



HOCKEY FOR HOSPITAL
The Scarborough Hospital raises money to buy defibrillators
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SPRING JAZZ
UTSC musicians welcome a new season with jazz tribute
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THE EAST TORONTO OBSERVER

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Transit plan fails us: rep

JESSICA LEE
The Observer

Scarborough is getting the short end of the stick in Mayor Ford's new transit development plans, some local representatives say.

"It's a disaster for Scarborough — an absolute disaster," Scarborough Coun. Glenn De Baeremaeker said.

Baeremaeker estimates 80 percent of Scarborough loses out due to cancellation of the previous plan, Transit City.

With Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty, Ford announced on March 31 an \$8.2-billion plan to start construction on Light Rail Transit to run 25 kilometres below ground on Eglinton Avenue to Kennedy Road and then be "partially elevated" from Kennedy to Scarborough City Centre on the existing Scarborough Rapid Transit line. Provincially owned Metrolinx will finance this project.

East end will suffer

"If you live east of Kennedy station, you're not getting anything," De Baeremaeker said. "This is unacceptable. We need our fair share of the transit pie and we're not getting it."

The Sheppard subway is to be extended east to Scarborough City Centre. It is up to Toronto to find the \$4.2 billion to fund this plan.

Scarborough Rouge-River MPP Bas Balkissoon said the Ontario government provides funds to Toronto but cannot dictate how exactly the city plans to spend it.

"We have to respect [Ford's] request," he said. "We have to work with the city."

Toronto will also have to deal with the \$49 million lost for cancelling Transit City, said Bruce McQuaig, CEO of Metrolinx. He told reporters last Thursday there may be additional costs later.

The city will have to change a \$777-million contract with Bombardier. Instead of the 185 LRT vehicles the city ordered, they now only need 130.

-With files from
Yeamrot Taddese



ANDRE THURAIRATNAM/The Observer

Boogie the blues away

University of Toronto student Scott Ramirez leads crew of students in high-energy dance at the campus's student centre. The event was organized to promote school spirit and take the stress off before exams.

Tories challenging Liberal stronghold in federal election

AAKANKSHA TANGRI AND
JAMES WATTIE

The Observer

Despite being a Liberal fortress since the early 1990s, Scarborough is expected to be a battleground in the coming federal election.

But it may still be slim pickings for Conservatives who are hoping to take advantage of the winds of change that swept over Scarborough to bring in right-leaning Rob Ford as mayor of Toronto last year.

Some observers expect the Liberal stronghold to survive in Scarborough.

"The question, of course, will be whether they'll do as well as they have in previous elections," said Christopher Cochrane, University of Toronto political science professor. "Seat-wise, I suspect they will. Vote-wise, I'm not as sure."

Since 1993, Scarborough, like many other suburbs, voted Liberal in great numbers. Despite the rest of the country shifting to the right in the last few elections, Scar-



MARYAM SHAH/The Observer

First-time candidate Rana Sarkar is running in Scarborough-Rouge River, the Liberal-held riding considered most vulnerable to a Tory upset.

borough remained centre-left.

Some Grits have had a firm grasp on Scarborough for decades. Jim Karygiannis has held onto Scarborough-Agincourt since 1988. Scarborough Centre has been under the leadership of John Cannis since 1993.

Even when candidates have changed, Scarborough citizens have chosen red time and time again.

Tom Wappel represented Scarborough West since 1988. The riding, now called Scarborough Southwest, remains red with Michelle Simson.

Doug Peters ended a 14-year Progressive Conservative run in Scarborough East, now Scarborough-Guildwood. John McKay took over from Peters in 1997 and maintained the Liberal streak.

Dan McTeague has held onto the border riding of Pickering-Scarborough East since 1996.

Incumbents are hoping the conservative movement won't affect their ridings. However, all eyes are set on Scarborough-Rouge River this time around. Derek Lee, who has been MP since the riding was created in 1987, has said he will not seek re-election.

Running for the Liberals in this riding is Rana Sarkar, president and CEO of the Canada-India Business Council. If any Scarborough riding is vulnerable, it is Rouge River with visible minorities composing 89 percent of the population.

The voter turnout in the last federal election for Scarborough-Rouge River was 47.5 percent, the lowest in Toronto and the seventeenth lowest in Canada. In a case study for the Canadian Parliamentary Re-

view, Lee cites reasons such as decreased voter turnout among youth aged 18-24, proximity to polling stations and disinterest in the Liberal party's platform or leadership.

Traditionally, the Liberals have garnered the immigrant vote because of their policies on immigration and emphasis on multiculturalism.

However, the Conservatives are making a great effort to get the immigrant vote through campaign ads and policies, Cochrane said.

According to Cochrane, many Scarborough residents stand to gain from increased spending on social programs, particularly childcare and healthcare funding, where the federal government plays a very important role through its spending power.

"All of the parties realize that immigrants will play an increasingly important role in Canada, not just in the economy and society, but in politics as well," Cochrane said.

See page 4 and 5 for
election coverage
by riding

Karygiannis makes 8th run for MP



MARYAM SHAH/The Observer

Liberal MP for Scarborough-Agincourt, Jim Karygiannis had his campaign's grand opening last week.

Focusing on new immigrants, the budget and elderly care

MARYAM SHAH
The Observer

The room quickly filled with excited volunteers ranging from teenagers to seniors. Some were seeing each other for the first time in months.

They had gathered in Liberal MP Jim Karygiannis's campaign office on March 30 to cheer him on as he officially launched his eighth run for the Scarborough-Agincourt seat in the May 2 federal election.

He strode into the room, pausing for photographs and asking volunteers about their health and their families.

Karygiannis, a Greek im-

migrant, has been the MP for Scarborough-Agincourt since 1988, winning with 57 per cent of the vote in the last election.

The veteran Liberal's main rival in the riding is Tory candidate Harry Tsai.

Karygiannis told his supporters his campaign would focus on both local and national issues, including the budget, elder care and immigration.

"What's his name again?" he asked sarcastically. "Jason Kenney, yeah. That's the guy, that's the guy. My favourite minister."

"He cut \$53 billion back from settlement services.

He took something that was working and they dismantled it."

Welcoming new immigrants to the country is a priority the Conservative government is ignoring, Karygiannis said.

He also took aim at Prime Minister Stephen Harper for hosting the G20 summit in Toronto.

"When this guy is spending money like a drunken sailor on G8 and G20 and F35s, and he doesn't care about four years down the line on the [health] accord, I have problems," Karygiannis said.

He called the G20 summit

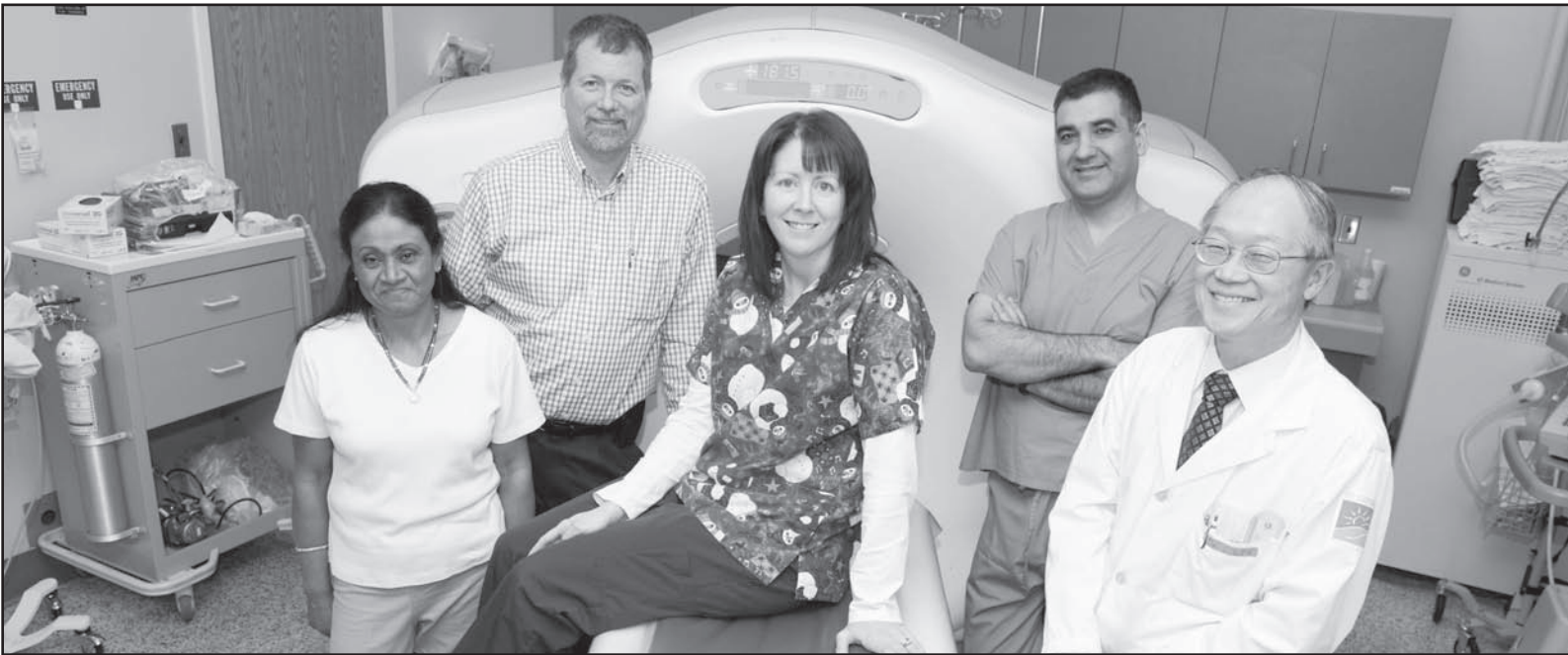
a disaster, saying Harper only brought it to Toronto for a photo opportunity.

The campaign launch brought together volunteers who have worked with him Karygiannis before, some for the last 10 years.

Grade 12 student Tasha Hari Sevranattan said she signed on with Karygiannis's team in 2008 at her cousins' request.

Now she's working at the campaign office twice a week and said she's made friends with everyone in the office.

"Jim's a great guy, he helps the community a lot," she said with a grin. "He always calls me 'Kiddo.'"



COURTESY OF SCARBOUGH GRACE HOSPITAL

Scarborough Grace Hospital was blessed with a \$3.1 million donation from an anonymous Scarborough family.

Anonymous \$3.1-million gift buys hospital new CT machines

MERSIHA GADZO
The Observer

Thank you.

That's the simple sentiment behind an anonymous donation of \$3.1 million to the Scarborough Hospital, the largest it's ever received.

"It's obviously a very exciting moment," hospital foundation president and CEO Michael Mazza said. "It's exciting when you are meeting with donors that make [supporting their hospital] a very high priority.

"They're very passionate and care deeply about making change and supporting the program."

The anonymous Scarborough family decided to donate to the Scarborough Hospital out of appreciation for the service it's received over

the years and is excited the gift will help the community, the hospital said.

With the money, the hospital is set to purchase two new CT scanners for the Birchmount and General campuses, replacing outdated scanners. They're expected to arrive in late fall or early winter.

The government of Ontario pays for the hospital operations, such as utilities and salaries, but equipment purchases are dependant on donations. The Scarborough Hospital often raises funds for urgently needed medical equipment.

The anonymous Scarborough family is spreading the donation over a period of time. The hospital has already received \$1.3 million. The remaining \$1.8 million

is set to come in over the next three to five years.

CT scanners — used to quickly identify injuries in trauma patients, guide biopsies, diagnose treatment for heart disease, and assess the severity of tumours and cancers — are used by nearly every department in the hospital and are run 24 hours a day.

The new scanners will allow radiologists to make better diagnoses with the clearer

pictures, Mazza said. They also give off less radiation and operate faster. The hospital will be able to do more CT scans per day, a huge benefit for patients he said.

Hospital volunteers raised about \$60,000 through a car raffle, which will also go toward buying the scanners. Each scanner costs approximately \$1.3 million.

"\$3.1 million is such a significant gift," Mazza said. "It provides an example of what

could be done with charitable dollars.

"What's exciting is gifts often attract other gifts. This is a significant step forward."

Prior to this contribution, \$1 million had been the largest single donation.

Mazza said he believes this act of kindness could inspire others to make similar choices.

"The more a community understands that they can improve the healthcare of their hospital by investing in their community hospital, the better the hospital becomes," he said. "Strong communities build strong hospitals."

The donors will be meeting with the hospital on a year-by-year basis to determine what are the hospital's highest priorities are in terms of equipment.

42 Division officer faces sex-related charges

MARYAM SHAH
The Observer

Toronto Police have arrested one of their own for allegedly sexually assaulting a 14-year-old boy and having inappropriate relations with a 16-year-old boy.

Const. Brandon Fraser, 24, appeared in court

last Tuesday at Old City Hall. He faces sexual assault, sexual interference and sexual exploitation charges.



BRANDON FRASER

"We're required to come up with sufficient evidence to charge and then it goes to court, and they reach conclusions on whether or not he's guilty," Toronto Police spokesman Mark Pugash said.

The 42 Division officer, who has seven months of service with Toronto Police, was arrested March 28 by the Toronto Police Service professional standards unit.

The allegations against Fraser include sexually assaulting a 14-year-old boy between January 2009 and May 2009, and participating in an "inappropriate sexual relationship" with a 16-year-old boy, police say.

The allegations have not been proven in court.

There may be more victims, police said.

Police are asking anyone with information to contact Crime Stoppers at 416-222-8477.

“

This is a significant step forward
— Michael Mazza

Strike looms for Canada Post

Workers will strike if pay rates and pension plans are changed

CHANTELLE HENRIQUES
The Observer

Some unionized Canada Post workers say their fight is about stopping any move backward and looking ahead.

Members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) are considering striking if their employer fails to realize how much they mean to the Crown corporation, members of the union's Scarborough section say.

"Canada Post are the real dinosaurs," CUPW president Denis Lemelin said at a union meeting at the Delta Toronto East Hotel last Tuesday. "They want to bring us back to the past."

Some employees said they fear cutbacks will be made to their benefits and wages.



CHANTELLE HENRIQUES/The Observer

Milad Moshfeghian delivers a letter at the University of Toronto in Scarborough. If a strike occurs at the end of the month, many Scarborough residents will experience delays in receiving and sending important documents.

"We don't really want to strike but we have to stand in solidarity," said Shirley Cole, a 22-year veteran of Canada Post. "They [Canada Post] are trying to take back all the things we worked for all these years."

Many employees aren't angry with Canada Post, she said, but they do want to have jobs they enjoy.

"I do love my job. It's one of the best I've had in Canada," Cole said. "But we have to fight for what we already

had.

"We don't want to give it up."

Canada Post says it must make changes to the current deal in order to keep some benefits in place.

"We want to protect what is near and dear to our employees," said Jon Hamilton, spokesman for Canada Post. "We want to put forward new protection plans. However, some things need to change so that other things don't."

According to Hamilton, protected pension plans and job security are among the things that will remain, but sick leave programs will be changed.

But Cole feels the restrictions on sick leave are already too tight, she said.

"When you call in sick they kind of harass you," she said.

Lemelin said the time to strike is near.

"At the moment you ask for consideration [on work

methods], you have to set a time where people can exercise the right to strike," he said, "and this time is coming."

"We all need to work together to bring a bright future. We are going through transitions and we need ... to look at the future."

Strike votes will continue across the country until the results are collected on April 17. A strike vote could mean workers are off the job by the end of the month.

Student killed by car

JESSICA MOY
The Observer

On March 24, Kathiha Guruparan stepped off the bus coming from her classes at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

Police said she crossed the intersection of Sheppard Avenue and Murison Boulevard when a 2002 Dodge Caravan driven by a 33-year-old Markham man struck her.

Guruparan suffered head trauma and died after at Sunnybrook hospital.

"At first I didn't think it was as serious as it turned out to be," Guruparan's friend Stephanie Thevamanorathan said. "As we kept getting up-

dates, we found it was very serious and she was on life support...

when we reached the [hospital] her cousin called us saying she was passing away."

Toronto police say drugs and alcohol are not involved in the case. There are conflicting reports whether Guruparan crossed on a red light or not.

According to an Inside Toronto article, Guruparan's dad, Guruparan Balasubramaniam said he's "200 per cent sure" his daughter wouldn't cross on a red light.

"For such a responsible person to take a drastic decision to cross on a red light, I could never believe it."

Guruparan was a month short from graduating with a business degree. She wanted to become a chartered accountant.

"It was a huge shock for her parents (...) her mother called her a few minutes before she passed away and Karthiha asked how everyone was doing at home," Thevamanorathan said.

Guruparan, while attending classes full-time, worked to help her parents pay the bills.

"We had so many plans after graduation," Thevamanorathan said.

The driver has yet to be charged.

"In just a second he just took a promising life, a person who's radiant and has so many opportunities ahead of her," Thevamanorathan said. "He shattered so many people's hearts."



KARTHIHA GURUPARAN

MPP Gerry Phillips not seeking re-election

After 24 years at Queen's Park, Scarborough-Agincourt MPP is ready to retire

JANICE YEUNG
The Observer

Scarborough-Agincourt MPP Gerry Phillips announced his retirement on March 25.

"I love the job, it is very rewarding," he said. "But having to commit to another four years in office entails a lot of time and effort. I am not prepared to make that kind of commitment."

For 24 years, Phillips has been representing the area, one of the city's most multicultural areas.

He first entered provincial politics in 1987, when he was voted into the legislature to represent Scarborough-Agincourt.

He was responsible for improving health care at local hospitals — Mike Del Grande

"I started off being in business — I opened up three companies and had 300 employees," he said. "I entered politics because I found it to be more rewarding. You get

to influence lots of people's lives and with that there is personal satisfaction as well."

He also served as the head of the Scarborough Board of Education and board of governors for the Scarborough General Hospital.

Leadership roles have included being minister of citizenship and minister of labor when David Peterson was Liberal premier of Ontario. Later, in opposition to the Progressive Conservative government, Phillips

was finance and native affairs critic.

Phillips listed the Veterans' Memorial on the lawn of the Assembly as one of the tasks he was most proud of having had a hand in. As government services minister, Phillips had helped bring together the construction of the monument to Canadian veterans.

Phillips' scheduling assistant Susie Dell praised the man who was her boss for over two decades.

"He is a very hardworking, intelligent and fair man of great integrity," she said.

"I consider him as a close friend."

One of the most controversial political issues he was involved in was the shooting death of native protester Dudley George at Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995, said Dell, crediting his dogged pursuit of the issue for the formation of an inquiry into the death in 2003.

Ward 39 councillor Mike Del Grande, wished Phillips well after his retirement.

"He was responsible for improving healthcare at local hospitals in the area," he said.

"I have often complimented him on that."

Ward 40 councillor Norm Kelly, who worked with Phillips while representing the southern half of Scarborough-Agincourt, said Phillips always took a balanced approach. "If you have worked with him, you would know that he is a fair, reasonable and balanced individual."

Kelly also recalled conversations he'd had with Phillips about the Toronto Maple Leafs. Phillips has a great love for hockey, even coaching at one point.



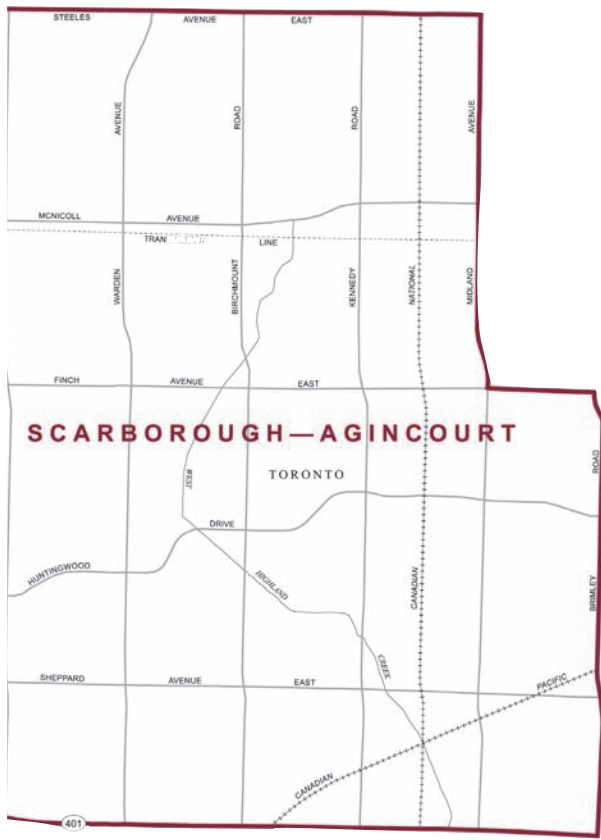
COURTESY GERRY PHILLIPS

Scarborough-Agincourt MPP Gerry Phillips debating on the retirement home bill in June 2010 when he served as the Minister Responsible for Seniors.

CANADA VOTES 2011

BATTLEGROUND

Your local map to Canada



Candidates

- Jim Karygiannis LIB*
- Harry Tsai CON
- Nancy Patchell NDP

ANDRETHURAIRATNAM
The Observer

The Scarborough-Agincourt riding is along the northern border of the city in western Scarborough.

The Toronto riding is bounded by Brimley Road and Midland Avenue in the east, Steeles Avenue in the north, Victoria Park Avenue in the west and Hwy. 401 in the south.

According to the 2006 Census, the riding is home to a very ethnically diverse pop-

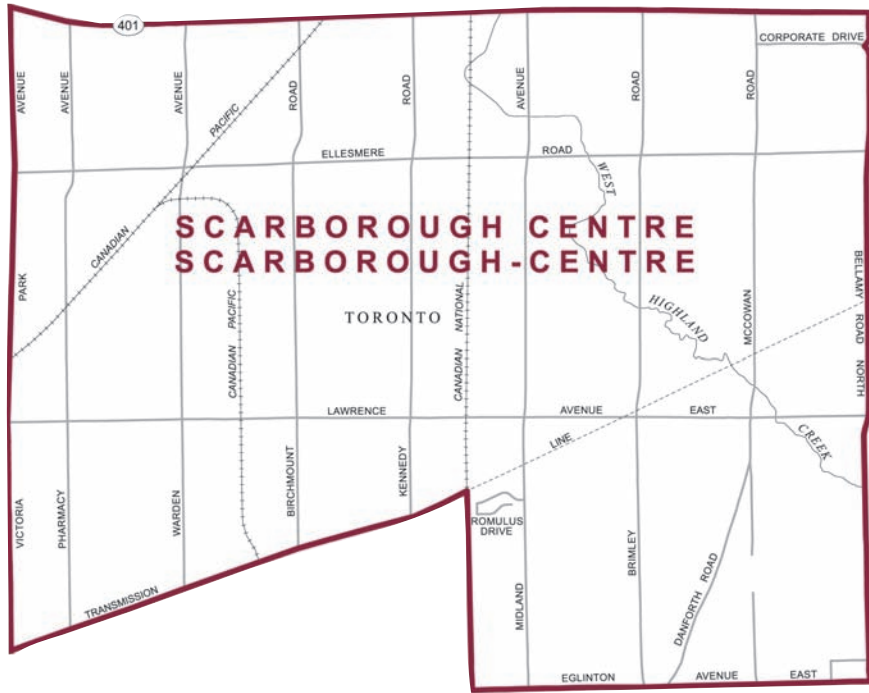
ulation. Almost 68 per cent of the population is made up of immigrants. Chinese make up the largest visible minority, but there are also very significant numbers of Sri Lankans, Greeks and Italians.

Jim Karygiannis has served as the riding's MP for seven consecutive terms, winning the last election with over 56 per cent of the vote.

Small business and light industry make up most of the economic activity in the area. There are also ongoing issues with crime.



JIM KARYGIANNIS



Candidates

- John Cannis LIB*
- Roxanne James CON
- Natalie Hundt NDP
- Ella Ng GRN

CHANTELLE HENRIQUES
The Observer

Scarborough Centre was created in 1976 from parts of York-Scarborough, Scarborough East and Scarborough West.

It runs from the hydro transmission line, the CN Rail line and Eglinton Avenue East in the south to Hwy. 401 in the north. It falls between Toyota Place and Bellamy Road North in the east and Victoria Park Avenue in the west.

The population consists of a high number of Tamil speaking residents. Many people identified in the 2006 census as visible minorities call this area home. The population consists of two-parent households with middle school-aged children.

The average household income is over \$58,000 and most working-age citizens work inside the city of Toronto. The top employment sectors in the riding are service, and business finance and administration.



JOHN CANNIS



NATALIE SEQUERIA
The Observer

The Scarborough Southwest riding has a population of 102,196.

The riding's boundaries were redrawn in 2003 to include Victoria Park Avenue in the west, Lake Ontario in the south, Bellamy Road in the east and Eglinton Avenue in the north.

Area voters kept Liberal Tom Wappel in office for 20 years before he stepped down before the 2008 election and was replaced by another Liberal, Michelle

Simson. Simson won with just over 40 per cent in the last election, and is running again.

The riding contains four of the city's priority neighbourhoods, and the average income for private households is \$47,608.

Scarborough Southwest's visible minority population reaches almost 50 per cent. The riding has Canada's sixth largest Tamil community and the country's fourth largest Filipino community.

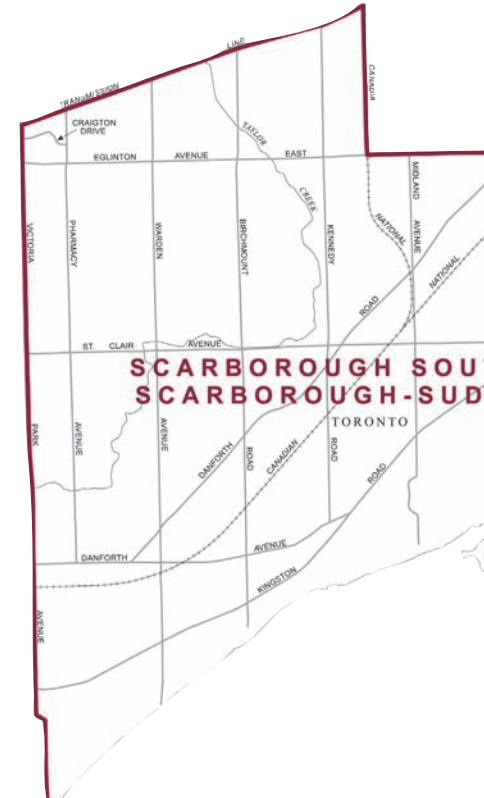
Issues in the area include the economy, crime, transport and tenant rights.

Candidates

- Michelle Simson LIB*
- Gaban Paranchothy CON
- Dan Harris NDP
- Stefan Dixon GRN



MICHELLE SIMSON



SCARBOROUGH

Canada's 41st federal election

CHANTELLE HENRIQUES
The Observer



DAN McTEAGUE

Pickering-Scarborough East is relatively new, and has only been represented in the House of Commons since 2004.

It runs from Lake Ontario in the south to Finch Avenue in the north, between Valley Farm Road, Hwy. 401 and Brock Road in the east. Meadowvale Road, Sheppard Avenue East, Morning-side Avenue and Highland Creek are situated in the

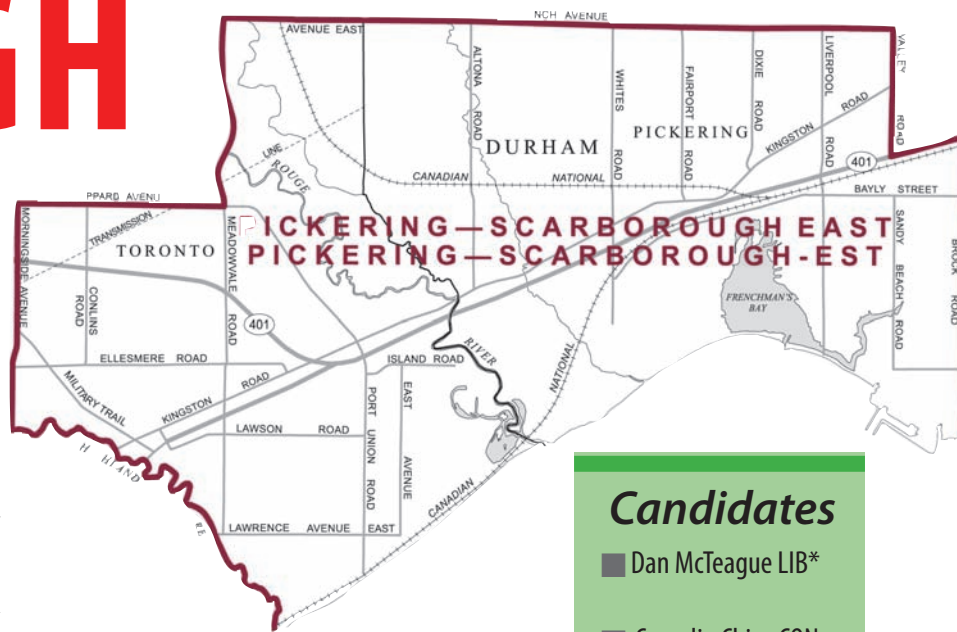
west of this riding.

Though predominantly white, the riding is also home to a large East Indian community.

It is a young riding, with a large proportion of couples with children and a low population of residents 65 years and older.

The average household income in this rapidly growing riding is just over \$90,000.

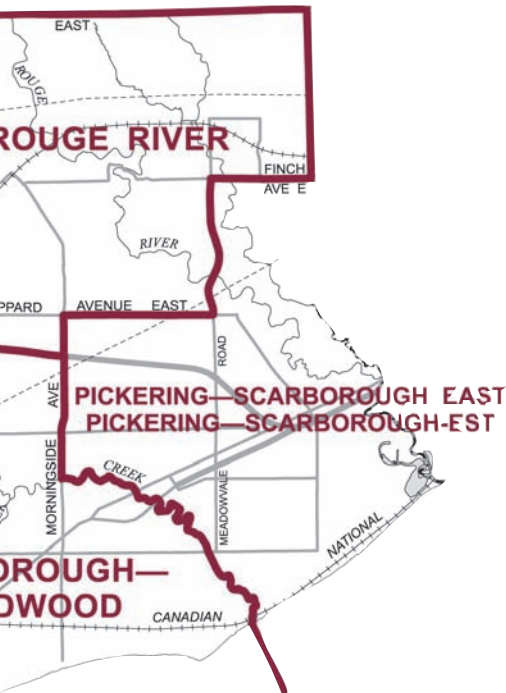
The three main employment sectors are financial, service and manufacturing.



* Incumbent

Candidates

- Dan McTeague LIB*
- Corneliu Chisu CON
- Kevin Smith GRN
- Andrea Moffat NDP



ANDRE THURAIRATNAM
The Observer

The Scarborough Rouge-River riding occupies the northeast corner of the city, and is made up of city Wards 41 and 42.

The riding is bounded by Pickering Town Line and Meadowvale Road in the east, Steeles Avenue in the north, Midland Avenue and Brimley Road in the west, and Hwy. 401, Sheppard

Avenue and Finch Avenue in the south.

According to the 2006 census, immigrants make up 68 per cent of the population, with Chinese and South Asians as the top two visible minorities

Liberal Derek Lee has been the riding's MP for the past 23 years, though he has announced he will not be seeking re-election this time around.

Lee won the riding with a

landslide 58 per cent of the vote in 2008.

Economically, Scarborough-Rouge River is home to several employers in the business and service sectors.

Issues of transportation may arise in this race, as Hwy. 401 runs along the southern border of the riding.

There are also ongoing issues of unemployment and poverty in the riding.

Candidates

- Rana Sarkar LIB
- Marlene Gallyot CON
- Rathika Sitsabaiesan NDP
- George Singh GRN

ONTARIO
ONTARIO

NATALIE SEQUEIRA
The Observer

Scarborough - Guildwood was created in 2003 from parts of the Scarborough Southwest and Scarborough Centre ridings when electoral boundaries were redrawn.

Liberal John McKay has been elected to this riding three times since 2004.

In the last election, he won with just over 50 per cent of the votes. He will be running against Conservative Chuck Konkel for the second time.

Danielle Ouellette is the NDP candidate. Alonzo Bartley, who is also running for the second time, is the Green Party candidate.

Scarborough - Guildwood's immigrant population reaches almost 53 per cent, with 60 per cent of that being visible minorities.

The main ethnic groups include South Asians, followed by blacks and Filipinos.

There are a large number of low-income families in the riding, prompting calls for social reform.

The crime rates are also a concern for residents, as is the economy.

The protection of services for new Canadians will be an issue following the cutbacks in funding for settlement services.



JOHN MACKAY

Candidates

- John McKay LIB*
- Chuck Konkel CON
- Danielle Ouellette NDP
- Alonzo Bartley GRN

Will you(th) finally vote?

May 2 marks Canada's 41st federal general election, and the fourth time Stephen Harper and his gang of Tories run for Canada's top jobs.

Canada's last federal election in 2008 saw registered voters drop to its lowest percentage in history and the percentage of overall voters dip to its lowest total in 40 years.

And Scarborough was no exception.

One problem politicians point to is Canada's youth. Our elections have generally been known to receive much lower support from voters 18-21. Why is that? Are they too cool?

The answer is that elections have never reached out to younger age groups.

They rarely target youth and their needs.

But this year is different. This year marks our first social media election, an election more accessible than ever before.

This is the chance for the younger generation to brush up on their politics, to use Facebook and Twitter to learn more about the parties, and to share our thoughts and experiences with our friends.

So don't sit back and watch Canada shape itself around you. Use social media to your advantage. Use it to know who you're voting for and how it will shape your future. Let's capitalize on this opportunity and vote as we've never voted before.

— Kyle Larkin

Ontario Liberals just got weaker

Long-time Scarborough Agincourt MPP Gerry Phillips declared he is leaving his position, for good.

Just before a federal election campaign was announced in Ottawa, Phillips decided to leave the political stage.

Coincidence? Hard to say.

In a phone interview, Phillips came off as a wise man who seemed to know how things would unfold.

In his 24 years of service, he has done his best at serving Canadians. He launched a proposition to build a Veterans' Memorial on the front south lawn of Queen's Park. He helped get new transmission lines constructed all over the city.

He was single-minded on appealing for an inquiry into the death of native protestor Dudley George at Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995. Even his scheduling assistant who has been working with him for 20 years said that was the most significant case he worked on.

Through years of dedicating himself to this case, the Ontario government finally conducted a public inquiry into the man's death in 2003.

The MPP has earned a reputation for being committed to public service and responsible in his duties to represent the needs of the common Canadian citizen.

Being a close associate of Premier Dalton McGuinty, the two have been working closely in past years. It has been rumoured that McGuinty calls Phillips up whenever a tough situation arises.

Phillips is one of 10 current Liberal MPPs who will not run in the fall campaign. With the Grits seeking a third term on Oct. 6, they will be fighting a hard battle with so many members departing from the race.

Among the departing Liberals, Phillips is one of the most qualified politicians who could have brought in more votes in the campaign.

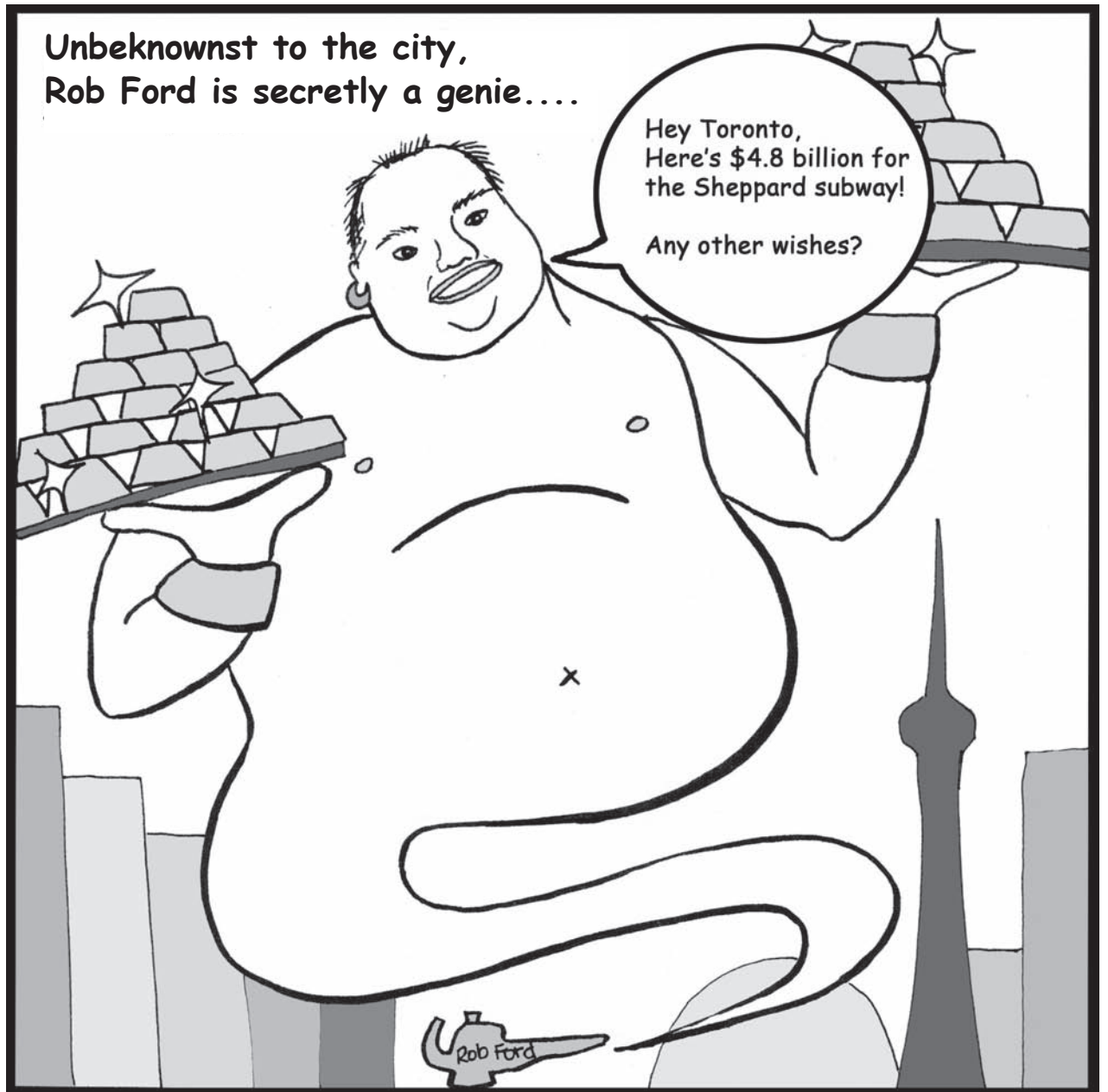
It seems the more experienced Liberals are leaving the race in hope of leaving this political feud before it's too late.

Phillips said at his news conference he does not "think [the government] had any inkling I was making this announcement today."

Maybe they didn't, but we are pretty sure Phillips's reasons for leaving go beyond health concerns.

Best of luck to the Liberals. This is going to be a lengthy and demanding battle with the loss of one of the most capable and competent leaders on your team.

— Janice Yeung



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Rob Ford leads train of fools: Subway plan lacks funding

It took a couple of months but Mayor Rob Ford finally unveiled his transit vision, one that replaces the Transit City plan, finding "common ground" with Premier Dalton McGuinty.

It's yet to be seen, of course, but Ford's new plan will hopefully help commuters be on schedule by providing a truly rapid transit system, keeping trains underground and cars free from gridlock.

Yes, there are some promising changes in motion, such as the Eglinton light rail line, a core part of the city's regional transit network. With a potential new subway line along Finch, 100,000 jobs would be created from these two projects alone.

And in a major step toward a truly modern transit system, the city will work with provincial transit authority Metrolinx to implement a regional fare card, known as Presto, on the TTC.

These are important improvements that will benefit some parts of Toronto



Alex Kozovski

more than others. But what about Scarborough?

Don't be surprised if Scarborough commuters are sentenced to a lifetime on the bus.

This new plan essentially cuts the LRT route along Sheppard, which was already approved and funded. It was replaced with only a promise that a \$4.2-billion subway extension, which the city would fund with private sector money.

But there's no guarantee.

What is guaranteed is Scarborough's commuters face gridlock.

If the Transit City plan were to have survived, the Sheppard LRT line would have been built within two years.

What also must be considered in this predicament is the fact that millions of dollars have already been spent on planning and engineering studies, with work scheduled to begin this summer. That is a lot of money to be thrown away on cancellation charges.

Simply, it seems doubtful the subway line will be built, especially if it's left to the private sector.

One private financing model to fund the \$4.2-billion project includes building condos along the subway line. It would require a developer to build at least 54,000 new apartment units.

And that's for only \$1 billion in financing.

Sorry, not even close.

For now, it looks like Scarborough's commuters will have to wait patiently — if they have any patience left after their commutes — to see how everything unfolds.

The East Toronto OBSERVER

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Sports Briefs

Sign up for tennis season

If tennis is one of your spring hobbies then sign up at Charlottetown Tennis Club on April 9. Registration is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Port Union Community Centre at 5450 Lawrence Ave. E.

Jammer Classic kicks off lacrosse

The annual Jammer Classic starts today at Cherry Beach Fields. The tournament celebrates the life of former Malvern Collegiate student Jamieson Kuhlman, who died from a freak lacrosse accident three years ago.

Wanted: baseball umpires

The Ontario Umpires Association is looking for officials for the summer. Scarborough leagues are asking for anybody over 18 and who are confident and dedicated. The OUA provides umpires for high schools, as well as community leagues all over the city of Toronto.

Lacing up skates for a great cause

Scarborough Hospital hosts 2nd annual hockey fundraiser tournament

KAYLA KREUTZBERG
The Observer

They say third times a charm but The Scarborough Hospital Foundation (TSHF) says it's pleased with the turnout at its Second Annual Scarborough World Cup of Hockey.

NHL alumni joined former members of the Canadian women's Olympic hockey team and laced up their skates with local Scarborough businesses in a one-day fundraising tournament on April 1 at the Angus Glen Community Centre.

"We're trying to raise funds for two new defibrillators to replace older units we have," TSHF community development vice-president Guy Bonnell said.

"The one thing you may or may not know is that the government in the healthcare system does not pay for new equipment.

"We are actually going to make some money this year, so all the proceeds will go to those purchases."

Last year's tournament was great, Bonnell said, but it didn't raise the amount of money the foundation was hoping for.

"It was our first year out and you're trying to build the awareness around it, and



KAYLA KREUTZBERG/The Observer

Vicky Sunohara gets ready to pass the puck as she plays in The Scarborough Hospital Foundation's second annual Scarborough World Cup of Hockey tournament to raise money for new defibrillators.

we only had six teams," he said.

This year, eight teams competed for the Peter Zezel Memorial Cup, named in memory of the Scarborough native and former Toronto Maple Leaf.

Jean-Marc MacKenzie, senior vice-president with Shepell-fgi, a leading sponsor of

the tournament, said his company decided to participate in the tournament because it supports the kind of care the hospital provides to the community.

"It's for a great cause," he said.

"We are pleased to support two good causes in the Zezel family in recognition of Peter

as well as the hospital foundation."

Leo Mastoras, sales associate at World Fishing Network, was a first-time player in the tournament.

"I couldn't be happier playing with NHL alumni and for a great cause," he said.

"I hope to be back next year."

Bonnell said he's already looking forward to a bigger Scarborough World Cup next year.

"Hopefully next year we will grow it [tournament] by another two teams," he said.

"We want to get at least 10 to 12 teams but the critical thing above that is getting enough sponsors to come in."

Toronto FC bids farewell to Scarborough icon

Ex-captain Dwayne De Rosario leaves void in team and hometown as he heads to N.Y. Red Bulls

ALEX KOZOVSKI
The Observer

Last Friday's trade of ex-Toronto FC captain Dwayne De Rosario has left a hole in coach Aron Winter's squad — and in the local community.

Just two games into TFC's fifth season, the 32-year-old

attacking midfielder was traded to the New York Red Bulls for Cameroonian Tony Tchani, Danleigh Borman, and a first-round choice in the MLS SuperDraft.

The team loses not only their all-time leading scorer in Scarborough native De Rosario, but a recognizable face on

a team that sits fourth in the Toronto sports hierarchy.

"It was incumbent upon the ownership to find a way to keep this guy in Toronto, because he was a guy you could sell to the public," *Toronto Sun* sports columnist Steve Simmons said in an interview. "He was a name people knew.

"I think it's a huge mistake if you lose a 'name guy' in that circumstance, and that's what happened here."

De Rosario was one of the few players for the franchise, if not the only one, a casual fan might recognize.

With TFC lowballing their best player in their most recent contract offer, De Rosario told media after the trade he felt it was time to move on. He had asked for a trade when the club wouldn't make him a designated player.

Many fans have complained the trade is a step backward for a team still looking for its first playoff berth.

More than that, De Rosario was a player that young Toronto soccer players could look up to, a role model for a

sport in need of one.

"De Rosario's departure from TFC had a more detrimental effect on the fans than even the departure of [Mats] Sundin from the Leafs," said University of Toronto soccer player Harensan Kandiah.

"De Rosario is arguably the greatest Canadian soccer player of this generation and he was in his prime of his career. I'm not surprised that many people are pissed about his departure."

The move wouldn't have as much impact if TFC were a better team. Losing their

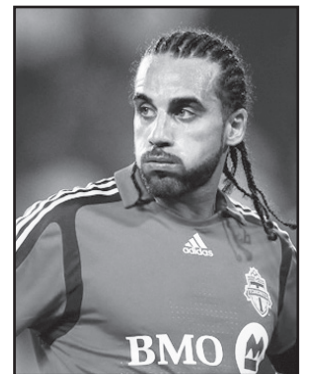
clutch scorer foreshadows a trying season for the club.

"Losing these idols will certainly decrease the interest towards the club," Scarborough recreational soccer player Julian Giorla said.

"If the club was more established, this wouldn't be as big of a problem."

Whatever happens now, TFC must now focus on the present, and that is to win as many games as possible to keep a wavering fan base happy.

In new acquisition Tchani, the club has a 21-year-old professional soccer player making an impact at a young age. The



DWAYNE De ROSARIO

2010 second overall pick from the SuperDraft could be a major piece of the puzzle going forward, and possibly the new idol fans crave.

Add another first round pick, and TFC has made positive moves towards the club's future.

Until that time, TFC needs to find a way to put the ball in the net, arguably what they'll miss most from De Rosario's departure.

"He brings a lot of excitement and skill to the game, and it's a joy to watch as a fan," Kandiah said.

"Soccer fans in Toronto will definitely miss him."

LINGUISTIC LARKS

Category

One word band names

I C O E B

G O E

O I P N

O M R

This band shares a name with a U.S. state

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

Unscramble the circled letters to form the final answer.

By Kyle Larkin

Jazz thunder strikes UTSC

Orchestra heralds spring with tribute to jazz legend Ellington

ERICA TIANGCO

The Observer

To many, April brings thoughts of warmer and sunnier days.

But for some music-loving University of Toronto Scarborough students, their minds were on the sounds of sweet thunder.

Soothing melodies and iconic jazz could be heard at UTSC's Leigha Lee Browne Theatre on the weekend.

The UTSC Jazz Orchestra and Vocomotive, an a cappella group, showcased their talents at the annual year-end concert, Spring Awakening I.

The first of a three-part concert was held March 31 and was followed by performances all weekend.

The orchestra paid tribute to jazz great Duke Ellington and his *Such Sweet Thunder Suite*, while Vocomotive performed renditions of



ERICA TIANGCO/The Observer

Members of UTSC's Jazz Orchestra show off their talent at the annual Spring Awakening concert this past weekend. The concert paid tribute to jazz great Duke Ellington and his *Such Sweet Thunder Suite*.

popular music both past and present.

Mark Laver, the orchestra's musical director, worked with his students all semester to prepare for the Ellington tribute.

The kickoff event didn't come easy, he said.

"This is a culmination of our year," Laver said.

"We rehearse a couple of hours a week ... plus all of

the sectionals that the students do themselves, plus all of the practising that they do at home."

Paying tribute to Ellington's music allowed students to have fun while learning about one of the genre's greatest composers, whose work has directly shaped today's jazz music, he said.

First-year university student Luke O'Brien has

played the trombone with the Jazz Orchestra for two semesters. Playing with the band has given him the chance to hone his musical talent while allowing him to perfect multiple instruments, he said.

"I joined because I was looking for a bit more of a challenge in music," O'Brien said.

"I play the flute but I also

double on the trombone parts."

Unlike much of the orchestra, which consists of students, Vocomotive features a group of music enthusiasts from different areas of study who simply love to sing.

Jennifer Gordon, an environmental science major, has been singing with the group since it started four

years ago. Vocomotive, she said, is a "serious hobby" for her.

Like Gordon, psychology major Deston Johnson doesn't have any vocal training.

He said he joined the group two years ago after a friend discovered his singing ability.

"I liked the people because they were all full of energy and it was really fun," Johnson said.

Over the past year, Vocomotive has performed in a variety of shows, including a Christmas concert and a small-ensemble competition, where they won the People's Choice Award.

The group even walked around campus to serenade students for Valentine's Day.

Laver said he believes the jazz-themed event will do more than just showcase the students' talent and passion for music. He hopes the weekend's event will give back to the community he grew up in, he said.

"One of the things we're trying to do here is to make this area and the UTSC campus a hub for arts and culture in Scarborough," Laver said.

"That's one thing we hope will develop through events like this and will grow over the next few years that we continue to do this."

Artists show off their eccentricities

MERSIHA GADZO

The Observer

Artists are often known for their peculiarities. So the Scarborough Arts Council decided to celebrate their strangeness with the 26th annual juried exhibition, *Eccentricities*, at the Papermill Gallery.

"Working with artists on a daily basis, and being surrounded by creative people, you realize how eccentric they are, and a lot of the time you're supposed to not show that so much," said Benedict Lopes, Scarborough Arts program coordinator.

"We wanted everyone to just let it out and be as weird and wonderful as they are naturally, through their artwork."

The show features work in all media by artists from the GTA and beyond, with pieces exploring the themes of unique perspectives and new

ways of thinking.

The room was packed at the opening reception on March 31.

"In the past three years that I've been working on the juried exhibition, this blows it out of the water," Lopes said.

"In the artwork that's on display here tonight, in the number of submissions we had and the feedback that we had from artists, in the space and the outstanding turnout — we are all just thrilled."

Artist Glenn Bernabe, who received third place and an

honourable mention in the competition, created realistic drawings of people and places using pastel on paper.

To create each drawing, he took 75 to 100 photographs as reference and each drawing combines 15 to 20 of those photos.

His drawing, "Subway Platform," shows a blond lady walking by King's subway station. The iPod advertisement and the wall tiles were

drawn from pictures at King's subway station, while the rest (including fire extinguisher, TTC ad and pole) were taken

We wanted everyone to just let it out and be as weird and wonderful as they are.
— Benedict Lopes



MERSIHA GADZO/The Observer

Artist Ranjit Sidhu stands next to his colourful art piece, "My World, My Way" at the Papermill Gallery in Scarborough. Sidhu says a content bird is what inspired him to create this piece.

from St. Clair station. The lady was drawn from a photo taken while she was working at Fruits & Passion at a Markham mall.

"I feel very strongly about being able to move things around and control my composition in order to make what it is I want the viewer to look at, to stand out," Bernabe said.

"The inspiration came from the actual iPod. I have a fascination for pop culture."

Bernabe places his subjects in recognizable settings. He used the iPod and the subway station as a backdrop for exploration into individuality.

Artist Ranjit Sidhu's canvas, *My world, my way*, shows a colourful bird swimming on water.

For the past decade, Sidhu said, he's been looking for the real meaning of life. He has discovered there are many parallels between humans and other species.

The bird in his piece is a weaverbird, also known as a painter bird, Sidhu explained. It does the same thing that an artist does. It paints the interior of his house, collects artifacts, decorates his home and matches the colours, and chews bits of trees to make

brushes.

"This is what inspired me," Sidhu said. "Once I saw a bird sitting over eggs. I said, 'Look at the joy in his eyes, he's so contented and created a mini-world of his own.' He's happy the way he is, and if we all feel happy the way we are, there would be less conflicts, less enemies, and this would be a happy world to live in."

"If you feel happy about your work, about your life, about whatever you cherish in life, nothing else matters. That is what this painting is all about."