

Pandamonium at  
Toronto Zoo protest

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The Scarborough  
**OBSERVER**

CENTENNIAL  
COLLEGE

Magazine

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threatens properties**

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and Plaitwrights**

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## What's happening

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April</b> 	22 Earth Day 	23	24	25	26 <b>Toronto Cat Rescue Adopt-a-thon</b> PetSmart 12 William Kitchen Rd. April 26-28 10 a.m.-7 p.m.	27
	29 International Dance Day 	30	<b>May 1</b>	2	3 World Press Freedom Day 	4
5	6	7		8 World Red Cross Day 	9 <b>Arthritis Self-Management Program</b> Agincourt Toronto Public Library 155 Bonis Ave. May 10 & 17 2-4 p.m.	10 <b>20th Annual Ride for the Rouge</b> Rouge Valley Conservation Centre 1749 Meadowvale Rd. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
12 Happy Mother's Day 	13	14 WALK OF FAME 	15 <b>6th Annual Scarborough Walk of Fame</b> Scarborough Town Centre 300 Borough Dr. 11 a.m.	16	17	18
19	20 Victoria Day 	21	22	23 World Turtle Day 	24	25 <b>Sloane Public School Fun Fair</b> Sloane Public School 110 Sloane Ave. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
26	27	28	29	30 <b>Canterbury Creative Arts</b> St. Dunstan of Canterbury Anglican Church 56 Lawson Rd. May 30-May 31, 1-9 p.m. June 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.	31 <b>June 1</b> 	Children's Day 
2	3	4-5 <b>SCARBOROUGH FILM FESTIVAL</b> 		Projection Booth Cinema 1035 Gerrard St. E June 4-9, showtimes vary <a href="http://www.scarboroughfilmfestival.com">www.scarboroughfilmfestival.com</a> for more information		8
9 	10	11	12 <b>World Day Against Child Labour</b> 	13	14	15 <b>Relay For Life in Scarborough</b> Canadian Cancer Society Morningside Park 390 Morningside Ave. June 14-15, 7 p.m.-7 a.m. Tickets \$20
16 <b>HAPPY father's DAY</b> 	17	18	19	21 <b>Relay For Life in the Beaches</b> Canadian Cancer Society <a href="http://www.relayforlife.ca/beaches">www.relayforlife.ca/beaches</a> for more information	22	<b>Go Skateboarding Day</b> Ellesmere Community Centre 20 Canadian Rd. 12-3 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27 International Day against Drug abuse and Illicit Trafficking 	28	29
30			<b>UTSC Farmers' Market</b> University of Toronto Scarborough's outer parking lot #4 Military Trail between Morningside and Ellesmere Every Wednesday, 3-7 p.m. <a href="http://blog.utsc.utoronto.ca/farmersmarket">http://blog.utsc.utoronto.ca/farmersmarket</a> for more information			



**Garage sale**  
 Scarborough Bluffs United Church  
 3739 Kingston Rd.  
 9-11:30 a.m.



**"Byng Spring Fling... It's The Thing" Community Festival**  
 West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre  
 313 Pharmacy Ave.  
 11 a.m.-3 p.m.



Children's Day



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# Cancer fundraiser at Rouge Valley

Deidra Barton & Angelica Bottaro

## Healing Hope benefits patients

The St. Peter and Paul Banquet Hall was dressed up to the nines this weekend for a fundraiser to give back to the Rouge Valley Health system. Letna Allen-Rowe, or Ms.

Letna as she calls herself, is the cancer survivor that put together the Healing Hope Fundraising Brunch on Sunday to raise money for cancer patients throughout the Rouge Valley hospital systems.

There were around 200 people supporting Letna and her goal, including Mike Colle, the MPP for the Eglinton/Lawrence riding.

"We need more Letna's to get involved. She is one of a kind superwoman. She

makes things happen for others," said Colle. "Her fight has just begun, but it will be a success if we're with her."

Guest speakers Tracy Asano, Letna's acting surgeon, and Dr. James Chiarotto were also in attendance.

Dr. Chiarotto took his

time to explain about what they are trying to achieve with the fundraiser.

"We feel we can offer better treatment in a community hospital," he said.

Tracy Asano thinks that the entire experience for patients should be better.

"Our goal is to make it

a seamless program from diagnosis to treatment," she said.

The fundraiser had an amazing turnout, and the hospital system in the community will benefit from what Ms. Letna has done for her community.



The Rouge Valley Health System benefited from a fundraiser recently. The event featured a fashion show.



For more on this story, visit us online at [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)

# Breast reconstruction available in Scarborough

## Patients' wait times are shortened

Joie Ann Merana

The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) is offering a service not many people are aware of.

The community hospital is offering breast reconstruction surgery for women who have undergone a mastectomy.

Dr. Sarah Wong, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon at TSH, and her colleagues Dr. Timothy Sproule and Dr. Narayanan Nandagopal decided to offer the service to help shorten wait times for patients seeking surgery.

"We're the only community hospital that started to offer to do (breast reconstruction) because of the long wait," Wong said.

Many women who have undergone mastectomies are not aware reconstruction is offered as part of their treatment.

"Only 20 per cent of women in Canada are going through reconstruction and what we figured out is that women just don't know," Wong said. "Not only do you have to find the information, but you have to find someone that actually does it. And when you actually do, it's a long waiting list."

Breast reconstruction surgery can be done in two ways. Patients can either choose to have implants or use their own tissue as an alternative.

"Implants are a lot faster and you can get them done fairly quickly," Wong said. "The one where you use your own tissue is a lot harder. Not as many people are trained in doing it and it takes a little bit longer for recovery."

The surgery often takes about eight hours, but at TSH it can be done in four.

"Because we all work together and there are three fully-trained plastic surgeons operating at the same time ... we end up cutting the time in half," Wong said, "which is better for the patient because you don't get as much anaesthetic and the recovery is so much better."

TSH wants to raise awareness in the community. The hospital hosts an annual Breast Reconstruction Awareness (BRA) day in October with information sessions.

In 2012, the event had a positive turnout with Asian and Tamil television networks covering it. The event was offered in three languages: English, Tamil and Chinese.

"The push for Scarborough was to

try and make it multicultural to reflect our racial diversity," Wong said. "What was fascinating was a lot of people stayed for all of it. That is what surprised me."

TSH is planning to have quarterly sessions so patients have information "available to them all year round, and not just that one month."

The assistance that TSH offers does not only make the hospital different but it attracts patients from all walks of life and various cultures.

"I can definitely tell in our community, patients appreciate having the option of doing the surgery closer to home," Wong said.

*We're the only community hospital that started to offer to do [breast reconstruction] because of the long wait.*

- Sarah Wong

# Walk fight on Chine Drive

Some residents don't want to lose their rural-looking street, while others want sidewalks to improve safety

Alissa Heidman

Although construction on Chine Drive sidewalks was to start this spring, a resident's environmental concerns has stalled the project.

Chine Drive Public School is located at the end of the street making the roadway a main path for students. A petition online with 108 supporters is asking Mayor Rob Ford and Coun. Gary Crawford of Ward 36 to have the sidewalks in by summer. That deadline is now unattainable.

A resident of Chine Drive and a mother to a young student at Chine Drive Public School wished not to be named out of fear her opinion would anger other residents. She explains the dangers for children in the winter without sidewalks.

"I think [we] need them, you can imagine snow banks

and two cars coming either way when children are walking home," she said.

Some residents take pride in the sidestreet for its rural-country feel while others detest it for lacking sidewalks. Since the appeal, Ontario's environment ministry must now assess the project and decide whether to allow the construction or demand the city come up with another plan.

**Our proposal is to put a sidewalk or a walkway in and not have any more impact on the environmental aspect of the street**

**- Coun. Gary Crawford**

Crawford says Chine Drive is in need of renovation apart from the sidewalk issue.

"We have to reconstruct the road regardless, it's in such deterioration. I think that all of the residents are in agreement on that," he said.

He says many residents are being misled in what is intended to be done. He insists the city plans to put in elevated walkways without causing any serious environmental harm.

"One of the concerns that residents are saying that is a

little misleading is that if we put a sidewalk in we're going to be removing 40 or 50 trees, well that's actually not true," he said.

A total of 22 small trees must be removed in order to rebuild the road. He says no more than that will be removed with the construction of the elevated walkways.

"Our proposal is to put a sidewalk or a walkway in and not have any more impact on the environmental aspect of the street," he said. "We're working with residents to ensure we have that country feel, and be very environmentally sensitive to all their needs."

Crawford says he agrees with residents and their wishes to maintain the rural-looking side street, but there are other important aspects to take into consideration.

"There's a very busy school at the end of the street and there are kids that need to have the ability to walk safely to and from school," he said.

Until Ontario's environment ministry comes up with a decision, plans to put in sidewalks cannot be seen through. Compromise is hoped to fulfill the needs of all residents on Chine Drive.



Alissa Heidman // Scarborough Observer

Chine Drive warns drivers the street has no sidewalks and to watch for students.

## Scarborough starts the year with lower homicide rate

Paula Last

Scarborough and North York's homicide rates were the lowest in Toronto for the first three months of 2013, according to Toronto police statistics.

But what do these statistics really tell us about how safe these areas are?

The Observer spoke with Const. Tony Vella of the Toronto police to find out.

"It's hard to give you an exact answer," Vella said.

Only three out of 15 homicides occurred east of Victoria Park Avenue.

Statistics from the Toronto Star's homicide map show that in 2011 and 2012, the Scarborough homicide rate was higher than in the rest of the city.

Scarborough makes up 23 per cent of Toronto's population, but in 2012 nearly 26 per cent of homicides occurred in Scarborough. In 2011 it was 28 per cent.

Coun. Michael Thompson (Ward 27) and Coun. Norm Kelly (Ward 40) said the per-

ception that Scarborough has high crime rates is unfair.

The negative reputation that Scarborough sometimes holds is "absolutely undeserved," Kelly said.

"Crime happens all over the city," Thompson said. "We don't believe that (crime in Scarborough) is based on the water."

As for the statistics,

Thompson said, "They're a snapshot."

Vella agrees.

"I wouldn't say Scarborough's a bad area at all," he said. "Like anything else in life, it's a small group of people that cause the problems."

Kelly, however, thinks the overall crime statistics show Scarborough is safer than the rest of the city.

"They say a lot," he said. "Look at the facts, Toronto."

Kelly suggested the part of the city known as the City of Toronto before amalgamation be renamed "Queen's" with the media citing the name when a crime occurs.

"It wouldn't take long for people to realize where most crime is occurring," Kelly said.

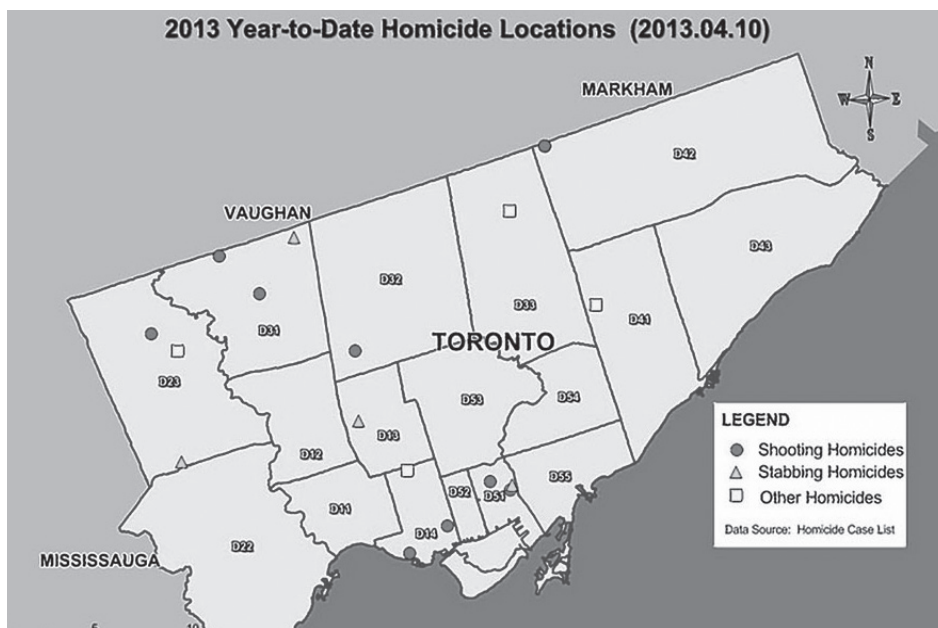


Photo courtesy of Toronto Police Service

Up to March 31, three murders have occurred in Scarborough.

## Eco Summit focuses on mass transit

Corey Savard

The Smart Commute program announced its expansion into Scarborough at the University of Toronto Scarborough's (UTSC) second annual Eco Summit on April 12.

Antoine Belaieff, director of innovation at Metrolinx, the company behind the Smart Commute program, says public transit plays a large role in Toronto's future in reducing greenhouse gas emission.

"I heard a member of Parliament say we weren't doing anything — well, Union Station is a war zone," said Belaieff in reference to the Union Station Revitalization Project, one of five projects currently laid out in Metrolinx's "big move."

Construction is already underway on the Eglinton Crosstown LRT that will extend the existent line from Kennedy Station to Conlins Road.

Smart Commute Scarborough works with employers in the area to explore alternatives and implement solutions to fight gridlock.



● For more on this story, please visit us online at [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)

# LIVING ON THE EDGE

Ali Raza

A majestic view lined by cliffs, beaches and a waterfront.

It is not often how Scarborough is described, but it could be if the city's hidden gem is preserved from erosion.

The Scarborough Bluffs form the shore for most of the Scarborough waterfront. The bluffs have suffered through decades of erosion.

Due to this, infrastructure and property along the shoreline are threatened.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is scheduled to complete the Meadowcliffe Drive Erosion Control Project by July of this year. The project started in 2011 and aims to prevent further erosion on the Meadowcliffe shoreline.

"It's providing erosion protection to 10 properties on Meadowcliffe Drive," said Mark Preston, senior construction supervisor at TRCA.

"The east end of Meadowcliffe Drive is an Ontario Heritage property," Preston said. "All the properties there would be at risk otherwise."

The erosion on the Bluffs is caused mostly by wave action from the lake. As waves hit the bottom shoreline they slowly chisel away the bottom of the cliff. The top of the cliff weakens and falls into the lake. This damage had been going on until the TRCA decided to start protection projects.

"This is the latest project undertaken along the Scarborough waterfront," Preston said. "The authority has commenced erosion control projects since the mid '80s, so there's a number of sectors completed."

The projects start at the East Bellamy ravine and continue to Morningside Avenue. Erosion on the Meadowcliffe shoreline began to accelerate in 2006, prompting Meadowcliffe residents to implore the TRCA to find a solution.

As the TRCA's main goal is to preserve the properties along the shore, one resident of Meadowcliffe believes the value of the Bluffs is overlooked.

"It's absolutely beautiful," Meadowcliffe Drive resident Susan Scinocca said. "It's the littlest known feature in the city. There's so much potential for a bike path, walking trails. To not take advantage of that is ridiculous."

Scinocca recalls the rate of erosion from when she first bought her property 15 years ago to now.

"We had a tree taken down," Scinocca said. "It was so close to the edge that as it swayed it was doing damage to the cliff so the TRCA had us take it down. Since we've moved in we've lost about a foot a year."

As she pointed to the remaining tree stump, Scinocca said it was not long ago when they could drive a lawnmower around it. Today, the stump rests at the edge of the cliff.

## Bluffs erosion project aims to protect Meadowcliffe shoreline and promote cliff-saving vegetation



Ali Raza // Scarborough Observer  
Meadowcliffe resident Susan Scinocca shows the extent of cliff erosion where a tree used to stand.

In response to the growing concern from Meadowcliffe residents, the TRCA is constructing cobblestone barriers to absorb wave damage.

"Through analysis by coastal engineers, we've determined the size and design of the structures," Preston said. "The design is looking at a long-term stable slope on the edge

of the cliff."

TRCA is designing the headland beach system so that the cliffs slope downward towards the beach. This will allow vegetation to form on the slope thereby strengthening the cliffs.

The project is expected to be completed by July and will provide

the much needed protection for Meadowcliffe Drive.

"It's the most pure piece of land," Scinocca said. "Scarborough gets such a bad rap. I really don't understand why the Bluffs aren't promoted. It's geologically very significant and it's very unique in the world."

## COMMUNITY

# Ethnic business booming in Scarborough

## No Frills leading grocery stores in responding to demographic shift

Mark A. Cadiz

Supermarket chain No Frills is ahead of the game.

Ten years ago, No Frills started to integrate international products into its general product offerings possibly giving them a head start in today's grocery race while others followed their lead.

The most recent data gathered by Statistics Canada predict that by 2031, 63 per cent of the GTA will be ethnically visible, a leap from 43 per cent in 2006. These are staggering numbers which

every retailer needs to take into consideration when moving its operations forward.

Jonis Remulla, a store manager at No Frills near Victoria Park Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East, says they've integrated some of their ethnic offerings with

their regular products.

"Ten years ago, we had an ethnic aisle, but now the ethnic products have become part of the mainstream," Remulla said. "Today if you want an ethnic pop it's in the pop aisle, not the ethnic aisle."

The ethnic consumer

*Ten years ago, we had an ethnic aisle, but now the ethnic products have become part of the mainstream*

- Jonis Remulla



Mark A. Cadiz // Scarborough Observer

As part of Loblaw Companies Limited, grocery store chain No Frills has boosted its ethnic offerings over the past 10 years.

is on everyone's radar and the demand for these products means a re-marketing approach which attracts nearby communities.

In its April 5-11 flyer, No Frills wishes consumers a Happy Vaisakhi, a festival celebrated in northern India, by marking down Indian-based foods. It's an advertising strategy that enables them to engage with their targeted con-

sumers.

"They are improving and they keep adding more ethnic products," No Frills shopper Basanth David said. "Today I'm looking for atta flour to make roti."

Atta flour originates from India and neighbouring countries. It's commonly used to prepare the South Asian bread roti.

Retailers who have been pro-active and tweaked their strategies to match

market demands, are in a better competitive position, especially when they are situated in immigrant neighbourhoods.

Remulla says there is increasing growth in the ethnic business, which is reflected in the population. He says you would be naive to run a grocery store without any ethnic products. You need to have a little bit for everyone.

**Yum, apples. Fresh fruit is even yummier when it's grown locally.**



# Make a living in your backyard

Scarborough's *Red Pocket Farm* specializes in growing Asian vegetables for the locals

## Corey Savard

Scarberians are looking closer to home for fresh fruits and vegetables, literally in their backyards.

Small land farmers are growing everything from apples to carrots that are 100 per cent organic. They're making a living by selling their produce in start-up markets through a box delivery service.

Fresh City Farming, based

in Downsview Park, was founded by Ran Goel. The company delivers boxes of organic food grown by urban farmers right to your door. Goel believes organic produce grown in the city are not only the healthiest, but the most honest.

"With urban farming, you get to meet the farmers and learn about the environmental and social impact of food and why organic is important," Goel said.

Eighty per cent of Fresh

City Farming's boxes is grown in Southern Ontario. At least 80 per cent of produce at Loblaws is imported, and their definition of local is 'from Canada.'

"So instead of telling someone to eat more veggies, they see why it tastes so good compared to something that was just harvested," Goel said.

Goel says there are many immigrant families in Scarborough that have been growing food in their back-

yards for decades simply because it was a way of life in their native countries.

Amy Cheung is the owner and head farmer of Red Pocket Farm in Scarborough. This is her first year with City Fresh Farming, but farming became her passion 10 years ago when she was in Central America. In 2003, Cheung was a volunteer in a farming village in Costa Rica. It was there that she learned how to grow food and gained her belief

in food education.

Urban farming has a long history in Rouge Park with the Reesor family farming on the property since 1804. There are several farms located in the park with farmers being granted 20-25 year leases. However, the Reesor family lost 120 of their 800 acres due to tree planting by Parks Canada. This is a common case with large plot urban farms across the country.

Goel and his farmers didn't

turn to farming as a last resort. Before founding Fresh City, Goel was an investment lawyer in New York. He holds a business degree from the Schulich School of Business at York University, a master's degree in political economy from the London School of Economics and a law degree from the University of Toronto.

Farmers who sell with Fresh City are serious entrepreneurs who strive for a healthier community.

## Police ticket the good guys

### James Tessier

Fines, demerit points and suspensions are a few things that await a person who has been ticketed by a police officer. However, police in Scarborough's 42 division are trying a new way to use tickets: to reward instead of punish.

Positive ticketing recognizes good behaviour.

Officers can give out positive tickets when they notice someone doing something that they can say "thank you" for.

Constable Patricia Hung, project manager for the new initiative, says there are levels of rewards.

"The first level, the tickets comes with a coupon for McDonald's, Mac's Convenience, and Pizza Pizza," Hung said. "If it goes above and beyond, then they have options to pick a level two, which is up to the officer's discretion, and they can get a gift card from a local sponsor which values around \$20."

Inspector Dave Saunders gets credit for the unique idea of positive tickets, which has been adopted in other countries on a smaller scale.

During six months of planning and devel-

oping the program, approximately 20 positive tickets were handed out as a pilot to see how officers would respond.

"One of our biggest concerns was that it would be a hard sell to officers because it kind of goes against the grain of policing," Hung said. "...but the response has been fantastic, way more than I expected."

Hung explained they want to see as many good deeds as possible, but these tickets are not going to be given out frivolously so they can remain meaningful.

Rajiv Singh received a positive ticket after helping an officer identify a missing man.

He believes this new initiative will not only

encourage people to do good deeds, but also help connect the community to the police of the 42 division.

"To me it builds a relationship between myself right now and the police, it is a totally different relationship from before," Singh said. "You know you are always

scared of police when they tell you this is not right, that is not right, but you have a positive attitude towards everything and I think it is a good idea."

So next time a police officer approaches you, it may not be for a bad reason, but perhaps to recognize you for something good you have done.



James Tessier // Scarborough Observer

Constable Patricia Hung, program manager, with 'positive ticket' recipient Rajiv Singh.



Agincourt branch of Toronto Public Library.

## Scarborough libraries support entrepreneurs

### Ali Raza

Starting a business may be challenging, but there is help!

Local libraries are offering a program for entrepreneurs.

"It really helps people who have no idea how to begin a business," says Kevin Sum, a Scarborough-based entrepreneur who participated in 2012.

In collaboration with the Toronto Business Development Centre and the city of Toronto, TPL offers the

eight-week 'Business Inc.' program.

It is offered at the Northern District, Albion, and Scarborough's own Agincourt branch.

The program starts in mid-April and ends in the beginning of June.

Participants attend a series of modules designed to assist budding entrepreneurs start their own small venture. Current business owners can learn how to expand their reach.

Unlike a traditional community college

course, Business Inc. reaches out to citizens far from the city core with the help of library infrastructure.

"Together we worked on a curriculum," Vanderkooy said. "Different modules that help people understand what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur, the kind of market research, how to do successful marketing, the operating framework and financing."

"It teaches you how to find resources and how the library can help," Sum said.

# Toronto Zoo workers roar over potential lockout

Conciliation with union 'has not worked so far,' management official says

Naomi Grosman

A panda was spotted outside Toronto City Hall on April 11. The cold, windy and wet weather didn't seem to bother him much. He had more important things to worry about.

A Toronto Zoo worker who was wearing a panda costume was there to support his fellow co-workers. They could be locked out of their jobs at the end of April.

Toronto Zoo workers and members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) were at city hall to raise awareness about the potential lockout they are facing.

According to Christine McKenzie, president of



Naomi Grosman // Scarborough Observer

Members of CUPE Local 1600 voice their frustration at the state of contract negotiations with management of the Toronto Zoo. The workers face a potential lockout, which the zoo will be in a legal position to impose at the end of April.

CUPE Local 1600, management at the zoo is pushing workers towards a lockout.

"We've made it very clear to them that we want to talk, that we've always wanted to talk," McKenzie said.

Management filed for a no-board report last week, meaning the zoo will be in legal lockout position at the

end of April.

Zoo officials said in a statement the parties have reached an impasse.

"Although the parties have been meeting regularly at the bargaining table since February, conciliation with CUPE Local 1600 has not worked so far," said Jennifer Tracey, the zoo's senior director of

marketing, communications and partnerships.

McKenzie said she found that statement perplexing.

"To say that we're at an impasse would kind of imply that we've been having some conversations and we really haven't," McKenzie adds.

McKenzie said the main areas of disagreement stem

from a concession package that management brought forward at the beginning of bargaining, which included cuts to bereavement pay, sick pay and job security. Although the union came back with what it calls a modest package, McKenzie says conversations with management have not been constructive.

Zoo staff is not only worried about themselves, but also the well-being of the animals they care for.

"Anybody who goes into a zookeeping job ... you do it because you love looking after those animals," said Jennifer Martin, zookeeper at the Eurasia section of the zoo. "To be put in a situation where you know somebody else may have to look after those animals, it's difficult."

The giant pandas are the ones making headlines these days, but all the animals would be affected by the lockout. McKenzie mentioned it is mating season for the Sumatran tiger and penguin chicks were just born.

If zoo staff are locked out, managerial staff would have to take care of the animals. Although a lot of managerial staff have previous caretaking experience, many of them haven't done so in years.

"There is certainly a high level of expertise and experience in the work force that cannot be replicated at the management level," McKenzie said.

# Scarborough campus has Grade A appeal

Larry Cheung

The University of Toronto Scarborough is sneaking up on bigger-name schools and winning students over.

The "dark-horse" campus is receiving more applicants as Scarborough students want to remain close to home.

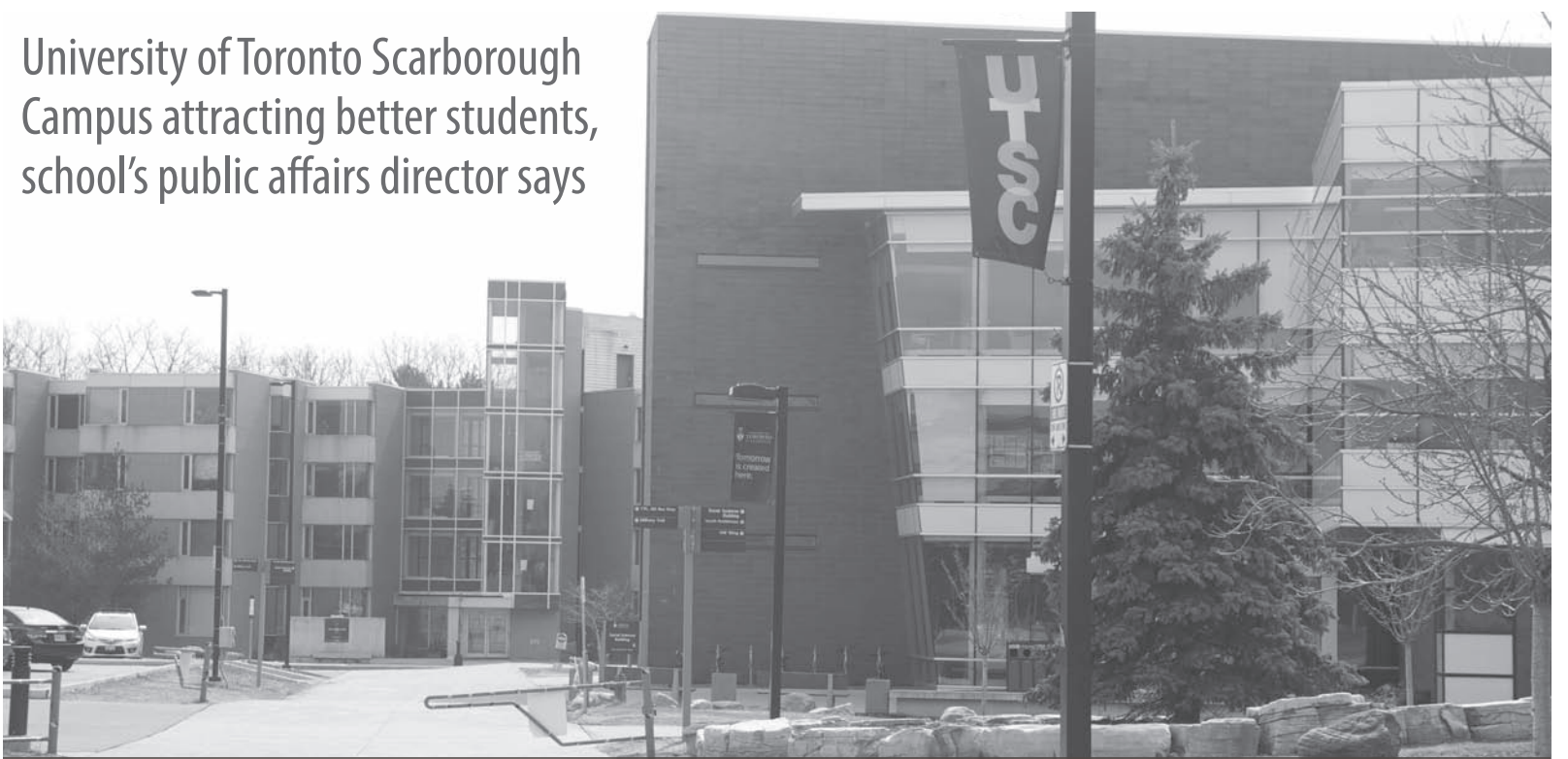
"The increased academic quality of those applicants means that UTSC has doubled the number of early offers of admission," said Shelley Romoff, director of public affairs.

Scarborough students have a place to continue their education without paying a premium to move out.

Living at home and commuting to school saves financial stress on both students and their families.

Scarborough resident Anujah Posarajah, a third-year student at the St. George campus, chose to enroll at UTSC because she thought that campus offered

University of Toronto Scarborough Campus attracting better students, school's public affairs director says



Larry Cheung // Scarborough Observer

'I chose to go to UTSC because their facilities are better and are known to be the best campus out of the three campuses that belong to the U of T family,' Scarborough resident and third-year student Anujah Posarajah says.

a better facility and learning experience.

"I chose to go to UTSC because their facilities are better and are known to be

the best campus out of the three campuses that belong to the U of T family," Posarajah said.

UTSC directors are hop-

ing to continue this positive reception and will continue to invest more into their facilities and programs.

"As more students reflect

upon the kind of university experience they hope to have — a prestigious U of T education in a smaller, supportive community

environment — UTSC becomes very appealing," said Curtis Cole, registrar and director of enrolment management.



# Spring's calling for colour

It's the time of year to watch out for the latest trends, but for students on a budget it could get tricky

## Thrift shop finds



Earrings found at Value Village- \$2.99



Summer dress found at Value Village- \$7.99



Complete outfit found at Value Village for \$21

Mark A. Cadiz

Spring is finally here and splashes of colour are what it's all about.

Bright, bold and neon seem to be the trend right now, so don't be shy to add a little punch to your spring wardrobe, even if you are on a budget.

Retail fashion expert Aprille Radam, who has been in the retail business for eight years, has noticed a transition from flowing clothing to stronger lines this season.

"Pops of colour, brightening on colours, neon yellows mixed in with blue," Radam said. "Also black and white is a definite trend right now heading into spring and it's accented by ponte fit dresses, shirts and skirts."

For the stylish student, adding to the spring collection doesn't necessarily mean breaking the bank. If you spend, then save it for staple items that last longer.

Tolletia Shepherd, retail associate at Scarborough Town Centre, says the maxi dress is worth investing in because of the flexibility it offers.

"You can use it in so many ways," Shepherd said. "You can add a denim vest to it, a denim jacket or a belt to it. You can dress it down with sandals, whatever you like."

Radam has also observed the younger crowd, 18 to 24, have a more casual lifestyle approach. Floral patterns are popular

and printed t-shirts paired with a boyfriend blazer or jeans create an edgier look.

Radam's advice for the fashion savvy on a budget is to invest in a good quality basic t-shirt.

"Even a plain white, black and grey shirt," Radam said. "Because you can dress it up in so many different ways. You can tuck it into a skirt, wear it with jeans and add a chunky necklace, you can wear it with leggings or an oversized blazer."

Nicolette Mendoza, journalism student at the University of Toronto Scarborough, tries her best

to budget when it comes to clothes. As a student she pays rent and averages 15 to 20 hours of work a week.

"I buy practical things," Mendoza said. "Tops or blouses are something I can wear casually, but if I need to dress up more, it can be dressed up and still look professional, something

*Buy things you know you will wear and not just because they are on sale.*

- Nicolette Mendoza

versatile."

Students like Mendoza may have a soft spot for fashion, but sometimes they have to be patient and express some self-control.

"Buy things you know you will wear and not just because they are on sale," she said.

Everyone is different. Whatever your style is, there is an affordable colour out there for you, so have some fun and add a little spring to your step this season.

Mark A. Cadiz  
and Joanne Kaileh photos  
// Scarborough Observer

## Forever 21 finds



Earrings found at Forever 21- \$4.80



Summer dress found at Forever 21- \$18.99



Complete outfit found at Forever 21 for \$53



## Young duo learns to live through

# music

Xylk Lorena, 20, and Angela Abrenica, 20, have performed in various Toronto locations. They have both fused their own genres to create the unique sound of Plaitwrights.

## Xylk Lorena and Angela Abrenica of Plaitwrights say their collective experience has been their greatest teacher

Joie Ann Merana

Photos by Joie Ann Merana/Alexandra Gater // Scarborough Observer

With instruments, their voices and a vision, two young musicians are showing that life and music are their greatest teachers.

Xylk (pronounced Silk) Lorena, 20, and Angela Abrenica, 20, have two distinct styles of music. They never expected to come together and create a duo: Plaitwrights (pronounced Playwrights).

"We went to Centre Island and she was on her guitar," Lorena said. "We were at the picnic table and I heard her sing ... and I thought I had to get her a mixtape!"

Lorena and Abrenica worked together on various songs before uploading their first YouTube video. The two collaborated and recorded their first song in 2009. Their time in their makeshift recording studio was a memorable one.

"We recorded in my closet and it was padded with mattress foam," Lorena said. "It was my best friend's mom's mattress and we had to sneak it out and cut it up. Hair was growing out of it. It was hilarious."

For Abrenica, music was

always in her future. She took up independent music at Seneca College.

"For me, ever since I was young I've always wanted to imagine [making it big]," Abrenica said. "Xylk would always tell me the whole Law of Attraction thing and how if you imagine it and if you believe it with your whole heart then the universe will give it to you. Of course I'd like to think that we're going somewhere."

Graduating from Blessed Cardinal Newman Catholic High School in Scarborough, Lorena saw his music only as a hobby. As his passion grew stronger, he had to make a decision between school and a music career.

"It was difficult to leave [school] but I feel like I learned so many things that

I can actually use in [my] music too," Lorena said. "And the networks that I had from school, I use now to this day. So as cliché as it sounds, everything happens for a reason."

The spelling for their name, Plaitwrights, also has its reason. Lorena came up with it in his English class.

"I was sleeping in English .... My teacher woke me up and he was like, 'Playwright,'" Lorena said. "I spelled it out and I wrote it down on my paper and it was p-l-a-y...I wanted it to relate to my name as well where it's pronounced silk but it's not spelled silk. So I was like, OK, maybe playwright with p-l-a-i-t and two weeks later my art teacher told me there's a meaning to that: she said 'yeah, it means to braid.'"

*It's pretty much saying, like, go for your dreams and don't let anyone take anything from you.*

**- Angela Abrenica**

Plaitwrights see their name as a representation of their intertwining music styles.

They have performed various shows in Toronto. Although they face challenges such as time management, creating an identity and making it big in the music scene, they say they are dedicated to pursuing what they are passionate about.

"We're blessed to have each other," Lorena said. "It's easier to be in a duo."

Their music video, "Take", was recently released on YouTube. The song was first written when Abrenica was in high school and faced the judgments of her parents as she was constantly treated "like a kid."

"It's pretty much saying, like, go for your dreams and don't let anyone take anything away

from you," Abrenica said.

Teacups, French conversations and tableaux fill the music video. Although the audience may not understand it at first, every element in the video has a purpose, the duo says.

"First of all, with anything that we do we don't want to make it easy for anyone," Lorena said. "Not to say that we want to make it harder but we wanted to make a challenge for them to dig deeper."

Plaitwrights hope to launch their own

EP soon. The audience can expect live music and a mix of new and old music they have created.

Abrenica says she used what she learned at Seneca but both say what they have learned through each other has taught them the most about their music.

"We're our own teachers," Lorena said. "I feel like she's one of my professors ... the experiences that we give each other are the lessons. In a sense we're teaching each other. We just wanted to take a different route."





## Get to know Plaitwrights:

- Plaitwrights is set to perform on June 8 at the AGO for a youth organization called Big bam boom.
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Plaitwrights](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Plaitwrights)
- Twitter and Instagram: @Plaitwrights
- Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Plaitwrights>

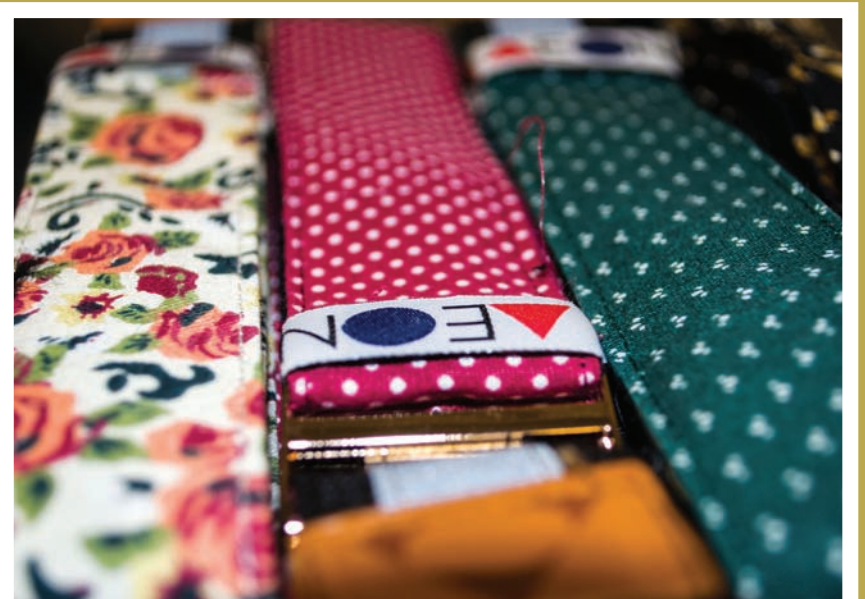


# SPRING IN THEIR STEP

Three men's designers present latest trends for 2013, combining break dancing and fashion



Fashion and break dancing come together as three young Toronto designers create something new. The designers, twins Weiming Yuan and Weidong Yuan, 19, and Patrick Lum, 20, created their line known as Aeon Attire in May, 2012. They wanted to create something new and unisex for a wider audience. Starting as friends with a passion for dance, and transitioning into business partners was both a challenging and positive experience for the team. Above, fashionable tapers meant to accessorize pant cuffs, and bright colours are part of their line shown, below. They have beanies, shirts and sunglasses.





Richard Comparey discussed some of his work and his fondness for colour at the Paper Mills gallery in March. Above, Comparey with his painting "Nostalgia" and other works.

Mark A. Cadiz // Scarborough Observer

# Kiddie kritics

ChildSight exhibition features artists' interpretation from young people's point of view

## Mark A. Cadiz

Curious to see art through a child's eyes?

An exhibition organized by Scarborough Arts, a non-profit organization serving the art community over the last three decades, is trying to do just that with ChildSight.

As part of its annual juried show, ChildSight is an array of visual art works

displaying artists' interpretations of how children might see the world. Celebrating its 28th year, Scarborough Arts is doing what it does best: getting local children involved.

Grade 3 and Grade 8 students from Warden Avenue and Military Trail public schools in Scarborough were invited to critique selected works.

Cindy Rozeboom, Scar-

borough Arts program director, is ecstatic about the exhibit and the attention it is receiving.

"It was a bit of an experiment," Rozeboom said. "It was a great experience for the kids involved, to be validated and that they too, could have an opinion about art."

Artist Richard Comparey had his work critiqued by some of the young students.

"I was fascinated by the idea of ChildSight," Comparey said. "Being able to show my work to kids and getting their feedback on it. Children have a more intuitive perspective on life and it's like getting the pure instincts of an image without the biases."

Comparey got the idea of his painting from a photograph he came across during an art class, he said. A part

of the challenge of ChildSight was trying to remember what it was like to be a kid again.

"The exhibit is also about having the artist look back and think about how they saw things as a child—it's nostalgia," Comparey said.

The artists have yet to hear the critiques, but some responses were more meaningful than the kids might have realized.

"The kids were spontaneous but some of the younger kids came up with some assessments that were really profound," Rozeboom said.

The exhibit is on now until March 24 at Paper Mills Gallery at Todmorden Mills. The opening reception is on March 21.

You can hear the kids' reactions to Comparey's work along with other artists here at ChildSight's feedback.

# The limelight shines on Scarborough

## Naomi Grosman

Toronto has TIFF, France has Cannes and now Scarborough will have its very own film festival. The Scarborough Film Festival will be held this summer on June 4-9.

Sergei Petrov, co-director of the festival, has been a Scarborough resident for 15 years, until recently.

He says he recognizes the talent that Scarborough has to offer for the arts scene in the GTA and believes it deserves more positive attention.



Petrov has noticed only a few events happen in Scarborough compared to the rest of the city. He hopes to highlight Scarborough talent.

"Our hope is definitely to get people in Scarborough to come see the movies but also to bring more people in to Scarborough," Petrov said. "Our goal is also to

bridge that gap between East York and Scarborough."

This is the first year the film festival is being held and Petrov expects many more to come. It's a challenge to get sponsors because the festival still hasn't made a name for itself. This year, the staff persevered and has succeeded in get-

ting sponsors and advertisements, which will help, spread the word about the festival.

All of the festival's staff are volunteers. Many of them are from Scarborough, which is ideal because they have that extra passion that comes from a personal connection, says Petrov.

The festival got more than 300 submissions, which is huge for a new festival and proves that they are off to a solid start. For more information visit the website [scarboroughfilm-festival.com](http://scarboroughfilm-festival.com)



Naomi Grosman // Scarborough Observer  
Sergei Petrov, co-director of the Scarborough Film Festival.

# The Wooden Sky get Juno nod

Scarborough band's latest record nominated for 2013 Juno award

**Madolyn MacCallum**

A weighty silver human figurine might be moving to Scarborough from Regina in April. If it does, it won't be alone.

The figurine may be in the hands of a Toronto band member, as this year's Juno Awards have a tie to Scarborough.

Andrew Kekewich and his band, The Wooden Sky, have been nominated in the Roots and Traditional Album of the Year Group category at this year's awards, for their latest record, *Every Child as Daughter*.

"It's a nice feeling to be in the company of the other artists that were nominated as well," says Kekewich, the band's

drummer. "It feels very rewarding. It was a nice surprise that we were nominated."

This nomination is the band's first and they were excited to hear the news.

"The first feeling was to call my mum," Kekewich said. "I think the minute we heard, we all sort of got on our phones and called our moms, that was the instinct."

Kekewich said the group was invited to a nomination breakfast party where the nominations are announced.

"It was really exciting for us," he said.

The guys are looking forward to the Juno weekend, April 19–21. Their flights are booked and they can't wait for the events that await them that weekend.



Photo courtesy of The Wooden Sky

Three of The Wooden Sky band members from left, Gavin Gardiner, Andrew Kekewich, Edwin Huizinga at the Juno nominations party. The band is up for an award in the Roots and Traditional Album of the Year category

That weekend will include a number of events including: a hockey game, The Juno Cup, on Friday; a dinner gala on Saturday night; and then the televised event on Sunday.

The Juno Cup is where some of the musicians face off against former NHL players. Gavin Gardiner, lead vocalist and songwriter of The Wooden Sky, is set to participate in the Friday game. Kekewich is looking forward to watching his band mate play.

"Watching Gavin play hockey is going to be pretty good. He's like a six-and-a-half-foot man, so on skates he's going to be like a seven-foot presence. So that's going to be pretty funny, I think, to see," he said.

Aside from watching Gardiner play hockey, Kekewich is most looking forward to the dinner gala on Saturday, as that is when the award they are nominated for, will be announced.

The Wooden Sky has

been together for about six years. The members met through Ryerson University.

"Gavin met Wyatt at an open mic night at Ryerson, and so they sort of met and started playing music together," Kekewich said. "Wyatt grew up with Simon who just got back from school in Dalhousie. They called him up, he moved to Toronto, joined the band, and then I would say about a couple months later I joined from meeting the guys through Ryerson."

Right now, the guys are working on writing new songs.

They converted Gardiner's garage into their own studio where they can write and demo their songs.

"It's been a pretty pro-

ductive winter for us, so we have quite a few new songs," Kekewich said. "It's shaping up pretty nice."

The Wooden Sky will be stepping into the studio for a few days before they head to Regina for the Junos, to track three or four songs. Kekewich is looking forward to how the new record will turn out.

"There's always such an interesting evolution from when you first hear the songs, and then how you work them out and arrange them to how they actually end up on the record," he said.

"So just that process of change and of realizing the songs and then finally being able to hold that record in your hands. I think that's what we're all really excited about right now."



Photo courtesy of Justin Broadbent

Scarborough's The Wooden Sky — from left, Andrew Kekewich, Andrew Wyatt, Simon Walker, Edwin Huizinga and Gavin Gardiner — are up for a Juno.

## Dancers' swagger won't be beat

'Eccentric group' represents UTSC at competition

**Joie Ann Merana**

Scarborough (Sc) Swagg represented the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus on stage for a post-secondary hip-hop dance competition on March 30.

The competition known as BYOB (Bring your own beat) featured students from various universities competing and showcasing their talents.

Sc Swagg competed with only six of its members but still hoped to make their mark.

"Our mindset is to win

but winning is not the priority in our hearts — winning is always a bonus," dancer Kevin Ho, 20, said before the competition, where Sc Swagg failed to place. "We feel like as long as we get the message across to the audience and we leave our hearts on the stage, that's all that matters."

Ho has been a member of the team since last summer. Though he is not a student at the campus, his dedication and admiration for the team motivated him to stay involved, he said.

"We're a very eccentric group," Ho said. "We have people that have ballet back-

ground, to someone like myself where I came from no dancing background and relied on YouTube for inspiration."

Sc Swagg has been performing on stages, on and off campus, since 2008, drawing attention to the university's eastern suburban campus.

"I think most people know University of Toronto as that one (sole) campus downtown," dancer Megan MacDonald, 20, said. "They don't really realize that there are all these other groups of people that are involved in different campuses."

Sc Swagg places focus on

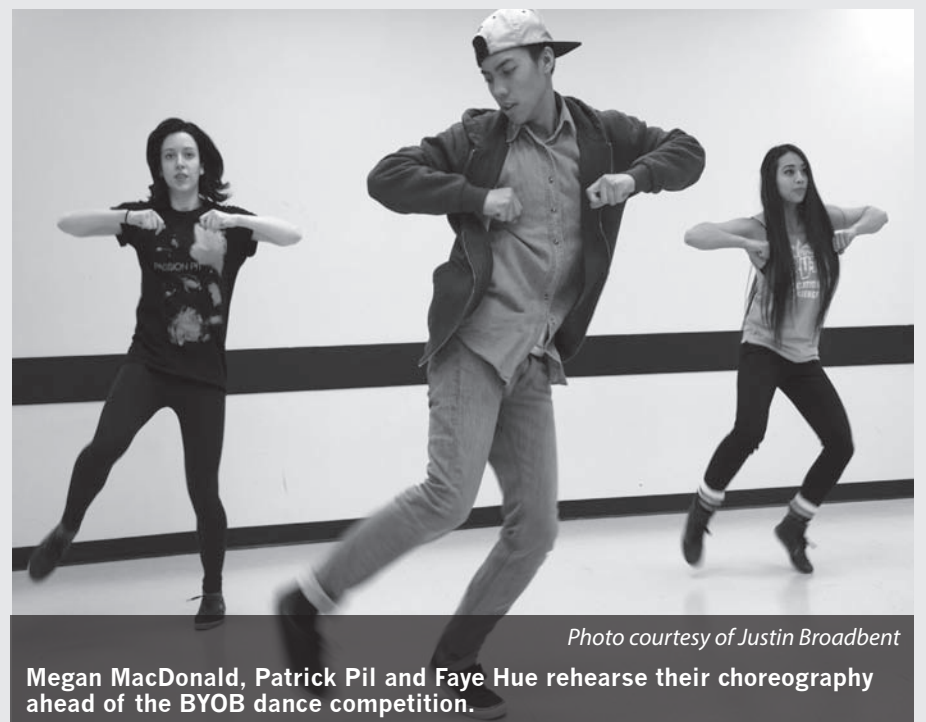


Photo courtesy of Justin Broadbent

Megan MacDonald, Patrick Pil and Faye Hue rehearse their choreography ahead of the BYOB dance competition.

the importance of school spirit and creates a sense of unity within the community," MacDonald said.

"I just want people to know Scarborough and be like, 'Oh yeah, they're really awesome,'" MacDonald

said. "I think we do have a lot of people that support us and it's been really good to see."

# HIT THE PATIO, DADDY-O!

## A search for the area's best outdoor spots

Angelica Bottaro

Scarborough has some great place to eat and drink outdoors: Boston Pizza, Canyon Creek Chophouse, Sports Café Champions and The Stone Cottage Pub.

### Boston Pizza

Boston Pizza at 400 Progress Ave is the chain of Boston Pizza, which is obviously successful, and there's good reason for it.

Monica, the day manager at Boston Pizza, thinks the restaurant can be for anyone.

"We have a family crowd as well as older people. We have different crowds and regulars, and also sports fans. The bar and patio area is mostly used by people 25-45," she said.

The patio is full of events and giveaways for anyone of legal age.

"We throw four to five patio parties over four months. We have prizes like hats and t-shirts. Usually if it's a patio party we throw out particular things, like home fridges, televisions, and other small prizes. The patio girls come too, like the Budweiser girls," she said.

### Canyon Creek

Canyon Creek Chop-

house at 430 Progress Ave has a great atmosphere to slug some back and enjoy the sunshine. Kristina Frizzell, service manager at the restaurant, thinks it takes more than just a nice patio to ensure a great experience.

"We have that home feeling. We don't necessarily have to have that fine dining etiquette. Our standards are set very high, and I think that's what differentiates us," Frizzell says.

The atmosphere at Canyon Creek is a sight to see, and the food is just as good.

"The best dish — hands down — is our prime rib. For our steak, it is the eight-ounce chipotle sirloin with a tobasco rub topped with a goat cheese butter," Frizzell says.

Any customer can come for the food, but will end up staying for the overall experience the restaurant can offer.

"Our staff is what makes it memorable," Frizzell says. "We have also added some landscape designs to it (the patio), and there are no trees around so it's just the bright sunshine in your face all day. It's a really nice place to come and enjoy the rest of your evening while the sun goes down."

### Sports Café Champions

Sports Café Champions at 2839 Eglinton Ave. This sports bar has a good-sized patio to enjoy the summer, and even some gambling.

John Efstathiadis, the owner and manager of

Champions says that this sports/track betting bar is full of loyal patrons.

"The patio gets very busy during the summer, and it's mostly regulars. They get used to the patio and the betting," he said.

With a bar full of regulars, there has to be a reason they keep coming back.

Dexter Hall of Guyana, a frequent Champions patron, loves that he has somewhere to go and lay back.

"This is a very interesting place. For me, I like it. I'm from Guyana and they have places like this but they're not as sophisticated as these ones here. I don't know if they're a little more modernized there. My dad used to play sports, so it brings that kind of vibe when I'm here, and you can have a beer and just relax," said Hall.

### The Olde Stone Cottage

Last but not least, The Olde Stone Cottage at 3750 Kingston Rd originally built in 1867 as a family home, but has had a few different businesses in it since. Mary Mahwinney, Olde Stone Cottage employee, says the success of the 30-year-old pub is simple.

"Our food is great. Our service is great. And our building is beautiful," Mahwinney said.

As it stands, The Olde Stone Cottage is a heritage building, and with the simple beauty of it along with the amazing daily deals they offer, it's an excellent summer choice for anyone.



Angelica Bottaro // Scarborough Observer

Stone Cottage Pub, a heritage building. Below, Sports Cafe Champions boasts loyal patrons.



# Not to fear, but coyotes are here

Taylor Giffin

Coyotes have lived near urban environments a long time but have just recently begun to venture into the concrete jungle. However, it may not be something to be worried about.

For Scarborough residents, this is especially important.

Sharing a living space with wild animals is nothing new to people living in cities. After all, animals such as pigeons, raccoons and squirrels are a common sight.

Coyotes, on the other hand, may not be seen as frequently. But that does not mean they are not there.

Nathalie Karvonen, executive director of the Toronto Wildlife Centre, says that even though they may

be less noticeable, it is important we remember coyotes are not pets.

"It is important to not intentionally feed coyotes," Karvonen said. "Which some people do, as they do with other wild animals."

It is also important to keep your house and yard coyote-proof.

One of the main reasons coyotes venture into urban areas is for food.

But coyotes are not picking through garbage, as a raccoon may do, Karvonen said. Instead, they are searching for mice and rats.

Scattered bird feed, compost piles and pet food left outside all attract mice and rats. Which, in turn, attract coyotes.

If you can make sure your house and yard are



Courtesy // Fotolia

Coyotes often go into urban areas in search of food.

free of potential homes for mice and rats, then you can also help stop coyotes venturing into your area.

More importantly, however, is to understand these animals do not present a threat — so long as you treat them like you

would any other wild animal.

"A lot of people enjoy looking at them and a lot of people, most people actually, have absolutely no problem with them being around their neighbourhood," Karvonen said.

Although they may be interesting to watch and observe, it is best to do this from a distance.

Should a coyote come to close to you, the best maneuver is to make loud noises and spread and wave your arms.

If you act scary, the coyote will get scared and should scatter away.

A coyote attack is a very rare occurrence. Although you can never be 100 per cent certain, an incident where a coyote actually injures someone is very unlikely, Karvonen said.

"It has been over 10 years since a coyote even nipped someone. In the last two years there have been over 1,000 dog bites in Toronto, including Scarborough, so we just have to put things into perspective."

# Baseball hits a home run with Scarborough kids

Growth of the game at home bucks national trend downward

Taylor Giffin

The most recent numbers from Statistics Canada suggest that baseball is a declining sport specific to participation by Canadian youth. However, it may be time to knock those stats out of the park.

"Our baseball enrolment in Scarborough has been going up steadily the last few years," said Greg Dennis, president of the Scarborough Stingers baseball organization. "They had record amounts of kids signing up for Rookie Ball and T-Ball house league the last couple of years in every association."

Baseball has found a stable home not just in Scarborough, but possibly in Ontario as a whole.

Frank Gallo, who coaches the Minor Peeewe AAA Stingers team, saw the phenomenon firsthand. This past season he was awarded the Ontario Baseball Association's Youth Coach of the Year.

"I think it has peaked a little bit, everywhere," Gallo said.



Baseball seems to be on the rise in Scarborough. Clinics such as this one, on April 14, can help young players gain interest in the game.

Taylor Giffin  
// Scarborough Observer

"We go to Baseball Ontario meetings and I think everyone is saying they have growth. So, it's not just Scarborough but I think everyone has."

A rise in participation levels and sustaining them fall in different ballpark. Once these young players get involved in the game, they need to have fun in order for them to stick around.

"You have to teach them a little about the game, some fundamentals and things like that, so we can keep them there as they go along," Dennis said.

"It is one thing to have a spike and then have it drift off. Or, it's one thing to have big enrolment when they are seven years old. You want them to keep playing ball."

Although baseball appears to have perceived growth in the Scarborough area, it certainly has not peaked. There are many opportunities to expand the game throughout the population.

"Toronto is an incredibly ethnically diverse community itself," Dennis said. "The more and more we can get

people from all the different communities out to play baseball is the better for all of us."

Four leagues that are based in Scarborough are centered in the south, Gallo said. It may be the right time to expand the game.

The Stingers play some home games at Neilson Park in northeastern Scarborough. During their games, both Dennis and Gallo said, kids and families who are not familiar with baseball come out to watch and ask questions.

"When we are play-

ing, there are kids coming out all the time just watching and you just wish there was a league up that way."

Gallo said. "If we are going to do anything we should really develop that area."

Another factor that can certainly help grow the game to its fullest potential is the success of the hometown Toronto Blue Jays.

Dennis is hoping the Jays play well this season. He says a successful Jays team will have an even greater effect on baseball in the area.

## Parents cheer local lad's first NHL goal

Naomi Grosman

March 18 is a date Rob and Mandy Toffoli will not forget. That night they proudly watched their son Tyler Toffoli, 20, score his first NHL goal for the Los Angeles Kings.

"When he scored his first goal he got a standing ovation," dad Rob said. "You could see him trying to not look up at the big screen, it was pretty cool."

According to his parents, Tyler's interest in hockey started at an early age. He was surrounded by the sport.

It was on TV at home and he watched his dad and cousin play. No matter what toys his mom would give him, if it wasn't something he could hit, throw or kick, Tyler didn't want to see it.

Before his second birthday, Tyler hijacked his sister's Fisher Price rollerblades and rarely took them off, even when he went to bed.

"I pitied the people in the apartment below us because it was loud," Mandy said. "But he always wanted them on."

Before he was six, he was trying out for teams of eight-year-olds.

His talent was recognized early on and he was sponsored from a young age.

"If he hadn't been sponsored, he wouldn't be where he is," Mandy said.

One of his main sponsors was Harvey Shapiro, former owner of the Toronto Jr. Canadiens, the team that Tyler played for in the GTHL.

"He's the one who took care of Tyler. He's a very generous guy," Rob said.

His drive and hard work led him to where he is now. He moved away from home when he was 16.

Trips back to Scarborough are rare and when he does make it, it's more a visit than a homecoming.

# Fast times at Commander Park

Scarborough arena is home to Toronto Speed Skating Club

Madalyn Hamann

Commander Park Arena is one of two homes to the Toronto Speed Skating Club (TSSC), where recreational and competitive skaters practise.

The TSSC is one of 27 clubs in Ontario that compete at national levels, and has trained many talented skaters. It takes time to get used to the techniques, but with practise one can pick up the pace.

"Just watching their commitment to train is incredible," said coach Will Wallace, who has been with the TSSC since 2000. "Four times a week, they work hard, and then they produce these amazing things. It's a beautiful sport. When you get someone understanding the ice, it's great."

Sisters Mila, 15, and Megan Abellera, 14, played hockey before they started practising with the TSSC. They both recently made it to provincial levels of competition, but learned it was more challenging than they originally thought.

"It's like hockey," Megan Abellera said. "I find it dangerous because you go so fast, and when you fall you hit the boards hard ... And you don't have much protection on."

Intensity has not deterred the girls, however, as they both want to go on to higher levels of competition, perhaps even to the Olympics.

One thing the girls like about speed skating with the TSSC is that everyone is very friendly and supportive, even under competitive standards.

The other location for the



Madalyn Hamann // Scarborough Observer  
Mila and Megan Abellera were hockey players before they started speed skating at the Toronto Speed Skating Club.

TSSC to practise is at the MasterCard Centre in Etobicoke, which has a larger rink than Commander Park's. One of the difficulties for the club is getting enough ice time to practise, because they are often sharing schedules with hockey teams, along with other speed skating teams. Wallace explained they

just make do with what they are given.

"We don't have the resources to get our own rink," Wallace said. "We're not of that scale yet. But it would be nice to be in a rink where we have more control over the ice. The ice here is very thick, and makes it hard to manage, with temperature and what

not."

For coach Wallace, watching his students make progress is what makes all the difference.

"It attracts a really nice group of kids, who are serious about being athletes and understand they can go quite far in the sport. But it needs dedication."



# Beaches Jr. A lacrosse wants Scarborough to ride the tide



James Tessier photos//Scarborough Observer

Head Coach Bruce Codd, right, speaks to players during the 2013 training camp at the Major League Sportsplex in Scarborough.

Club is the highest level sports team in Scarborough, and they want everyone in town to know it

## James Tessier

Toronto may be in its name, but the Toronto Beaches Junior A lacrosse club has a Scarborough connection.

Located on the boundaries of Scarborough and East York Beaches, the club wants to reach out to everyone in the surrounding community.

After new management took over the team one year ago, the club has been striving to reach out to the strong lacrosse roots across Toronto.

Jack Wilkinson, Toronto businessman and lacrosse fanatic, has taken over the club and organized the overhaul.

"Beaches Jr. A has a lot of history in this area and across Toronto," he said. "In past years, the team has lost its connection with the community and we just want to get the club back to the glory days."

Last season, the new management and coaching staff helped the club improve dramatically both on the floor and in attracting the community to attend games. This

season, the club is trying a new method to grow the fan base even more.

"We are trying something new this year when it comes to bringing in more people to our games," Wilkinson said. "We have printed up 8,000 season tickets and we

are giving them out to all the minor lacrosse organizations in the city."

Beaches Jr. A distributed a season ticket to every minor lacrosse player from the three minor lacrosse leagues in Toronto.

2013 SEASON TICKET			
<b>Toronto Beaches Jr. A Lacrosse</b>			
		<b>HOME GAME SCHEDULE</b>	
www.torontobeachesjralacrosse.com			
Follow us on Twitter @BeachesJrA			
○ Monday	May 13	vs. Six Nations	
○ Friday	May 24	vs. K.W.	
○ Monday	May 27	vs. Mississauga	
○ Thursday	May 30	vs. Burlington	
○ Monday	June 3	vs. Orangeville	
○ Thursday	June 6	vs. Peterborough	
○ Monday	June 10	vs. St. Catharines	
○ Monday	June 17	vs. Barrie	
○ Monday	June 24	vs. Whitby	
○ Monday	July 8	vs. Brampton	
<b>ALL GAMES START AT 8PM</b>			
Ted Reeve Arena			

Among these leagues is the Scarborough-based Toronto Stars. Working with the Stars organization, each team was given Beaches Jr. A envelopes with a letter from management and two season tickets.

"The response from the minor organizations has been amazing," said Wilkinson. "We are hoping to create a real buzz in the commu-

nity and fill the arena."

A conflict may arise if everyone with a season ticket shows up to Ted Reeve Arena, which has a capacity of 1,200, but the club will welcome the chance to pack the building and think of ways to accommodate a vast amount of fans.

Wilkinson hopes that, by giving tickets away and getting the community involved, attendance will go up and the

*In past years, the team has lost its connection with the community and we just want to get the club back to the glory days*

*- Jack Wilkinson*

■ Jordon Robertson #9

club will have stability.

"We are a non-profit organization, so we need funds from sponsors and game day sales. We are trying to build financial stability so that the team will be easy for anyone to run it going forward."

With the home opener on May 13, the Beaches Jr. A will soon find out if their new model will re-connect them to the lacrosse community.

**For more information on the squad, go to [Beacheslacrosse.com](http://Beacheslacrosse.com)**

## HOCKEY

# The cost of hockey rising



Steve Negovalis coaches his team, Wee Watch, in their only game of the week. The price for hockey in house league is more affordable than in higher levels of junior hockey.

Naomi Grosman // Scarborough Observer

## Naomi Grosman

Steve Negovalis arrives at the Don Montgomery Arena in Scarborough ready for the game. The team he coaches, Wee Watch, is about to play its only game of the week. The team's eagerness to get on the ice shows on their faces and it is clear the players and their coach have a passion for the game.

"At the house league level, they try to keep (hockey) as affordable as possible," Ne-

govanlis said. "It's not super competitive, it's more recreational."

However, there is a troubling development going on at the higher levels of junior hockey, Ken Campbell says.

"When you get to the elite levels, the triple-A ... it's very expensive, usually upwards of \$10,000," says Campbell, author of a new book, *Selling the Dream: How Hockey Parents and Their Kids Are Paying the Price for Our National Obses-*

*sion*.

Other fees that can be factored in put the annual cost well over that figure, he adds.

Not only is the game getting more expensive, but there are a limited number of outdoor and publicly funded rinks, making it hard for lovers of the game to get the ice time they want. Scarborough only has one outdoor rink.

Campbell, who is a Scarborough resident and columnist for *The Hockey*

*News*, sees this as cause for concern.

"If you want to continue some grass roots participation...and you want to keep people engaged and fit, I think it's incumbent upon municipalities and cities to provide that infrastructure," he says.

"If we can put those rinks up and make them accessible...maybe you'll see people use those facilities and become hockey players."

The hope of career ad-

vancement has in some cases overtaken the love for the game, he says. It has also become one of the main reasons parents want their kids to participate on the elite level.

"I worry about whether or not we're going to have enough beer-league players in 20 years. If you're being turned away at a young age, how likely are you to continue having a passion for hockey?"

With the rising cost of the sport and this growing

problem of accessibility the future of hockey might not be at stake but the nation might lose out.

"(Hockey) who we are as Canadians — I don't think it will ever go away," Negovalis said. "I just think that there's probably some good talented kids that will never have the opportunity (to play hockey.) You don't know where your little shining star is or your diamond in the rough unless you expose them to it."

## West Hill Golden Hawks use loss as motivation

Local club loses in OHG Atom AA championship to Mississauga Braves but vow to use experience on the ice next year

### Sola DaSilva

Losing 7-1 in the semi-finals is a tough way to go out and West Hill Golden Hawks coach John Beatt says he's already looking to avenge the loss next season.

The host Golden Hawks made it to the semis of the 2013 OHF Atom AA Championships but lost to Mississauga Braves by six goals on April 14.

"You're able to use it as

a motivator next year. (You can say) 'Let's make up for that loss,'" Beatt said on the final day of the tournament. "Who knows if we'll play Mississauga again next year in the city finals and tournament, maybe? So we'll pay back that loss. It's a good motivator for sure."

The 2013 OHF Atom AA Championships took place April 12-14 at the Scarborough Gardens arena. Six minor hockey teams from all over Ontario, including

Scarborough's own West Hill's Golden Hawks, competed for the trophy and the coveted title of OHF champions. That honour went to London's Jr. Knights. The Knights beat the Mississauga Braves in the finals 4-1.

"It's very fulfilling, very fulfilling," said Rob Welch, coach of the London Jr. Knights. "(It's been a) long season, a lot of hard work, and a lot of hours. ... It's a lot of our time that we put into these kids. It's nice to

see them win."

Although Beatt and his team were disappointed by the losses, Beatt is looking forward to getting back to work with his team.

"I am more than looking forward to having the same group of kids back, Beatt said. "We've already established a work ethic; they know my systems and how I teach. I'm looking forward to the fact that I can keep the whole team together. All of them want to stay."



Nicole Gosling, team captain, London Jr. Knights



Madolyn MacCallum // Scarborough Observer

# Getting ready for SPRING

## Madolyn MacCallum **Nine steps for getting your garden back into shape**

Now that the sun is starting to warm up the ground, it's the perfect time to get out and get your garden ready for the new season.

Alan Milliken, president of the Scarborough Garden & Horticultural Society, has some tips to get you started.

### Get started, indoors

Look at photos from last year's garden to make any changes before actually getting in the dirt

Sow some seeds. "Now is also the time to start your tomato seeds and annuals indoors," he said.

Check your tools. "Sharp tools always make gardening work easier," Milliken said.

You need to sharpen and oil secateurs (pruning shears), clean and sharpen hoes, spades and trowels, and ensure the lawn mower is clean and sharpened.

After the tools are in working order, it's important

to take these steps.

### Ready? Get outside!

Start with raking the lawn, top dress with compost or triple mix and overseed any bare patches.

Clear any winter debris off your perennial beds, but be careful not to damage any newly emerging shoots.

Lift and replant any frost heaved perennial clumps, top dress and mulch the beds, and then divide emerging pe-

rennials as soon as the soil is dry enough to step on.

Remove winter protection from roses and prune out any winter kill.

Lightly rake the soil on top of your vegetable bed, and then add three to four inches of a material such as compost, leaf mold, manure or a mixture of all.

"Deep digging is now taboo as it has been found to disturb the organic and microscopic structure of the

bed," Milliken said.

Plant your seeds. "Seeds for cool weather crops such as lettuce, peas and spinach should be planted around mid-April," Milliken said.

Now is also a good time to move any shrubs to new locations before new growth begins.

It's important to check the weather forecast to find out when the last frost warn-

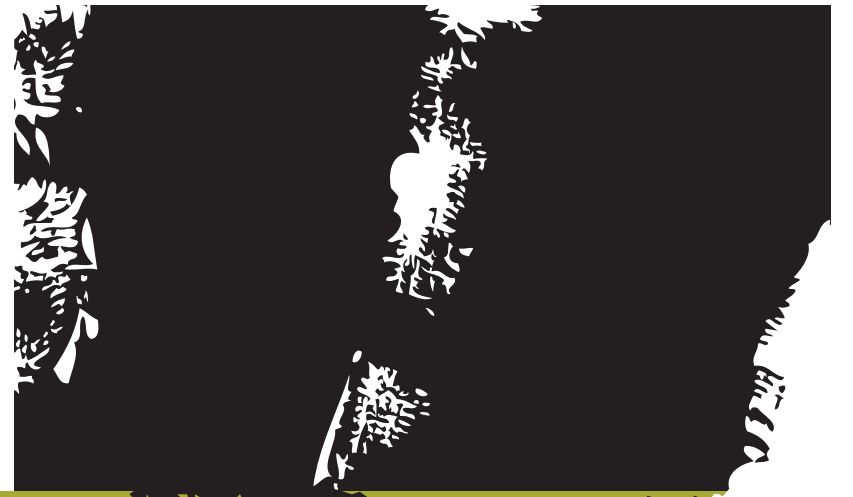
ings are, which is now usually around May 7. Once the last frost has ended you can plant or seed your annuals and vegetables, but you should wait until the soil has warmed up before planting tomatoes.

Finally, you can wash outdoor containers, fill them with fresh soil and create balcony or patio gardens. Pansies are now available in stores and would be perfect to add to containers to provide some quick colour to your curb appeal.

Take these tips and get outside. Make that garden a great start to spring.



GET yOUR



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