

ZOMBIES AWAKEN

■ Scary faces in Scarborough places: zombie dress-up day at Malvern Library
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Kyle Larkin /// Observer

Last charge of the Black Knights

Malvern Black Knights punt returner, Kiel Ambursley, pushes along the edge late in the fourth quarter. The Black Knights lost 28-1 to the Senator O'Connor Blues in the east region finals at Esther Shiner Stadium last Thursday. See story on page 7

East meets west

New transit line for Scarborough

By CHANTELLE HENRIQUES
The Observer

Faster transportation. Reliable service. Comfortable commute.

These are some of the things the Eglinton-Scarborough Crosstown promise to provide to transit users.

The Crosstown began construction last week. It will be a 25-kilometre long light rail transit (LRT) line operating between the Scarborough Town Centre and Jane St./Black Creek Dr.

Crosstown is funded by Metrolinx, which says the line will make commuting less of a drag for Scarborough riders.

"We estimate it takes 45 minutes to travel from Scarborough Town Centre to Jane Street," Metrolinx spokesperson Drew Davidson said.

The new LRT will operate like a subway, travelling underground away from traffic, but the stops are farther apart, meaning faster commuting times.

In addition to the Crosstown being launched, the Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) will be rebuilt, allowing commuters to reach the downtown core faster.

"It will be connected to the underground Eglinton line which will allow riders starting their journey in Scarborough to have a quick one-seat ride across town," Davidson said.

Davidson agreed the project would pose some challenges.

While rebuilding it means shutting down the SRT, Davidson said it would remain in use until after the Pan Am games in 2015.

The project funded by the province of Ontario and Metrolinx, is estimated to cost \$8.2 billion over a 10-year span. Construction began in the summer of 2011 and the estimated completion date is 2020.

Penguin 'bromance' goes viral

By YEAMROT TADDESE
The Observer

Any story that involves two adorable penguins in love is bound to be an attention-grabber. Add the words "gay" and "separation" to that equation and you have a lurid international saga.

After the *Toronto Star* broke the news about the Toronto Zoo's plan to split a "gay" African penguin couple to mate them with females, the international media jumped on the story like bees to honey.

The story was not just about a zoo's move to save the endangered penguin species, but about a couple being "wrenched out of each other's embrace," as the UK's *Daily*

Mail put it.

The zoo, however, never proclaimed the penguins, Buddy and Pedro, as "gay."

"That term doesn't really work in the zoology world," zoo chair Joe Torszok said.

Buddy and Pedro's relationship, he said, is "complicated — but they are clearly in a loving relationship of some sort."

Torszok added that, in fact, one of the penguins previously had a female mate.

Buddy and Pedro's story was also picked by *Time Magazine*, CNN and Huffington Post. The two penguins are also the subject of a sensational Taiwanese animation created by NMA TV.

The coverage, the zoo's chair says, has helped raise awareness about the extinction of the African penguin species.

"Now the whole world is aware how [the African

penguins'] population is dropping, and we collectively need to step up conservation efforts for this particular species of penguin," Torszok said.

Torszok added that it's

no wonder why the story is getting so much attention.

"At the most basic level, it is an incredibly cute story about some engaging and downright

adorable animals," he said, adding that he is not sure the story would have received the same reaction if it involved sloths instead of penguins.



James Wattie /// Observer

The Toronto Zoo's decision to split two 'gay' African penguins and mate them with females has attracted the attention of the international media.



● Read more on this story in the news section on torontoobserver.ca

Honeywell plant closes down

Workers struggling to find new jobs, worried about future

By MARYAM SHAH
The Observer

Mario Garofalo laughed when someone joked about how he's named after a videogame. He grew sombre when he talked about being laid off by Honeywell this year.

"February, they gave us these jackets as a gift for saying great job, and all that," he said. "In March 2010 they announced they're closing the plant."

Honeywell is a large corporation with several manufacturing plants in Canada. One of them is a model to clients who came from all over the world to see its remarkable results and the speed at which workers acquired them.

The plant will officially close in December this year. Two hundred and sixty people, some close to retirement, lost their jobs.

External communications director Bruce Anderson said the factory's capabilities would be moved to other Honeywell facilities.

"The plant is not moving and this was not a reflection of the performance at that facility," he said. "We have been providing support to the affected employees throughout the almost 22-month transition."

"They let us know that it was better for them to move it to Asia or closer to their customers," Garofalo said, who worked at the plant for 14 years. He is still searching for a job.

Former employees said they



Maryam Shah // Observer

Mario Garofalo lost his job after 14 years of working at the Honeywell plant on Dynamic Drive. He, along with others of Honeywell, so far cannot find a job that pays as well.

have little to support them after being laid off. A union fight gave them two weeks of severance pay for each year they worked there. A support group has formed with the help of a local union: the Honeywell CAW (Canadian Autoworkers) Action Centre.

"It gives us a space for people to meet, keep in touch, use computers, apply for employment in-

surance," Garofalo said.

Maureen Telford, a mom, was looking for part-time work during the holiday season when she got a job on the assembly line at the Honeywell plant. It was 1976 and the plant was located on Ellesmere Road at the time. With over 2,000 employees and a parking lot so big it had its own gas bar. Everyone still treated each other like family.

"We knew from when people had newborns right up to when they went to university," Telford said.

She worked at the plant non-stop until an illness hit a few years

ago, requiring her to live on sick pay.

She officially retired before the plant closed, and currently helps workers who are looking for a second career and re-education.



● For more on this story, please visit us online at torontoobserver.ca

Youth given HOPE

Skills Link Canada funds job placements and help youth return to school

By NATALIE SEQUEIRA
The Observer

More than 40 youth in Scarborough will receive job training and work placements next year thanks to funding from the federal government for the Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough's pre-employment HOPE program.

"For many young Canadians, making the transition to the job market is a challenge, especially in today's environment," Roxanne James, MP for Scarborough Centre, said in a press release

Nov. 9.

"That's why our government is creating opportunities for youth to succeed through support for initiatives like the ... HOPE project."

It started as a pilot program last November. Twenty-four participants signed up for three-week workshops, where they learned about time management and communication, in addition to resumé basics. They were then enrolled in work placements for eight weeks.

"We started [the program] because we recognized that there's a need to continue

our work with youth," said Howard Moriah, manager of youth and community outreach services at the club.

"[We] realized we need to ... address some of the barriers they face."

The HOPE project is one of the initiatives funded by the federal Skills Link Program.

Skills Link helps Canadians between the ages of 15 and 30 who have "barriers to employment" including single parents, people with disabilities, recent immigrants, Aboriginal youth and those who have dropped out of school.

HOPE facts

- 40 Scarborough youth, ages 15-30, will receive hire help next year.
- 20 of 24 participants will receive "remarkable" jobs.

Bail hearing set for man accused of balcony falls

By YEAMROT TADDESE
The Observer

The Scarborough man accused of throwing his two children and their mother from a balcony is scheduled to appear in court for a bail hearing on Nov. 24.

Daniel Freudman, a student who was in court Nov. 10 representing Jerome Stephenson's lawyer, told the court the defence counsel was not prepared for a bail hearing on that day when the accused appeared at the Ontario Court of Justice in Scarborough.

Stephenson, 27, was arrested on Nov. 5 after police responded to a 911 call about a two-year-old, an eight-month-old and their mother being thrown from a fourth-floor balcony at 550

Scarborough Golf Club Rd.

Wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, an unshaven Stephenson walked into the suspect box.

He is facing nine charges, including three counts of attempted murder.

The children's mother is reported to be either married or in a common-law relationship with Stephenson.

Outside the courtroom, Robert Greig, the investigator in the case, said the two children are recovering at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. "They are alive, they are improving," he said, adding he could not get into any details.

Crown attorney Jerry Brienza told reporters outside the courtroom that it's not rare for defence counsels not to show up to court on court dates.

■ For more of the story, see torontoobserver.ca



NEWS FLASHES

Miracle twins turn 18

Palvasha and Farishta Normohamad were born 18 years ago, four months premature and each weighing less than a kilogram.

They were delivered at Scarborough Centenary Hospital, now Rouge Valley Centenary, on Nov. 14, 1993, without lung capacity or the ability to eat on their own.

The young women celebrated their birthday by visiting Dr. Tanya Williams, who helped deliver the pair, at her office in Scarborough Monday.

Local soccer star up for award

Dwayne De Rosario, formerly of Toronto FC, has been named one of the three finalists for Major League Soccer's MVP award.

The other two players up for the award are Brad Davis of Houston Dynamo and Brek Shea of FC Dallas.

Rosario led the league in scoring and was ranked fourth in assists.

Councillors block storage facility on Lawrence

Scarborough councillors have agreed to keep a local property owner from turning a vacant commercial building in the Kingston-Galloway area into a storage facility.

Coun. Paul Ainslie led the charge and told the owners they can appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

The two-storey building on 4121 Lawrence Ave. E. has two dental offices, but the rest is unoccupied.

Mike Del Grande, Ward 39 councillor, suggested a public meeting be held regarding the property.



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

Scientology comes to Scarborough

Controversial group opens another Toronto facility

By MERSIHA GADZO
The Observer

An organization that has drawn protests in other parts of Toronto has launched a location in Scarborough.

On Nov. 12, Scarborough's first and Toronto's fourth Church of Scientology opened at Neilson Road and McLevin Avenue in Malvern. It joins churches on Yonge Street and Broadview Avenue. A church on Danforth Avenue had closed earlier.

Attending the outdoor opening ceremony were about 70 people, including Scarborough-Rouge River MPP Bas Balkissoon.

The site was opened by Dr. Sheridan Cyrus, the Scarborough location's mission holder (the local congregation's leader).

It was seeing his wife's fears disappear after a few hours of counselling with the Church of Scientology that got Cyrus interested in Scientology, he said.

She had a plethora of unexplained fears, he said. For example, his wife wasn't able to walk on sidewalks because she had a deep fear of earthworms, he said.

But after undergoing counselling with the Church of Scientology, his wife dramatically changed for the better, Cyrus said.

The Scarborough opening is exciting for the church, said Pat Felske, director of special affairs.

"We've been waiting for this day for quite some time. There's a lot of people out there and they need help, and that's what we can do with this mission."

Other locations in Toronto have been the subject of protests, with a demonstration against the church planned by a group that calls itself Anonymous for Saturday at the Yonge Street location.



Mersiha Gadzo photos // Observer

Musicians performed at the the opening of Scarborough's first Church of Scientology in Malvern on Nov. 12. Special guests attending included MPP Bas Balkissoon.

But opposition in Scarborough has been quiet and the opening took place without protest.

Malvern residents interviewed in the area were unaware a Church of Scientology was opening and appeared indifferent to it once they were informed.

A worker at the Malvern Presbyterian Church said she did not want to comment on the nearby opening and the reverend at the Church of the Nativity on Neilson Road couldn't be reached for comment by deadline.

Saroma Baillie, 29, a Malvern resident who attended the opening, said she joined Scientology 17 years ago when she completed its study courses and realized it helped her schoolwork immensely.

"I realized that it actually made a real big difference, so

I kept my interest up," Baillie said.

"I discovered that there are a lot more things in Scientology that I could use in my own life to help myself."

Church of Scientology officials said it offers courses and counselling in many areas of life, including relationships and finances, teaching children how to study effectively for school and even tax preparation.

Cyrus said he has been active in the Malvern community over the years, helping raise money for a new Anglican church, which opened in 2001. He also helped expand the Malvern Family Resource Centre.

Working with people at the centre and as a dentist in Malvern, many people have asked him for advice for their problems, he said.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Some beliefs of scientology:

- People are immortal beings who have forgotten their true nature.

- Disbelief in psychology and psychiatry.

- Members are encouraged to cut off all contact with friends and family antagonistic to Scientology.

- Members are required to sign a legal waiver before engaging in their services.



Pat Felske, the church's director of special affairs and a Scientologist for 40 years gave a speech at the opening ceremony.

Civic centre hosts bazaar

By COLE CARRUTHERS
The Observer

The Scarborough Civic Centre was transformed into a municipal and federal services bazaar on Nov. 8. It included every facet of community services the public should be aware of to be informed about vital information that can affect their well being.

News about employment, education, health care and volunteering needs were available with information booths and employees standing by to offer material and answer questions.

The event was orga-

nized by Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) South Scarborough. LIP is a division of Catholic Cross-cultural Services and funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Karen Evans of the Toronto District School Board was present to offer information on the educational opportunities provided to the community.

New Canadians are encouraged to visit Citizenship and Immigration Canada's website, www.cic.gc.ca or call 1-888-242 2100.

■ For more, go to News at torontoobserver.ca

Wind device to stay on Bluffs

Councillor votes to keep anemometer until contract ends

By JAMES WATTIE
The Observer

After much debate at City Hall, the white wind-measuring box, that some have called an "eyesore", will remain on the Scarborough Bluffs until 2012.

Scarborough-Agincourt councillor Norm Kelly voted to keep the anemometer in place until the contract with Toronto Hydro expires in the fall of next year.

"I don't support wind turbines as an energy source," he said. But since there may be contractual issues if it was to be removed, it should be allowed to

remain in Lake Ontario, he said.

Many opposed to the anemometer have argued the Bluffs are not well suited to a wind farm.

Kelly said if keeping the device there will prove that to be true, then it is worth it to keep it.

"If the potential of that site to generate the winds to power the turbines is accurate, namely that there isn't enough, then terrific; let's get that confirmed," he said.

"Let's make it more than just speculation."

Roy Wright, resident of Guildwood for more than 40 years and president of Save the

Toronto Bluffs, says there is a greater issue.

"Everywhere in Ontario, where they put an anemometer, a wind farm has followed," he said.

"So this is the first major step. They have been working on this for years and they are not going to give up easy."

Wright said he understands why the decision was made to keep the device there, due to the \$1.5 million already

spent on research.

"What I didn't know was that it was still costing Toronto \$1,000 a month," he said.

"The problem is they definitely want to put them in the lake, and that's why they are carrying on this research," Wright said.

The executive committee, which includes Mayor Rob Ford, ultimately decided to keep the device in place, however they also committed to not extending any contract and keeping the anemometer on schedule.



■ KELLY



● How do you feel about this issue? Leave a comment at torontoobserver.ca

Shark fin finished in T.O.



Some Scarborough restaurant owners are afraid Toronto's shark fin ban will send patrons to Markham and Richmond Hill instead.

Diners looking for soup heading to regional eateries for fix

By JANICE YEUNG
The Observer

Scarborough Centre councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker watched a Canadian documentary film three years ago called *Sharkwater*.

The film outlined how the shark-fishing industry is driving sharks to extinction. De Baeremaeker says he couldn't get his mind off the possible mass extinction of sharks and was determined he would do something about it.

"The documentary showed me how beautiful sharks really were," said De Baeremaeker.

"I've always thought they were scary like in the movie *Jaws*, and were going to eat me. The real predators are humans, who are slaughtering these beautiful creatures. It is cruel, barbaric and inhumane."

Three years after De Baeremaeker saw the movie, he helped introduce a ban on the local use and possession of shark fins.

At the end of October, city councillors voted 38-4 to ban the possession, sale and consumption of shark fin products in Toronto.

Merchants now have 10 months to run through sup-

plies of shark products before the city's ban takes effect.

Toronto council also called on the federal government to ban the importing of illegal shark fin and other products of shark meat.

"I am very excited that Torontonians are part of a global solution," De Baeremaeker said.

"Sharks are helpless and this is something we could do to help them by not consuming shark fins, just like how we could save elephants by not consuming ivory. We might save millions."

Amidst the excitement after the shark fin ban was voted in, Chinese restaurant patrons and owners have not been too thrilled about the ban.

Zhong Shen and Wendy Jin are a married couple who are online tutoring entrepreneurs. They don't think the ban would affect their lives that much. However, they are not too sure about whether the law would be successfully implemented.

"The people who want to consume it will still consume it. The people who don't nor-

mally eat shark fins, like us, would continue to not eat it," Jin said.

Alan Ma, assistant manager of the Golden Oriental Palace Chinese Cuisine at 4438 Sheppard Ave. E. said there are areas the councillors overlooked while implementing the ban.

"Markham and Richmond Hill have not been included in the motion and Chinese restaurants in those areas can still serve shark fin soup," he said.

Ma said consumers would choose Chinese restaurants in those areas instead of Scarborough from now on. He also said the ban should not just be implemented in this city, but nationwide for it to be effective.

"Let's see if as many people will still vote for Coun. De Baeremaeker in the next election," he said.

De Baeremaeker's response was: "Get over it. It is not much of a sacrifice."

He explained that restaurant owners who make money selling shark fins are just making up excuses, while residents in his ward show support for his motion.



● For more on the shark fin ban, see torontoobserver.ca

Scarborough man released from Saudi jail

Imprisoned with wife, children for month for unclear reasons

By AAKANKSHA TANGRI
The Observer

A Scarborough resident, his wife and their two children have been released from prison in Saudi Arabia after more than a month.

Majeed Uddin Ahmed and his wife Zareen were arrested on Sept. 22 in Jeddah, on unknown charges.



■ KARYGIANNIS

The reasons behind the arrest were unclear.

Speculation was the family was put behind bars because of a business deal gone awry with a member of the Saudi royal family.

"There was a raw deal that [Ahmed's] father-in-law was working on with one of the Saudi princes and the Saudis

couple of days to do this and [Canadian officials] refused," Karygiannis said.

"He did all the right things to bring and sponsor his wife to Canada. Immigration Canada screwed it up and he [got] stuck over there."

"It has been a very difficult time for the Ahmeds and for their concerned relatives here," said Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, in the House of Commons on Nov. 1.

She thanked the Saudi government for their cooperation and "addressing our concerns with regard to Canadian citizens."

The Canadian government is helping the family with travel arrangements and documents, as Ahmed's wife is an Indian citizen.

The family's plight was made public by Karygiannis who was contacted by Ahmed's father-in-law, a long-time Scarborough resident.

just went in and swept the whole family and put them in jail," Jim Karygiannis, MP for Scarborough-Agincourt, had previously said in an interview.

Another possible reason behind the arrest was due to the family's visa problems.

Karygiannis said Ahmed had applied to sponsor his wife to Canada and was asked to release his work visa in Saudi Arabia.

"He said he needed a

Popeyes changes meat supply, customers cry fowl

Popeyes Louisiana Chicken is one of the few places in Scarborough that prepares halal fast food, making it a big attraction for the Muslim community. Their Ellesmere Road location even caters to the majority of its customers, with 786 (numeric for "In the name of God") as the last three digits of its delivery number.

The fast-food joint switched from hand-processed to machine-processed chicken. According to Imam Shaykh Yusuf Badat from the Islamic Foundation of Toronto, this renders the chicken haram (forbidden for Muslims) as opposed to halal (permissible).

"They only recite the blessing once at the beginning," he said. "I've been to numerous plants and they're slaughtering 290 chickens per minute. If they press a button and say 'bismillah' once, the first chicken is acceptable, but what about the rest?"

A Muslim, Christian or Jew must slaughter the animal while reciting the blessing as the animal's jugular vein and main airway are slit open.

"We've randomly taken off chickens from machine slaughter and we've seen only two arteries are cut," he continued, adding that if health and safety are held to the highest standards, then

so should religious standards.

Over the past six years, the restaurants have swung back and forth between suppliers who provided a mix of both. Imam Shaykh Omar Subedar hasn't eaten there in five years.

"It's not about what you know, it's about who you know," he said, referring to the changes in meat suppliers over the years.

A server at the Popeyes on Ellesmere Road admitted customers have decreased since the change.

~ Maryam Shah



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

WALK (AND LOOK) LIKE A ZOMBIE

Tips and tricks at Malvern Library transform kids into the undead



Photos by JESSICA MOY

Thea Munster (bottom), looks up at her scary creations

Jana Makulova, below, is one of the children who took part in the transformation

By JESSICA MOY
The Toronto Observer

Add one cup water, one tablespoon of flour and one tablespoon of sugar. Bring to a boil then add one pack of cherry Kool-Aid.

A recipe not fit to consume, but rather perfect for a zombie enthusiast wanting to add home-made blood to the living-dead aesthetic.

Thea Munster, an organizer of the Toronto Zombie Walk, visited Malvern library on Nov. 11 to teach zombification tips and tricks to kids and teens.

The zombie workshop was a fun way to spark interest for the annual Zombie Walk in Toronto.

This year, the five-kilometre walk was on Oct. 22 and featured thousands of gruesome, creative cos-

turnes and makeup for zombie lovers of all ages.

With paints, tissue paper and brushes, the workshop began with the group spreading a thin layer of white paint to their faces, making them pale.

Liquid latex was then added for a flesh-peeling effect.

Then came the best part: adding blood.

"I'm into zombies because they're really cool," said Melanie Lamana, a teenager whose favorite zombie movie is *28 Days Later*. "My favourite part is the blood."

The class added home-made blood to the dried liquid latex to add a realistic sense

of gore and decomposition.

Munster, the makeup teacher, has been interested in zombies since the movie *Night of the Living Dead*.

"I always liked horror movies and liked the thought of a group of monsters who walked in the night," Munster said.

Growing up in Victoria, B.C., there were few ways to get zombie makeup. She started making her own with her friends.

"That's how I got into it," Munster said. "When I moved to [Toronto]...I could get the makeup but didn't meet anyone who liked to dress up. So

I started the Zombie Walk."

The walk began nine years ago with seven people. Now the walk gets 7,000 participants.

"Now I'm teaching little kids how to do their own makeup, which is awesome," Munster said.

Jana Makulova, a mini zombie who participated in the workshop, had Munster sponge fake blood over her mouth for a scary effect.

"It's really cool and I like the makeup," Makulova said. "My favourite part is [Munster] putting makeup on me."

The Zombie Walk raises money for the walk, start-

ing in the summer with events like a zombie car wash.

"I'm a zombie from August till October," Munster laughed.

She said some people don't understand the point of dressing or putting on makeup to resemble a zombie.

"But, as soon as they come to the walk or see it, they join in the following year or they really like it," Munster said.

"People might see it as other people wanting to spread violence, but when they come it's all just for fun."



EDITORIALS

Ford mustn't axe library budget

Crazy talk. What is?

Mayor Rob Ford has asked the Toronto Public Library to cut 10 per cent from its 2012 operating budget.

Libraries are a public learning institution that feeds the minds of the young, the old and everyone in between.



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

But Ford's request for a 10 per cent cut could lead to reduced hours at 52 branches across Toronto.

Scarborough is a multicultural community and a destination for many new immigrants.

Libraries are often among the first places they go once they settle in. Services like English language classes help new immigrants adjust to living in their new home.

Public libraries act as a gateway for immigrants, yes, but they offer so much more.

The University of Toronto at Scarborough has its own library but there is often no peace and quiet to be found there.

Students in need of valuable — and silent — study time relocate to public libraries because their atmosphere facilitates concentration.

Those who otherwise don't have access to the Internet, or those in search of answers to just about anything, can find what they're looking for at their nearest public library.

Seniors can take classes on using the web and email, while the young can partake in after-school programs. If library hours are reduced, how can programs such as these be available at appropriate times for the people who rely on and enjoy them?

After all, friendships and memories are forged at public libraries.

And then there are those just looking for a good book. That's important too.

The library system is a city service that provides real, fundamental value for the public. For Ford to even ask for a 10-per cent cut is downright ridiculous.

~ Kayla Kreutzberg

Shark fin soup gets the hook

Move to ban delicacy dish the right one

Kudos to councillors Glenn De Baeremaeker, John Parker, and Kristyn Wong-Tam for being among the first to propose the ban of shark fin soup in Toronto.

After a 38-4 Toronto council landslide decision, shark fin soup gets the hook from Toronto restaurants in September. And rightfully so.

The move to ban the Chinese delicacy is a not only a bold one, but a necessary one. The practice of "shark finning", where sharks' fins are removed while their bodies are discarded, is inhumane. With sharks being killed for their fins every year, ceasing the demand in a highly populated area like Toronto will help.

Arguing that it is a Chinese cultural tradition isn't a strong enough reason to keep the soup on the menu. Every culture carries with it customs that become outmoded, irrelevant or downright inappropriate over time. To think otherwise is to deny change. Chinese culture has abandoned foot binding. Whaling is no longer appropriate. Head hunting has been abandoned. Cannibalism too.

Or look at it from this perspective: Why can't the ban be seen as a cultural step in the right direction for not just Toronto but for all of Canada?

Just as Canada supported better management of the cod fishery or the ban on whaling, the city's ban on shark fins shows that Canadians, Torontonians included, respect the environment and its wildlife.

Simply, shark fin soup is an unacceptable anachronism in the 21st century.

Restaurant owners may lose a bit of business in the short term, but they'll survive. And so too will many more sharks.

~Alex Kozovski



Jessica Moy // Observer

COLUMN

Leading off the tracks

Scarborough stranded after Ford kills Transit City

It was just over a year ago that Scarborough citizens helped vote in Rob Ford as our mayor. The day he took office, we regretted it.

Ford derailed Transit City, a plan that would have seen Scarborough better served by the TTC. In its place, Ford offered up a Sheppard subway extension

from Don Mills station to the Scarborough Town Centre.

Just this past week, it was revealed that this proposed line is suffering from a lack of funding from the public sector as well as the private. Some city councillors are now saying the planned extension is dead.

Ford pledged the line would be completed before the 2015 Pan Am Games, an event that would be a highlight for Scarborough if planned and executed properly. (If early indications are correct, it doesn't look like it will be.)

A pool facility at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus would be well serviced by this line but, for now at least, the possibility exists neither the aquatic centre nor the subway line will be completed in time.

It seems stations on the Sheppard extension will open as they are finished, one by one. Scarborough citizens will have to wait patiently, placing their transit hopes with Ford.

The Sheppard subway extension is just one example of how candidate Ford is much different, more hopeful, than Mayor

Ford.

Those in charge of finding the money for the line raised the spectre of imposing road tolls and other unpopular methods of revenue generation earlier in the year. This despite Ford's campaign promise not to raise any new taxes or tolls.

Construction on the line is reportedly set to be underway in 2014, just in time for the next civic election. Ford will surely be holding up this extension as one way he's helping Scarborough, grasping for the votes that helped him into office in 2010.

In 2014, we need to rethink what Scarborough wants and deserves. If Ford wants our votes again, this Sheppard extension is just the starting point. On the track to reelection, its just one stop.

Scarborough is part of Toronto. One would think that after being elected by the outer portions of the city, Ford would, in turn, give back to the community.

There is still time, Mr. Ford. Otherwise, it may be 2014 that is the end of the line for you as mayor.



James Wattie

Black Knights fall to Blues

Decisive loss knocks Malvern out of junior football playoffs

By KYLE LARKIN
Toronto Observer

Everything that could have gone wrong for the Malvern Black Knights high school junior football team did.

In a winner-goes-on match against rival Senator O'Connor, nothing seemed to click as the Knights lost by a final score of 28-1 in the east region finals at Esther Shiner Stadium on Oct. 10.

After starting strong with a seven-play push, the Black Knights made it within the Blues' 15-yard line but failed to make good on the field goal attempt for an early lead.

From there, it was all downhill for Malvern, who made it to the east region finals in their inaugural season.

"One of the big things we

had a problem with was we had a lot of turnovers, which killed us," said Malvern head coach Rob Salvatore.

The Blues capitalized immediately, scoring the first touchdown of the game on their next possession against a shaky Black Knights defence.

Not 30 seconds later, the Malvern quarterback threw an interception which was run for a 40-yard return, resulting in an eventual touchdown and a 13-0 deficit after one quarter.

From there, fumbles and wacky plays prevented the Black Knights from any hopes of making a comeback.

"We knew if we were going to stay in the game we had to play a disciplined game and make smart plays," Salvatore said.

"Unfortunately, this week we made some big mistakes in the first half."

One such mistake included a funky play in which a Black Knight running back took his eye off his quarterback and



Kyle Larkin // Observer

Michael Corbeil blocks for Keelen McManus in a desperate push for a touchdown late in the game last Thursday. The Black Knights managed a single point in their 28-1 loss at Esther Shiner Stadium.

was struck in the head with the football.

The Black Knights continued to struggle against the tougher Blues squad, which forced a fumble on the next play and recovered the ball in the end zone for an easy touch-

down and a 20-0 lead after the first half.

"They are a big, physical football team. We knew we were out-sized and they have a lot more speed than we do," Salvatore said.

"We struggled on both

sides of the ball and especially with their size and their athleticism."

The experienced Blues team, which has won three of the past four titles, played a swift, persistent game without any major hiccups

from both the offensive and defensive squads.

The bigger defensive line stonewalled Malvern for most of the game, and would have shut them out if it weren't for a late, desperate fourth-quarter safety.

● For more photos from this story, see Sports at torontoobserver.ca

Lions victorious in volleyball catfight

By CHRISTINA CHENG
Toronto Observer

The R.H. King Academy Lions won two out of three sets against the Birchmount Park Panthers in the TDSB East Region Senior Championship volleyball game hosted by R.H. King on Nov. 9, but both teams stayed close.

The first set ended 24-22 with the Panthers in the lead. But in the second set, the Lions returned with a comeback of 25-18. In the third set, the Lions ended the game with a victory win 25-19.

A sea of students in their navy blue school uniforms took over the gym's bleachers as they chanted "King! King! King! King!" and "Lions! Lions! Lions!" all while stomping their feet and clapping their hands in unison.



Christina Cheng // Observer

Lions middle blocker spikes the ball past a sprawling Panther defence on Nov. 9.

Coach Dave Chambers of the Lions said regardless of the win, "both teams are qualified to go on to the next round, which is good for both of our schools to try to qualify for OFSAA (Ontario Fed-

eration of Athletic Associations), so both teams will earn that opportunity."

"We're both playing next week at the City Championship ... Birchmount is a AAA division, R.H. King is a AAAA division, so we're

both moving on regardless," added Bill MacKay, Panthers coach.

Bragging rights between both east region teams were in play.

"They both were defending champions the previous four, five and they want to continue to add their names on the plaque," Chambers said.

"Regardless of bragging rights, we're neighbouring schools. The boys have a friendly-rivalry [relationship] and the boys all know each other," MacKay added.

MacKay said his team played their best and gives kudos to two of his strongest players.

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

Pan-tastic

The 2011 Pan-Am Games recently wrapped up in Guadalajara, Mexico and Toronto's gearing up in preparation for 2015.

What was once a garbage dump by the University of Toronto at Scarborough campus (UTSC) is now a construction site.

Tractors, bulldozers and excavators have started soil remediation for what will soon be a five-star athletic facility.

"It will be a true state-of-the-art facility for the city of Toronto and for the university... It's going to be a very exciting place to be in 2015 and it's going to bring some of the best athletes of the world," said Pan-Am Games director, Jason Fellen.

U of T is set to host several events for the 2015 games, which not only provides UTSC students and their community with new athletic facilities and upgrades but also for those at the St. George campus.

~ CHRISTINA CHENG

■ For more on the Pan-Am games, visit torontoobserver.ca

LINGUISTIC LARKS

Category: Comicbook Superheroes

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

Horizontal clues: R N M O, A R D I O, P O E S O R

Vertical clues: T O I

Unscramble the circled letters to form the final answer.

Most famously known as Barry Allen. [] [] [] []

By Kyle Larkin



Erica Tiangco /// Observer

Jennifer Christiani from Sheridan Nurseries creates a Christmas urn using a variety of Canadian greens at the Scarborough Garden Society's lecture.

Gardeners go green for Christmas

Scarborough Horticulture Society hosts decorative workshop

By ERICA TIANGCO
The Observer

You can expect to see a lot less glitz and glam this Christmas season and more natural greenery, according to Jennifer Christiani, a custom designer at Sheridan Nurseries.

On Nov. 8, Christiani showed community members, along with The Scarborough Garden and Hor-

ticulture Society, how to incorporate nature into the Christmas season.

Guests were shown how to create eco-friendly masterpieces from old materials and Canadian greens. Christiani created a winter urn within minutes using a variety of birch, Ontario boxwood and cedar.

She says this year's top winter trends for winter urns are cedar and birch trees.



● To hear an audio clip of this story, visit us online at Arts and Life on torontoobserver.ca

As usual, wreaths remain a huge seller. Christiani recommends using at least three different types of greens in urns for variety.

If taken care of correctly, urns can last until the middle

of March.

Christiani believes many people in Scarborough are opting out of buying Christmas decor and instead, are adopting a green thumb.

"I think it's because, es-

pecially in Scarborough, not a lot of people celebrate Christmas, but it's about decorating for the seasons. Fall season is pumpkins and winter becomes winter greens and then spring is bulbs. It changes. So, I think it's more about celebrating the seasons that we're lucky to have in this country," she said.

Sheridan Nurseries also hosts hands-on classes for a variety of ages.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

■ Evergreens planted close to your home will act as windbreaking insulators in the cold winter months and help reduce heating costs.

Bollyfit classes make exercise fun

By CHANTELLE HENRIQUES
The Observer

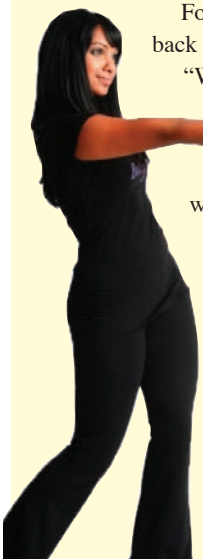
Every Saturday afternoon, Indian songs ring out from the Tarana Dance Centre in Scarborough.

For founder Reshmi Chetram, putting fun back into exercise is her main goal.

"We balance [dance] out with the muscle conditioning component, so you lose the weight, but then you tone as well which is the great thing about Bollyfit," Chetram said.

Chetram, a professional dancer from a young age, says she wanted to bring her love of dance to the community.

Bollyfit all began as her idea to combine Bollywood-style dance with aerobics. Creating Bollyfit International several years ago, Chetram has seen her classes expand into several cities across the GTA.



REVIEW

Troupe brings crowd to feet

By ANDRE THURAIRATNAM
The Observer

Todd Appleton, playing a captivating Joseph, led his energetic supporting cast to a standing ovation at the Scarborough Village Theatre on Thursday night for its annual musical production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.



● For more on the play, see Life online at torontoobserver.ca

the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

The theatre had the audience on three sides of the stage. Artistic director Mario D'Alimonte did an excellent job of taking advantage of the thrust stage: during every major musical number, the choreography had the cast playing to all sides of the room simultaneously. No matter where you were seated, there was always something tailored to your personal view.

The play being an Andrew Lloyd Webber piece, a heavy emphasis was put into the music. This is where the performance set itself apart from other community theatre productions.

The live orchestra hit all its cues flawlessly and played with a passion that was matched only by the ardour of the cast's singing. The impressive harmonies

and powerful, yet graceful voices did the production justice.

There was very little dialogue. Each musical number blended in well with the next, keeping the audience on its toes.



Todd Appleton had a captivating performance as Joseph on Thursday night.