



LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO EAT
It's more than upset stomachs as Mother Teresa students suffer without a cafeteria - See page 5

BOO AT THE ZOO
Kids give a spooky preview at the Zoo's annual costume bash - See page 8



THE EAST TORONTO OBSERVER

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MATTHEW ALLEYNE/The Observer

Remembering the fallen

Retired merchant seaman Ray Cameron stands proudly before the Canadian flag. The World War II veteran and Scarborough resident spoke with The East Toronto Observer prior to Remembrance Day. See Page 3.

Scarborough in spotlight with Pan Am Games victory

University and city gear up to provide world-class athletic facilities, transit

PHIL SMALLEY
The Observer

Let the building begin. Now that Toronto has won the bid to host the Pan Am and Para Pan games in 2015, the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus has the green light to go ahead with plans to construct athletic facilities in East Scarborough, including a new aquatic centre.

"We can now look at something that is beyond what we even dreamed of," said UTSC principal Franco J. Vaccarino after the announcement on Nov. 6.

The local community will benefit from the new buildings even after the games with the world-class athletes are over, Vaccarino said.

"My dream is to have these high-end athletes swimming shoulder to shoulder with students and community members," Vaccarino added.

When the announcement was broadcast on Friday, only about a dozen people were present at Rex's Den eatery at the school, where festivities were to take place.

However, the news spread very quickly throughout the rest of University of Toronto that Toronto had won on the first ballot, with much hugging and celebration ensuing.

"The people are enormously proud and excited that the University of Toronto Scarborough has been chosen as one of the main locales for

the games," Vaccarino said. But the games will not be restricted to the school.

Plans for development were already in place before the bid, but the games present an opportunity for the university to act much more quickly.

"I am thrilled and overwhelmed, but we now have to step up the level of work," said Andrew Arifuzzaman, UTSC chief strategy officer.

The planned facilities are expected to encourage athletes to enrol in the university.

"It will allow the best athletes in the country to train here and get an education concurrently," said Arifuzzaman.

The games will also have an impact on the city's development plans for this area.

Ward 43 Councillor Paul Ainslie said he hopes the city makes the right decisions to ensure a successful event. Part of the city's obligation is to provide transportation for people to and from Scarborough. Ainslie said he wants to ensure that the planned Light-Rail Transit in Scarborough is put to good long-term use.

"Will the line turn in to an under-used white elephant after the games are over?" he asked. "The money saved by alternative methods could be used to increase bus usage in the area, as well as repair roads for motor vehicle use."

I am thrilled and overwhelmed, but we now have to step up the level of work
- Andrew Arifuzzaman

Long lines leave vaccination scars

IRINA LYTCHAK
The Observer

Almost a week ahead of schedule, the Scarborough Civic Centre was one of the first H1N1 vaccination clinics to open its doors on Oct. 26.

People began lining up as early as 4:30 a.m. in hopes of being one of the first to get their H1N1 vaccines.

"Because of the recent deaths, we moved up the clinics for priority groups only, that's why they were opened ahead of the scheduled dates," says Rishma Govani, media relations spokesman for Toronto.

Children, the elderly, and people with health concerns were encouraged to get their shots before the general public, but no one was turned away.

"It was a little bit touch-and-go, just because we have an honour system," says Govani in regards to people who aren't part of the high-risk groups showing up at the clinics. "Health officials were trying to get priority groups and we were really trying to encourage them into coming first. Since Saturday we've gotten really strict about it."

Govani says the large numbers of people lining up was not expected by Toronto

health officials.

"This was unprecedented. The panic either from the heightened media awareness or the death of a Toronto teenager really brought people out."

Clinic staff has been trying to manage the lineups and the average wait time has been decreased to about an hour and a half, Govani says.

"A lot of the chaos and confusion has been reduced. We're having additional staff, additional resources and working with the media to make sure that we have the correct messages and that people really understand who the priority groups are and

whether or not they qualify," she says.

Jhada Alwin got her H1N1 vaccine on the first day the Scarborough Civic Centre opened its clinic and she was back four days later for her son to get one as well.

"I am worried. I saw the news, many people have been dying, especially that 13-year-old boy, and it scared me a lot," Alwin says.

The vaccination clinics officially opened to the general public on Nov. 2.

For a video footage of the scene at the civic centre, visit torontoobserver.ca



IRINA LYTCHAK/The Observer

Hundreds of people line up outside the Scarborough Civic Centre last week to receive H1N1 flu vaccinations.

NEWS

We're going to fight back: Residents

Construction of weather station for turbines ignites fury among Guildwood residents

MONICA VALENCIA
The Observer

Residents thought it was gone with the wind, but they were wrong.

Toronto Hydro has started the construction of an anemometer, or weather station, which is slated for completion off the Scarborough Bluffs in about a month.

"[The] community is quite upset," said Sherri Lange, a founding member of Save the Toronto Bluffs. "We thought that putting the anemometer at this time of the year was too late. We suspected that the installation would happen next spring, if at all."

Lange said it seemed as if the subject had been dropped. She even received a letter from the minister of natural resources, which made her think her voice had been heard.

Fruitless efforts

"There's a profound amount of disappointment among residents because we put a lot of work into protesting and into asking for more environmental assessments," Lange said.

Several community groups, such as Save the Toronto Bluffs and Toronto Wind Action, wrote hundreds of letters to government officials on behalf of about 20,000 people from



MONICA VALENCIA/The Observer

Toronto Hydro is to build an anemometer 1.2 km off the Scarborough Bluffs, just west of East Point Park.

the area. Residents also wrote letters to Toronto Hydro asking for more details on the anemometer project, but they didn't get any concrete answers. Toronto Hydro only replied with "that's commercially sensitive information," Lange said.

"It's not acceptable that the turbine industry sacrifices a portion of the population for the benefit of the rest," she said.

Furthermore, Lange said, the bluffs will also be sacrificed. Scarborough's bluffs are an historical and ecological site that needs to be protected.

"In 10 years we'll realize what a terrible mistake we

made because calling wind energy an environmentally friendly technology is utterly false," she said.

Green alternatives

But not all agree with her. According to Joyce McLean, Toronto Hydro's director of strategic issues, Ontario's goal is to increase renewable energy supply and so a significant amount of green gases will be reduced.

"We need to collectively start thinking about ways that ensure our kids and grandkids will be able to survive in our planet," she said. "It's about seeing the long-term goal."

She also said anemometers pose no health threats. Guildwood's concerns were addressed in the studies done for the ministry of natural resources. If there were any side effects the project would have been declined, McLean explained.

Lange, however, said Toronto Hydro simply pursues a "vanity project." And the economy can't afford vanities now.

"We don't want more money to be spent on the anemometer when we totally reject turbines in Lake Ontario," she said.

But McLean said the device is only for wind energy research and there's no

current plan to propose a wind farm. "We're not proposing to build windmills. We're simply collecting data."

Wind data will be collected for two years and other factors will be studied, such as costs for construction and electricity grid connections.

The platform is going to be 1.2 kilometres off the bluffs. If results are satisfactory, a 60-turbine wind farm could stretch from Ajax to the Leslie Street Spit.

Residents, however, will continue to oppose the project with more protests and educational campaigns.

"We'll win this," Lange said. "We're going to fight."

No quick fix to be rid of the ash-borer

SELENA MANN
The Observer

Residents who want to protect ash trees from being infested with the emerald ash-borer on their property will have to use contractors licensed by the city.

Licensed contractors have to remove infested trees properly, and dispose of the wood at a government designated site, such as the one located at Transfer Place in Scarborough.

Expensive treatment

There is, however, a way to prevent trees from becoming infested with the insects by injecting a spray around the roots of the tree, but the treatment is quite expensive.

"You have to treat your trees with these chemicals every year and it's just a temporary fix; they're not even sure if you spend this money every year, you know \$800-\$900 a year, you would to treat a tree that it would work," said Ward 43 Councillor Paul Ainslie.

So far, there has only been one confirmed case on public property in the Guildwood area, but there have been some trees infested with the bugs on private property.

Infested trees have to be cut up into pieces through chipping.

Sunlight exposure also helps kill the insects, especially the larvae, which according to recent research done in the United States will prevent its spread to other trees.

Infested trees

Most trees found in the Guildwood area are ash, which puts the entire area at risk.

Insects have been spotted in trees in the Morningside and Sheppard Avenue area.

There are also some on private property in the Kingston and Galloway Roads area.

Trees can be given an injection of TreeAzin, a natural insecticide, to prevent them from becoming infested with the insects.

The vaccine is being administered by the federal government.

Residents who wish to protect trees on their property will have to pay the cost themselves.

For a video of Ainsley speaking on the issue, go to torontoobserver.ca

Music program aims to make life better

LAURA ROSS
The Observer

Good notes, bad notes and laughter drift up the stairwell from the basement of Scarborough Bluffs United Church, home of the area's Music program.

The program started piano, guitar, keyboard, rhythm skills and vocal classes for children in Grades 1 to 6 in the fall of 2006.

The classes cost between \$2 and \$7 per session and the money mostly goes towards paying the professional musicians teaching the classes.

It's a quality-of-life issue, music broadens perspective...

- Rosemary Galloway

Classes currently in session are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 4 and 6 p.m. Scarborough Bluffs Music is one of only a few such programs in the community. The program also offers summer sessions to the Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough and at the Malvern Family Resources Centre.

This not-for-profit community music program started out small, but with the help of sponsors, volunteers, donations and grants from the Toronto Arts Council, it has grown.

"Over the last three years, the word has gotten out," says Rosemary Galloway,



LAURA ROSS/The Observer

Guitar teacher Mark Sepic shares his knowledge with 9-year-old Kara Bharath.

program coordinator and head of the steering committee for Scarborough Bluffs Music. "We are now at full capacity in most classes except rhythm and vocal."

This shouldn't discourage parents who are interested in enrolling their children because the more interest that is shown in the program and classes the sooner

Scarborough Bluffs Music can offer more.

"It's a quality-of-life issue, music broadens perspective and has been proven to enhance learning capability in other areas," Galloway says. "Music is a huge part of daily life and it can be a hobby and a passion for children, if not a career."

One promising student in

the vocal class auditioned for and won the opportunity to sing the national anthem at a Toronto Marlies game. All classes are held at the Scarborough Bluffs United Church, located at 3739 Kingston Rd. To register for classes, call 416 266-8352.

For a preview of a piano lesson, go to torontoobserver.ca

Scholastic meeting falls flat

Apathetic attitude toward school activism in Malvern

AMANDA LY
The Observer

Concerned parents and teaching staff voiced their frustrations and displeasure with a hard-to-navigate and outdated education system at Malvern's Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC) meeting.

Notice of the meeting was sent out to most schools in the neighbourhood and posted at libraries, but only nine women, five men and two Grade 9 students showed up to Newcomer Services for Youth on Nov. 3, at 31 Tapscott Rd.

Assumptions

"We're quick to assume if things are going good or bad with our kids' education without knowing first," said Dionne Lewis, parent and member of ANC. "We don't go out to the schools to talk to the teachers. We need to make contact before we start to assume."

But parents are busy with their jobs, they're often intimidated by the school system or they think schools should do all the work when it comes to educating their kids. These were some of the insights revealed at the meeting.

Lloyd McKell, a representative from the Toronto District School Board, is well aware of this problem and says the board has set up pilot parent academy committees in select neighbourhoods. This concept was borrowed from the United States, but is tailored to suit Canadian needs.

If it's successful, more of them will show up in other neighbourhoods.

The Parent Advisory Committees work with community agencies and are meant to help build connections and break down barriers between parents, teachers and students.

During crucial transitioning periods, such as from Grade 8 to high school, high school to university, and newcomers who need to be integrated into a new style of education - there exists quite a lack of information and resources for parents to help their kids succeed, concerned parents said. Even when parents get involved, a rigid education system filled with bureaucratic red tape makes it nearly impossible for any change to happen.

Inconsistency

After immigrating to Canada from Sri Lanka, a mother is still having difficulties changing her daughter's ESL status. Though her daughter was taught English in Sri Lanka, speaks perfect English and has the highest marks in all her subjects, her report card status still lists her as ESL.

After talking to school administration several times, she's been told she must follow a specific process. So far, nothing has been done. It's been three years.

The information from the meeting will be shared with other groups from the ANC and other stakeholders, they said.

"It's very irresponsible for us to have these kind of meetings and have nothing coming from them," said Alex Dow, ANC coordinator.



AMANDA LY/The Observer

ANC members are frustrated by a lack of participation.



MATTHEW ALLEYNE/The Observer

Ray Cameron examines his Canadian Merchant Navy medals, earned during WWII.

Annual poppy campaign pinpoints fading patriotism

MATTHEW ALLEYNE
The Observer

At this time of year, you can find them on the lapels of many Canadians. Since 1921, the poppy has served as a symbol of remembrance, honouring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service for their country.

It has been 64 years since the last world war. With the passage of time, there are fewer and fewer to tell the story, said veteran Ray Cameron, who served in the Canadian Merchant Navy in WWII. And, he adds, even fewer people who remember that great sacrifice at all.

Since Confederation in 1867, approximately 116,000 Canadian soldiers have paid with their lives for the freedoms we have today, including 133 men and women who have died in Afghanistan.

"The poppy does not only honour my generation but

the generation of men and women serving in Afghanistan today," said Cameron, a member of Legion Branch 614 in Scarborough.

Cameron has worked tirelessly not only as a past chairman of his branch's poppy campaign, but also in a decade-long campaign to lobby the federal government to recognize merchant seamen as veterans.

"We were on the front-line along with the men in the Navy, but it wasn't until 1995 that we were formally recognized for the role we played in the war," Cameron said.

This past year, Canadian Veterans Affairs sent a letter of apology to merchant seamen and their families, and Cameron was a recipient of a 2009 commendation for service to his country during and after the war.

On Remembrance Day, Cameron can often be found

in local schools speaking to children not much younger than he was when he joined the merchant navy at the age of 17 in 1943.

"I once walked into a school, and handed a principal a box of poppies. She then turned to me and asked me, 'What do I do with these?'"

Cameron's experience is not an isolated one. He has heard stories from colleagues and cadets who are out on the streets distributing the poppies to passersby who did not understand what the poppy represents.

A TTC driver commented that this time of year in years past he remembers every passenger boarding would have a poppy, but today they are few and far between.

"Education needs to start in the schools," said Cameron. "It is hard to blame someone for not knowing if no one has ever told them."

Police modernize with text alerts

GESILA AZORBO
The Observer

The Toronto Police Service recently launched a public communications strategy called TPS Links, a text and voice message alert system designed to quickly get information out to the public. The initiative rolls out November 6, and is expected to enhance the way the police communicates with the public, in line with the constant evolution of communications technology.

"The police has to get on board with the rest of society as far as how we

communicate," said const. Gary Gomez.

The crime prevention officer for 42 Division said that a major part of society now relies on up-to-the-minute communication devices, which means the way information is sent out to the public has to be upgraded as well.

"A lot of kids get a cellphone and they don't talk to anybody, they just text. Because that seems to be the way our society is going, so Toronto Police has to get on board with that."

TPS Links is an automated notification service intended

to be used in communities across Toronto to send voice messages to landlines and text messages to cellphones in the event of situations such as road closures, school lockdowns, special events or to send out missing persons notifications.

The service is available by registering online at toronto-police.on.ca, or by picking up a hardcopy subscription form at a local police division.

The service is also a community alert tool, and is not specifically intended just for emergency purposes, Gomez said.

News Briefs

Beware of phone fraud: Cops

The fraud squad and 43 Division has alerted the public of a caller claiming to represent a bank, asking for the expiry date of credit cards and the three-digit security code located on the back, reports say. Police are asking those who believe they have fallen victim to contact their banks and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Call Centre at 1-888-495-8501.

Committees to close schools

The TDSB met Oct. 28 to approve the formation of eight review committees to determine which of 35 listed schools will be closed, consolidated or upgraded. The listed public schools in East Scarborough are: Highcastle, John Diefenbaker, Brooks Road, Chief Dan George, Joseph Brant Sr., William G Miller Jr., Eastview Jr., Peter Secor Jr., Heron Park Jr.

Suspicious activity spotted

A suspicious individual was seen taking photographs outside of West Rouge Jr. P.S. on Nov. 3. The person was in a purple or dark blue Chevy Impala at around 11:45 a.m. and is described as male, white, with longish brown hair, and was wearing tight blue jeans and a black bomber jacket. Residents are asked to call the police if they see a similar incident and are reminded to note the licence plate of the vehicle.

Movers being defrauded

Police from 43 Division are warning the public of some fraudulent moving companies. They report the companies have been targeting the South Asian community through advertisements online and in free newspapers. They quote a very low cost and get clients to sign a contract. It is alleged they raise their price halfway through the move and threaten to hold the client's property. Police are urging residents to contact the Better Business Bureau before they contract moving services.

Romance has *Nine* lives in new musical

RIMA RAMOUL
The Observer

Beguiling songs drifted out the theatre doors and entranced those who walked by.

Inside, the lights were dimmed except for those reflecting off the main stage, where the actors moved with grace, switching with ease from dialogue to song, and from song to dialogue.

It was yet another rehearsal for the cast of *Nine*, the latest musical put on by the Scarborough Music Theatre group.

It's been two months and the cast has been hard at work perfecting their acting and

singing skills.

The musical is based on the book written by Arthur Kopit and centres around Guido Contini, a film director struggling to come up with a brilliant idea for his next project. Adding to the pressure, he also attempts to juggle his wife and their crumbling marriage, his mistress Carla, the women associated with his latest film project and his numerous female fans.

A look into his past and his childhood holds the key to solving his troubles.

Nine is a musical with unique characteristics, like its large cast totalling 26 actors: 22 women, three children,



RIMA RAMOUL/The Observer

Rich Burdett is surrounded by the female cast of *Nine* as they rehearse before their opening night on Nov. 5.

and one man.

"The competition for this show was impressive," said Mike Scott, co-producer of *Nine*.

"We had about 80 women come out for the 22 roles, and

six men for the single male role."

For their initial audition, actors were asked to prepare two songs and a monologue.

"Having two prepared gives them the chance to

choose the one they best feel demonstrates their voice but also gives the music director a chance to hear something different if he doesn't feel that the one they chose best demonstrates what he needs

to hear," said Scott.

Nine is now playing at the Scarborough Village Theatre, at the corner of Kingston and Markham Roads.

For more information, visit theatrescarborough.com.

Budget-friendly do-it-yourself weatherproofing

KAREEN AWADALLA
The Observer

With the winter chill falling upon us, heating bills are inevitably heating up.

There are, however, inexpensive ways for homeowners to weatherproof their homes without feeling the heat, so to speak. A few simple do-it-yourself tricks and tips can help lock winter's harsh climate out of your home.

Hardware stores, like Home Depot, supply the necessary tools required to seal homes off from unwanted drafts and leaks.

Homeowner Amine Elsemine has had experience in weatherproofing his home and says people should prioritize the main source of their air leaks.

"It's impossible for me to do everything so I start with the one that will have the most impact," he says. "For

me, the most important is my ceiling."

Hot air rises, Elsemine explains, so look to your attic as the main source of heat escaping. That's why he says most people look into insulating this area of their homes.

Next, he says, check your windows.

"When you look at your windows, they always install caulking. Sometimes the caulking will crack and that means the air will go through

and into your house, so check and make sure no caulking is missing around the perimeter of the window."

If windows are your problem, re-caulking can be an inexpensive alternative to replacing them with higher efficiency ones.

A window sealing kit can offer similar relief by taping a plastic seal around the perimeter of your windows and putting a hair dryer to the surface. The heat will shrink the

plastic, sealing out air leaks.

To find out where cold air is coming in, Elsemine suggests taking a draft detector to the bottom of doors, light switches and outlets. Draft detectors emit a harmless smoke that can signal a leak by its movement.

Based on the result of the draft test, you can look into other inexpensive fixes like a weather seal or sweep for the door frame, as well as weatherproof outlet foam insulators

which fit nicely under switch or plug covers.

"The house is like a box, whatever goes out is wasted," said Elsemine.

Ultimately, if you are really looking to reduce energy costs this winter, Elsemine strongly recommends investing in a programmable thermostat.

"This will reduce fuel consumption when people aren't in the home or while they are sleeping."

New Lions Club garden springs up on Kingston



Courtesy of West Hill Highland Creek Lions Club

Lions Club president Marius Ois stands with Coun. Ron Moeser, far right, at the Oct. 17 opening of the garden.

GESILA AZORBO
The Observer

It was the culmination of a group effort involving local businesses and community members: unveiling the new West Hill Highland Creek Lions Club Garden on Oct. 17.

"A lot of the money required for the project was donated by local businesses all over our geographic area," said Melanie Goldhar, the club's secretary.

She said the club had been looking for an area within their district to beautify when they decided on the traffic island at the intersection of Kingston and Old Kingston Roads.

Marius Ois, president of the West Hill Highland Creek Lions Club, was project manager, and Lions Club members laid the sod, planted the

garden and intend to maintain it in the future.

They decided on that spot because "it didn't have an upbeat, welcoming kind of feeling as you drove in," said Goldhar.

On the list of criteria for the project was that it be property owned by the city that needed renovating.

She said the location was important to the club because it felt that people driving on Kingston Road saw only the nondescript traffic island, which left the biggest impression, as opposed to the beauty of Highland Creek Village, with the ravine behind the University of Toronto Scarborough campus and the Melville Presbyterian Church.

"We've got one of the most beautiful things in Scarborough just a few feet away,

but most people don't see it because they're driving on Kingston Road and not Old Kingston Road."

The club's latest project, a garden complete with park benches and a park sign, was two years in the planning.

According to Goldhar, part of the reason it took so long was the time spent waiting for the required permits and approval from the city.

"Our councillor, Ron Moeser, helped us with the city," she said.

"And the city staff were very supportive and helpful. We just had a lot of cooperation from everybody. We kind of used the skills that we had within our own club."

These included the talents of club president Ois, a landscape architect. Local nurseries and landscape companies, as well as club members

donated plant materials and money.

The cooperation paid off when people in the area responded positively to the club members' efforts.

"You won't believe the number of comments we've had from people about it, how uplifting it is, and how wonderful it is that we've made this spot so beautiful," said Goldhar.

She also said club members were surprised at how willing people were to go out of their way to comment on their progress, but were glad that their work was making such a good impression on the residents of the immediate area.

"We were all a little surprised and of course very pleased that it would be so noticed by people who live right on Kingston Road."



KATRINA ROZAL/The Observer

For lunch every day, most students leave this cafeteria behind for the 10-minute walk to the Malvern Mall. Options for the students are mostly limited to fast-food franchises.

Empty cafeteria, empty stomachs

No eatery at Mother Teresa high school raises safety concerns for students leaving property for lunch

BY LAUREN HUMMEL
and KATRINA ROZAL
The Observer

Class is about to end and your stomach is growling. The bell rings and you race out of the room. You meet up with your friends for lunch. Today, mom didn't pack you one, so you have to buy it.

But the school's cafeteria is closed.

So, you walk 10 minutes to the Malvern Mall for something to eat. The choices: McDonald's, Taco Bell, or New York Fries. The same choices you've had for the past year. The line-ups are long and you only have 40 minutes until your next class.

Of course, you don't make it in time for third period. After getting the 10th late slip and another detention, you think to yourself: When will the school's cafeteria open again?

The scoop on safety

For the past year, Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School has been operating without a cafeteria for students, contrary to Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) policy.

Parents have raised safety concerns over students leaving school property during lunch.

Annette Farrell, parent of a Mother Teresa

student and president of the parent council, said students have to go off school property to get lunch, either at home or at the Malvern Mall.

In the third week of September, her son was mugged on his way back to school from having lunch at home.



CAREY

Three students and Farrell's son were walking on McLevin Ave. when five men approached them. They demanded the students stop and empty their pockets.

The students complied and suffered no injuries. The suspects, who took the students' cell phones, were about 25 years old.

"I had to leave work. I was panicked. I was scared," Farrell said. "When I get a call that my son got mugged, the first thing that started to go through your head is that your child got hurt."

"That's the danger," Farrell said. "As a parent if you're not home, most of the time you'll give the child money."

Farrell's older son attended Mother Teresa six years ago. At that time, students were prohibited from leaving the school or going to the Malvern Mall.

Now with no cafeteria services provided, students are allowed to leave school property to eat.

These students have only about 40 minutes for lunch. Without the cafeteria, students must

What's next

- The school will continue building a report from prospective food service providers.

- The new principal, Steve Carey, did not specify a timeline for the report's completion.

- The parent council for Mother Teresa is meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10 to discuss the school's cafeteria options.

walk to the Malvern Mall, which is 10 to 15 minutes away. Many end up being late for class after lunch.

"There's no caf services, so everyone's always late after lunch and stuff," one student said.

In order to operate in schools, food service providers must engage in a bidding process with the board and the prospective school.

In Mother Teresa's case, the school has been trying to investigate the best providers with regards to nutrition, pricing, and feasibility.

Once the school has decided on a service

provider, a contract is written between the two parties that may be annually renewed.

"We want to get the best possible provider that going to meet the needs of the kids," said Stephen Carey, principal at Mother Teresa.

Carey has only been on the job for about a week. His predecessor, Wendy Agnew, left the school after only six weeks to become a justice of the peace.

"I've seen a lot of different companies do it and do it well," Carey said. "We just want to find the right fit."

According to TCDSB policy, "nutritionally sound and varied food services at favourable prices will be provided in the secondary schools in existing facilities."

Mother Teresa's facilities include two walk-in refrigerators, one walk-in freezer, and several cooking and frying areas.

The TCDSB could not be reached for comment as to why food services stopped last year.

"Mother Teresa is overlooked, because Mother Teresa is so stigmatized," Farrell said. "I send my first son there, I send my second son there, and if I have 10 more kids, I'll send them to Mother Teresa."

-With files from Amanda Ly

To listen to an excerpt of Annette Farrell's interview, visit torontoobserver.ca.

The winds of change stall

When Toronto Hydro announced on Oct. 23 it had approved building a wind research platform on Lake Ontario, it was supposed to be a vital step toward the development of sustainable energy in the province.

But since then, opposition and uncertainty have left these accomplishments up in the air.

The gang-up on Deputy Premier George Smitherman by Ontario cabinet ministers in a meeting last Wednesday prevented a bid by Samsung to build wind turbines in Ontario. This has not only disrupted building progress, which was slated to begin last week a few kilometres off the Scarborough Bluffs, but it has also exposed the lack of legitimate planning in the entire project.

But the most glaring example of this underestimation of the process is most apparent in the media coverage, which has translated into a lack of general knowledge about wind energy altogether.

Of course the role of a newspaper shouldn't be to provide every single detail, but it should give a clear-cut understanding of all the processes involved. This means not just stating that wind turbines may cause whatever health problems, but actually saying what those negative effects are.

After speaking to concerned residents of Guildwood and local politicians, the most obvious problem is the lack of understanding about the process the government is seemingly jamming down their throats.

However, this doesn't exclude individuals from doing their own research.

Though debate will always reverberate in the issue of wind energy's benefits, it shouldn't omit those affected from pulling their own weight in how they relate to the matter.

Anyone who cares about how their energy will be handled in the future should take the initiative to educate themselves about the factors affecting wind energy.

Unlike energy normally wasted on everyday activities, time spent understanding what will affect our future is no different than the resources necessary to make a grand operation such as this work.

— Tevy Pile

Looking for a place to play in West Hill

Playgrounds. Skateboarding parks. Basketball courts. That's what locals wish they had more of in their area.

At affordable housing consultations, residents complain about the lack of recreational centres. They say if young people had more places where they can play sports or take part in extracurricular activities, crime rates would decrease. Residents also worry for the safety of their children who often have to play behind buildings where gang members meet. If there were more sports centres, children would certainly be in a safer environment.

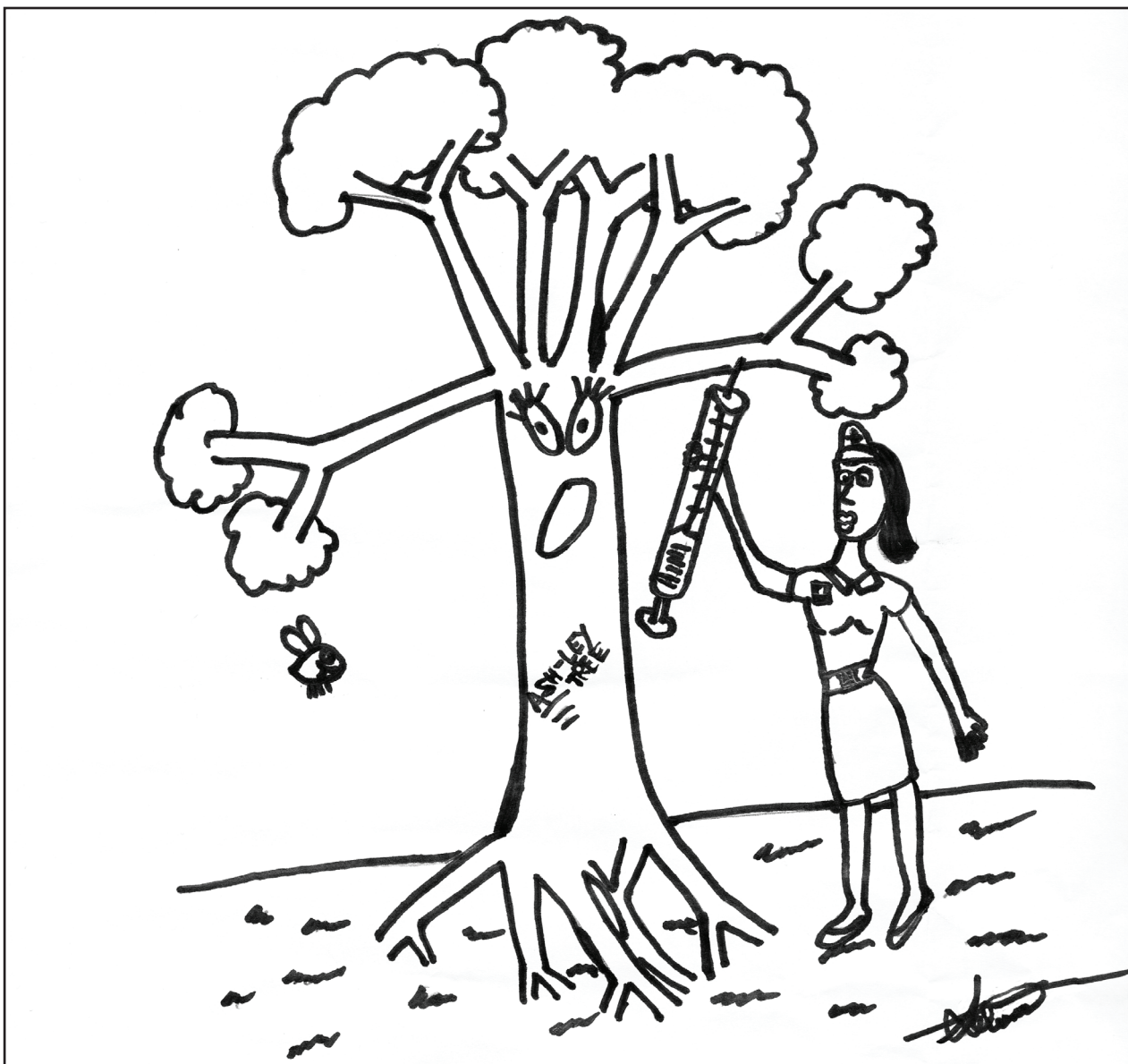
Furthermore, West Hill residents' organizations say community centres are not close enough to buildings. People are forced to walk long distances, or take transit to access their community centres.

As a result, these long commutes tend to discourage families from enrolling their children in activities. An increase in the number of community centres, or at least better locations for them, would ensure children have an equal chance to develop social and athletic skills.

Another facility that would be greatly welcomed by the community is skateboarding parks. Children are seen skateboarding in parking lots, which is too dangerous. A few local agencies, such as Action for Neighbourhood Change and West Hill Services already plan to advocate skateboard parks. They started talking to youth in the community so they can petition for such a facility.

And what about the \$373,000 Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker found dormant in a bank account? That money was saved for park beautification and restoring playgrounds, but now councillors have other uses for it. Residents and De Baeremaeker, however, want that money to be spent on what it was originally intended for: the children in Scarborough.

— Monica Valencia



SELENA MANN/The Observer

NEWS ITEM: The H1N1 vaccine is being distributed to people, while there is another vaccine available to protect trees from the emerald ash-borer outbreak.

To make a real imprint on society we must challenge convention

There are two types of people in this world. Those who are content with their situation and happy to float through life observing and reacting. And those who take decisive action and feel they are destined to change their future.

Journalists sometimes get caught up in the first group, passively observing and commenting on what is going on in front of them. On the surface this is a good thing, since journalists can't report objectively if they're putting their own opinions into the story, right?

Wrong.

There's no way to be a completely objective storyteller. Sure, you can be fair and balanced by using sources from all sides, but even then the quotes selected and the way the story is written is a mixture of experiences and attitude. These preferences are formed over time and through experience — these preferences make someone who they are.

A person is also a combination of learned and inherent ability. Perhaps someone greatly involved in studies chose that path due to familial, cultural or even social stresses. There are countless



Phil SMALLEY

Journalists can't possibly know the entire story until they step out on the street and apply what is learned

examples of people who are excellent musicians and artists, or great business people and lawyers. Look carefully and these could be the sons and daughters of others in the same fields.

Then watch the paths people take

to learn things. There are two separate schools that intertwine to establish strengths and weaknesses: life-experience and institutional learning. We can only learn so much from a book that is taught or read to us. We can't possibly know the entire story until we step out on the street and apply what is learned. And the same can be said for life experience. How can anyone know anything about chemistry before first cracking open a book and looking at the established theories and principles in the field?

I admire the people who have the courage to break out of these moulds and make an imprint on society or to those around them. They always seem to be willing to challenge convention and sometimes authority, because they know that what they believe in is right.

People used to push boundaries, espousing social justice and opening the eyes of the world to change.

Now it just seems the majority are content to float on by, just doing what they were taught and resting on their laurels and past accomplishments, journalists included.

The East Toronto OBSERVER

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SPORTS

Sports Briefs

Local ballers set for NCAA season

NCAA Div. 1 basketball begins next week with two players from east Scarborough on the rosters. Kaylan Anderson and Papa Oppong will be playing for Wisconsin-Milwaukee and East Kentucky respectively.

Chris Stewart shines in NHL

Chris Stewart, who attended West Hill CI, was recently called up from the AHL by the Colorado Avalanche. He has earned five points in six games and scored the game-winning goal against the Detroit Red Wings Oct. 24.

Pope John Paul II wins Colts Classic

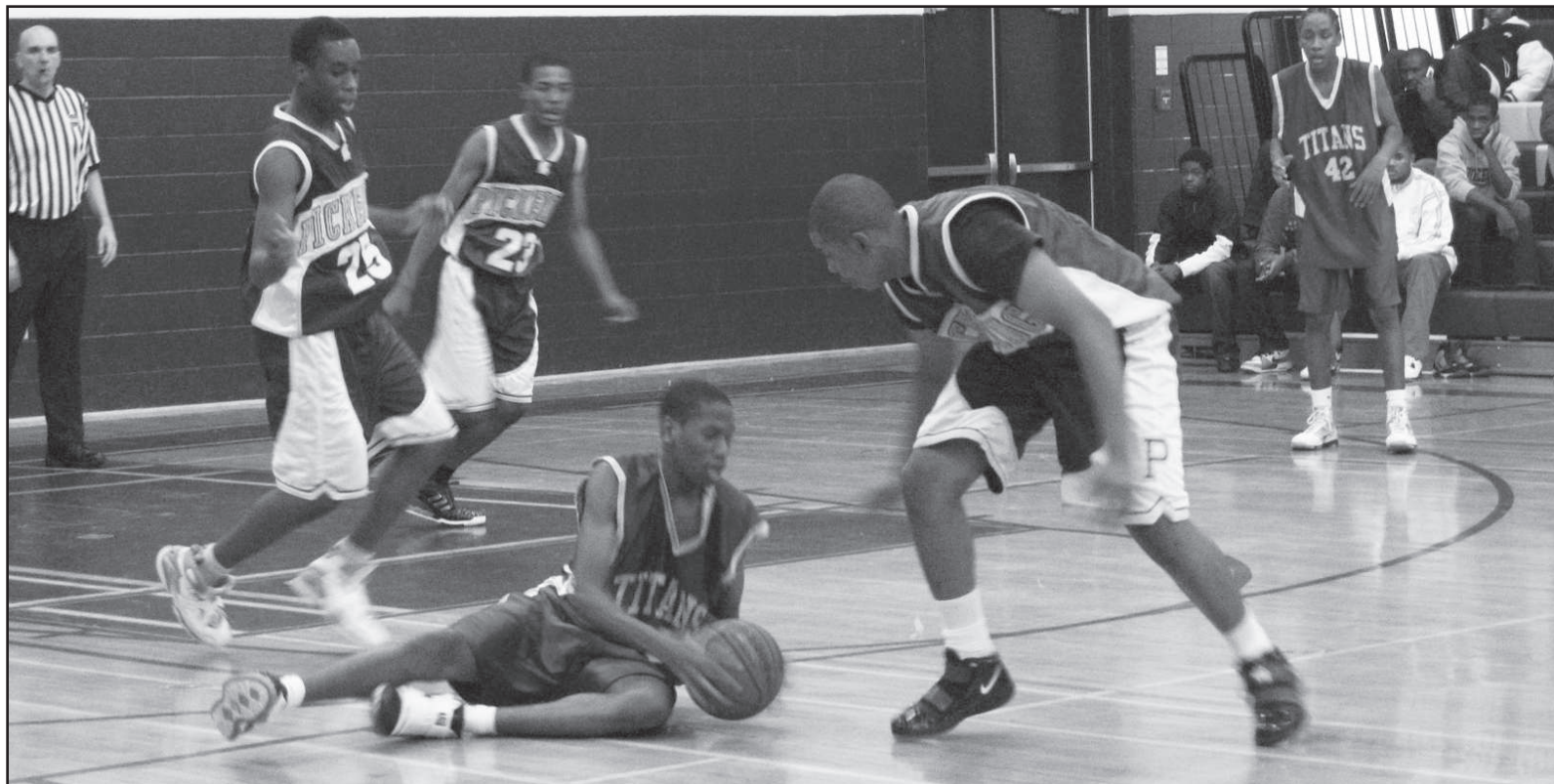
Pope's senior girls basketball team won the annual Centennial Colts Classic this past weekend after a 60-41 victory over Thomson CI. They beat St. Edmund Campion 48-41, and Father Goetz in 47-29 in the playoffs.

Mowat does well at championship

Mowat CI. earned third place in the midget boys event and fourth place in midget girls at the TDSB cross country championships on Oct. 27. Amanda Hummel finished third in the midget girls 3110 m in 14:12.99.

Titans star picks prep school

Heavily recruited basketball player Maurice Walker has chosen to attend Brewster Academy after a successful season as Mother Teresa's star centre last year. He was also recruited by NCAA schools such as Pittsburgh.



STEPHANIE LEUNG/The Observer

Blessed Mother Teresa and Pickering High players fight for the ball in their first exhibition game of the season. Mother Teresa lost 62-59.

Titans lose heartbreaker in opener

STEPHANIE LEUNG
The Observer

Blessed Mother Teresa students filled the gym to watch their junior boys basketball team fall short on home court 62-59 in overtime in their first game of the season against Pickering High School on Oct. 30.

Ten seconds before the end of regulation, Mother Teresa

was leading 55-53, but Stefan Sani of Pickering scored a basket to tie the game, bringing it into overtime.

Ose Akioyamen, Mother Teresa's captain, led the team with 17 points while Donelle Munda earned 19 points and a three-pointer for Pickering.

"We were so close," Akioyamen said. "We just have to keep our heads up and we'll improve."

Both teams were aggressive throughout the game, but Mother Teresa had consistent setups and scored on most attempts.

Close game

The score between both teams was very close throughout the first half, always within two or three points apart. Mother Teresa

was up four points going into the second, leading 29-25. Pickering led most of the second quarter, but Mother Teresa retained the lead again near the end of the game until Pickering's Sani tied it.

Many of the players on Mother Teresa are in Grade 9 and it's their first time playing on a high school basketball team.

"The loss is a learning

experience for them," Mother Teresa coach Bob Clement said. "Pickering is a very tough opponent."

Clement said some of the players were nervous because of the number of students who showed up to watch the game. He tells his players to stay calm when the pressure is on.

For video of the game, visit torontoobserver.ca

Birchmount defeats O'Connor

Players from Birchmount Park CI bring down a Senator O'Connor player Thursday at Birchmount Stadium. Despite O'Connor scoring a touchdown just before half-time, it wasn't enough to win the game, and Birchmount ended up trouncing the team 28-6. This continues Birchmount's unbroken streak of 6 wins, placing them at the top of the eastern division of the South/West Senior region.



ANTHONY GEREMIA/The Observer

Scoreboard

November 3

SR. GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Mother Teresa40
Marshall McLuhan.....35

PopeJohnPaul II74
St Patrick's37

Agincourt27
Mowat22

Laurier45
Woburn44

Mowat29
Churchill22

JR. GIRLS' BASKETBALL
Laurier70
Macdonald34

West Hill25

Macdonald20

SR. BOYS' VOLLEYBALL
Wexford2
Laurier0
(28-26, 25-22)

November 2

SR. GIRLS BASKETBALL
Pope John Paul II69

Notre Dame23

SR. BOYS' VOLLEYBALL
Laurier2
West Hill0
(26-24, 25-22)

JR. BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

West Hill2
Laurier1
(25-21, 21-25, 15-10)

October 30

SR. BOYS' FOOTBALL

Senator O'Connor27
West Hill0

Birchmount Park48
Laurier10

Submit your scores: Phone 416-289-5000, ext. 8306.

Free swimming at high schools

The following pools will be open for lane swimming this fall: Sir Oliver Mowat CI, Tues. and Thurs. 8:15-9:30 p.m.; Sir Wilfred Laurier, Wed. and Fri. 6:30-8 p.m.; West Hill CI, Mon. and Thurs. 8:30-9:30 p.m.



Boo at the Zoo, an annual event, attracted dozens of kids on Halloween. Children dressed as dinosaurs, pirates, witches, ducks and piles of leaves were able to see the animals while trick-or-treating through the zoo.



Photos by
MATTHEW ALLEYNE

For more photos visit torontoobserver.ca