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# THE EAST TORONTO OBSERVER

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MATTHEW ALLEYSNE/The Observer

Papa gorilla Charles (above) selected the name Nassir for his infant boy from five possibilities by choosing an orange at the Toronto Zoo. Meanwhile, baby Nassir (right) is sticking with his mother, who was left out of the naming process.

## Baby's finally got a name

**MATTHEW ALLEYSNE**  
The Observer

After two months, and 11,000 votes, the Toronto Zoo has a name for its new baby gorilla.

Nassir, which means protector in Arabic, was given his new name after his father Charles was given the opportunity to choose from five pails of some of his fa-

avourite foods.

On Nov. 18, zoo officials, local media and spectators of all ages gathered in the African rainforest pavilion to watch the alpha male, select the final five names chosen by the public.

The final names were Nassir, (meaning protector), Neo, (meaning gift and new), Nico (victory of the people), Nigel (champion) and Nsambu

(good fortune).

Charles was hesitant in making the decision, choosing to take the long way around the enclosed habitat before slowly walking over to the pails.

The names were listed alphabetically, which made Nassir the first option Charles had in front of him.

"Charles has always been very analytical," zoo interim

CEO Peter Evans said.

Eventually Charles sat down in front of the pail under the name Nassir, reached out and grabbed a piece of fruit, confirming his choice for the baby's new name.

The zoo's Dr. William Rappley says Western Lowland gorillas, commonly found in Angola, and Cameroon, are classified as critically endangered by the International

Union for Conservation and Nature.

"[Nassir] is going to be one to watch," said Aly, a Toronto Zoo handler. "He is already showing a lot of personality and a lot of intelligence for this stage of his development."

**For a video of Charles and baby Nassir, go to [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)**

## \$20,000 fine for eatery

**LAURA ROSS**  
The Observer

Chandra's Takeout Restaurant on Markham Road pleaded guilty to four food-safety violations in an east Toronto court on Nov. 13. Charges were laid after Toronto Public Health shut the eatery for four days in August.

Toronto Public Health's safety concerns included live cockroaches in the food preparation area and meat kept at room temperature.

The charges laid were failing to protect food from contamination, not controlling a pest or insect infestation, not having a certified food handler, and obstructing the red closure sign while shut down.

Justice of the peace Sylvia Hudson penalized the restaurant with the maximum \$5,000 fine for each of the four violations.

The restaurant owned by Chandrakathiyamma Anantharajah has been in business since 1995. It has received two yellow conditional passes from Toronto Public Health in the past 18 months.

On both occasions, health inspectors returned three days later and the restaurant passed the second inspections.

Earlier inspections posted on the TPH website state the restaurant also failed to provide hand-washing supplies to staff or properly sanitize food preparation areas.

Chandra's has since passed its two most recent inspections on Aug. 28 and Nov. 6.

The owner was unavailable for comment.

## Is Markham trying to steal our Pan Am facility?

**ANTHONY GEREMIA**  
The Observer

The fight for the Pan Am games id won, but a new battle may be beginning.

Now that Toronto has the games, the question of what GTA venues are going to be hosting them remains, most

notably the site for the swimming and diving portions of the games. While it's supposedly decided, there are some still moving to change it.

At the moment, the swimming and diving events are scheduled to take place in Scarborough, at the to-be-constructed aquatics centre at

the University of Toronto.

"There was a need for U of T to have a facility like that," says Scarborough councillor Ron Moeser. "There was a strong argument. Now U of T students will have a wonderful new facility."

However, Markham is acting as though it's going to be

constructed there, behind the Unionville GO station near Kennedy Rd. and Highway 407.

"We always thought we had a superior site," Markham mayor Frank Scarpitti told YorkRegion.com. "And we bid it not because it's in Markham — we obviously

want to get it in Markham — but truly because it's a superior site." As of press time, Scarpitti had yet to comment to the *Observer*.

It's something that Moeser says he doesn't understand. "The decision's been made for at least a year and a half," **PAN AM, Page 3**



**LAURA ROSS/The Observer**

Door notice shows eatery has passed inspection.

## NEWS

# Constable popular newcomer at school

**KATRINA ROZAL**  
The Observer

The gym bleachers were overflowing with about 1,400 students and 100 staff members last Wednesday. Pope John Paul II C.S.S. was holding its annual pep rally.

Guys and girls from the school's dance squad were moving to a mix of dance hall and reggae songs when near the routine's end came the song "Somebody call 9-1-1."

Enter Const. Sharon Myers.

Dressed in her police uniform, she came from the back hallway to join in the remaining seconds of the dance number's finale. The students stood up and clapped for her.

Myers is one of 50 officers involved in the Toronto Police school resource officers program. The program is meant to improve the relationship between police and youth at the grassroots level. She has been stationed at PJP II since the start of this school year.

## Friendly cop

"Not only is she accepted but she's celebrated," said Paul McAlpine, PJP II principal. "You have to earn your stripes and she's done that through building relationships with the students."

While Myers admits she was embarrassed to perform in front of the entire school, she said working with the dance squad was a lot of fun.

Myers wanted to be stationed at PJP II because she was familiar with the school and its administrators. She has worked with 43 division for more than two years.

Myers has done commu-



**KATRINA ROZAL**/The Observer

Const. Sharon Myers and principal Paul McAlpine regularly chat with students in the foyer of Pope John Paul II C.S.S. about school life.

nity work throughout high schools in east Scarborough. PJP II is one of four schools in 43 Division that have a resource officer. Cedarbrae C.I., West Hill C.I. and Sir Robert L. Borden B.T.I. are the others.

"She just came so I'm still getting used to having a cop at school," said Genesis Giocada, grade 12 student at PJP II. "But she seems kind of nice."

While some students like Genesis are still adjusting to having an extra authority figure at school, many parents said they are glad to have one stationed at PJP II.

In the debate against giving students the wrong message by having police officers in high schools, Genesis' mother, Nina Giocada, argues that having Myers makes the school a safer place for her son.

"I think it's a good thing,"

she said. "To me it's better that there's a police officer because whatever happens, they're there. I think it would even discourage kids getting into trouble after school."

Along with patrolling school halls, Myers' duties include delivering presentations on guidelines to policing in law and history classes, participating in the Empowered Student Partnership program (a program that encourages students to work toward eliminating safety issues in school), and attending staff meetings.

She also engages in other student activities such as supporting the junior girls bas-

ketball team.

Myers has her own office in the school's library. She is on school grounds Monday to Friday during school hours. Her placement at PJP ends in 2011.

Before coming to PJP II, Myers was involved with oth-

er student-oriented Toronto Police programs. Before the school resource officers program launched, she worked with PJP II students in the equestrian program. For 10 weeks,

at-risk girls who had no experience with horses learned to groom and ride.

"Now I got a relationship

**Now I got a relationship with these girls, they come up to me and confide**

**- Const. Sharon Myers**

with these girls, they come up to me and confide," Myers said.

In 43 Division's eastside cooking corner program, Myers, along with other Toronto officers, taught youth about healthy meals and etiquette.

## Sense of family

According to Myers and McAlpine, having a resident cop helps foster the sense of family the school works toward creating in its community.

"It provides an intelligent resource in terms of social assistance needs," McAlpine said. "We have another link in our student success model that not only can we speak to our social worker and guidance department and our Catholic Youth Workers, but we now also have Sharon on board who can direct students

to other resources."

The school wanted to be involved in the resource officer program last year. It was granted its request this year, in the second phase of the program's launch.

According to Myers, who has always wanted the opportunity to work in an education setting, being a school resource officer is a rewarding experience.

"I wake up in the morning and look forward to coming to work," she said. "The school has become part of me. It's important to have this relationship with all the schools and let everyone know that just because you see a car in front of a high school doesn't mean there's something wrong."

**To hear an audio clip of Principal McAlpine, visit [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca)**

## Police warn of creeper

**LAUREN HUMMEL**  
The Observer

Toronto Police would like people to be aware that a man has been loitering around public schools in the Ellesmere Road and Scarborough Golf Club Road area.

He was seen on school property on Nov. 4 and again on Nov. 17, police say.

There are four schools in the area: St. Thomas More Catholic School, Woburn CI, Woburn Junior Public School and Churchill Heights Public School.

He has been seen driving a blue minivan with partial Ontario licence plate number BLEJE.

He is described as Asian,



Photo released by police.

in his 50s, with a thin build. He was wearing a light-brown jacket, black shoes and dark pants. He was also seen carrying a light-brown square camera bag.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 416-808-4300 or Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477).

# Two arrested after high-speed chase on Ellesmere, Morningside

**LAUREN HUMMEL**  
The Observer

A stolen car evaded police after driving at 100 km/h in a 40 km/h zone on Monday, before being abandoned on Gaslight Crescent in the Ellesmere and Morningside Roads area, police report.

The driver and a passenger abandoned the vehicle and ran, but police say their dog services found the suspects shortly afterwards in a field at Morningside Road and Highway 401.

Last year, Ontario's

Ministry of Transportation reported more than 5,000 people were caught going 50 km/h or more above the speed limit.

Most high-speed chases pass the average driver before they realize what's happening before them, says Sgt. Tim Burrows of Toronto's traffic services.

"As a driver, the best thing people can do is, naturally, pay attention to your surroundings," Burrows says.

"Once you observe the lights of an emergency vehicle, the law is clear."

Under the Highway Traffic Act, if you see an emergency vehicle sounding its sirens, you have to pull over to the side of the road and bring your car to a standstill.

## Stay away

If you are a pedestrian witnessing a high-speed pursuit, Burrows says you should try to stay away from the road and well back if possible.

"There is no telling what can actually happen so you need to pay attention," Burrows says. "You cannot

under any circumstances, attempt to cross the street since you really can't judge the speed of vehicle."

Mark Hillyard, 26, has been charged with dangerous operation of a vehicle and two counts of operation while disqualified. He was also charged with non-related offences.

Darryl MacDonald, 24, has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime and possession of burglar's tools. He was also charged for violating his probation.

# Meggoe murder described at trial

Police say victim was targeted by uncle and nephew duo — but motive for attack still unclear

**BESS ELLEN**  
The Observer

A Scarborough sign installer has testified he saw two gun-carrying men burst into a Malvern duplex, order everyone to "Get down on the floor!" and then heard "Pop! Pop! Pop!" the night well-known auto mechanic Colves Meggoe was killed in his Horseley Hill home in November 2006.

Mohammed Abbas, 33, was the Crown's key witness Tuesday in Superior Court in Toronto, at the first-degree murder trial for Jason Cain, 22, and his uncle Mark Cain, 39.

Meggoe, 50, known as "Jacko" to friends and family because he was a jack-of-all-trades, operated several businesses including an auto body shop and a flooring company.

While Toronto police have hinted he was involved in low-level drug dealing, news reports at the time of his murder on Nov. 14, 2006 described him as a man with a "heart of gold" who helped street kids and gave poor young people a future by teaching them trades.

Abbas, an immigrant from



Murder victim Colves "Jacko" Meggoe (left) was shot in the abdomen at a Malvern duplex, the trial of Jason Cain (right) and his uncle Mark Cain was told this week.

Guyana, testified he was one of those young people "Jacko" helped, starting when he was about 14 years old, attending Sir Robert Borden BTTI in Scarborough.

"[It] was like a father and son," Abbas told Crown prosecutor Rosemarie Juginovic. "He'd even give you an allowance if you go to school."

Abbas described for the court how he was at Meggoe's house with several other young men, on the evening of the murder, playing dominoes in the living room, and preparing to watch a basketball game on

TV. Meggoe was in the kitchen, cooking.

About 7:30 p.m., the court heard how Abbas saw "shadows" coming in the front door, and when he turned to get a better look, found himself looking into a gun barrel.

Abbas testified it was being held by a "tall, skinny, black guy wearing a brown sweater and a brown kerchief across his face," whom he recognized as the younger suspect, known by his nickname "Buju".

According to Abbas, both Buju (Jason Cain) and his uncle "Nookie" (Mark Cain)

were also frequent visitors to Meggoe's house.

When "Jacko" came out of the kitchen, asking "What are you guys doing?" Abbas told the court he heard gunshots, and saw "Jacko" fall to the ground. Everyone ran out of the house at that point, except for Abbas, one of Meggoe's brothers who lived there with him, and a third man.

Jacko was taken by ambulance to Sunnybrook Hospital, where he died of a gunshot wound to the abdomen.

Police arrested both Cains in November 2006, shortly

after issuing warrants for their arrests for first-degree murder. They have been in custody ever since.

While it isn't clear what the motive may have been for the shooting, police say Meggoe was targeted.

After the shooting, Abbas told Juginovic he didn't cooperate with police at first, fearing for his daughter's safety.

"I was scared at the time," he told the court. "I don't want anybody to come hurt my family or my kid."

When the Crown prosecutor asked Abbas why he changed his mind only in 2007 at the preliminary hearing and identified the men involved at the crime scene, the witness said he came forward because he owes his success in Canada to his former mentor.

Recounting a conversation he had with his parents, who didn't think he should say what he knew, Abbas told them "Whatever I built, it was because of 'Jacko.' I have a house, a job, cars, money in the bank."

The Crown's case continues this week.

## News Briefs

### Shooter guilty on one charge

A 23-year-old man was found not guilty of attempted murder in the October 2005 shooting of a TTC bus driver. However, Malcolm Chalmers was found guilty of the lesser charge of aggravated assault in the attack that left driver Jamie Pereira blind in one eye. Chalmers will be sentenced on Jan. 8.

### Vigil held on year anniversary

A candlelight vigil was held for a missing University of Toronto student at Sheppard Avenue and Lapsley Road on Nov. 22. Abu-Ubaida Atieque, 21, was last seen leaving his family's home in that area last November. If anyone has information call 42 Division at 416-808-4200.



**ATIEQUE**

Atieque, 21, was last seen leaving his family's home in that area last November. If anyone has information call 42 Division at 416-808-4200.

### Local Kurdish talent displayed

Kurdish artist and local resident, Dara Aram, showcases her paintings at Cedar Ridge Community Centre. Her display, Mystic Horizons, ends on Dec. 4. Admission is free. Next exhibit, starting on Dec. 6 includes paintings and sculptures by 10 Korean artists. For information call 416-396-4026.

### Lions Club sells gifts, crafts

The Lions Club of West Hill and Highland Creek is hosting its annual gift and craft sale on Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be at Heron Park Community Centre, 292 Manse Rd. Cost per table is \$30. To book a table send an email to mariuso@lionsclubs.ca.

### Get in shape with pilates

Guildwood Community Presbyterian Church is offering pilates classes on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. To register call Barb Michaels at 416-816-2220.

# 30th Anniversary is music for Scarborough ears

**KAREEN AWADALLA**  
The Observer

The Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra (SPO) welcomes music lovers to help celebrate its 30th anniversary in the form of five crowd-pleasing concerts. The second performance, the annual pops concert, is set to take place on Dec. 5.

In its three decades, the SPO has undergone numerous changes in the ensemble's size, as well as in the demographics of their audience.

But the greatest change took place 25 years ago, when the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra split from the SPO, "taking quite a few of our musicians with it," general manager and composer Alex Eddington says.

"It took several years for

our orchestra to regain its size and audience, and we are still putting a lot of effort into growing both, even today," Eddington says.

This season, the SPO offers new music by emerging Canadian composers, in conjunction with old favourites and gems rarely performed live.

"I believe that people are starting to get tired of listening to recorded music all the time and are craving live musical performance," Eddington said.

"The Scarborough Philharmonic puts on some of the most affordable orchestral concerts in the GTA, and we're sounding great!"

All of the SPO's concerts this season are celebratory, culminating in its official 30th-anniversary concert on May 15.

This season concert-goers can enjoy special appearances by the SPO's former music directors, invited to guest conduct the orchestra. For the December and February concerts, the orchestra will welcome 150 voices from the Toronto Choral Society.

The final concert this season features as guest performers the world-famous Gryphon Trio to play a piece by current SPO music director Ronald Royer.

On Dec. 5 Howard Cable conducts the pops concert, A Holiday Celebration, with music for Christmas, Hanukkah and the winter season.

The evening begins at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling the SPO office at 416-429-0007.

For more information, visit [www.spo.ca](http://www.spo.ca).



Courtesy of Andrew Chau

Amir Safavi, violinist with the SPO performing Oct. 17.

# Pan Am facilities causing much cross-city tension

**From Page 1**

he said. He had been working with the university for even longer, helping them plan the facility.

"Highland Creek has no community center," he

added. "We do, so the community can use our facility."

The only possible negative to constructing the facility at U of T would be transportation concerns, specifically the need to upgrade what's there.

"The LRT would really

be the best option," Moeser says, referring to plans to build a Scarborough-Malvern light-rail line, which had previously been on the backburner for funding. "The Pan Am Games could cause it to happen."

Regardless of Markham's attempts to get it back, Moeser remains convinced the facility, no matter where it's built, will be a boon to Toronto athletes.

"I was a runner and I know a lot of runners who

quit because the facilities just weren't there," he says. "Proper facilities will help our athletes."

**For a map of the venue locations, visit [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca).**

# ARTS & LIFE

## Students hear Pearls of advice

Non-profit organization help encourage education by leading through example

**AMANDA LY**  
The Observer

Black students don't get the support they need in high school to continue in university, about 100 East Scarborough students were told at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus on Nov. 18.

The speakers from the organization Black Pearls, encouraged students to choose post-secondary education by presenting their own life stories.

The event was held by Imani, the black students' alliance at UTSC.

Imani's mentorship program brings students to the campus to tutor them twice a week.

But it's more than just an

after-school homework club.

"There's not a lot of encouragement and support for black students to go to university. We bring them to UTSC so they get to see other black students like them," said student facilitator Jordanne Amos.

### Positive role models

The Black Pearls have a similar focus. After noticing the lack of educated-driven black role models for black youths, Renee Rawlins Thomas, 31, started a non-profit organization dedicated to helping black youths achieve their goals.

The group holds financial seminars, book clubs, charity events and give out



AMANDA LY/The Observer

Members of the Black Pearls visited Scarborough to inspire high school students to try post-secondary education.

scholarships.

Among the five women, they share about 10 degrees. Kim Tull, 32 is a UTSC graduate and now works with the institution. And it's OK to be smart and beautiful — Thomas is a former Miss Barbados.

When Shani Leatham, 31, told the captivated students that she grew up in the ghetto.

A student asked her where. "The jungle," she said, also known as Lawrence Heights.

The youths erupted in applause with wide-open eyes,

stunned that someone like them could be so successful and not be a rapper, singer, athlete or actor.

Both Imani and the Black Pearls told students to choose university rather than applied or apprentice options since most are capable and want to.

"These youth are usually highly intelligent with the ability to go as far as they are willing to work for, but they often display an overwhelming lack of confidence

in their academic abilities, which is often aggravated by the schools they attend. They've been stigmatized and have kind of accepted it. I find that most of the high schools don't have teachers rallying for black students," Amos said.

### Inspiration

Black Pearl member Monique Taylor, 28, is proof of this. Taylor was a straight-A student and a track star, but was only encouraged to pursue track.

Though she went to Ohio University on a full track scholarship, she is now a bank executive.

The Imani mentorship program started in 2006 with

only 10 students, but has expanded to about 65 students who voluntarily participate and are eager to take advantage of homework help.

And during the question period at the end of the Black Pearls' presentation at UTSC, many hands went up, wanting to know more about how these women became so successful. The Black Pearls also accept donations and take applications for volunteers.

For more information on the Black Pearls, visit black-pearl.org.

For more information on Imani, visit utsc.utoronto.ca/~imani

**For more of the Black Pearls visit our website: torontoobserver.ca.**

**I find that most of the high schools don't have teachers rallying for black students**

- Jordanne Amos, Imani

## Violence against women an ongoing issue

A Malvern community group aims to destigmatize abuse and raise awareness to public

**AMANDA LY**  
The Observer

Women face abuse on a daily basis. A fact Malvern's Women's Place is too familiar with.

November is National Woman Abuse Prevention month, The Malvern organization will join with other agencies for an information session on abuse and

other issues at Malvern Town Centre on Nov. 27. Women's Place formed in 1994 after a group of agencies realized how isolated some women and girls were in the community.

The stigma attached to abuse, fear of more punishment from the abuser, embarrassment of exposing family problems and distrust of the police often prevent women

from coming forward about abuse, said Women's Place manager Cathy Mwanza.

Laurel Broten, minister of children and youth services, also responsible for women's issues made a speech at Queens Park on Nov. 3.

"Their stories are inspiring and compel us to do more and to do better in preventing woman abuse," she said. "Violence against women is

unacceptable. In addition to acknowledging the strength of survivors, I also want to take the time to appreciate the tireless efforts of professionals and organizations that help those women and their children rebuild their lives. They deserve our thanks."

In 2008, it was announced that \$1.5 million would go toward Ontario's 42 Domestic Violence Community Coordinating Committees.

So far, \$18.8 million has gone to women's shelters and second-stage housing.

Women's Place offers counselling, information on employment and housing, computer lessons and workshops on self-esteem, relationships, and other issues. They welcome women and girls from all backgrounds.

Women's Place is located at 31 Tapscott Rd. at Malvern Town Centre and is open Monday to Saturday.

For more information, visit mfrc.org or call 416-293-4664.

### SIGNS OF ABUSE

- She's nervous talking when he's there
- She has no access to a phone and has become isolated from friends/family
- She has unexplained bruises
- He blames her for ruining his life
- He constantly checks up on her
- He threatens to harm the children or himself

### PREPARING TO LEAVE

- Tell someone about the abuse
- Have a code word to signal your children that they should leave or get help
- Have a doctor document your injuries, keep journal/evidence of abuse
- Don't tell your partner you are leaving
- Contact a shelter or police

### HOW TO TALK TO ABUSIVE MEN

- Approach him when he's calm, avoid arguing as it might put her in more danger
- Don't make judgments about him as a person, keep it focused on his behaviour
- Keep it focused on your concern for his family



AMANDA LY/The Observer

Women from Malvern created a poster with their thoughts on abuse.



SELENA MANN/The Observer

A fence surrounds the site on Lawrence Avenue East for the proposed 10-storey condominium, which was recently approved for construction by Scarborough Council.

## New condominium to set standard for eco-friendly architecture in community

**SELENA MANN**  
The Observer

A 10-storey, eco-friendly condominium building is to be constructed on Lawrence Avenue East.

Proposed in 2006, the project was approved by Scarborough council earlier this month after restarting discussions in September.

The building is a part of the planned upgrade of the Lawrence Avenue and Galloway Road area, which has been named one of Scarborough's neighbourhoods most in need of revitalization.

"It might end up helping the area, which is deteriorating," local resident Shayna Dawes said. "There are all these dirty motels here."

It is to be built at Andover, near Galloway, with many ecological features, according to a city staff report.

The plan is to rezone the lands of 4111 and 4113 Lawrence Ave East.

### Unique features

The building is to be heated and air conditioned through the use of geothermal energy. Fifty per cent of the building's roof is to be environmentally friendly, made out of reused materials.

The condominium as a whole is supposed to be energy efficient.

The building is going to be light-coloured on the outside, so that it is not heated from

the outside too easily, which could potentially reduce the cooling costs in the summer season. This is because darker colours attract and absorb the sun more easily.

There will also be thermal windows to save heat. This way the heat will remain inside during the cold winters, instead of escaping through cracks at the edges of the windows.

Laundry water is also going to be conserved.

The building will feature shops on the first floor and, above it, 70 residential suites, including 26 single-bedroom units and 44 two-bedroom suites.

### Parking complaints heard

In a public meeting, local residents complained about a lack of parking in the area and high traffic.

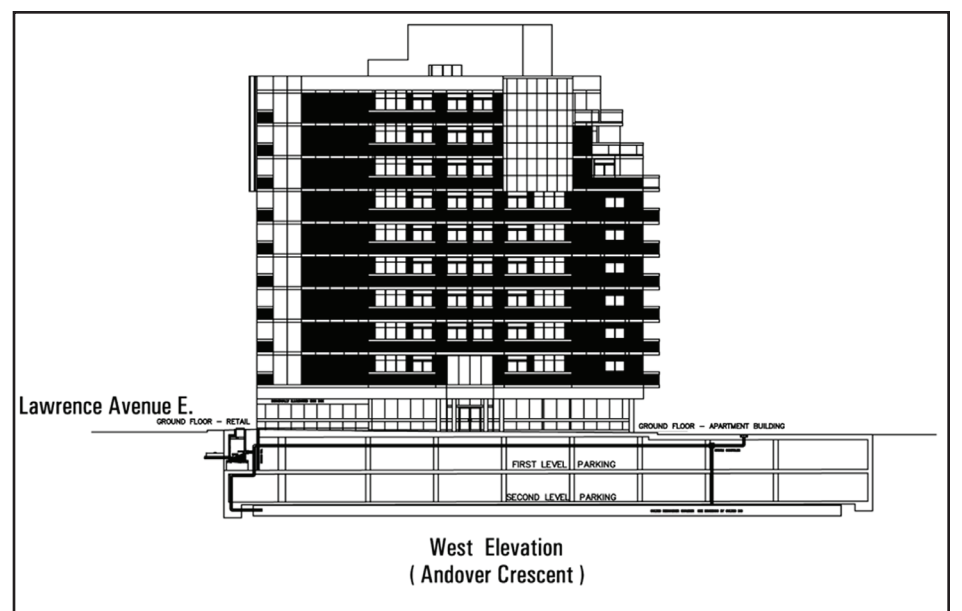
"There are already a lot of stores and buildings around the area," resident Michaela Johnson said.

In response to these concerns, the developer has increased parking spaces underground. Residents also complained the TTC did not run frequently. However, there has also been some support for the development from residents.

Local councillors Ron Moeser and Paul Ainslie did not oppose the buildings' approval.

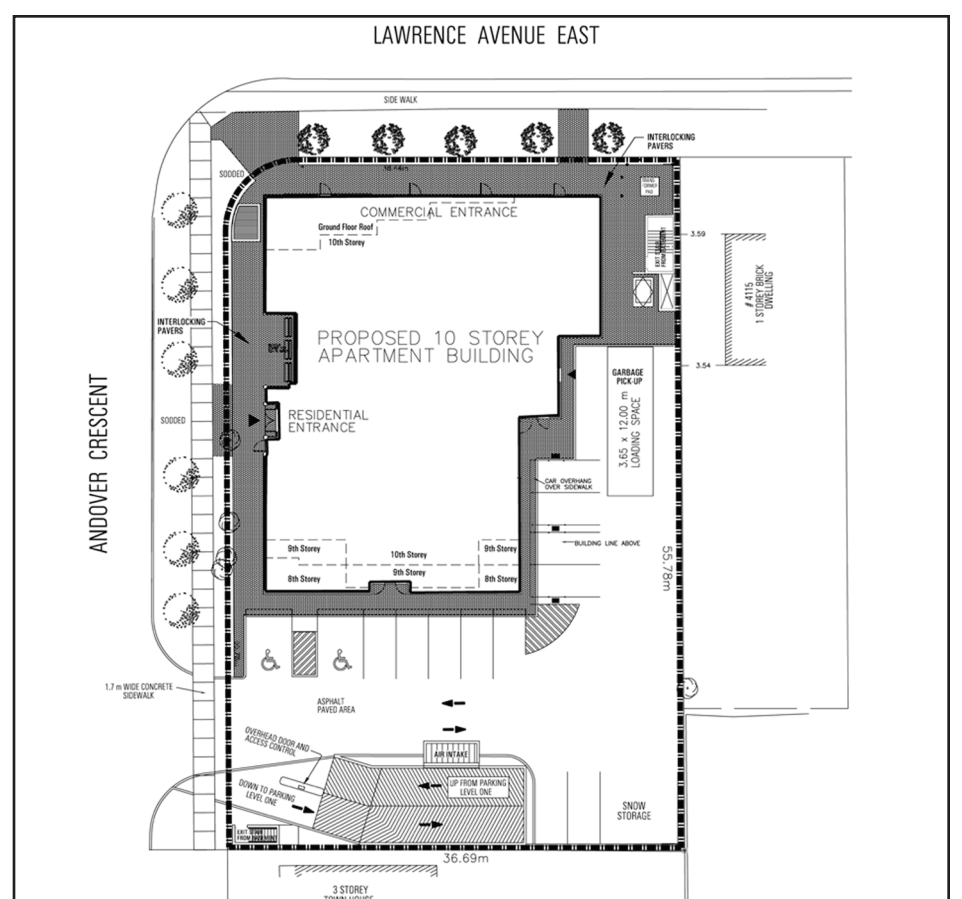
"My concern is how it affects the residents of community," Moeser, of Ward 44, said.

No building scheduled has been released.



Photos Courtesy of the City of Toronto

The elevation of the proposed 10-storey eco-condominium is shown above. Below, building plans show the parking lot and surrounding amenities such as snow storage and garbage pickup sites.



### How to make your building environmentally friendly:

- Have solar panels for heating and creating heat, as well as electricity
- Use a water-powered cooling system instead of air conditioning to cool down in the summer
- Insulate house well so that it is not affected by the weather outside so much
- Use water-conserving toilets and faucets

# Cleanliness comes with the territory

News about the recent food-safety violations found at a small restaurant in Scarborough is like déjà vu, as we have learned in the past about many other restaurants that have had the same problems.

In the recent case, inspectors had earlier given the takeout restaurant a conditional yellow pass, but they returned only three days later to grant the owner a full green pass. This system gives restaurateurs a chance to fix any problems at least temporarily. And in this case, soon afterwards the place was back to such bad conditions that it had to be shut down.

All owners have a responsibility to manage their restaurants properly by complying with government health and safety regulations. They shouldn't even need to have inspectors come in to point out problem areas, to force them to finally roll up their sleeves and do something about it.

It's their duty to keep their establishment clean. After all, that is where their food is handled. Is having a clean place where food is handled correctly too much for a diner to ask for?

— Rima Ramoul

# Boxing Day in November? Take advantage of it

As the last bits of leftover Halloween candy disappear in households, many Scarborough residents go to their basements to retrieve holiday decor. The cotton cobwebs and jack-o-lanterns that sat in front of houses in the Sheppard Road and Rouge River Drive area have been replaced with Christmas lights and plastic reindeer.

While this typically indicates a change in seasons, this year's slow economy has created a scenario that doesn't quite fit with this flow of traditions.

In holding Boxing Day sales before Christmas even occurs, major shopping centres in the area have created a reversal in chronology.

Last weekend, Sears Canada offered Boxing Day rates for electronics, furniture and cooking sets. A Panasonic plasma TV usually priced at \$1,200 cost \$980. Walmart has also announced its campaign on discounts including electronic and household items. At the Milner Avenue superstore, a Canon digital camera and a barbecue grill both cost \$30 less than their normal prices.

In its Deal of the Day campaign, Best Buy is slashing prices on big-ticket items until Dec. 25.

For families who have seen better times, Boxing Day couldn't come sooner.

Perhaps early holiday presents may be just what people need. But at the onset of this sale-fest, we are reminded of the virtue of generosity by articles in the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail*, that advise people to stretch their resources and donate to charity. Their advice comes at the onset of this sale-fest because Statistics Canada reported an expected decrease in national charitable donations.

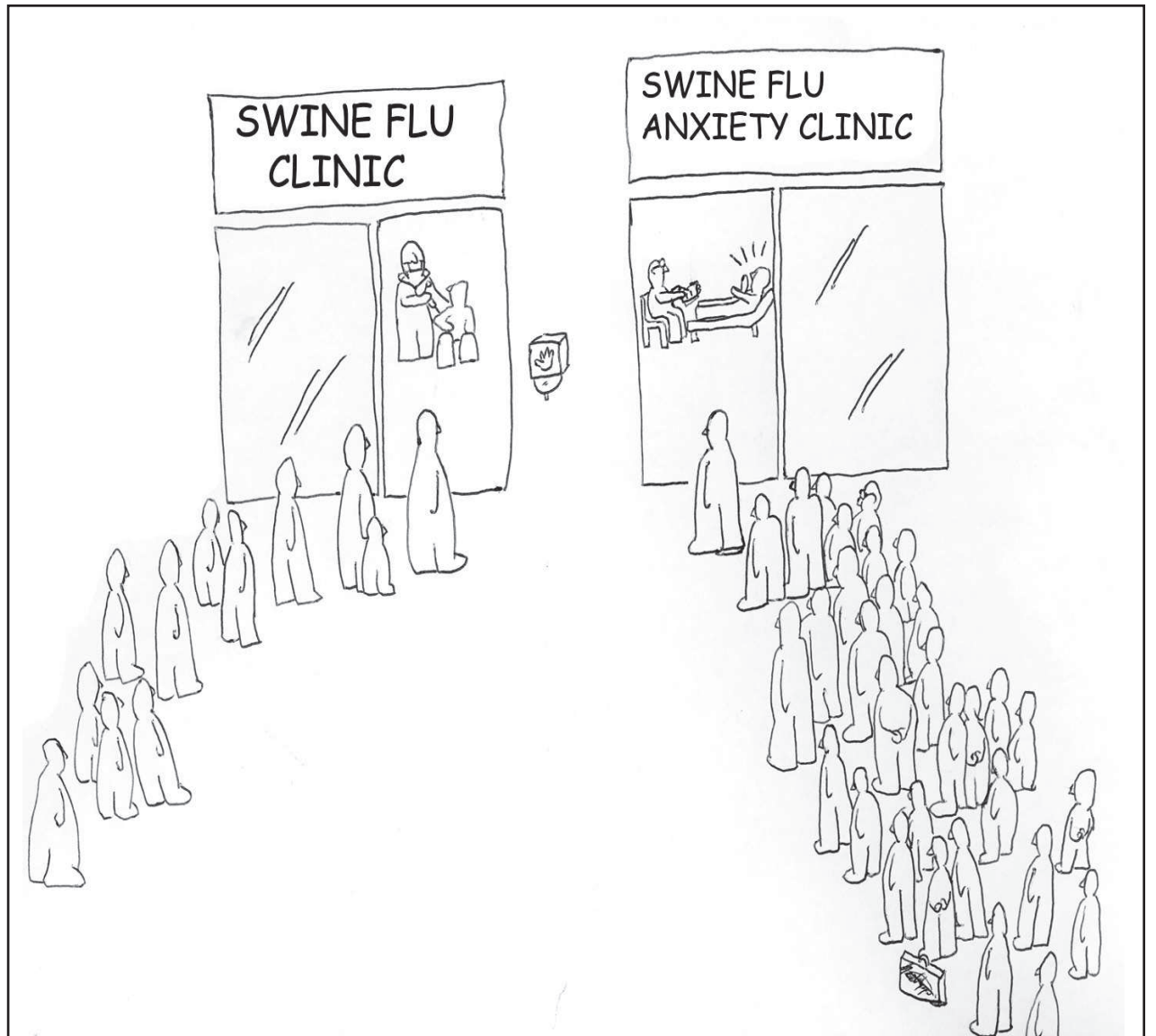
While generosity is traditionally tied to the approaching season, we shouldn't feel guilty about taking advantage of Boxing Day in November for personal satisfaction.

In fact they should do so. While giving to charity should ideally be top of mind, participating in the market economy could help prevent more people from losing their jobs.

If no one took part in this November Boxing Day spell and devoted all their resources to donations, local branches of major retail stores would lose money. Companies normally cut jobs and freeze salaries if they are unable to reach a desirable profit margin. If this were to happen, Scarborough's unemployment rate would likely increase early next year.

Plus, partaking in this year's mix-up of sale chronology definitely beats getting a pet rock from Santa.

— Katrina Rozal



GESILAYEFA AZORBO/The Observer

# Scarborough youth need not look far afield for a role model

The neighbourhoods of east Scarborough are often overlooked by the powers-that-be in this city.

While the area is recognized for its multiculturalism, some don't seem to recognize that parts of the community are inaccessible by public transit after certain hours while most of Toronto enjoys 24-hour bus service.

Throughout the area are vacant lots waiting for development, but no one seems willing to invest.

## Everyday hero

It sometimes feels as if this is a forgotten section of the city.

Some residents complain while others have become complacent, but there are those who have taken it upon themselves to enact the positive changes they wish to see.

The late Shawn Rose, known as Blu by those in the community, was one of these people.

Blu devoted his life to helping young people in the area.

After graduating from Centennial College he worked as an education assistant for the Toronto District School Board, the YMCA, and



Tristan CARTER

The way he lived his life conveyed a message... if you want to live in a better place you need to make it a better place

Pathways for Children.

He also spent 12 years at the Malvern Community Centre where he served as a role model and mentor for at-risk youth.

Sadly, he passed away in November 2005 of a brain aneurysm only weeks before his 29th birthday.

The community lost an admired and respected citizen but did not lose its need for such positive influences.

I think the way he lived his life conveyed a message that is not only important for young people to realize but for everyone, that if you want to live in a better place you need to make it a better place.

Members of the Malvern community successfully petitioned the city to rename Empringham Park in his honour and it is now called Shawn "Blu" Rose Park.

## Blu's legacy soars on air

To further ensure Blu's legacy would not be forgotten, Flow 93.5's Spex created the Blue Zone, a portion of his popular weekly radio show in which he plays positive-themed reggae music and often speaks highly of Rose's accomplishments.

Every community, not just Malvern, could use more people who are committed to making a difference in the lives of their neighbours.

Just because your neighbourhood may be overlooked does not mean there is anything you cannot overcome.

## The East Toronto OBSERVER

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# Scarborough women going for gold

## Netballers representing Canada at Six Nations Cup in Singapore

TEVY PILC  
The Observer

For most Canadians, the chance to represent their country is typically associated with mainstream sports, like hockey or track and field, played on a grand stage, such as the Olympics or a world championship event.

Though competing in a sport like netball may not draw the same reverence as hockey, for national team members Tamara Rowe, Sasha-Lee Allen and Shantel Wynn, the opportunity is nothing short of Olympic-proportioned.

It will be a lifetime experience for the three Scarborough women who will help represent Canada in Singapore next month at the Six Nations Cup of netball.

Similar to basketball, the objective of the netball is to score the most points in an allotted time by shooting a

ball into basket. With netball, there's no dribbling, the basket has no backboard and it's played with six players at assigned positions, restricting where they go on the court.

Team members spoke about their athletic dreams while attending Netball Ontario's annual presentation dinner and dance on Nov. 21 in Toronto.

**The sport is the best thing to ever happen to me**

**- Shantel Wynn**

"We're all really excited. I think we have a really good chance of doing very well," Allen said.

Like many of her teammates, the 23-year-old Malvern resident is relishing the chance to compete in a new and completely different atmosphere.

Three of the members are from Scarborough but were born in Jamaica, where they grew up playing the sport. When their families immigrated to Canada, they each eventually found their way onto the team.

"They're really skilled and



TEVY PILC/The Observer

Netball team (left to right): Tamara Rowe, Sasha-Lee Allen, Shantel Wynn, Narmatha Thavarasalingam, Sutandy Morrison.

very passionate," said Narmatha Thavarasalingam of her fellow teammates.

She explained the sport is more appealing to women, which translates into a great sense of camaraderie and closeness.

"Being on the same team, it brings us very close together," said Rowe, 34, a Woburn resident and team member since 2006. "Usually we play against each other on local teams and you would never

really talk to opponents outside the games."

Since playing for the team isn't a full-time commitment, players had to push off work just to attend.

In addition, without government funding, they also had to raise more than \$3,000 to pay for the trip. But amongst all the troubles, the team is in it together to make things happen.

Currently attending Centennial College, Wynn said

she is missing the last two weeks of class and has to write exams early in order to make the trip.

"Even with all the pressures we have, it's all worth it," Wynn said. "The sport is the best thing to ever happen to me."

The tournament, which runs from Dec. 6 to 12, is a qualifying event for the Commonwealth Games, which serves as the sport's version of the world championships.

Although Canada will be the tournament's lowest ranking country at 21st place, the team is confident its skills and teamwork will carry it against the competition.

"We really think we can win the tournament," Rowe said. "If we win all our games, we can improve our ranking, and hopefully that can lead to funding."

For more about netball visit [torontoobserver.ca](http://torontoobserver.ca).

## Director eyeing top SHA position

STEPHANIE LEUNG  
The Observer

Someone is willing to take John Kelloway's place in the event the Scarborough Hockey Association's president steps down.

Outside of the directors meeting on Nov. 15, SHA director Wayne Erison told Kelloway he is willing to step up.

"People deserve safe, affordable and fun hockey in Scarborough," Erison said in an interview later. "It belongs right here. Nobody's leaving anyone behind."

Kelloway had earlier said the association might fold after this season without full consent from other members of the association, which has concerned many parents and kids.

"I don't know why he's giving [the SHA] bad publicity," said Paul Wilson, hockey dad and coach of the Scarborough Sabres Peewee A team. "It's not true and we need a change and a new president. He has done nothing but to sabotage it."

Without hockey in Scarborough, parents may have



STEPHANIE LEUNG/The Observer

Twelve-year-old Noah deftly swiftly handles the puck at a Scarborough Sabres team practice.

to send their kids to play in the Greater Toronto Hockey League where rates are high.

The basic cost to play in the SHA is between \$750 and \$1,200, whereas it can cost \$1,750 to \$3,000 to play in the GTHL.

Stephen Seki, father of Kiana Seki who plays on the Sabres, says he won't register his daughter in the GTHL if the SHA folds.

"I pay around \$1,000 for

my daughter to play in the SHA," Seki said. "It's an affordable and reasonable price to pay. The GTHL is just way too much."

Most of the parents and kids in the SHA travel about five to 10 minutes to arenas for practices and games. However, if they were to join the GTHL, travel time would increase.

"I really like playing here," said 12-year-old Noah Smith, a forward with the Sabres.

"It's easy because we play in only two arenas."

"It wouldn't be practical," Seki said. "Especially if you're driving your kid during rush hour."

A public meeting with parents, coaches, members of the SHA, John Kelloway and Ward 37 Scarborough Councillor Michael Thompson is to be held on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Scarborough Village Arena to discuss the future of the association.

## Big push planned for hockey group

Members of the Scarborough Hockey Association have come up with a few marketing strategies to involve the public in hockey.

According to SHA director Wayne Erison, the first step to create awareness is to give small jobs to volunteers.

"We need to recruit people who believe in hockey in Scarborough," Erison said. "More things will get done when people have smaller jobs as opposed to one big one."

Volunteers would go around the community to places like the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough and Malvern.

Other plans include hiring a media representative to speak and represent the SHA, developing a mentorship program to improve kids' hockey skills, and educating them about the game.

"It's more than just a game," Erison said.

"When these kids play together, they not only improve their hockey skills but they also build friendships and leadership."

SHA coaches and parents have been asking for more marketing.

### More awareness

"Just putting up posters around the community would be helpful," says Stephen Seki, whose daughter has played for the Scarborough Sabres for four years.

"People who generally like the sport will be able to find leagues themselves. But if we market the SHA more, we can get more people who don't know about the sport."

The marketing plans will be proposed by the SHA at a public meeting on Dec. 3.

A meeting with the executive members will be held Dec. 5 to vote for a new SHA president.

— Stephanie Leung

# NEWS



MATTHEW ALLEYSNE/The Observer

Two people cross the street at Morningside Avenue and Ellesmere Road. Most pedestrians are unaware how many deadly accidents there are involving Toronto intersections.

## Risks of being a pedestrian

**MATTHEW ALLEYSNE**  
The Observer

Toronto Police have released a list of the 10 most dangerous intersections in the city with pedestrians involved in collisions. Scarborough made the list with two locations: Birchmount Road/Sheppard Avenue East and McCowan Road/Sheppard Avenue East.

Although East Scarborough residents didn't make the top 10, these are still nearby locations to watch.

"I've been almost hit and killed on more than one occasion," said Elean Tsitsiludis. "Most of the time I am trying to cross the street, and a vehicle doesn't stop while trying to make a right-on-red although I have the right-of-way."

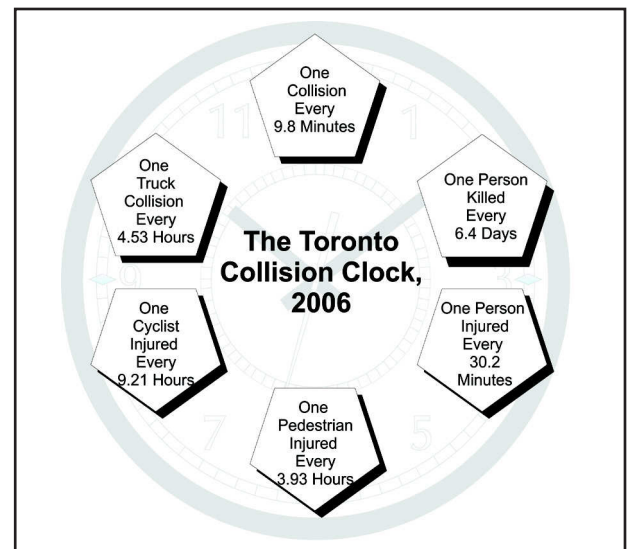
According to a report released in 2008, Markham Road has had the most collisions involving pedestrians, with clusters or incidences at: Eglinton Avenue East, Lawrence Avenue East, and Ellesmere Road. The one recent fatality took place on Markham Road just north of Finch Avenue East.

"There is no one factor for the cause of any accident,"

said Jim Smith of the City of Toronto Traffic Services.

"A person can be impaired, or a driver can be impaired. There can be various weather-related conditions, or road conditions. It can even be as simple as whether it is day or night."

The city's Traffic Services says there were 1,914 reported pedestrians' injuries last year, 27 of which were fatal.



The Collision Clock illustration from Traffic Services.

## Canadian writing anthology features Seven Oaks author

**KAREEN AWADALLA**  
The Observer

Seven Oaks resident Kathleen Betts is one of 58 authors whose works are included in *Canadian Voices: Volume One*, an anthology of prose and poetry.

The book made its debut on Nov. 10 at Toronto's Supermarket Art Bar.

*Luckyone* is the title of Betts' story. Originally written as an adaptation of *The Donkey Story* for Toastmasters, the tale professes a moral lesson, says the self-proclaimed

hockey mom of four. "It's an invitation to all of us to consider what impact our actions and decisions have on others."

Betts' literature deals with problems like bullying and reckless disregard for others.

Forcing her readers to ask themselves what roles they play in others' lives awakens a sense of responsibility, she says.

"Considering whose voice in the story echoes our own,

we can ask ourselves if our actions are ruthless, like we're burying others alive, or if our complacency leads us to allow other so-called leaders to commit such atrociousness, or if even we sometimes succumb to the temptation to join in the useless and hurtful mud-slinging started by others," Betts says.

After being "dared to get published" in a self-employment training program, Betts was enticed.

While at the seminar, she met Nancy Allen, who convinced her to submit her entry — even though it was seconds to deadline.

"While I was extremely hopeful, I thought it was a bit of a long-shot."

Describing the experience as "a roller coaster ride," Betts says her first book publication has been an invaluable learning experience, though she admits she had to adjust to the editing room.

"I'm sure it must be difficult for any writer to try to understand the perspective

of editors when they soundly advise to lop out elements of our works that are near and dear to our hearts."

And though at times she says editing "feels a lot like getting the rug pulled out from under you," Betts expresses her gratitude to the book's coordinator, Jasmine D'Costa, saying it was "her brilliant idea and her onward and upward attitude that enabled her to conceive of and achieve the vision of *Canadian Voices: Volume One*."

For now, while undecided whether to submit an entry

for *Volume Two*, Betts says it's been an honour to get to know some fellow emerging Canadian writers. She has also been granted the opportunity to spearhead a project to create a book compiled of motivational articles from *Good News Toronto*.

"I'm daring to dream even that the montage of good news inspirational articles will have the social impact and appeal of the likes of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*."

To read the full version of *Luckyone*, visit [commuteducation.blogspot.com](http://commuteducation.blogspot.com).



BETTS

## New Scarborough clinic to provide temporary services to residents until spring 2010

**PHIL SMALLEY**  
The Observer

Where do you go when you don't have a doctor and haven't seen one in more than a year?

The Rouge Valley Health System has an answer.

Although not technically operating under that hospital's framework, the Unattached Patient Clinic is located at the former Centenary Hospital at Nielson and Ellesmere Roads, and is open to anyone without a regular family doctor.

The clinic is the result of

the encouragement of constitutional lawyer Sam Berman. "Under the Canada Health Act and provincial legislature people have a fundamental right to access healthcare," Berman says.

But there is a discrepancy between the lawful requirements and the actual care people receive, he found when he studied the issue.

"Why is it that someone with diabetes and a family doctor gets treated, while someone without a doctor ends up in emergency with kidney failure?" he says.

Without regular checkups,

diseases and more problems develop and are harder to fix.

"If you don't catch things like that early, the cure rate is really lousy. But if you catch them early, the cure rate is extremely high and sometimes the issue becomes avoidable."

He brought this issue to the provincial health ministry and eventually they came up with a model.

The end result is that people come to the clinic, get a full screening and are able to be recommended to specialists.

They are allowed three

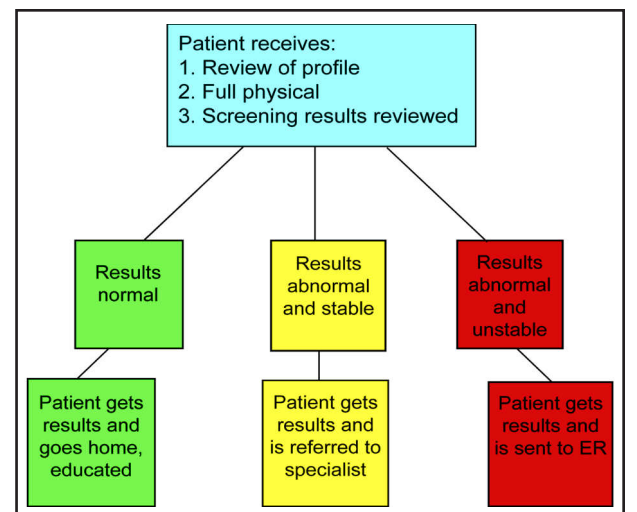
visits and in Scarborough are looked after by nurse practitioners.

Scarborough is one of two sites, the other site is a mobile rural site in Bethany, north of Peterborough.

Although the Scarborough site has not been fully evaluated in its effectiveness, it has already reported that about one-third of the patients have some sort of medical disease and risks, according to Berman.

If the numbers are verified, the usefulness of the clinic cannot be understated.

However, the Scarborough



Procedures for the clinic (adapted from the project).

clinic's nurse practitioner Nicole Van Doornik says the clinic is not as busy as it should be, partly because of the H1N1 scare. Media focus on the swine flu shifted all attention off other medical-related matters right when the

clinic's grand opening was to be held.

The Unattached Patient Clinic is a pilot project, scheduled to last until spring 2010.

To schedule an assessment call 416-282-0808.