

QUIRKY STUFF

■ The Observer goes on a hunt for the weird and wacky at Scarborough shops.

Pages 4-5



Occupy protest not for all of us

Popular rally not drawing support from Scarborough

By MARYAM SHAH
The Observer

Distance doesn't make the heart grow any fonder. In the case of Occupy Toronto, it might be making it pretty indifferent.

Scarborough has six priority neighbourhoods, slashed transit, decreased housing and perhaps the largest immigrant population in Toronto.

Despite all this, the suburb barely has more than three representatives at the Occupy Toronto protests downtown.

Why is this suburban community out of the loop? The answer lies in both the physical and mental distance between the two areas.

College graduate Shane Behari heard about the protests downtown but doesn't know much about them.

Does he feel the need to join them?

"No, I don't," he replied.

He feels that there are other ways to protest and said he would try those first before taking the step

to Occupy Toronto.

"Currently, I guess, there are other methods of creating a voice," he said. "Firstly, if I had an issue with the education system, I would write to the politicians, I would create a Facebook page, I would find other means to protest. There are various opinions about whether it's effective or not," he said.



● For more on this story, head to News at torontoobserver.ca



Jessica Lee /// Observer

Surf's up!

A surfer catches a wave on Lake Ontario at the Scarborough Bluffs. In the fall, more surfers make it out onto the lake due to bigger waves caused by stronger winds. See story on page 7.

One year and going strong?

Despite criticism across Toronto, Ford still supported in Scarborough

By YEAMROT TADDESE
The Observer

Regressive. Out of touch. Anti-Toronto. These are only a few of the words Rob Ford's critics use to describe the Toronto mayor.

Scarborough residents seem to disagree.

A recent popularity poll put Ford in the bottom three among Canadian city mayors.

But the same poll found Scarborough is one of two areas in Toronto where residents still have a soft spot for him.

Forty-two per cent of



Josh Ungar /// Toronto Observer file photo

Rob Ford celebrates after the announcement of his win in the race for mayor of Toronto last year.

Scarborough and North York residents feel Ford is good for their city, compared to a 37 per cent average for all of Toronto.

Ward 39 councillor Mike Del Grande said

Scarborough sees Ford as a "champion of change."

Even though accomplishing his goals meant cutting services, Del Grande said residents "understand that you have to pay as you go."

Coun. Glenn De Baeremaeker thinks the deficit issue didn't stem from excess spending.

"Ford thinks ... we spend like drunken sailors," he said. "The actual problem is that the City

of Toronto has a revenue problem."

Provincial and federal governments have left Toronto to foot extra bills but haven't increased the budget for the city, he added.

"Ford wants fewer police, fewer firefighters, fewer garbage collectors, fewer health inspectors, and I think that's bad."

He added the city needs each and every one of these workers.

Ford's press secretary Adrienne Batra said the mayor's promise to build the Sheppard Subway and the Eglinton Crosstown light rail transit underground is what makes him popular in Scarborough.

But De Baeremaeker disagreed, calling Ford's plan "a disaster for Scarborough."



● For more on this story, see Features at torontoobserver.ca

Residents face evacuation fears

Lowry Square tenants upset by city's plan to sell public housing

By JANICE YEUNG
The Observer

Toronto Community Housing tenant Tina Chaisson might have to move out of her house on very short notice.

She did not know her unit was on a "to-be-sold" list in a recent TCH report until her neighbours told her InsideToronto.com published a photo of her unit on its website.

The photo was part of an article about Toronto Community Housing selling 706 homes across the city, including hers.

The plan has been up for consideration since Oct. 14 at TCH's Yonge Street headquarters.

Kyle Rooks, media relations manager at TCH explained in an email interview: "Once we have approvals, we will sell the houses on the open market, to the highest bidder, using a fair, open, transparent process, so we can raise as much money as possible to pay for capi-

tal repairs. We will start with 70 vacant houses, then proceed to sell houses where tenants are overhoused, where repairs are most expensive and where the value of the property is greatest."

Chaisson was not the only tenant upset with TCH's decision.

"I wouldn't really like to be evacuated somewhere else," said Alheim Morris,

a sales representative living at another single-home community housing unit at Lowry Square.

"I am already used to this neighbourhood," he said. "The whole point of this is irrelevant. There is a slim possibility that where they're moving us to is better than this place."

Scattered throughout Scarborough, houses that were

on TCH's list to be sold were clustered in Wexford, Orton Park and Malvern. In Malvern, about 45 houses were on the list, with 13 of them on Lowry Square.

Social housing veteran Joy Connelly, who started the blog

Opening the Window, said she thinks there are alternatives to selling the houses.

"I'm sympathetic to TCH's dilemma," she

said. "TCH does need to raise money to repair their buildings, and the scattered houses have been difficult and expensive for them to manage."

But, Connelly said, there are other options, including affordable home ownership, that would help low-income families, preserve mixed-income communities and still give TCH money for repairs.



Janice Yeung // Observer

Tina Chaisson's unit is on the list of houses to be sold in Toronto Community Housing's recent sales plan. She says she is worried about moving farther away from her workplace and leaving her friends in the community.

\$29-million YMCA centre gets thumbs up from community

By ANDRE THURAIRATNAM
The Observer

Residents couldn't be happier with city council's approval of a new \$29-million community centre at Warden and Finch in northwest Scarborough.

The addition of a community centre is something of a necessity, says Jordie Scott who has lived in the Steeles-L'amoreaux neighbourhood his entire life.

"There's nothing around here. Period," Scott said.

"Sometimes you have to travel miles before you reach anything fun. It's always a constant 'Where should we go?' just to try and find something to do. It shouldn't be like that. [The community] puts on a few things every now and then, but nothing consistent. This would be a consistent place to go and have all your recreational needs fulfilled."

The 100,000-square-foot facility will be built on the grounds of the former Timothy Eaton Business & Technical Institute (BTI). Plans include housing a YMCA centre, providing rental space for community-based agencies and allocating space to the Scarborough Hospital for health services, said Nrin-

Nann, Toronto's Manager of Community Development.

"We are still in the early stages of the development and [are] very happy to have reached this milestone with council's decision," Nann said. "Now, the non-city partners are going about their

own internal approval process."

Services are to be provided by community agencies, some of which receive United Way funding, as well as YMCA services and health services from the Scarborough Hospital.

The central location is also beneficial for the community.

"The fact that the multi-service community hub will be situated in the former Timothy Eaton BTI lands means that it is already in a natural access point for the community given the proximity to the Bridlewood Mall and Bridlewood Library," Nann said.



Andre Thurairatnam // Observer

Teague Quon (left) and Jordie Scott are both happy with city council's approved plans for a community hub built on the grounds of the former Timothy Eaton BTI.

Bike path route poses dilemma

Kathy Rideau is torn between the natural and the man-made.

As an avid cyclist who uses the bike lanes along Kingston Road, Rideau would love to see the expansion of a bike path. But she says she does not want to interfere with nature to do it.

Toronto's park department has proposed that a one-kilometre stretch of natural path, known as Chine Meadows to nearby residents, be paved to provide an alternative route to cyclists on Kingston Rd.

"Chine Meadows is such a beautiful part of this neighbourhood, I wouldn't want to see it destroyed," Rideau said. "But on the other hand, putting a bike path through here would make my

commute easier."

This is the dilemma that Coun. Gary Crawford also faces.

"From the perspective of the city, I am all for trying to find alternative

routes for major bike paths," Crawford said. "But I understand that residents want to maintain [Chine Meadows] as a naturalized area."

While the proposal is still up for discussion, Crawford says he wanted to slow down the process to hear the residents' point of view. After receiving many complaints, Crawford said it was time to hear them out.

"I heard from residents that it was happening too quickly, so I did a walk of Chine Meadows with the community members," Crawford said.

Chine Meadows is one of three proposed trail links by the city.



● Visit torontoobserver.ca to see a map of Chine Meadows and the proposed cuts

~ CHANTELE HENRIQUES



Courtesy of The Canadian Food Inspection Agency

The emerald ash beetle is predicted to kill almost every ash tree in the GTA in the next 10 years.

■ COMMUNITY

Feds should help with ash trees: councillor

Ainslie presses Canadian Food Inspection Agency to foot the bill

By JAMES WATTIE
The Observer

Scarborough East councillor Paul Ainslie suggested the federal government foot the bill for Scarborough residents who are looking into removing their ash trees due to beetle infestation.

His motion, passed by the city's parks and environment

committee, is up for debate at city council this week.

Ainslie suggested that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has the funds to compensate Scarborough citizens who wish to remove the trees from their property.

Ash trees are susceptible to the emerald ash borer, a beetle

that is estimated to kill almost every ash tree in the Greater Toronto Area within the next 10 years.

Chairman of Toronto's parks, forestry and recreation, Norm Kelly, said the city picked up on the existence of the beetle in 2007.

"This is a little tiny beetle about a quarter to a half an

inch that landed on our shores ... about roughly 2002 to 2003," he said. "[It] came over from China."

Kelly claims the value of the ash trees could be up to a billion dollars.

There are approximately 800,000 ash trees around Toronto.

~ With files from Jessica Lee

Redefining MPP cabinet roles

Duguid and Best take on new portfolios

By AAKANKSHA TANGRI
The Observer

Scarborough has retained its stake in the new cabinet as MPPs Brad Duguid and Margaret Best take on new portfolios in the minority Liberal government.

Best, previously Ontario's Minister of Health Promotion and Sport, will take on the consumer services portfolio becoming the first black woman in the province's history to be re-elected.



■ DUGUID

continuing to build Ontario as one of the leading places in the world to invest.

"We must continue to ... build Ontario into a jurisdiction that is seen as one of the most competitive places in the world in which to invest," he said.

He also wants to work with business leaders in the province to help strengthen the economy, he said.

"I'll be looking to the expertise within our business community and engaging with business leaders ... to build a very strong economy."

The Ministry of Consumer Services covers everything from the buying and selling of products and services like homes, funeral services, Ontario wines and stuffed toys. The Ontario Film Review Board also falls under Best's portfolio.

To his post as Minister of Economic Development and Innovation, Duguid brings his experience as Minister of Energy, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister of Labour.

Duguid said he plans on

According to Duguid, the biggest concern for Ontario lies outside its borders with the state of the global economy and the ambiguity surrounding it.

"We need to prepare Ontario to make it through this period of uncertainty... [and] being able to build an economy that will drive us forward ... both through job creation and investment."

He stressed the Liberals are committed to economic development.

Scarborough woman is GTA's first female driving instructor

Sarah Devi started business in 1981— today it has three branches in Scarborough

By MARYAM SHAW
The Observer

She's an entrepreneur, a mother of two and a charity worker.

She's also the first female driving instructor in the Greater Toronto Area.

Today, Sarah Devi runs AAMCO Driving School, a business that has grown to include three branches in Scarborough.

Devi remembers the exact date she landed in Canada — July 10, 1978 — as an 18-year-old newlywed with dreams of becoming a pharmacist. Two weeks later she was restless for work.

Realizing her dream would require another year of studying, she took a different path

and finished a short banking course at Humber College before joining the CIBC.

"I was working as a bank teller and every three months I was getting a promotion," she recalled.

After having her first child at age 21, she quit her job.

"Then I was home and said, 'Well, driving instructor'," she said with a laugh.

Devi got licensed as a driving instructor through Humber College and opened up AAMCO with her husband and a third partner.

Now, years later, her two grown daughters work as teachers, as well as driving instructors.

Devi's favourite story of a student overcoming adversity is about Alice, an Armenian

girl who knew little English and was hard of hearing.

After three months of learning to drive with the help of a niece who translated Devi's instructions from the backseat, Alice passed her driving test with a high score of 96 out of 100.

"I wish I had kept that sheet," Devi said. "She was so determined."

In 2006, she registered her own charity in Ontario

called International Care Mission for Humanity, with a branch in India.

"I said to myself, I've been doing this for so long," Devi said. "It's time to give back to society."



■ DEVI



Courtesy of CNE

Former councillor Brian Ashton takes over the CNE board as the new president.

CNE has new prez

Brian Ashton fondly remembers going to the CNE every year as a child.

"It was almost a sin not to go," the former Scarborough city councillor said.

Now it's his job to. Ashton is the new president of the Canadian National Exhibition Association.

"Brian will do an amazing job with the CNE," said Coun. Michael Thompson, a former city hall colleague. "I have no doubt that the CNE will be led by him in a profes-

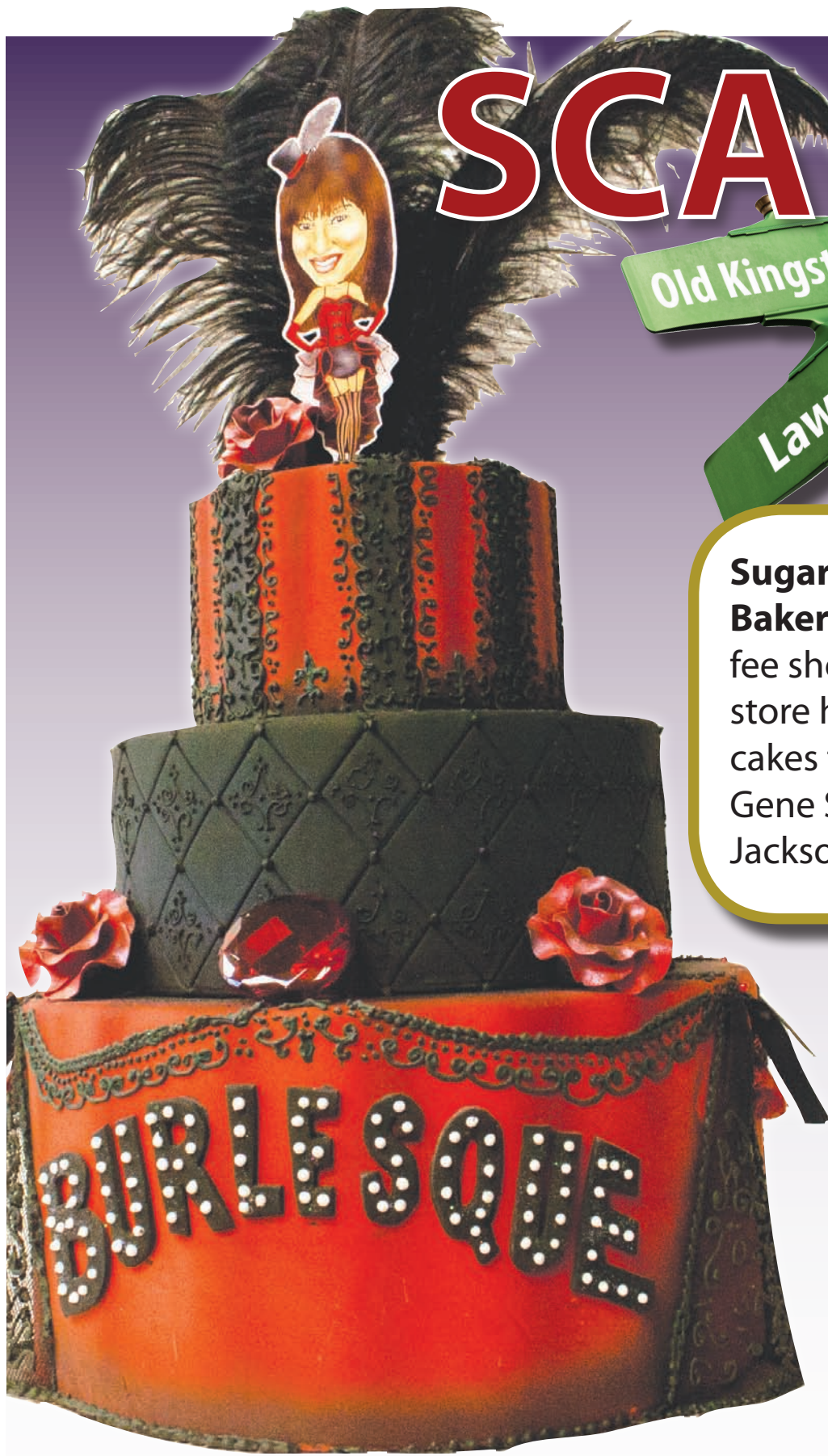
sional and respectful way. Ashton faces keeping the 133-year-old Toronto institution fresh for visitors and part of that, he said, is "embracing multiculturalism."

"I want to put the 'national' back in Canadian National Exhibition," said Ashton, a long time board member.

A new board president is elected every two years, CNE marketing manager Karen Lynch said.

~ Chantelle Henriques

SCARBOROUGH



Sugarbuds Village Bakery and Cafe, a local coffee shop and baked goods store has created designer cakes for celebrities such as Gene Simmons and the Jackson family.



The Comic Room is one of the last comicbook stores remaining in Scarborough. It features 20,000 back issues. Be sure to visit on Wednesdays when the latest comics arrive in store.



The Private Eye Spy Shop has all your needs covered for surveillance and home security. Find products such as GPS trackers and decoy cameras, like the mini camera hidden inside a lighter.



NEIGHBOURHOOD'S HIDDEN

ITEMS

Where to find neat stuff in your neighbourhood



All Star Bowl features office leagues, free games for children in November and 50¢ wings every Saturday and Sunday. With two storeys and 16 10-pin bowling lanes, this place is perfect for a night out on the town.



Layale Al Shark and Alexandria is a restaurant where you can grab a delicious shawarma or sit down to enjoy smoking shisha in a variety of flavours.



Valerie's Beauty Supply offers candy curls, supreme waves and synthetic wigs. They import products for Afro-Caribbean hairstyles and include hair-extension kits, relaxers and straighteners.



EDITORIALS

Missing in action

Scarborough has no footing in Occupy Toronto

Revolution seems to work like a teenager on vacation. The first step is acquiring beatnik clothing and massive quantities of ripped jeans. The next step? Go camping and yell softly.

Occupy Toronto is a protest taking place downtown. I feel the need to spell out exactly what it is because many Scarborough residents have little to no idea about it. Our community here should have someone down there leading the way.

Scarborough needs funds. It needs better housing, better transit, better schools and better representatives. Our image as Toronto's oft-ignored hinterland has gone on long enough. You want that night bus that you took to school to start up again? Well join the movement!



How do you feel? Join our forum discussion online at torontoobserver.ca

The Occupy Toronto protests are weak so far. The emphasis on "everyone gets a voice" has not led to a unified, functional or well-represented group that is actually making strides into city hall to fix all that corporatism has broken. Instead, it has diluted the strength of the movement. The carnivalesque atmosphere allows spectators to make fun of the protest instead of joining it.

I'm all for a Canadian Spring. It's been far too cold in Toronto, especially in Scarborough. The initial hope was that Occupy Toronto would bring to light all the issues that not only downtown Toronto faces, but also its vital outlying suburbs. We need the

government to focus on getting reliable transit, not banning shark fin soup.

Apparently that's not the case. We have a University of Toronto campus in our neighbourhood teeming with young potential revolutionaries, but how many of them are downtown organizing and adding to the protest? Not very many at all — barely enough to make Scarborough's voice heard.

As much as we want to shut our eyes and beaver away in the hopes that someone will one day take notice, we can't afford to wait. Join the fight downtown already. What your children have been itching to participate in has already begun: a mass movement with a genuine message. Now it's your choice to turn it into something beneficial for your community.

~ Maryam Shah

Hockey is every culture's game

Leagues like the MHL make way for new talent

Canada can be defined by stereotypical entities like maple syrup, plaid shirts, Céline Dion and hockey. All can be enjoyed by anyone who enters our home and native land. Hockey, however, is commonly thought to be played by white Canadians.

The Scarborough Muslim community is breaking away from the stereotype. The Madina Hockey League (MHL) is a ball hockey league for Muslims, embracing traditional Canadian culture.

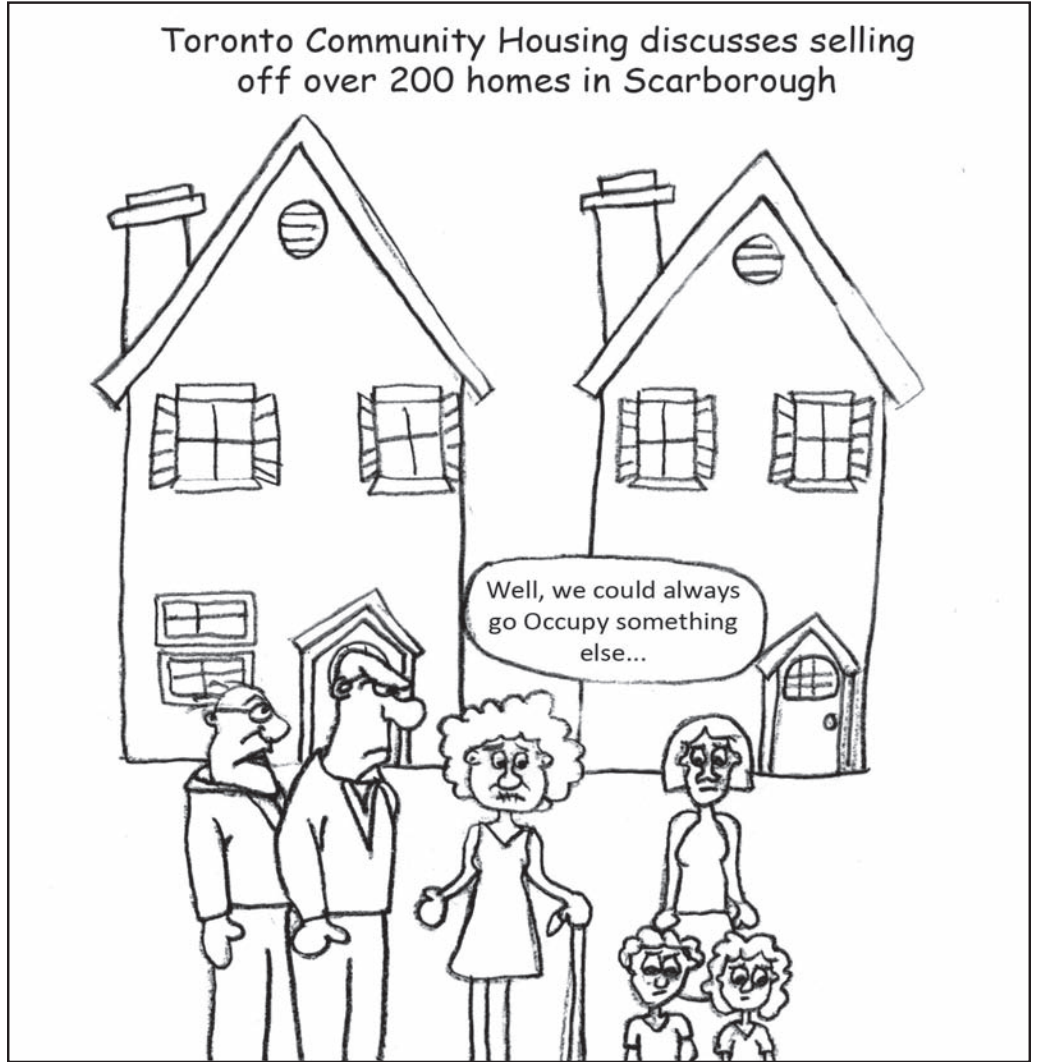
In the future, it would be incredible if there were more cultures involved with hockey.

It may be a white-dominated sport, but leagues like the MHL give others a chance to be part of the Canadian game while creating tight knit communities. Second and third generation Canadians are influenced by the powerful presence of hockey that surrounds their lives and naturally fall in love with the game.

One NHL player many Muslim youth look up to is Nazem Kadri — a young forward for the Toronto Maple Leafs, and a Muslim himself. As a London native, he broke away from the stereotypes and worked to be someone Muslim youth can look up to. Another Muslim NHL player is Justin Abdelkader, a forward for the Detroit Red Wings. Players like Kadri and Abdelkader provide a positive outlook for the hockey community worldwide, not to mention the Muslim youth who strive to be like them.

There are other hockey leagues in Canada that involve a variety of cultures, such as Chinese and Korean hockey leagues. No matter the colour of your skin or the religion you practise, once you put on your gloves and helmet, the game becomes all the matters.

~ Jessica Moy



Natalie Sequeira /// Observer

COLUMN

Time to lay out plans, Bay Street Occupiers

A couple of weeks ago, I received a text message from a friend of mine.

"Yamri! We should have gone to that Occupy Bay Street protest on Saturday...I'm looking at pics from protests around the world This is huge!!!"

"Let's see where this goes,

Yeamrot Taddese



I'm not too optimistic," I wrote back. "Also, one protester held a message written on his MacBook."

I want to be hopeful and excited about the Occupy movement but so far I haven't been all that enthusiastic. But my reasons are different from why many others attack the Occupiers.

Some opponents of the Occupy Toronto movements say the protesters and their demands are inane since Canada's economy is "in good shape." Just because Canadian banks haven't had a dramatic bailout like their U.S. counterparts, it does not mean they are headed in the right direction.

The Occupiers are correct in wanting to stop banks that report increasing profits but continue to pay Canadians the lowest interest rates on their savings as they possibly can. They are not mistaken about the growing gap between the rich and the poor. They are also right about believing there must be a different, fairer way to live.

The protesters are also criticized for not having one

unified opinion, but this is what democracy is supposed to be. People don't have to agree on everything to be on the same team. Revolutions are always murky; nothing that ever mattered started out clean.

If the protesters have to be condemned — and this is where my hesitance stems from — it should be for their lack of strategy. They know what they don't want, but they haven't been good at expressing what they do want. Occupy Toronto's tents, open library and quirky signage are all great but without some type of plan, it's hard for others to get on board.

If they don't put forward their goals, this large group of people from all kinds of professions and backgrounds will continue to be trivialized as a bunch of hippies who want to share everything.

But one thing is clear: many people in Toronto and around the world want to change the current state of the world's financial system. And anyone who doesn't have a recession-proof salary should not see the Occupy movement as wholly nonsensical.



Jessica Lee // Observer

A surfer rides the waves at the Scarborough Bluffs on Oct. 19. Though surfing is mostly known as a summer sport, in Toronto the waves are better in the fall and winter.

Lake Ontario waves sure aren't bluffing

By JESSICA LEE
Toronto Observer

On windy mornings in the fall at the Scarborough Bluffs, one may happen to see a group of neoprene-clothed surfers bobbing in the lake while waiting to catch a wave.

Occasionally, passersby will see a surfer riding a wave toward the shore.

"The waves aren't as powerful [compared to the ocean], but I was really surprised at how much power they did have and when I did actually catch a couple, it felt just like the ocean," Lou said, who did not want his last name used.

"Can I remain anyo-

nymous since I called in sick?" he asked.

For Lou, last week was his first time surfing in Lake Ontario, though he has been surfing for 15 years in Santa Cruz, San Francisco.

"What finally got me out here was Surf Ontario," he said.

"These guys had standup paddleboard lessons on Groupon, and I said, 'If I can't surf the way I used to surf, I might as well get out there [because] I love the water.'"

Despite the near sub-zero temperatures during this time of year, fall is the most popular time for surfing on Lake Ontario due to

the swelling of the waves. The surfers keep warm by wearing a head-to-toe neoprene wetsuit.

"Today [just] the wetsuit was fine," Lou said. "I could have used gloves to keep warm. I just needed the gloves because I stopped feeling my hands about 20 minutes in."

Lou wears a three-millimetre thick wetsuit. Suits can range from 1.5 millimetres to seven millimetres. Thicker wetsuits contain heat better. Some surfers even wear dry suits, which keep the body from getting wet while surfing.

"The good thing about the water is that it can't freeze, so it's got to be above zero," said Gavin Fregona, a 61-year-old retiree who spends his days

surfing and taking photos of the surfers to upload to his surfing website.

He said that with the right wet suit, a surfer can stay in the water for up to four hours, sometimes even more.

Mike Sandusky, surf instructor and owner of Surf Ontario says some surfers will surf all year around in Toronto.

"Surfing in the winter is quite awesome because either you're out in a snowstorm or it's after a snowstorm," he said.

[It can also get] really cold, minus five or minus 10 [weather] plus the wind chill. So you're going out when most people are trying to stay home or get home, so that's kind of neat."



Read more on this story in the Sports section at torontoobserver.ca

Ball hockey league bridges ice barrier for Muslims

By KYLE LARKIN
Toronto Observer

Sticks are clashing, players are yelling, shots ring off the boards and the buzzer sounds. It looks and sounds like your typical hockey game at the local arena, except for one minor detail — no one is white.

Canada's favourite sport hits centre ice on Saturdays as Muslim enthusiasts line the corridors at the Stephen Leacock Arena. Sixteen teams, composed entirely of Muslims, embody the Madina Hockey League (MHL), a ball hockey league for those age 15 and up.

But these aren't just pickup games of shinny. They're every bit as intense as one would expect a hockey game to be.

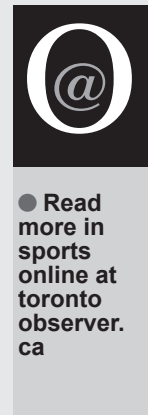
"Because ball hock-

ey is such a Canadian sport, the community in itself has been adapting more and more ever year," says MHL co-commissioner Safi Habib about the growing interest from the Muslim populace.

"The more the Muslim community grows, the one reason they choose this particular sport is because it's ingrained in our community and it's Canada's most popular sport."

Habib, a second generation Canadian who grew up loving hockey, played throughout the late '80s in the west end of Toronto.

After he met Waheed Mohammed in Scarborough, the two began networking with their friends. Eventually they found enough commitment to establish a serious league in 2008.



Read more in sports online at torontoobserver.ca



Kyle Larkin // Observer

Saleh Hafejee talks about ball hockey in the Stephen Leacock Arena on Oct. 22.

LINGUISTIC LARKS

Category
Capital Cities

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

Horizontal clues:
 O I P O
 K O O A O H
 A O O S
 K O O U

Vertical clue:
 Capital of Earth's largest island nation

By Kyle Larkin

Blue Devils down Lancers

Strong defence drives Sir Wilfred Laurier to finals

By KAYLA KREUTZBERG
Toronto Observer

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Blue Devils junior girls basketball team's consistent defence was enough to break down Agincourt Lancers offence to advance them to the Toronto District School Board east regional finals.

Loud chants and a put together warmup practice by the Lancers didn't faze the laid-back look of the Blue Devils. The final score of 52-

25 showed they knew what they were doing.

Coach Jen Parsekhian of the Blue Devils said she hopes to see this pattern continue when the Blue Devils go to the finals.

"Our defence wins our games and our defence has always been unbreakable,"

she said.

Before the start of the game, Parsekhian said she was looking for a strong defensive game with good team play.

Parsekhian got what she was looking for with the Blue Devils leading the Lancers 17-1 in the first quarter.

"I feel very pleased. I think the girls played a great game, strong defensive game, they took advantage of all the opportunities Agincourt gave us," Parsekhian said.

From the tip-off, the Lancers gained possession of the ball but it was quick turnover that propelled the Blue Devils to rack up the points on the board.

Lancers coach Jillian Fairclough said she talked to her team about intensity after the first quarter.



Read more on this story in sports at torontoobserver.ca

REVIEW

Choir delivers heavenly concert



Alex Kozovski // Observer

Choir members of various ages collaborate to perform a two-hour concert at St. Dunstan's of Canterbury church on Oct. 30.

Church hosts 2-hour concert

By ALEX KOZOVSKI
The Observer

Thirty minutes before the Young Singers choir took to the stage, the Scarborough community jammed into St. Dunstan's of Canterbury church. Jockeying at the doors hoping to snag a choice seat, the following restlessly anticipated the choir's first performance of the season. The line at the doors to the performance hall was huge, spilling outside.

The Young Singers made themselves worth the wait, putting on a celestial two-hour set on Oct. 30. Playing to a capacity crowd at the Scarborough church, it was the cast's first performance of many for their event calendar year. With members ranging in age from six to 20, the choir performed various cathedral classics, a Jewish jingle and even a cover

of Journey's "Don't Stop Believing".

Split into four age groups, the different ages rotated throughout the night, finally collaborating in a colossal choir of about a hundred to end the afternoon. The youngest group, the YoungER Singers, stole the hearts of the crowd, their pure tone projecting powerfully in the church hall. The oldest group, the Random Notes, showed off precision timing, heavenly vocal harmonies and angelic falsetto singers.

The organization's playing experiences include performing in Nashville at the Grand Ole Opry, in front of the Queen, the prime minister, and for the Toronto Blue Jays, Argonauts and Marlies.

The Young Singers are set to perform again at their annual Christmas concert held on Dec. 3 at Trinity Pentecostal Church.

■ For more, see Arts at torontoobserver.ca

Iconic play on at local theatre

BY ERICA TIANGCO
The Observer

The Scarborough Music Theatre (SMT) invites community members on a transcendent biblical tale of love, perseverance and family as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* makes its way to the stage.

Starting Nov. 3, the iconic play features a faithful adaptation of the tale of Joseph, son of Jacob.

Born the 11th and most favoured son, Joseph was thrown into a well and sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. Despite all odds, he overcame a life of imprisonment and became one of the most powerful men in Egypt.

Director Mario D'Alimonte has years of experience in directing different versions of the play.

He says the Scarborough community in particular is more than eager to see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* hit the stage.

"It's a huge crowd-pleaser, as is evidenced by the fact that this is the fastest selling show in the history of SMT," D'Alimonte said.

Todd Appleton, dentist by day and performer by night, is playing Joseph in the play. After getting a taste

of community theatre seven years ago, he admits he's hooked to the spotlight. For him, the play offers a sense of nostalgia.

"I remember my grade 7 music teacher introducing the class to the music of Joseph," Appleton said.

"He taught us the score and I really loved the music."

"Needless to say, playing Joseph has been a dream of mine for some time and I'm very excited," he added.

D'Alimonte says the production is "one of the great stories of the ages" and believes the tale can resonate with all guests, regardless of their faith.

"It's a story about family struggles, family tensions and family relationships. These are themes with which everyone can relate," he said.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat will hit the SMT stage from Nov. 3-19. Although tickets are now sold out, rush tickets may be available prior to each performance.

For more information, call 416-267-9292.



Read more at torontoobserver.ca



The Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra rehearses before the beginning of *An American in Paris* on Saturday night.

Scarborough Orchestra gives season premieres

By COLE CARRUTHERS
The Observer

The Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra's (SPO) composer-in-residence Alex Eddington premiered a musical piece he wrote while visiting the tornado-damaged shores of Lake Huron this past summer at the SPO's 32nd season kick-off concert *An American in Paris* on Saturday night.

"My fiancé is from that area, and 48 hours before the tornado hit we were booking and preparing for our upcoming

wedding," Eddington said.

The composition is entitled "Huron Antiphon" and involved the 70-piece orchestra along with the Red Brass Quintet.

"I wanted to give the audience the feeling that you are in the middle of the town square of Goderich that was devastated by the tornado and you'll know when the tornado strikes during the performance," Eddington said.

Not wanting to be outdone by Eddington, music direc-

tor and conductor Ronald Royer also offered a world premiere with "Concerto for Trumpets and Chamber Orchestra".

Apart from Eddington's new piece, Royer led the orchestra through compositions by Aaron Copland and George Gershwin.

"It's quite an enjoyable show, especially the original piece, the concept of using the space in that piece with the instruments all around you," said Joe Ranzetti, who attended an SPO performance for the first time.

Poet speaks to UTSC students

By COLE CARRUTHERS
The Observer

Patrick Lane can't understand what all the fuss is about Steve Jobs dying.

"So what? What about the person who invented the [birth control] pill? They changed the course of history more than him."

The 72-year-old poet/writer kept

the University of Toronto class of young adults hanging onto every word with practice and colour.

"He gave a very unfiltered view of the world, very real," said fourth-year English student Tim Boodram.

The *Collected Poems* of Patrick Lane, published by Harbour Publishing, is now in stores.



■ Lane