it for 20 years we're not bored with it, but we want some new stuff," he says.

After seeing first-hand a few of the animals around the valley, Dianne and Alan now want to learn about them.

That's why the Eco Exploration event, organized by the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre was a perfect opportunity for all nature lovers.

It took place Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Rouge

Valley. Hikers were invited to discover the hidden riches the valley has to offer, such as the innate birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and plants.

Some ventured out on their own, while others joined small guided hiking groups.

**We have to keep this for the people; the next generation**  
- Alan Doucette

The four-kilometre trail around the park included nine eco stations where experts from various environmental groups were stationed, ready to share their knowledge of

the park's fauna and flora with the hikers.

But Rouge Park is more than just beautiful landscapes brimming with foxes, snakes, birds and bees.

"The park also has a lot of the regular things that a regular park has in terms of visitor experience such as trails, we have a campground, we have fishing, we have a beach," said Sheryl Santos, stewardship coordinator for



RIMA RAMOUL/The Observer

Rouge Park biologists Vicki MacDonald, left, and Sheryl Santos, a stewardship co-ordinator for Rouge Park, operate an eco station, ready to share their knowledge with hikers.

Rouge Park.

"The founders of Citizen Scientists, which has been running since 2001, along with other environmental groups, decided to fundraise and have this event," said Susan Tsing, a volunteer with Citizen Scientists.

The money raised through hikers' donations will not

only help the conservation centre, but also the educational programs it runs. For example, during the summer monitoring is done on the species of plants, fish and insects in the area.

More than 47 square km in size, Rouge Park is the largest park in Toronto and, according to its website, is 13

times bigger than New York's famous Central Park.

In 1995, it was declared protected land to ensure the survival of all ecosystems enclosed within it.

"We came out years ago and there were developers trying to take over part of this place and I thought, 'It's a real sacrilege', we have to

keep this for people; the next generation," Alan Doucette said.

"I've often said that if I won the lotto I'd definitely put some money toward this place because it's part of our lives."

For upcoming events, visit the Rouge Valley Conservation website at [Rvcc.ca](http://Rvcc.ca).

# Federal grants not behind spate of home renovations

SELENA MANN  
The Observer

One might think people are renovating their homes all over the Guildwood area to get the tax credit offered by the federal government, but not so.

People in the area, especially on Fordover Drive and Fintona Avenue, are repaving

their driveways and fixing their roofs. On the short residential street of Fintona alone, nine homes are undergoing repairs.

If asked why, homeowners say it's because their homes need it.

"People are renovating in this area because the houses are old," Guildwood resident Permjit Buadhwal said.

The government of Canada is offering a 15 per cent Home Renovation Tax Credit for home renovations of \$1,000 to \$10,000.

This is a way for Canadians to help stimulate the economy while fixing up their houses as well.

The maximum money a person can get back from renovating their home is \$1,350.

But tax credits do not seem to be the incentive for all the work.

"I don't know of anybody who is using it," Scarborough-Guildwood MP John McKay said. "It certainly benefits the higher tax payer over the lower one. It mostly benefits people who earn more money."

Renovations must be made

between Jan. 27, 2009 and Feb. 1, 2010, to count toward the credit.

People cannot claim furniture, appliances, tools, or carpet cleaning as part of the HRTC.

Any contract maintenance work like furnace cleaning is not claimable on the income tax form, according to the 2009 Canadian Federal

government budget.

Only renovations and additions including construction are eligible for this tax credit.

The HRTC is part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. The Canadian government expects the HRTC to help create a demand for labour and jobs, especially contract work on homes.



IRINA LYTCHAK/The Observer

The hospital urges those who are feeling ill with flu-like symptoms to stay home, get lots of rest and fluids.

# Centenary Hospital prepares for H1N1

IRINA LYTCHAK  
The Observer

Rouge Valley Centenary Hospital has hired a pandemic coordinator to prepare for an H1N1 outbreak.

"We have a full-time person devoted to the project," says Trisha Root, the hospital's director of infection control. The coordinator is working with designated staff to discuss strategies to help them be prepared in case the virus hits home.

If there's a sudden rush in the emergency department, the staff will separate patients with flu-like symptoms from others. Patients displaying flu-like symptoms

are generally not allowed entry into the hospital through the emergency department, Root says.

"We're taking a pro-active approach in keeping the possible flu victims away from the general emergency people," Root says.

So far Centenary has had one query into a possible infection, but no documented cases.

Most hospitals in the city, including the Rouge Valley Health System, are not offering either the flu shot or the H1N1 vaccine to the general

public, Root adds. "There will be clinics set up once the H1N1 vaccine is delivered, about six to eight throughout the GTA."

People also have to take extra care if they become sick, Root says.

"The big message is certainly if you feel like you've got flu-like symptoms, you should stay home," she says. "You're most contagious at this early stage. Get plenty of rest, nutrition, and fluids."

Root stresses the extreme importance of hand hygiene

and staying away from large crowds if possible. She says children and those under 65, especially people in their 20s and 30s, are more prone to the infection.

The Scarborough Civic Centre will host a flu vaccination clinic for people 65 and older on Oct. 23, Oct. 29, and Oct. 31. The H1N1 vaccine will be available at that location in November. Patients must wait a minimum 21 days between receiving their seasonal flu shots and the H1N1 vaccine.

For a complete list of approved clinics that will offer the H1N1 vaccine to the public, visit [toronto.ca/health/cdc/h1n1/clinics.htm](http://toronto.ca/health/cdc/h1n1/clinics.htm).

**We have a full-time person devoted to the project**  
- Trisha Root

# Ward 44 wins big for conservation



PHIL SMALLEY/The Observer

The Old Morrish Store, located on Old Kingston Road won \$10,000.

## Money will go to renovating historical site

PHIL SMALLEY  
The Observer

Ten thousand dollars are coming to the Old Morrish Store on Old Kingston Road for a revitalization project to make the building more environmentally friendly.

Over the summer, residents citywide were asked to participate in a Toronto Hydro initiative in energy conservation. Hydro's Count Me In program determined Ward 44 made the biggest effort and awarded a \$10,000 prize to use on a building in the area.

"The first thing to do was register online," said Hydro spokesperson Tanya Bruckmueller-Wilson.

Even without actually doing anything, it shows interest in conservation, she said.

Two programs were part

of the contest: the old fridge pickup to recycle refrigerators and the Peak Saver program. Peak Saver is a service that allows Hydro a wireless connection to homes' air-conditioning system and permits it to shut off that system remotely.

"Basically Hydro can monitor your system when it seems to be heating up and down over and over, it can slow down energy consumption by 50 per cent," Bruckmueller-Wilson said.

There was also a CFL light bulb giveaway at Canadian Tire and Home Depot and an incentive program to pick up old air conditioners.

After Ward 44 took the most advantage of these programs, councillors decided to upgrade the Old Morrish Store because of its unique history and current role: it

now houses the Scarborough Historical Society.

On Oct. 19, Hydro officials met with the site's manager and discussed possibilities for the prize money. Bruckmueller-Wilson said the building was already making steps to become more environmentally friendly.

"They were already good in terms of conservation ... doing things like keeping lights off in certain rooms when they weren't in use."

They talked about upgrading the windows, possibly adding storm windows to keep heating costs down. Other ideas were about baseboard heating.

But nothing will be done without a lot of planning and organization.

"There is still a lot of research to do," Bruckmueller-Wilson said.

# Citizens prevent crime by going online

ANTHONY GEREMIA  
The Observer

Quick action on the part of a concerned citizen may have saved the citizens of 43 Division from a predator.

Less than two hours after police sent an e-mail alert on Oct. 14, a concerned citizen tipped the police off and the man was caught.

According to crime prevention officer Bill Campbell, a day or so prior to the alert, a girl in the division's area had been followed by a man in a beat-up vehicle and was trying to lure her into the car. She walked off and started to use a cell phone and the suspect fled the scene.

Campbell put an alert out, and out of the 1,800 subscribers to the e-mail-based service, one almost got back to him immediately.

## 'Someone heard us'

"I can't tell you who it was, even if I knew," Campbell admits. "But someone heard us."

The tipster had spotted the vehicle according to Campbell. It stood out because there was duct tape on the fenders. The suspect was subsequently identified and investigated.

A police press release called it "another prime example of the police and residents working together in south-east Scarborough to promote a better and safer community."

According to Campbell, such a quick response is "rather unusual."

"Because it goes out by computer. I do get a number of tips back, people do respond all the time," Campbell said.

Introduction of a new, more direct alert system is planned by Nov. 9.

Campbell describes it as "a whole new version of the old dial-up system" that will use phone calls, e-mail, and text messaging. It's called TTS Links and it will be citywide.

However, Campbell plans to keep the current e-mail system in place, as it has a dedicated user base and "there's no use getting rid of it."

As the events of Oct. 14 show, it's still useful for keeping the community safe.

# Councillor's hidden treasure may go to day care

## Decision on funds still in early stages

GESILAYEFA AZORBO  
The Observer

The Squirrel's Nest Day care has to figure out what to do with its \$373,000 windfall.

The centre is to receive the money found by Ward 38 councillor Glen De Baeremaeker in a dormant city bank account last month.

Scarborough community council decided to allocate the funds to Squirrel's Nest because the money had originally been set aside for renovations to that facility, according to a council motion dating back more than 20 years.

The centre has ideas on how to spend the money but some red tape to go through before they can touch it, says day-care director Caroline

Charlemagne-LueFong.

"Even if I have all these plans in my head, it still has to work with the city and the centre."

Charlemagne-LueFong, who has worked there since 1995, said there are areas in which the centre could benefit from the money, but they are starting a long process.

"The problem is we don't have all the info," she said. "It's still in the infancy stage."

De Baeremaeker was more specific about what the windfall money could be used for.

"It'll basically build them a new playground outside of the day care or adjacent to the day care so that kids can go out and enjoy the fresh air more often."

He said some of it would

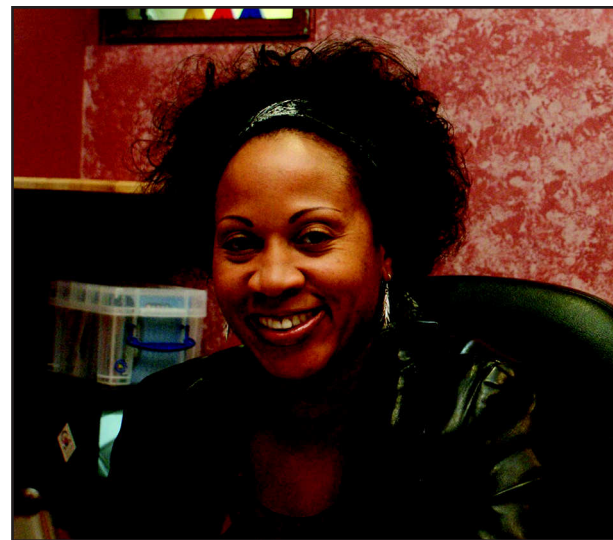
also go toward renovating the basement, including, but not restricted to, making it wheelchair-accessible.

When the money was first discovered, reports said other Scarborough councillors wanted the money to be shared with their wards.

But De Baeremaeker, who voted along with Ward 37 councillor Michael Thompson for the money to go to the day care at the last meeting.

"We visited other areas as well that could certainly use the funds," said De Baeremaeker. "But we said: 'Well, the original intent 21 years ago was to spend it at Squirrel's Nest, and even though they're all good causes, we'll keep it at Squirrel's Nest. That's the best place for it.'"

De Baeremaeker defended



GESILAYEFA AZORBO/The Observer

Day-care director Caroline Charlemagne-LueFong.

the decision further, saying that in context, the amount of money was not as exorbitant as it sounded because playground renovations alone could cost up to \$300,000.

Charlemagne-LueFong also downplayed the interest

the find has generated.

"It's funny, when something like this happens, everyone wants to know [all about it]."

The decision is to go before City Council next week for final approval.

# Mother Teresa principal to become justice of peace

AMANDA LY  
The Observer

Wendy Agnew, former principal at Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School, was named a justice of the peace on Oct. 14.

Agnew was at the high school for about six weeks and has worked in education for 20 years.

She was involved in the Angel Foundation for Learning, a charitable organization that offers many programs

and services to Toronto Catholic school students, including breakfast at several schools, learning enrichment programs and the Catholic student of the year award.

"Wendy is a compassionate person, very fair, dedicated to her profession," said Bernice Peacock, vice principal.

"She loves change and makes sure change takes place."

Peacock says she thinks Agnew's skills as a principal

at a high school will help her in her new job as a justice of the peace.

"She's a good listener, fair person and empathetic," Peacock said.

To become a justice of the peace, one must apply and then the Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee chooses applicants. No law degree is necessary.

As a justice of the peace, Agnew has jurisdiction in criminal law and regulatory

law that deal with provincial offences.

This means she will oversee bail hearings and other criminal offences, and issue or deny summons and warrants. Though not as powerful as a judge, she can still rule over proceedings like traffic violations.

A justice of the peace cannot have any other job or be involved in political activity.

Three more justices of the peace were also appointed this month.

Ontario has 335 justices of the peace.

"Wendy has brought many strengths and talents to our board over the years that she has been with us, and we will miss her expertise and enthusiasm," said Ann Perron, director of education.

"Our loss is certainly the Ministry of the Attorney General's gain. I have no doubt that she will bring the same level of dedication, energy and hard work to her new role as justice of the peace."



MONICA VALENCIA/The Observer

Iain Duncan, left, of Action for Neighbourhood Change speaks with Sandra Hutley, centre, and Sheila McGregor of Toronto Housing on community outreach in West Hill.

## Our most-concerned citizen

### Local resident of more than 35 years sets example for involvement in West Hill

**MONICA VALENCIA**  
The Observer

When Sandra Hutley strolls along Lawrence Avenue East, what for most people would be a five-minute walk can stretch into half an hour. That's because Hutley stops to talk with residents, vendors, police officers and local politicians. Everyone seems to know her.

"You never get lonely as long as you know your community," the woman, who others call West Hill's most-involved resident, says with her contagious laugh.

"She's amazing," says Ian Duncan, coordinator of Action Neighbourhood Change. "She contributes to the community in more ways than one can count."

Hutley has been a West Hill resident for over 35 years. But she's been more than a resident. Since she moved to the area, Hutley has worked with community groups. She is part of Residents Rising, the Neighbourhood Action Partnership (NAP), the Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC), Storefront, and Community Festival Market.

She's also the president of Lakeside Social Club, a group for residents at West Hill apartments. The club organizes activities, like game nights and nights out, and also sells cheap lunches to tenants.

"I figured the Lakeside Social

club was just another way to reach out in this community," Hutley said. "And I always wanted to reach out."

Though Hutley is 65, she said she's a young senior who never gets tired of helping. And her constant smile proves it. When she shares her volunteer experiences, she animates them with laughs. For her, community work is not a burden — it's what makes her happy.

This year, Hutley received a Quick Start grant for the Community Festival Market. As the vendor coordinator she will use the grant to buy tables, chairs and tents. The market is open in the summer at Lawrence Avenue East and Kingston Road. It offers entertainment, showcases local talent and allows residents to sell food and goods.

"The market is a great asset for our community," Hutley said. "We have very creative res-

idents but they don't have a venue to sell their crafts."

Hutley said she would like the community to have a building where the market could be placed for the whole year. She also thinks the neighbourhood needs a skateboard park for young people.

"Parking lots are full of children skateboarding and it's not safe. They shouldn't be there," Hutley said.

But Hutley wants more than parks. "I want to see more youth involvement to get their input and hear their needs."

"West Hill has great youth but they need to be more active in their community."

She's always looking for ways to contribute locally. This Christmas she will help at West Hill Community Services by wrapping gifts for needy children. She also plans to volunteer at a new after-school program nearby.

Giving back to the community has simply become part of Hutley's life, but it all started about 30 years ago with the Tiny Tots program. Hutley and other mothers from the West Hill community organized a program to take care of each other's kids so that mothers could do errands without having to pay for babysitters.

"We were residents helping residents," Hutley said.

Though the toddlers are now grown, Hutley continues to help residents in other ways.

She is a member of two NAP's committees: community development and community safety. She works with other agencies to hold meetings where residents voice their concerns and ideas to improve the area.

"The Community Speak meetings are very important for residents because they have the opportunity to discuss local issues with the

community workers who can help them make changes."

For Hutley, the main local issue is safety. So she joined CPLC where she networks with police officers and crime prevention staff.

"If you meet officers and build relationships with them it becomes a lot easier to get them to help you," Hutley said.

She even received a "beautiful letter" from the police for her work in building a safer community. She started a Safe and Secure committee at her former residence, West Hill apartments.

"In community housing, delinquency and crime rates tend to be higher so more attention to security is required," Hutley said.

Another program she created at her housing complex was the Supportive Services for Seniors. Most residents were seniors and didn't want to go to nursing homes but they still needed some essential services, Hutley explains.

She developed this project by working with police, politicians, residents and agencies.

"We had a lot of agencies in the community but they weren't connected so we got them to come to our meetings to connect them better so that they would be more efficient," Hutley said.

Although it's hard for Hutley to select her biggest accomplishment she says if she has to pick one it would be the programs at West Hill apartments.

But her true impact lies in her example as a model resident. It's her dedication, enthusiasm and laugh that make her popular in the community. And her main goal is to encourage people to be active like her. She simply asks residents to "get involved."

"Resident involvement is what's going to make West Hill a better place."

**You never get lonely as long as you know your community.**  
- Sandra Hutley



## Seeing the green light

Litter and chewed gum cover the roads and bus shelters in this area. Garbage bins at bus stops commonly overflow with used Tim Horton's cups. Posters advertising events from six months ago are still stapled to telephone poles, nails rusting from age.

Scarborough certainly has a long way to go before becoming truly green.

But the environmental movement is gaining momentum in this area.

Recently, Toronto Hydro named Scarborough East Ward 44 the greenest ward in the city as it had the most number of residents participating in Toronto Hydro's conservation programs. Ward 44's 93 participants saved 623 kilowatts of power.

Guess who came in second and third?

Scarborough-Rouge River Ward 41 and Scarborough-Rouge River Ward 42. With 179 participants, the two wards saved 931 kw combined.

Long before smart cars became a status symbol, action had been taken in preserving this area's ecosystem. For one, Sheppard Avenue East doesn't have a skyscraping condo overlooking the Rouge Valley.

Developers tried to build housing near Twyn Rivers and Sheppard Avenue in 2002. Residents and politicians rallied together to prevent construction from ruining the beauty sprawling in the heart of east Scarborough.

Before Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* moved global warming to the top of the international community's to-prevent list, there have been numerous annual clean-ups in east Scarborough's parks.

More than 250 people participated in the latest cleanup at Morningside Park.

Tangible environmental changes don't materialize with the flick of a switch, but residents are increasingly seeing the light.

Shoreline cleanups, prohibiting housing developments and annual conservation events are the first step towards turning this area into an example for the rest of Toronto.

— Katrina Rozal

## More talks needed to avoid strikes

The seasons are changing, the leaves are turning. It must be time for striking.

The recent flare-up in union strikes is becoming a permanent trend, as Toronto deals with another worker strike, one that involves the city's libraries.

Everyone remembers the six-week municipal workers strike from this past summer. It left piles of garbage rotting in the streets and a bad taste in Torontonians' mouths for recent workers' strikes.

It may be because of our experience with the garbage strike that the media has turned away from covering the DriveTest strike. The lack of coverage on the DriveTest strike is unfortunate, considering the strike has effectively shut down the province's driver licensing system.

So, is this the consequence of living in a democratic society? Where workers are constantly walking off the job? When people stop working, it directly impacts the economy, especially when that economy is slowly recovering from a recession.

The purpose of strikes is to compel employers to give their employees better pay, better benefits, and better working conditions. Shouldn't all employees deserve the best their employers can give them?

Though people may be quick to judge that workers are taking advantage of their unions' power, we have to realize they're also trying to survive in these slow economic times.

Even though the struggle between worker and boss isn't always black and white, striking in the end causes headaches for the employers, the workers, and their customers and clients. The DriveTest strike has created a backlog of all those wanting to get or renew their licences and the province isn't even sure how to deal with that backlog once the strike has ended.

Workers should get better benefits at work, but should do so without resorting to a strike. Employers and employees should negotiate agreements that satisfy the needs of both service providers and consumers before strike deadlines.

— Lauren Hummel



IRINA LYTCHAK/The Observer

## Where do young people go to have a good time? Not around here

For anyone who wants to party in Scarborough, there's not much to do, especially in this end of the area. There are a few bars and restaurants, but it's really hard to find gems.

As a city, Scarborough is lacking in a vibrant nightlife. Even Rexdale has more action than we do with a variety of clubs and bars near the airport. Other than Rumours, there are no clubs where young ones can dance the night away.

### No entertainment

There's also not much to do during the day. There aren't many places to shop for teens who become mallrats on the weekend.

The only real central hub of fun and entertainment is Scarborough Town Centre where there's an assortment of restaurants like Baton Rouge, Moxie's and Jack Astor's.

The restaurants and clubs for nightly entertainment are very limited. Restaurants mostly consist of chains rather than the one-of-a-kind sites that are found in downtown Toronto or North York. There



Selena MANN

**On the off chance I decide to stay nearby it seems like there are fewer places to go and fewer people my age to party with.**

are few interesting places to dine in at the wilderness of Scarborough.

For nightlife, there are even fewer options than for dining out. Local bars and karaoke joints sporadically dot the area.

In this area, we have Fossil and Haggis and the Olde Stone Cottage, which

is equipped with pool tables, and that's about it. As a 21-year-old in Scarborough, when I'm going out locally, I usually stick to going to the Olde Stone Cottage with friends.

### Going downtown

Unfortunately, there are not many young people in local pubs. I figure most of them have headed downtown to clubs like Circa or Tattoo Rock Parlour.

Most of the time, I join them in the centre of the city, but on the off-chance I decide to stay nearby, it seems like there are fewer places to go and fewer people my age to party with. If I want to dance, I have to trek downtown, to Rexdale or Woodbridge.

I find it very hard to find something new or interesting to do in this area. The sad thing is, an abundance of people my age who attend Centennial College and the University of Toronto probably feel the same way.

We are drowning in boredom.

**For a list of interesting places in the area, visit [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)**

## The East Toronto OBSERVER

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# Women's fitness club kicks up self-esteem

## Coach inspires others with personal achievement

**KAREEN AWADALLA**  
The Observer

Endorphins were in the air at West Hill Collegiate on Oct. 18, as nine women got psyched up for the start of a new season of the indoor Women's Fitness Club.

The club, starting its second year, is a division of Just For Kicks Soccer Club, best known for its programs that cater to younger athletes.

Mary Fidilio — also known as Coach Mary — greeted both familiar faces and newcomers. After welcoming the ladies, Fidilio led them in a stretch while telling them to engage their minds.

"You have to listen to your body," Fidilio said. "This is about you."

During the warmup, each player introduced herself while sharing her soccer skill level with the group. With women aged 18 to 55 and skill sets from beginner to intermediate, it was clear the purpose of the club was not competition.

The club has two groups that run on the weekends. The objective of the two groups is to give the women a chance to get fit without the intimidation of working out in a gym. Group one meets each Sunday at West Hill CI and group two will meet on Saturdays beginning Nov. 14 at Francis Libermann CS.

"I think that for women, we get kidnapped by life responsibilities," said Fidilio, who leads by example and inspires the women to take part.

### Making a difference

Fidilio can relate to the women's situations. Once 108 kilograms and plagued by chronic injuries, she felt there was a market out there for women who needed a place to get active without being stereotyped. After shedding 34 kilograms she says she needed to give back to the community.

Losing anywhere from 3 to 9 kilograms, the ladies rally around Fidilio each season.

"To think that I've been able to share my own life lessons and make a difference other people's lives... the first summer was really emotional for me," said Fidilio who was touched by the support she received.

The first class of the season was a success as Coach Mary continued to offer positive reinforcement, telling one self-proclaimed beginner she was underestimating herself.

"We know what to do, we're not idiots," Fidilio said. "We just need to commit."

Passing drills, and kicking techniques were covered before the women began a four-on-four scrimmage.

"It's like a sisterhood," Fidilio said. "It's so rewarding in so many ways for me."

After 90 minutes of blood-pumping cardio, smiles and laughter rang through the gymnasium as the ladies packed up, thanking Coach Mary and looking forward to next week's class.



KAREEN AWADALLA/The Observer

The Women's Fitness Club indoor season runs until May. Registration prices range from \$130-\$180 depending on skill level.

# New owners rejuvenate 142-year-old restaurant

**LAURA ROSS**  
The Observer

After years of working in the communications industry, Chris Short made his big career move — to serving ale in Scarborough's 142-year-old homestead, the Olde Stone Cottage Pub.

Short and his wife Beth are proud new owners of the pub at the intersection of Kingston and Scarborough Golf Club Roads.

"I've always loved the Olde Stone Cottage from a conceptual point of view," says Short. "It has its own intrinsic charm."

### Career change

Short formerly worked for nearly two decades in interactive marketing, web management and consulting for companies like Rogers Communications, but he found himself fed up with the industry.

"I wanted to find something different to do in my life," he says. Short found out the pub was for sale and, given his marketing experience, saw the untapped potential of the Olde Stone Cottage.

"I live in the Guild and if I want to go out for an appetizer and a beer with my



LAURA ROSS/The Observer

Chris Short and his wife Beth took over management of the historic Olde Stone Cottage Pub at 3750 Kingston Road on July 22.

wife I have to go eight to 10 kilometres. As a consumer, that bothers me and I know there's a whole population here that's got the same problem."

He took over ownership of the Olde Stone Cottage Pub on July 22, closing the place for only three days of renovation for dry-walling, painting, sanding the floors, and installing comfortable chairs.

Short says a connection to

the community is very important and the pub can draw a bigger crowd by filling a consumer need. "It's not going to be a fine-dining establishment — it's going to be a comfortable, cozy, friendly mid-end pub with great food and great value."

One of the first things he did, knowing the menu needed updating, was hire a chef consultant. They now offer classic pub fare like beer

battered fish and chips, while also claiming to serve the best wings in the GTA. They also offer a variety of sandwiches, pastas and salads for the more health-conscious.

Short has also expanded the wine list and beer selection. Since customers had been asking for different brands of beverages, the pub no longer exclusively carries Labatt products, having added several local beers, such as

Molson, Creemore and Mill Street.

Also new to the Olde Stone Cottage is Saturday night entertainment. Short is now hosting standup comedy nights one Saturday a month, Ultimate Fighting Championship parties one Saturday a month, and live bands for the remaining two Saturdays.

However, Short has also kept the pub's old charm, which comes from being

designated a historical building by the Heritage Canada Foundation. He's getting a city grant to preserve the architectural authenticity with 19th-century-style moulding.

The Olde Stone Cottage was the second homestead built in Scarborough in 1867.

The private second-floor VIP party room is rumoured to be haunted by the builder of the homestead, Jerimiah Annis.

## SPORTS

# Club serves up new courts

Tam Heathers administration hopes enhanced facility will bring in new clientele

MAXX SMITH  
The Observer

In a bid to attract more members, Tam Heather Tennis and Curling Club opened a new \$1-million tennis dome on Oct. 17.

The club at 730 Military Trail had been using a transitional dome that was taken down each year.

"The old bubble was touchy from year to year on whether it would last another year, so Tam Heather started lobbying for a new facility four years ago," said Lorne Devine, an organizer at the opening event.

Funding for the new facility came from the City of Toronto and the Racquet Sport and Development Fund. And it couldn't have come sooner.

"The conditions of the courts were not great," Devine said. "Plus our fee structure was out of whack with the market and our competition. Our fees had always been higher, but over the last couple of years we managed to reduce our fees and make it competitive, and that's a huge factor in attracting new members."



MAXX SMITH/The Observer

Joanne DE Varennes and Murry Attenden play on Tam Heather Curling and Tennis Club's new courts.

Construction on the dome began May 1, ending the day before its grand opening. By mid-day, it seemed that the effort was already a success.

"Our membership the past few winters would be between 150 to 180 members, at this point we are already at that or more," Devine said.

"We're expecting a 25 per cent increase this year." He hopes the facility's proximity to student housing may attract a fresh crowd of tennis fanatics.

"Next week we're running a program with four local schools in the area here, organized by one of our ladies

on the committee. She's got about 300 to 400 students coming here next week. It's an all-day introduction to tennis."

For the opening day, use of the new courts was free, but now you must purchase a membership. A pay-as-you-go program is available at a premium

only if the courts are vacant, which adds incentive to purchasing a membership.

"We do offer house leagues and mixed leagues, so I think we're in a good position now to attract new members, with our fee structure, the facility, and the programs we have available."

## Sports Briefs

### Mother Teresa b-ballers to play

Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic high school's junior and senior boys basketball team will be playing against Pickering High on Oct. 30. The juniors will tip off at 5 p.m. and the seniors at 7.

### Leger's soccer girls victorious

Cardinal Léger Catholic school girls soccer team won silver medals on Oct. 6 at the Toronto Catholic District School Board elementary soccer final. They lost 3-0 to St. Gregory, then in the tourney at Esther Shiner Stadium.

### Game on for midget hockey

The Scarborough Malvern Coyotes midget hockey team will face the Scarborough Young Leafs on Oct. 28 at 8:45 p.m. The game will be held at Don Montgomery Arena.

# Lightning see bright side in 3rd place finish

MATTHEW ALLEYNE  
The Observer

You would think coming in third in the league would be a disappointment, but the 18 members of the under-16 Malvern Lightning soccer squad feel like champions.

"We are not just a team, we are a family," said team captain Nigel Bucknor, who addressed his teammates at the Lightning's annual awards banquet on Oct. 17.

The banquet marked the end of the Lightning season, which began with tryouts in late May and ended with playoffs in August. In addition to weekly league games, the team also played exhibition games and tournaments throughout Ontario and Quebec.

Though the season had its low points, over the past year dropping games that many players said should have been victories, they did win a major tournament in Ottawa and one player will be looking for international success in Europe next spring.

Jamal Comrie, who won the award for defender of the year, was rewarded the chance to attend a training



MATTHEW ALLEYNE/The Observer

The Malvern Lightning under 16 boys soccer team celebrate their season at their annual awards banquet.

camp in England next March alongside players from around the world. Comrie hopes to play at a professional level in the future, aspiring to suit up for teams like Manchester United and Chelsea.

"Even playing for the national team and reaching the

Olympics or the FIFA World Cup would be a dream come true," said Comrie, who shares these dreams with many of his teammates.

Speaking at the banquet was Ward 42 councillor Raymond Cho, who shared how soccer affected his own

family. His three children played soccer when they were younger.

"Soccer is the people's sport," Cho said. "You do not have to be rich to play soccer, anybody can play."

"The confidence my sons got from playing sports

translated into their academic work". Like Cho, many of the players' parents hope the success the boys have had on the field translate to the classroom as well.

"I am proud of my son, and I tell him all the time soccer is important, but an education

and a career should also be a priority," said Anne-Marie Bucknor. "My son's skills as a player are improving, but not at the expense of his grades."

For Coach Earl Nelson (fondly known as Coach Bugs by

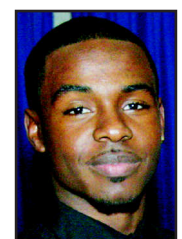
players for how much he is 'on them'), one player stood out this season and

earned the right to be called the Lightning's most valuable player: Juwan Rhodes.

"He showed me guts, heart, gusto, and most importantly determination," Nelson said. "Juwan played hurt, he played sick, and sometime could not breathe, but he still played."

Other award winners include Trae Green for Rookie of the Year, Joseph Edwards for Perseverance, and O'niel Morris and Carlo Gambino for Most Improved Players.

For a list of award winners visit [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca).



COMRIE