



SCARBOROUGH VOTES 2010

The old boys are back in town for another 4 years

See page 4 & 5

NO BOYS ALLOWED

Scarborough Sharks drop the first puck of the season

See page 8



THE EAST TORONTO OBSERVER

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• TORONTOOBSERVER.CA •

Job one for Ford: Transit

The new mayor's subway plans are likely to stir opposition in Scarborough

**EMILY HUNTER
KIRSTEN PARUCHA
JOSH UNGAR**
The Observer

Rob Ford's west end mentality may have worked for his Etobicoke constituents, but it certainly isn't commuting to Scarborough in the aftermath of his election.

Ford's plans to scrap Transit City may be leaving Scarborough residents feeling stranded.

"The Transit City plan didn't just come off the back of an envelope," said Dr. Nelson Wiseman, political professor at the University of Toronto. "My impression is that Ford's plan on transportation did come off the back of an envelope."

Changes loom

After receiving 47 per cent of the vote, the former councillor was declared the city's new mayor and says changes are coming.

However, a closer look at Ford's platform shows it seems to ignore the needs of Scarborough residents, and is unrealistic for transit needs of the 2015 Pan Am Games, according to Wiseman.

"His transit plan is fantasy," he said. "He's only one



JOSH UNGAR/The Observer

An exuberant Rob Ford celebrates his election as Toronto's 64th mayor, taking 47 per cent of the vote on Oct. 25.

politician on city council — he can't scrap the transit plan at his own whim."

Transit City was initially promised to connect the rest of the city to Scarborough, where the majority of the Pan Am facilities are set to be built.

Instead of Transit City,

Ford wants to build 10 new subway stations, extending the Sheppard subway line to Scarborough Centre Station.

The current transit plan that will extend the Sheppard line by eight kilometres by 2015 has already started. Meanwhile, Ford expects to build 18.4 kilometres of subway

track by the same year.

"Everything is continuing to go forward as planned," said Kevin Carrington, TTC communications advisor. "If Ford wants to make any changes to the transit plan, he'll have to work through city hall and Ottawa first."

In his platform, Ford does

not address that the city has already invested hundreds of millions of dollars in new streetcars and planning for Transit City. Any changes in the existing plan would require renegotiations with the province and a large financial penalty for cancelling the binding contract.

The huge time investment required to design, implement and complete Ford's transit project is not proportional to the 2015 deadline, Wiseman said.

"There's still a lot to be done before any decision can be made," Carrington said. "Ford needs to be sworn in and that won't be happening until December."

He added the TTC will continue building Transit City and will discuss changes with the new council as they come up.

TTC alienation

"Somebody like Ford doesn't care for transit, and is only appealing to people who drive their cars and he has no interest in investing in Transit City," Scarborough resident Indira Balkissoon said.

While Ford's plan is limited, the plans of his vanquished foes, George Smitherman and Joe Pantalone, were more extensive and aspired to connect all four corners of the city.

"There is a real sense of alienation in places like Scarborough, and that has to be addressed," Smitherman's spokesman, Stefan Buransky said.

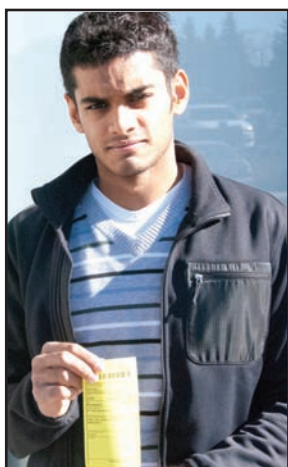
Residents are ticketed-off

BILLY COURTYCE
The Observer

Drivers in Morningside Heights say they are being ticketed outside of their homes unfairly.

"Residents are complaining parking officers are coming at night, and when they come out they're finding tickets all the time," said Chris Balsingh, president of Morningside Heights Residents' Association. "It's almost like the tag officer is sitting in the neighbourhood and targeting the area."

Despite the housing development being nearly seven years old, the city has yet to put up signs in the area advising residents where they can



BILLY COURTYCE/The Observer
Ashman Patel tries to fight his parking ticket.

and cannot park.

"I think if people saw signs at least they could agree with the tag officer," Balsingh

said. "There is a sense of compliance."

Many Ward 42 candidates in the Oct. 25 election vowed to ease parking restrictions in the area.

"They're being ticketed for parking everywhere, even though there's no space to park in their driveways," said candidate Namu Ponnambalam.

Ponnambalam said residents are still being hampered by old Scarborough bylaws, rather than City of Toronto bylaws, even after amalgamation in 1998.

The lack of proper parking areas is mirrored in another new development, Rougeville, near Morningside

and Sheppard Avenues.

"There is no alternative to parking on the road," said Shamoon Poonawala, former president of the Rougeville Community Association. "The city should take charge and initiate discussion on this issue."

Poonawala said the recession saw more people move into their parents' houses, and that the number of cars per house is increasing.

"Some four-bedroom, two-bathroom houses might have four cars," he said.

Residents are being further aggravated by a new Toronto bylaw which prohibits parking more cars in a driveway than can fit in the garage.

New bedbug infestation finds city unprepared

JOSH UNGAR
The Observer

After multiple reports of bedbug infestations at an unnamed hotel in his ward, Howard Moscoe had seen enough. The wWard 15 councillor decided to ask hotel management to deal with the problem and have the infestation taken care of discreetly and efficiently.

After several weeks of being ignored, Moscoe took direct action by threatening hotel management with the prospect of placing large signs out front of the hotel saying "This hotel is infested with bedbugs." Only after

that did the hotel finally take action.

This example from two years ago just scratches the surface of the bigger issue: the unprecedented infestation of bedbugs that has taken a completely unprepared Toronto by storm, and policies still haven't improved.

"Bedbugs have been pretty prevalent in this city for the past 10 years at least," said Mark Joseph, owner of Magical Pest Control. "However, in the past year the increase in cases has been tremendous."

See BEDBUGS, Page 2

Garden scheduled to shut down

Toronto District School Board hopes selling community greenery will create revenue

EMILY HUNTER

The Observer

After 13 years, Scarborough's Always Growing Garden may be shutting down after all.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is selling the community garden to generate revenue for its schools.

"We're seeing a loss of enrolment across the GTA," said Angelo Sangiorgio, associate director of planning facilities for the board. "As students decline, so does the funding from the government."

Staff at the school board confirmed this month that they are selling four closed schools and three vacant lots, including the garden at McCowan Road and Eglinton Avenue East.

The board will invest tens of million of dollars in property income in operating costs and school improvement. In Scarborough, the board will replace Saint Nicholas Catholic School and build a new school in the Morningside Heights community.

The community garden property has not been sold



EMILY HUNTER/The Observer

Pastor Margarite Alaske, co-founder of The Always Growing Garden, will be one of many to miss the local garden.

yet, but the board is accepting offers from private bodies.

The property will likely be sold and paved over by next summer, according to Pastor Margarite Alaske, a co-founder of The Always Growing Garden.

Six years ago, a previous property that community used for a food bank was sold

and built over for a town-house complex.

"We knew this was eventually going to happen, but we had hoped it wasn't for a few more years," Alaske said.

"It will be missed," said Dennis Drum, garden coordinator for the Always Growing Garden. "A lot of people gained a lot of food from that

small piece of property."

Drum was not informed that the property was up for sale. He says he's not upset, but very appreciative, as the board gave the space for free to the community since 1997.

The Always Growing Garden was founded 13 years ago by seven local residents and has since expanded to

47 families. The food generated at the garden feeds local families and goes to food banks. Between 230 to 450 kilograms of vegetables are produced each season.

Drum said he's unsure if the garden will be relocating nearby in the community.

"If not, then we're done," he said.

Bedbug dilemma

From Page 1

Toronto Health Media Relations Coordinator Susan Sperling claims they keep no specific statistics or information about bedbugs in Scarborough. Rather, they treat Scarborough cases in the same fashion as anywhere in the city.

Joseph claims the biggest outbreaks are in apartments where they are most difficult to treat. In his experience, Scarborough has some of the most severe cases.

"One of the worst pockets in the city is the apartments around Victoria Park and Danforth — they are simply infested," Joseph said. His pest control company is based in Toronto but services most of Southern Ontario.

While the media has only caught on to the bedbug frenzy over the past year, Moscoe says it has always been an issue.

Bug hazard ignored

"The problem we have is that Toronto Health won't declare bedbugs a health hazard, so they really can't do anything major about it," Moscoe said. "If they can't deal with head lice, how do they expect to handle bedbugs?"

Moscoe wrote a letter to Toronto Health Services in 2008 requesting they finally take action and declare bedbugs a health hazard, something which still has not taken place.

"The public health department does not have the power to demand entry or demand that treatment takes place in a building or location that is infested, they are reluctant to talk about it because they can't do anything about it," Moscoe said.

In 2008, the city enacted the Toronto Bed Bug project as an attempt to battle the infestation.

According to Moscoe, education alone is not enough, and people need professional help to deal with bedbugs.

"The Bed Bug Project hasn't helped at all, and I'm not aware of any financial aid programs for residents who can't cover the hefty costs for an exterminator," Moscoe said.

According to Joseph, it can cost up to a few thousand dollars to have bedbugs exterminated from a home, and in an apartment every unit needs to be treated or they will return.

However, if a single tenant refuses treatment, there is absolutely nothing that can be done.

News Briefs

Williams jailed

Russell Williams was sentenced to two life sentences in Kingston Penitentiary on Oct. 21 for the murders of two women, two sexual assaults and 82 burglaries. Williams, a former colonel in the Canadian Forces, was stripped of his commission, rank and awards on Oct. 22.

Woman mugged

At 10:20 p.m. on Oct. 15, a 26-year-old woman was robbed at knife-point by three men in the area of Malvern Street and Mammoth Hall Trail, police say. Two suspects are described as South Asian and the other wore a disguise. The woman was not injured.

Stick up at Mac's

Mac's Convenience Store at 1021 Markham Rd. E. was robbed on Oct. 14 at about 3:40 a.m. A 45-year-old male employee was struck over the head with a handgun. The men took cash and cigarettes. The suspects are described as black males, in their 20s. The employee wasn't hospitalized.

Cedarbrae library almost ready to open

KIMBERLEE NANCEKIVELL

The Observer

The Cedarbrae library will reopen at the end of December following a two-year closure for renovations.

"The heating and ventilation systems, the plumbing — everything had to be replaced and upgraded," said director of branch libraries Anne Bailey.

The branch closed its doors Oct. 6, 2008 and was originally scheduled to reopen 18 months later. Now at 24 months, the project is nearly complete. Anne Marie Aikins, manager of corporate communications, says the community can't wait to see the changes.

"This branch is going to be particularly exciting because there's lots of new things," Aikins said. "The community is going to be ecstatic when they see it."

On top of a 403-square-metre addition, the new and improved branch features a teen zone, a local history room, an early literacy centre and thousands of new books, CDs, magazines and DVDs. Necessary repairs were also completed. The building is more environmentally friendly, Bailey said.



KIMBERLEE NANCEKIVELL/The Observer

Jenna Neath and daughter Audrey check out what Bendale library has to offer while waiting for Cedarbrae to re-open.

"When we do a renovation, all of the light systems and everything that is installed is more energy efficient," she said.

The building was constructed from locally purchased, recycled materials and is oriented to let as much sunlight in as possible.

This branch is going to be particularly exciting because there's lots of new things

—Anne Marie Aikins

Though area residents may have been visiting nearby branches for the past couple years, Bailey is confident they will come back to Cedarbrae at the end of this year.

"What we found in other major renovations like this one is that it takes a long time, but when it reopens people are very pleased,"

Bailey said.

"When we reopened the S. Walter Stewart library, which was closed for a similar period of time, we put out a guest book for people to sign and we got some wonderful comments."

Until December, those in the Cedarbrae area can still take advantage of the extended hours at the Bendale library branch as well as the bookmobile that visits Cedarbrae C.I. every Thursday morning.

Cyclists worried after Berardinetti win

Bike lanes no longer a priority

NADIA PERSAUD
The Observer

A new battle is already brewing in Ward 35 following the Oct. 25 election of Michelle Berardinetti over incumbent Adrian Heaps.

The new councillor has said bike lanes are not a priority and have even caused Pharmacy Avenue residents to move from the area due to inability to access their driveways.

Darren Stehr, a cyclist and blogger for torontocranks.com, disagreed.

"I live on Pharmacy Avenue and I heard about some people having problems driving out of their driveways," he said.

"It's bizarre because now [with the bike lanes] you have a two-metre space between moving cars and the sidewalk. It's easier to get on to the streets."

The bike lanes have reduced traffic from two lanes into one lane on each side.

In her election pamphlet,

Berardinetti blamed the bike lanes for making traffic worse.

"We used to have daily fender benders," Stehr said. "Now it's more organized and traffic has calmed down."

The site has comments from other cyclists like Martin, who lives off Birchmount Road and said the bike lane there improved road safety by pushing the traffic onto Warden "where there are more lights."

Heaps, the former chair of the Toronto Cycling Committee, and avid cyclist, advocated for bike lane expansion.

With him off council, Stehr said he's worried these plans are now in jeopardy.

Berardinetti's plan to move bike lanes off the roads and into ravines is more dangerous, he said, because cyclists will be competing with people and animals for sidewalk space.

"A lot of people use bikes to go to work and to do shopping. [They] don't have time



ADRIAN HEAPS



NADIA PERSAUD/The Observer

Michelle Berardinetti (centre) shares victory with supporters Bliss Baker (left) and Vidyotama Singh Monday night.

to go to a ravine and use off road trails that are far away from main streets," Stehr said. "They're not going to use it."

Berardinetti could not be reached for comment.

ward 35		SCARBOROUGH VOTES 2010		ward 39	
MICHELLE BERARDINETTI	8293	50.5%	MIKE DEL GRANDE	9931	68.2%
ADRIAN HEAPS	6020	36.6%	KEVIN XU	3640	25.0%

To see coverage on Ward 37 and Ward 40, visit torontoobserver.ca



From left: Ward 19's David Smith, Ward 21's Shaun Chen, and Ward 22's Jerry Chadwick.

Fresh faces at board

KIMBERLEE NANCEKIVELL
The Observer

Scarborough held onto one familiar face and banished another in the Oct. 25 TDSB trustee elections.

The biggest upset was in Ward 19 Scarborough Centre where David Smith beat incumbent Scott Harrison by a substantial 3,289 votes.

"I'm disappointed, of course," Harrison said. "But the reality is that I was fighting a battle against corporate and union sponsorship."

Harrison attributes Smith's win to a larger budget and says he's worried about the future of certain projects he was working on during his term on the board.

"If I read what he says in his platform and everything else, they will probably

try to overturn some of the decisions the board made to move forward on school consolidation and/or closure in Ward 19," Harrison said.

Smith was unavailable for comment.

It was a different story in Ward 21 Scarborough-Rouge River, where incumbent Shaun Chen claimed his position on the board.

Chen said he was concerned with the number of challengers he had at the start of the campaign, but said his hard work won him 45 per cent of the votes.

"I've worked hard over the last four years and I've brought some incredible changes across Scarborough-Rouge River," Chen said. "I think that the voters really responded to that."

Over the next four years, he wants to tackle the dropout

rate in his ward, as well as improve service to special education and ESL students.

And in a candidate pool of all new faces, Jerry Chadwick reigned victorious over his six competitors for Ward 22 Scarborough East.

"I've been an educator for 33 years and that was really the thing I heard going door-to-door that really made a difference," Chadwick said. "They wanted someone who knew how the system works."

He added that the school board is going through a lot of changes with school and park closures, as well as consolidations — issues he will work on in his ward.

To read about the Catholic school board trustee winners, visit torontoobserver.ca

Del Grande trumps angry Xu

BILLY COURICE
The Observer

Newly re-elected councillor Mike Del Grande is on page with Toronto's new mayor Rob Ford on eliminating wasteful spending of taxpayers' money.

"I want to finally get my hands on the budget," Del Grande said after keeping his Ward 39 seat. "I think that the finances should be handled directly by council."

Del Grande said he hopes his expertise as a chartered accountant will be put to use in council.

Del Grande said he's glad Ford won the mayoral race because they agree on most policies, including his infamous "stop the gravy train" platform. But he doesn't agree with

Ford's proposal to cut the current 44 councillors to 22.

"The wards would be too large for councillors to handle," Del Grande said. "They're too diverse."

Del Grande's race was marred in controversy after Del Grande claimed he was the victim of unfair politics by candidate Kevin Xu.

"I was getting frustrated as I worked the ward hard and he was constantly breaking the rules," he said. "He was putting signs on boulevards and you can't do that."

Del Grande said Xu only focused on ethnicity during his campaign.

"Mr. Xu was trying to make the race an ethnic issue," Del Grande said. "He was trying to make the Chinese vote Chi-

nese, and I was trying to get everyone to vote regardless of ethnicity."

Del Grande said this win shows he represents all people, though Xu disagrees.

"He does not represent the Chinese community in Agincourt," said Xu over the phone, as he took down campaign signs. "The Chinese did not have time to vote."

Xu campaigned for the first time in 2010. He said he lost only because he entered the race late. Xu said Del Grande does not know how to handle the large immigrant population in Agincourt.

"I would use my experience as an entrepreneur in education to get proper education to the new immigrants in Agincourt. He does not do that," Xu said.



BILLY COURICE/The Observer

Mike Del Grande celebrates win with children Loreen, John and granddaughter Milena.

ELECTION 2010



Party like it's 2006: Fo

SCARBOROUGH VOTES 2010		ward 38
GLENN DE BAEREMAEKER	11166	62.4%
GLENN MIDDLETON	4541	25.4%
TUSHAR SHAH	824	4.6%
KIRK JENSEN	708	4%

De Baeremaeker boosts roadwork

AMANDA KWAN
The Observer

Improving transit and speeding up road repairs are his top priorities for Ward 38, says newly re-elected councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker.

"The roads are in bad shape," said De Baeremaeker, who won his third consecutive term with 61 percent of the vote.

"The roads are packed and crowded," he said. "And the

only way you can solve those problems is to fix more roads, and that costs more money. And to get cars off the road, you have to invest in mass transit."

But this means an increase in taxes, something he acknowledged residents don't want.

"It's a falsehood to say you can solve your problems by tightening your belt," said De Baeremaeker, who's been chair of the infrastructure and pub-

lic works committee for the past four years.

"A TTC bus can't drive itself. It costs more money to put more buses on the road," he said.

"It costs more money to fix more potholes. I could fix every road in the city of Toronto in 10 years. But we don't have the money."

De Baeremaeker said the reason the roads are in bad shape is because past councillors were too afraid to raise



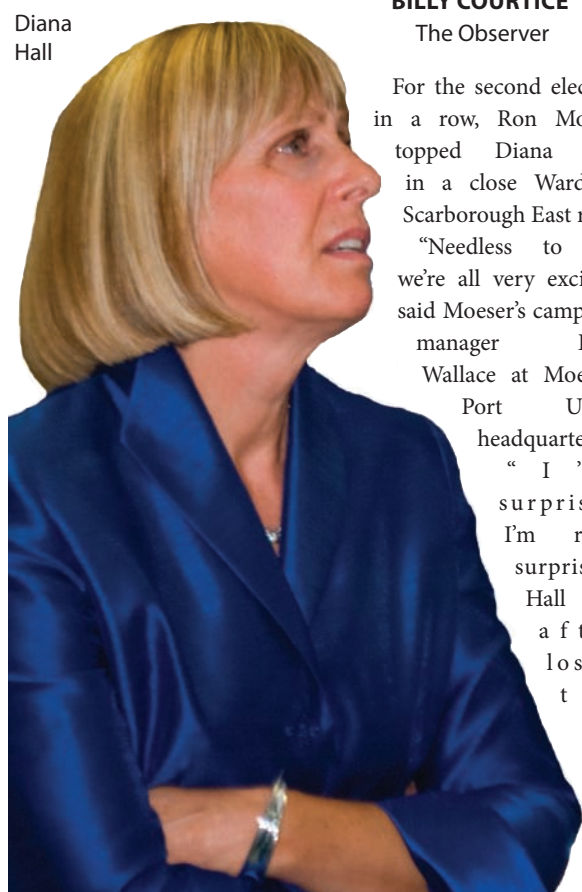
AMANDA KWAN/The Observer
Glenn De Baeremaeker takes the cake in a landslide victory for Ward 38.

taxes to pay for the repairs. With no money coming in, road conditions have continued to deteriorate, and now there is a backlog of repairs throughout the city, he said.

De Baeremaeker ran on a platform of improving transit, speeding up road repairs, preserving services while keeping taxes low, protecting green space, and improving safety.

Hall can't shake deja vu

Challenger edged out by Moeser for second straight time



CAITLIN STOJANOVSKI
BILLY COURTICE
The Observer

For the second election in a row, Ron Moeser topped Diana Hall in a close Ward 44 Scarborough East race.

"Needless to say, we're all very excited," said Moeser's campaign manager Dave Wallace at Moeser's Port Union headquarters.

"I'm surprised. I'm really surprised," Hall said after losing to

Moeser by 284 votes.

Moeser previously said he hopes to cancel both the land transfer and vehicle registration tax in his next term.

"I didn't vote for them in the first place, and if I had the opportunity, I would cancel them," Moeser told The Observer prior to the election.

He also said that the city's budget should be scrutinized.

"You've got to have a city with a heart but we need more of a business-like approach when it comes to our budgeting," he said.

Hall said she fully expected to take Moeser's seat in council.

"We had a lot of positive feedback from residents," Hall said.

Volunteers for Hall, who had gone door-to-door in Ward 44 to gauge support, said feedback was positive. Hall's supporters were shocked at her loss.

SCARBOROUGH VOTES 2010		ward 44
RON MOESER	10185	47.5%
DIANA HALL	9901	46.1%
MOHAMMED MIRZA	749	3.5%
HEATH THOMAS	627	2.9%

When the first polls came in, CP24 declared Hall the winner. Hall's campaign office was filled with cheers, and the mood stayed positive even as the numbers kept rolling in.

Hall's camp weren't the only ones to be tripped up by the mistaken prediction.

In Ward 39, re-elected councillor Mike Del Grande, watching the broadcast from his campaign headquarters, said he wasn't surprised by CP24's early call.

"She's worked really hard and almost got in last time," Del Grande said. "He's been booted out of council once before. He has not really done

anything special, he's not really sparkling."

Throughout the night, Hall and her supporters noted how closely this reflected the 2006 race, which Hall lost by 61 votes. In that election, Hall led before the last polling station had reported. The numbers flipped in Moeser's favour after the all the votes were tallied and recounted.

"We were here until 3 a.m. last time," said Paul Lewkowicz, a Hall supporter, about the 2006 election. He and other boosters spent a tense half hour trying to figure out which station had not reported.

As more polling stations reported their results, the race became tighter and Hall led by only a few votes. At 9:30 p.m., Hall and Moeser were still tied.

Although Hall was disappointed with the outcome of the election, said they would still advocate for Highland Creek issues and create dialogue with the re-elected councillor.

Centennial Community and Recreation Association president Jeff Forsyth said that Moeser has been a "satisfactory" councillor.

"He's not a particularly loud voice on council, but not a lot of them are."



es fall to familiar faces

SCARBOROUGH VOTES 2010		ward 43
PAUL AINSLIE	9334	60.6%
JOHN LAFORET	4440	28.8%
BHASKAR SHARMA	758	4.9%
BENJAMIN MBAEGBU	489	3.2%

Ainslie looks to axe vehicle and land tax

**RYAN JHAGROO
BRADLEY FEATHERSTONE**
The Observer

Re-elected Ward 43 councillor Paul Ainslie's first item on his agenda will be to repeal the land transfer tax and vehicle registration fee, he says.

At his campaign victory party on Oct. 26, Ainslie told the Observer he looks forward to working on these issues with newly elected mayor Rob Ford.

In a landslide victory, Ainslie secured over 60 per cent

of the ballot, more than double his closest rival, John Laforet.

Ainslie saw his support rise from the last election in which he received under 39 per cent of the vote.

Laforet significantly improved since his last campaign as well. In 2006, he received 7.7 per cent of the vote and in this one 28.5 per cent.

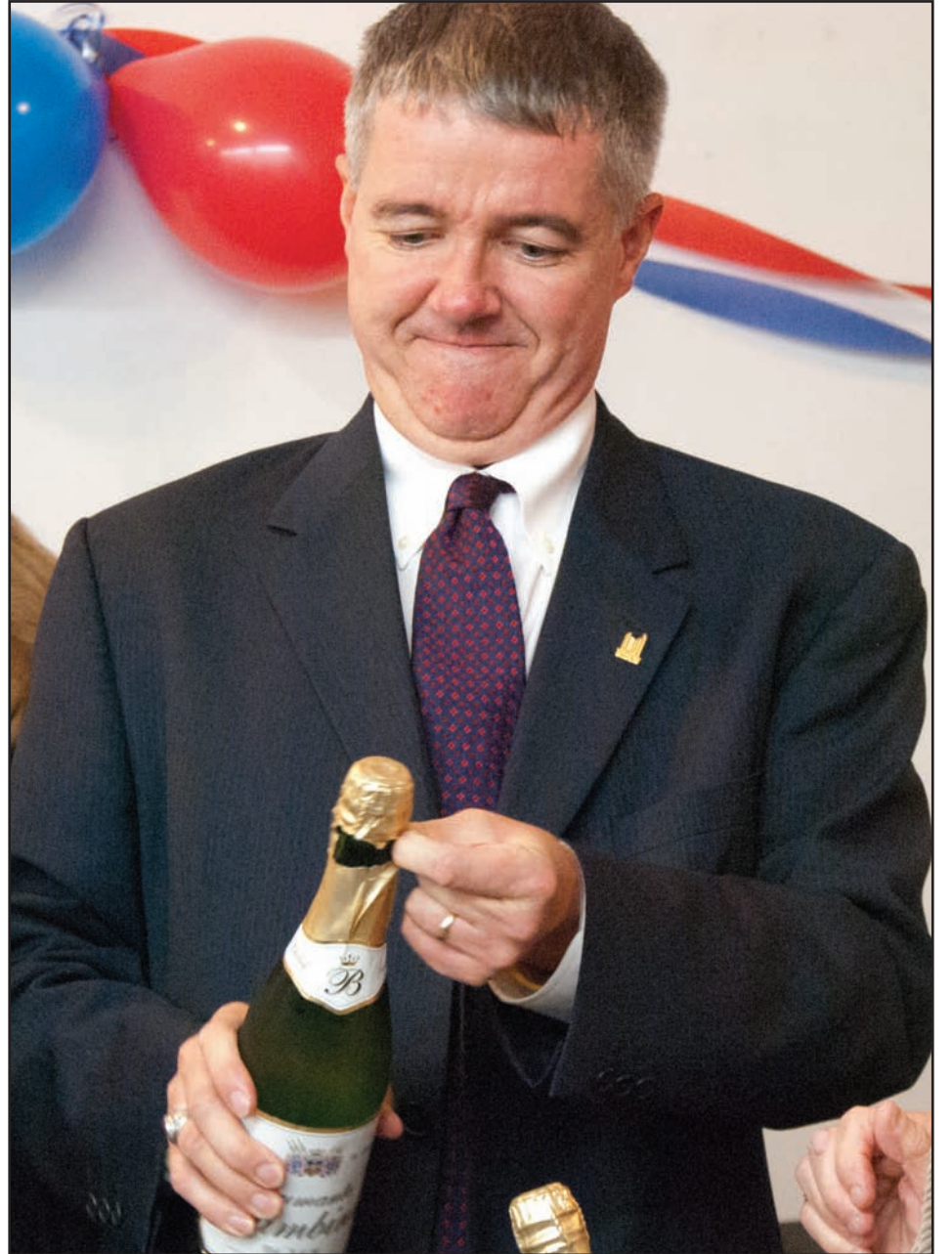
"Incumbents with stronger council records are falling all over the city," Laforet said in his concession speech. "But not here."

Now that he's been chosen

by the residents of Scarborough East to represent them again, Ainslie said he will continue to work hard as he's done the past four years.

"He's had great initiatives in the area," said Ainslie supporter Saleh Hetejee, who attended the celebration party. "Ainslie has done a great job with the Cederbrae Library renovation."

In response to the other candidates who lost, Ainslie said he is willing to sit down and share ideas, hoping to work through any impasse.



RYAN JHAGROO/The Observer

Ward 43 councillor Paul Ainslie opens a third celebratory bottle of champagne.



COURTNEY ROBERTS/The Observer

Raymond Cho basks in the glory of his victory. He has served Ward 42 for 19 years.

SCARBOROUGH VOTES 2010		ward 42
RAYMOND CHO	10811	52.9%
NEETHAN SHAN	6873	33.7%
SHAMOON POONAWALA	586	2.9%
MOHAMMED ATHER	474	2.3%

Cho-sen to lead

Media-backed challenger falls to veteran councillor

**COURTNEY ROBERTS
SARINA ADAMO**
The Observer

Raymond Cho is vowing to make Ward 42 a better place as he enters his third decade representing the area.

Voters returned the city hall veteran to office on Oct. 25, taking 53 per cent of the vote.

"I will try to work harder to make the community a safer and more beautiful place," Cho said in his victory speech at his campaign office Monday night. "This means more programs for youth and seniors."

Throughout his campaign, Cho tried to engage youth to become involved in the political process by encouraging them to vote and join his campaign team, he said.

"I knew he was going to win," said Norma Forrester, a longtime Cho supporter.

"He has been supporting our church for a long time and he's very visible within the community. That's why people will continue to vote for him."

But despite Cho's decisive victory, not all Scarborough residents are optimistic.

"People of Malvern are too comfortable with a familiar name and face," said Venesse Lewis, chair of Malvern in Motion. "If they really asked themselves what Cho has done for them, they would know that change was needed."

Neethan Shan, Cho's closest rival, was diplomatic in defeat, vowing to remain active in the community and to work with the councillor.

"He should develop gateways in the community for people to become leaders, build leadership, because the leaders will help other issues," said Shan, who mustered 32 per cent of the vote.

Young people should play bigger roles in Cho's policies, said Shan.

"Youth can solve a lot of issues adults can't," he said. "They have energy and innovation and they're selfless. Young people have a lot of passion for social justice."

Shan, who was endorsed by the *Toronto Star* and *NOW magazine*, said he will challenge Cho if he doesn't deliver.

If they really asked themselves what Cho has done, they would know that change was needed
- Venesse Lewis

Teaching old dogs new tricks

You have to wonder how young voters made their ballot decisions on Oct. 25.

Did they choose based on who called their house? Or whose nice sign stood on their lawn? Maybe it was who knocked on their door?

Or did they actually interact with these people and read their platforms?

Youth is the future, right? So why is the under-30 crowd so scarce at polling places? Perhaps it's because youth don't stay current via conventional forms of media. Youth need visual appeal.

Candidates need to use interesting, non-traditional ways to advertise to resonate better with today's youth. Here's a thought: politicians could try getting their point across by showing up at a local Tim Hortons and buying every eligible young voter's coffee — they just need to remember to send out a Facebook invite first.

Ward 42 runner-up Neethan Shan's election night headquarters was teeming with hopeful young volunteers cheering for a man who's played a prominent role in their lives as a youth outreach worker.

Shan stays current on Facebook and Twitter. He was the only candidate who came close to bringing incumbent Raymond Cho down.

Even if Cho can do the job, should we reward someone who sat back on election night, enjoying a spread of food, "knowing he would win?"

Shan lost. But he had more than 9,000 votes and 150 volunteers. At one voting station, people who had missed the 8 p.m. cutoff stood outside, still lined up, demanding their right to vote — for him. He built that support in 10 months.

Shan is the sort of candidate most deserving of the youth vote.

Maybe next time.

- Sarina Adamo

Voter turnout up but not enough

We shouldn't be applauding our 53-per cent voter turnout rate, even if it is up from last election's. It is still a failing grade.

History is marred with revolutions fought for democracy and representation — and it is also filled with advocates for equality.

Conflicts continue today. Afghan citizens head to polls to cast their ballots despite incidents of bombings and kidnappings.

Here in Toronto, we don't have to worry for our safety as we cast a secret ballot. Candidates reach out to us personally and independent media organizations scrutinize them on our behalf.

Yet almost half of us just didn't show up on Oct. 25 or to the several advance polls. Half of us didn't bother to express our views about how we want the system we live in to be organized.

Some of us may not have voted because we did not like any of the candidates, but we could have handed in blank ballots showing that we care about the municipal elections, but just don't like any of the options presented to us.

For whatever reasons, half of us simply chose not to participate in a key process of a democratic society.

Fortunately, however, democracy does not end on election day. Election day may just be a gauge of participation, providing some concrete statistics showing how many of us actually care enough to come out.

But whether or not we voted, and whether or not the person we voted for was elected, our mayor and councillors are still public servants who represent us. After and between elections, we can still assemble peacefully, circulate petitions and attend city council and committee meetings.

So even if we didn't vote, let's not see democracy as something that happens once every four years. Instead, let's take lessons from history and from abroad and not take our system for granted, letting our apathy erode it.

-Alina Smirnova



BRADLEY FEATHERSTONE/The Observer

Get to the curb on time

When I lived near Runnymede Station, garbage collection was on Wednesday, which meant I had to carry all the waste I'd built up from my partying on the weekend. Now I live near the Toronto Zoo in a part of Scarborough where my green, blue and garbage bins are emptied right after the weekend. This is great, but I want more out of my waste management. I want the schedules of garbage collection times made available to residents, so we know when the trucks should be arriving curbside.

Tuesday is my collection day. The calendar the City of Toronto sends out every so often says my trash should be on the curb no later than 7 a.m. on the days they're scheduled for pickup. To be honest, I never found out about this until I finally decided to look carefully at the calendar following a close miss on collection day. I usually refrain from putting my garbage out the night before, because the raccoons in my neighbourhood are a rambunctious group known for tipping over bins, scattering their contents. And I've been burned before, picking up the scattered rotten mess at 7 a.m.

I know the garbage collectors usually come around my block early in the morning, but it's not always consistent. It's usually in the range of 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Once in a while, they even come around 2 p.m. That's not good enough.

If there isn't a set time when we can expect garbage collection at our



Ryan JHAGROO

I want schedules of garbage collection times made available to residents.

homes, city council needs to make it happen. The TTC and GO Transit have fairly accurate up-to-the-minute bus schedules for commuters, and traffic reports on news outlets like 680News and CP24 can forecast travel times almost down to a tee. It shouldn't be any problem for the city to give residents more accurate notifications when they can expect their waste management trucks to come by. If they did, I wouldn't have had such a close call on the aforementioned morning.

That day, I had a hunch they'd be coming a little closer to 8:30 a.m. Maybe it was intuition, my sixth sense. More likely, it was my laziness getting out of bed that made me delay taking the green bins

to the curb. When I finally got up, I was getting ready to disrobe and shave when I heard the sound of a large truck. I knew it was them and they were probably a little relieved that my green bins weren't on the curb yet.

That's when I threw on a pair of shorts and hauled ass like I'd never done before. You see, I've had weeks where I've forgotten to take out the garbage for collection and trying to find a place to store my excess waste is no easy task. I wasn't about to let the upcoming week become another one where I struggle to properly dispose of my soup bones and apple cores.

When I ran out, ready to drag those bins, I realized a big bag of garbage was left in my kitchen. So I raced inside, grabbed the heaping bag and bolted outside. The stars were aligned and the gods smiled upon me. Lady luck was on my side. I couldn't be denied, not after all of that.

With a bin in each hand, I ran 20 feet just as the big garbage truck rolled up. There, I watched them, as their heads sunk low, emptying my green bins. I wanted to point, laugh and gloat, all while jumping up and down in a pejorative fashion.

I felt like I'd won that day.

But that was until I realized that it shouldn't have come down to that, which is why I think more accurate waste collection schedules are needed.

THE EAST TORONTO OBSERVER

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Eileen Van Dyk, a veterinarian technician at Toronto Animal Services, poses with Abby in the spay and neuter clinic.

ALICE HOANG/The Observer

Toronto Animal Services concerned about winter

Colder weather may affect the success of population control programs aimed at cats

ALICE HOANG
The Observer

The looming cold weather will hinder the fight to control the feral cat population in Toronto, experts say.

The Toronto Animal Services (TAS) shelter at 821 Progress Ave. opened a free spay and neuter clinic in August, which operates about six days a month.

"We may start up earlier than we planned depending on the gathering of more information on the releasing of these cats after they've been sterilized," TAS manager Eletta Purdy said. "We're just concerned. We wouldn't want to see them be released back into the cold and suffer because of the surgery."

Purdy says the clinic will run until mid-November and is slated to re-open in January. They're re-evaluating

their trap-neuter-return (TNR) strategy, in which feral cats are castrated and then returned to their colonies.

The shelter is being renovated because they can't afford to have a new building.

Purdy says the city pays for staff, and supplies are bought with donations.

"If we want to expand it, we'll have to look at donations for staffing also," Purdy said.

Kathy Quinn, a TAS supervisor, says the service is "the first of its kind in Canada."

Since 2008, the Toronto Feral Cat Project (TFCP) has also helped in the fight to

control the overpopulation of Toronto's feral cats.

The organization's goal is to educate the public on the TNR strategy, as it's the only proven method of long-term population control, said Roxanne St. Germain, a public relations and education officer of the TFCP.

She says TNR is the most humane way to deal with feral cats, as all of them can't be rescued since there are too many.

St. Germain says the opening of the spay and neuter clinic is a "huge step for the city of Toronto." People are taking advantage of it since it's a financial burden to feed and castrate cats.

We wouldn't want to see them be released back into the cold and suffer because of the surgery
- Eletta Purdy

"There are so many people calling trying to get appointments to trap and bring their cats in for spay and neuter at that clinic," St. Germain said. "So it's really important that we put pressure on the city of Toronto to fund this solution because it's the only solution that will work."

Feral cat caretakers have to register their colonies on the TFCP's website and take TNR training sessions to be eligible to go to the TAS' free clinic, St. Germain said.

The TFCP works closely with the Toronto Humane Society, which held an event on Oct. 16 for National Feral Cat Day with workshops to teach people about TNR.

"It's really important that everybody works as a community," St. Germain said. "You need people, you need organizations, local communities, districts, and the city

to be involved. It's a right-across-the-board project."

She says there are workshops as well as support groups.

"[People] can join and it's really beneficial because it's very stressful to take care of a colony of cats," St. Germain said.

The organization has a Toronto feral cat survey and they're asking people to register colonies on their website, which is kept confidential, as they're trying to find out how many cat colonies exist in Toronto. She says it's also a way to back up their claims when they ask for funding from the government.

St. Germain says The Toronto Feral Cat Project is in the process of deciding whether it will become a charitable organization or non-profit group.

Youth release calypso album

BRADLEY FEATHERSTONE
The Observer

The biggest names in Canadian calypso music came out in force to inspire a new generation of musicians to carry on the craft.

"We're getting older and we want to pass along the culture," said Dick Lochan, co-leader of the Pass the Torch calypso arts program. "It's great for the kids. We see them become better writers, become more confident and better public speakers."

Lochan

hosted the CD launch party for *Pass the Torch 5* along with



John (Jayson) Perez, the only person to win a Juno award for calypso.

The celebration, held at Scarlet Ibis Restaurant and Bar, was designed to raise funds to pay for the production of a CD and bring the community together.

Culture

It's all about spreading the culture through music, said Rouge River MPP Bas Balkissoon.

"This one is a difficult culture because it's about the music and it's also about the composition," Balkissoon said. "It's not that you can just learn to sing so you have to write the music and write the lyrics to match."

Canadian Calypso Queen Macomere Fifi performed at the event to inspire the children, she said. Fifi taught in the Pass the Torch program when it started six years ago but has since moved on to a broader music career.

The free children's program is held every Saturday at Berner Trail Community Centre. The kids, age 8-14, write all their own songs with guidance from Perez and Lochan.

The Pass the Torch CDs are produced by legendary Calypso producer Ossie Gurdley, who is best known for co-writing and producing the hit "Who Let the Dogs Out."

To hear some of the calypso music from *Pass the Torch 5's* CD, log on to torontoobserver.ca

SPORTS

Sharks gear up for new season

Community involvement encouraged through girls' hockey celebration in Malvern

KIRSTEN PARUCHA
The Observer

No boys were allowed on the ice during a full-day of hockey as the Scarborough Sharks Girls Hockey Association hosted their opening day celebration in the Malvern Community Centre arena.

On Oct. 23, each of the 11 teams from the all-girls hockey rep league played a season match, officially commencing their 2010-2011 season.

The celebration promoted girls hockey in Scarborough.

"We want girls hockey to grow," said Patrick Carew, SSGHA president. "We're really trying to grow our community relationship and to grow the game of hockey."

The event brought families and friends together. Special guests included Toronto Maple Leafs mascot Carlton the Bear, Olympic gold medalist and Scarborough Sharks alumni Vicky Sunohara, and Ward 42 councillor Raymond Cho.

"Our particular goal was to make the celebration a very unique experience for the Scarborough Sharks," Carew said. "We're very proud of our connection with the Scar-



KIRSTEN PARUCHA/The Observer

Aoife Doyle (left) and Sigia Huang (right) of the Scarborough Sharks Novice B team, race with the puck during the Sharks' opening day celebration against the Toronto Leaside Wildcats.

borough community."

By connecting with the community, SSGHA hopes to encourage girls hockey to families who are unfamiliar with the sport.

"Hockey is a market for the many first generations coming into Canada," Carew said. "We want to make sure they

know about the fantastic sport because it leads to a positive image for girls in the Scarborough community."

Tina Crosthwaite, mother of twin 10-year-old girls, said hockey will have a great impact on her daughters who have played with the Sharks for the past five years.

"It's a great team sport and it shows a lot of camaraderie," Crosthwaite said. "It's also great for their physical health."

Crosthwaite hopes the opening celebration will entice more girls from the community to participate in girls' hockey.

"The Malvern community provides a place to play and we want to give back to the community," Crosthwaite said. "We want to introduce girls hockey to those who may not be aware of the sport. It's important to get new girls involved and to have fun and build sportsmanship."

Briefs

TDSB sports wind down

TDSB fall sports start their finals the week of Oct. 25. Soccer, tennis, football and basketball all kick off the first rounds of the playoffs. The championship games will end in the coming weeks of Nov. 1, and Nov. 8.

GTHL calls for new teams

The Greater Toronto Hockey League has the Streetsville Tigers 42nd Annual Fall Hockey Tournament coming up from Nov. 5 to 7. The tournament includes divisions from Minor Atom to Midget AA. To register your team, contact Debbie Leo at 289.891.8033.

Skating to begin next week

Canlan Ice Sports is starting public skating on Sun. Nov. 7 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will run every Sunday. It costs \$3.00 per person, and skaters get free hot chocolate during the first week. Seniors skate free.

NEWS



MEGAN HARRIS/The Observer

David Lawrie, Rouge Valley Conservation Centre board member and hike leader, points out an area in the Rouge valley where theft of wild ferns, trilliums, and other plants often takes place.

Plant theft disturbs Rouge Valley

MEGAN HARRIS
The Observer

There is a plant thief on the loose in Rouge Hill. Or more accurately, plant thieves.

Plants have been disappearing from the valley for the past few years, said David Lawrie, board member and hike leader at the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre (RVCC).

This theft puts pressure on the ecosystem, whether plants are taken in a large amount or not, he said.

"You're removing the forest floor ecosystem," Lawrie said. "Also, people walk through the park and pick plants randomly, so that's a constant pressure on the natural systems that are there."

Ferns are largely targeted, but trilliums, goldenrods, and pussy willow branches are also taken. While many plants taken are for personal use, ferns are often taken in large quantities for commercial use, he said.

Lawrie's wife Serena Lawrie, also an RVCC member, said she finds it hard to

understand why people feel they can take whatever they want from the park.

"The park is not a garden store... you're here to enjoy the park," Serena said. "If you take things from the park, then you lose the diversity, you lose species, and it's just not a good thing to do."

Though Lawrie hasn't witnessed the thefts, several people have told him they have seen plants being taken and loaded into trucks. The thieving, especially of ferns, often takes place at night and from the area of woods bor-

dering the road for secrecy.

The situation was reported to the park, but since RVCC workers have not seen the plant thieves in action, there is not much that can be done.

Lawrie described the problem within the park as people not considering how their action of taking one plant will affect the rest of the forest.

"If one person takes a plant, it's not a big deal, but if 100 people take them, then you start to have problems," said Lawrie.

Locals against more Ward 44 highrises

AMANDA KWAN
The Observer

The city needs to review the way the Ontario Municipal Board handles development applications if it wants to manage intensification in residential areas, says Stephen Miles, Highland Creek Community Association president.

The community is in one of Scarborough's busiest planning wards. Since January 2006, Ward 44 has received 75 planning applications and has 48 development projects.

The city's Official Plan calls for higher density residential dwellings to curb sprawl. The maximum height for any building is 12 metres.

While most of the development projects in Ward 44 are not for multi-family dwellings, residents are still concerned about intensification, namely highrise development, Miles said.

Condominiums don't fit into the character of suburban communities like Highland Creek, an older neighbourhood of mostly single-fam-

ily homes, he added.

"[The neighbourhood] can accommodate for greater density, and I think everyone can understand that," said Miles. "But no one is willing to live next door to an apartment building, especially in a highly residential neighbourhood."

He also said highrises would place greater strain on the community's infrastructure because they would have to accommodate a higher density of people in a small space, bringing more traffic and less parking spaces.

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), the appeals board for development projects, often draws ire from residents' and community associations, who say the provincial body often sides with developers on contentious development projects.

Miles cited only one occasion when the OMB sided with the community on a development project in Highland Creek, near Morrish Road and Old Kingston Road. "It ended up being a legal technicality," he said.