

The Scarborough
OBSERVER
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COLLEGE

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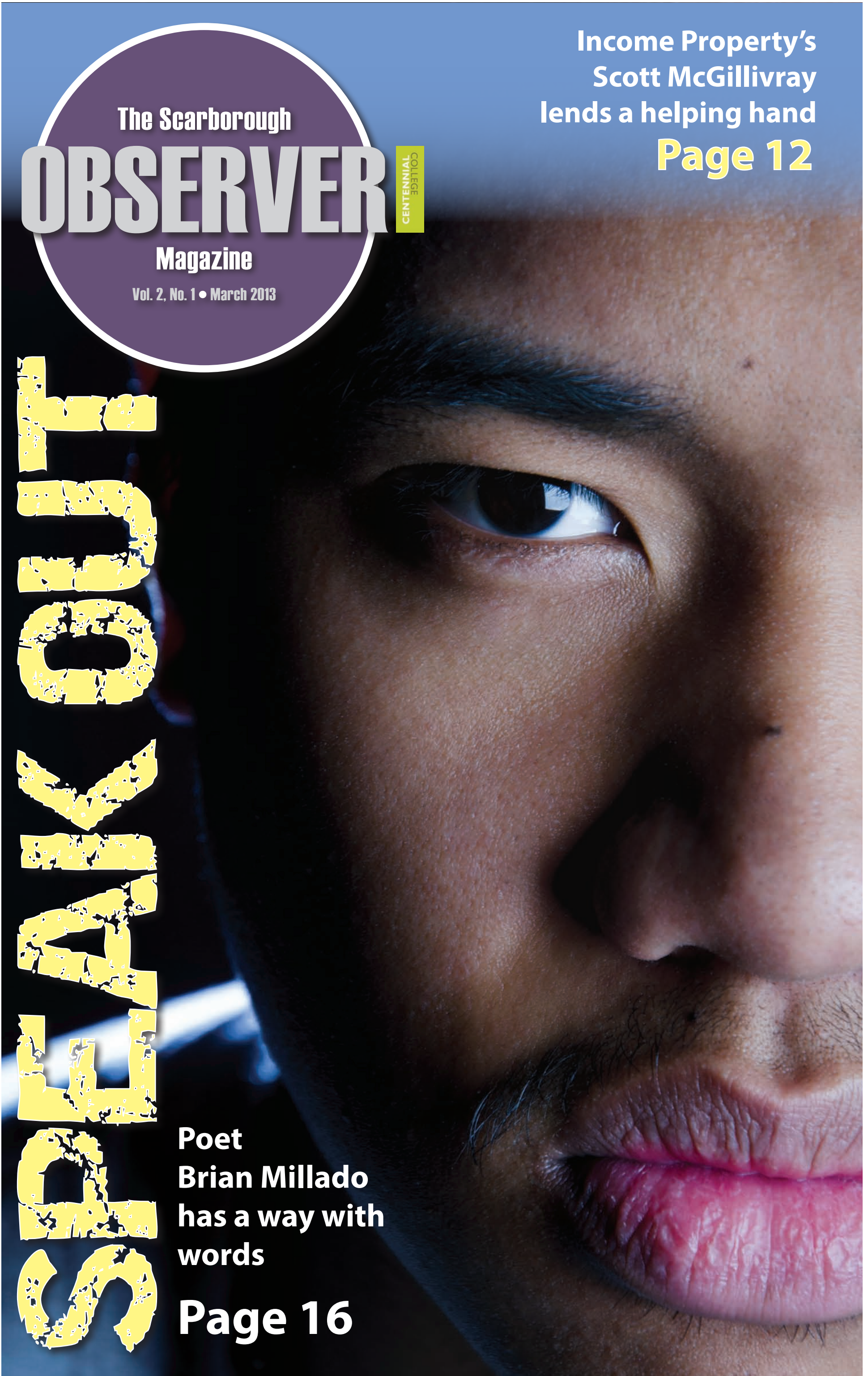




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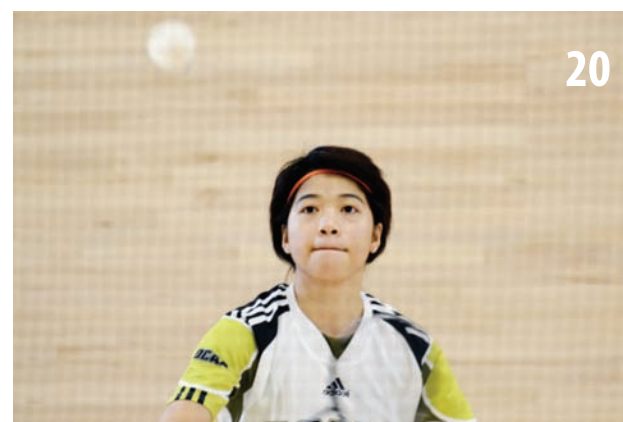
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MARCH *at a glance...*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 LGBT Paintball Gladiator's Arena 3475 Danforth Ave., E. Adults \$45
3 Scarborough Model Railroaders Train Show Royal Canadian Legion Branch 614, 100 Salome Dr. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 March Break Guided Walks in Rouge Park rougepark.com for locations. 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	12	13	14 Swing Dance Classes Royal Canadian Legion Branch 614, 100 Salome Dr. 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Adults \$35 per session	15	16 Easter Bake Sale & Tea Curran Hall Community Centre 277 Orton Pk. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
17 St. Patrick's Day Canadian Liver Foundation walk Scarborough Town Centre 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	18	19	20	21	22	23 Saturday Night Dance Birkdale Community Centre 1299 Ellesmere Rd. Starts at 7:00 p.m. All ages. \$6 per person.
24	25	26	27	28	29 GOOD FRIDAY Seniors Book Club Albert Campbell District Library 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY						

Scarboroughs of the World

Ali Raza

Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

Population: 602,575

Quick Facts:

- Takes up a third of Toronto, amalgamated in 1998
- One of the most diverse communities in the world
- Named after the English town of Scarborough
- Home to the Toronto Zoo

Scarborough, Western Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago

Population: 17,000

Quick Facts:

- Largest town and capital of Tobago
- Its population is one-third of the island
- Ferry service to Port of Spain, Trinidad
- Home to Fort King George, now a historic museum

Have you ever wondered if Toronto's Scarborough is the only one in the world? Well, it turns out there are Scarboroughs in all corners of the globe. Here are some facts about our Scarborough and three others located throughout the world.

Scarborough, North Yorkshire, United Kingdom

Population: 50,135

Quick Facts:

- Original Scarborough is over 1,000 years old
- Popular destination on the English east coast
- A growing digital and creative economy
- Huge cultural scene with drama, art, cinema and music

Scarborough, Western Australia, Australia

Population: 14,271

Quick Facts:

- Part of city of Sterling, faces the Indian Ocean
- Has what is considered the best beach in Western Australia
- Swim, surf, fish, skate, cycle, sail and more in this resort town
- Close to Perth, one of Australia's major cities



The Rashi Silk House on Eglinton Avenue E. opened its doors in 1998.

Joanne Kaileh and Mark A. Cadiz // Scarborough Observer



Jeyanthini and Peremanath Kanapanathan, owners of Rashi Silks House, are interviewed after they fought off an attempted robbery at their Scarborough store.

Joanne Kaileh and Mark A. Cadiz // Scarborough Observer



● To watch a video on this story, visit us online at torontoobserver.ca

Robbery halted

Scarborough couple fought off gun wielding pair

Joanne Kaileh and Mark A. Cadiz

When it comes to their livelihood, a Scarborough couple stood their ground and defended their store. Jeyanthini and his wife Premanath Kanapanathan owners of Rashi Silks House at 2649 Eglinton Ave. E. fought off two armed young men attempting to rob them Tuesday.

Police say the accused, two 17-year-olds, entered the store at around 4:30 p.m. with a handgun.

Jeyanthini Kanapanathan wrestled

with one of the accused and managed to take the gun away.

"I held his hand and I didn't remove it. After he beat my head I was fighting with him," he said.

"I knew he already had a gun that's why I held his arm. If I removed it then he would have shot me."

Premanath Kanapanathan managed to escape from the store, but came back to help her husband.

"Yes, I came back and I helped him.... I pushed down the rack and my husband managed to get the gun from the guy.

"After that [my husband] fought with

them."

Eventually both the accused ran from the store and were later caught and arrested, police say.

The storeowners say since they first opened their business 14 years ago, nothing like this has happened before. And even after going through this terrifying ordeal both say they still feel safe there.

"Yes, it's safe. Why should we be scared? We're all human," Jeyanthini said.

"We can manage," Premanath said.

The accused are facing a total of 11 charges.

I knew he already had a gun that's why I held his arm. If I removed it then he would have shot me.

- Jeyanthi Kanapanathan

SIU investigates Scarborough shooting

Ontario's Special Investigation Unit (SIU) is investigating police conduct during a Scarborough disturbance, which involved a man being shot.

At 6:50 p.m. on Feb. 10, police responded to a call at 1 Lee Centre Dr.

"Upon arrival at a unit on the

eighth floor, there was an interaction between officers and a male," according to the SIU.

"One of the officers discharged his firearm."

Three investigators and two forensic investigators have been assigned to investigate the case.

A 31-year-old

man is currently being treated at Sunnybrook Health and Sciences Centre.

The SIU is asking anyone who may have witnessed the events to contact 416-641-1866.

■ Katherine Forte

Another fire, same building

Angelique Chantelle

Fratelli's Village Pizzeria was severely damaged in an accidental fire on May 18, 2011.

Less than two years later on Feb. 12, 2013, the restaurant fell victim to an arsonist.

The restaurant was set on fire hours before it was due to have its reopening.

Damages are estimated at around \$10,000.

Mary Crossan, owner of Lavender Rose Flowers, a florist shop located three stores down in the same plaza, couldn't think of any reason why someone would want to harm the pizzeria or its owners.

"It's devastating. They are wonderful people, and most people love them," Crossan said.

Owners could not be reached for comment.

The suspect is described as a white male, between 30 to 40 years old with a slim build. Anyone with information is asked to contact police immediately.



● More news online at torontoobserver.ca

\$5M raised to look inside you

Scarborough Hospital's funding campaign succeeds in acquiring new MRI machine

Samantha Bridges

The Scarborough Hospital Foundation celebrated the overwhelming success of their Look Inside Yourself MRI campaign at the hospital's Birchmount campus on Feb. 6.

Reaching their \$5-million goal, the campaign launched in January 2012, is now celebrating their success with a new MRI machine that is enhancing the quality of patient care. With this new machine, medical staff can zero in on a patient's illness with a faster, more accurate diagnosis.

The Scarborough Hospital Foundation CEO, Michael Mazza, talks about

We are grateful that the public jumped in and helped us because now patients can get access to the care that they need much faster.

- Michael Mazza

the success of the campaign and the support that came from both the hospital community and the public.

"Over half of the money was raised within the hospital, and then our community groups held fundraisers," Mazza said. "We are grateful that the public jumped in and helped us because now patients can get access to the care that they need much faster."

When patients were experiencing longer than normal wait times, it became the priority of the hospital to help improve the care. In previous years, about 225 in-patients had



Photo credit // Scarborough Hospital

Dr. Tim Devlin (left) of The Scarborough Hospital and Martin Goldstein, patient care manager of diagnostic services, show off the new MRI machine.

to be transferred to the hospital's Lawrence Avenue campus because of long wait times. The wait time for an MRI was close to 100 days. Since the installation of the new machine, that number has been reduced

to more than half. "We were becoming one of the worst in the province for wait times, so we knew we had to come together and help our patients," Mazza said.

Along with the celebra-

tion of the MRI machine, the campaign wrapped up its success with performances dedicated to the upcoming Chinese New Year. Many community members were present at the event to mark the suc-

cess of a bright future for The Scarborough Hospital. "With these new machines, the image quality is extraordinary," Mazza said. "We are now able to diagnose problems that we couldn't before."

Flu shot prevents seniors from potentially fatal consequences

Nonprofit community health organization prepares for flu season

Naomi Grosman & Joie Ann Merana

Scarborough seniors are getting poten-

tially life-saving support from a community health group. Despite this flu season being particularly severe, they know they will be taken care of.

The Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities (SCHC) is a non-profit community health organization. The staff makes sure their clients get the flu shot in time.

"With our less mobile seniors, the threat of pneumonia comes with the threat of being fatal," Sheena Howe said. "They are definitely a priority for getting the flu shot."

Howe is the supportive housing manager for the SCHC, serving about 100 clients at two Toronto Community Housing locations on Lawrence Ave East as well as other residents of the Scarborough community.

The SCHC also has solutions for more active seniors to get transportation to the many flu clinics the SCHC manages.

"We also have our own program, Scarborough Ride. We can provide transportation to medical

appointments with a days notice," Howe said.

They can easily set up an appointment by calling the clinic for a small fee of \$5.

The SCHC was notified about the severity of the flu this season by several Ontario health agencies. They were prepared for the worst.

"We've done a great job in preparing because we have been able to meet the majority of our target population and have them vaccinated," Howe said.

"We've done a really great job in planning this year."

In addition to helping them battle the flu, SCHC services are a friendly face for the people they serve.

Howe added that many of their clients are isolated and that they appreciate having someone to talk to when they get help from the nurses and personal support workers at SCHC.

Community talks mental health

Sola DaSilva

#BellLetsTalk is the hashtag Bell Media is asked Canadians to use February 12 in support of mental health awareness. For every text message, long distance call made, or tweet using #BellLetsTalk, Bell donated 5 cents to help fund mental health initiatives across Canada.

"People are afraid of something they don't understand," Katina Watson, director of counselling at Youth-Link in Scarborough, said. "People don't realize that a lot of mental issues are a response to circumstances or stressors."

According to statistics provided by the Canadian Medical Association,

2 in 3 Canadians with mental illness suffer in silence because they are afraid of being judged.

The "circumstances or stressors" that can worsen mental illness are more common in lower socio-economic communities, according to Watson. She explained that these communities have fewer resources, and community members must work longer hours.

"That's changing. Funders are beginning to recognize those patterns, but it's still an issue," Watson said.

Help is available for Canadians suffering from mental illness. Check out a website like Find Help to find the mental health services you need.



From left: Sheena Howe, Gail Strachan, Dorothee Chopamba. The staff at the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities are friendly and helpful.

Naomi Grosman/Scarborough Observer



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

PIPE DREAMS

NIGHTMARES



Burst waterpipe causes trouble for local family

Arooj Yaqub

Every year during winter, pipes burst due to the freezing temperatures.

It is no wonder Neil Delima, 37, found water collecting at the front of his driveway in Scarborough on January 21.

"The water went off around six in the evening up until around nine ... it was very cold and our daughter had the flu," he said. "We called between eight and nine in the morning when we had seen a lot of water had collected."

In Delima's case a bolt that attached two water main sections together rotted off, Wai informed. Even though pipes are usually laid down four feet below the ground because that is the depth of the frost line, the freez-

ing and thawing in winter causes pipes to expand in size. In turn, pipes burst and nuts and bolts pop off with pressure.

"You can't prepare for such a thing because the water mains stretch all along a road in sections," Delima said.

The city is known to use anti-erosion systems to flush sediments from pipes and maintain them by replacing water mains, which can help prevent bursts. During the winter, residents like Delima must watch out for water collection, especially in sidewalk cracks.

Delima says the City of Toronto was quick to provide help once he reported the collection of water.

"They were quite organized and gave us a two hour notice before they arrived," Delima said.

"We wouldn't have been able to take my daughter to the doctor if our driveway was blocked by the machines."

If you do notice any signs of water collecting, or have any concerns call the City of Toronto at 3-1-1.

Fluctuating temperatures can cause pipes to burst, as Scarborough resident Neil Delima experienced in January.

Chilling performance of Sweeney Todd

Theatre audience forced into winter storm three times after repeated false alarms — but most stay to see the rest of the show

Alissa Heidman

The bloody tale of Fleet Street's demon barber in the musical *Sweeney Todd* chilled patrons at Scarborough Music Theatre (SMT) on Feb. 7, in more ways than one.

Audience members spent time braving a cold winter storm on opening night when false fire alarms forced everyone to evacuate the performance three times.

The first alarm sounded at the beginning of intermission.

The audience piled through the doors, greeted by chilly winds and snow. Actors followed soon after with only their costumes on.

Actress Elizabeth Van Wyck, who plays the "Beggar Woman," was just wearing slippers.

"I think there's wonderful energy tonight and it's a wonderful opening [night], and [we'll] have something to tell stories [about] for years to come," Van Wyck said.

Several fire trucks arrived shortly after the first alarm.



Alissa Heidman // Scarborough Observer

Firefighters return to their trucks after an evening at the theatre on Feb. 7. They were called to the Scarborough Music Theatre for three alarms that forced evacuations during a live performance.

Once the crew declared there was no fire, the crowd re-entered.

The audience took their seats long enough to watch another scene when the fire

alarm went off a second time.

The crowd re-zipped their jackets, re-wrapped their scarves and again headed outside.

The fire crew showed up again and stated there was no fire.

Before the fire crew left, the alarm sounded for the third and final time.

The audience decided to pack into the foyer rather than go outside. A few frustrated audience members left.

Organizers of *Sweeney Todd* quickly informed the crowd that the fire crew had silenced the alarm and that this would be the end of the interruptions.

Most of the audience stayed to see how the rest of the play would unfold. Co-producer Linda Ramsay expressed the crew's gratitude.

"On behalf of SMT, our apologies. We're so sorry, but thank you, thank you, thank you so much for hanging in," Ramsay said.

The show must go on, and it did.

The play gave the audience a few spooks, a few laughs and plenty of talented vocalists performing the music of Stephen Sondheim.

Improving Scarborough's condos

Lack of amenities for children top of suggestion list

Alissa Heidman

Scarborough's condo buildings just aren't very kid friendly, a city-run meeting heard Feb. 20.

There are plenty of adult amenities, however none for children, Sharif Nisa said at the meeting.

"When children are playing in the space outside the building, they are told by security to 'Please leave the area,'" she said.

The city held the public meeting at the Scarborough



Residents discuss concerns regarding their Scarborough condominiums during a consultation at the Scarborough Civic Centre on Feb. 20.

Civic Centre to hear community ideas on making condo life better.

Residents of the buildings raised the issues of safety, amenities, unpleasant smells, noise disturbances and traffic.

Mayfair on the Green resident Zahir Antia said he's concerned with the dangerous traffic at his condo's intersection of Neilson Road and McLevin Avenue. It would be useful if the city could put in

a traffic light, or build another driveway giving residents access to an existing traffic light, he said.

But, Antia said it is the planning and funding that condo residents need more help with.

"It's something that we owners can't possibly get together," Antia said.

Mid-summer meetings are scheduled and a report is expected at city council in the fall.

25 years of flea market success

Amir Islam

On March 1, Merchants' Flea Market at Eglinton Avenue and Warden Avenue reached its quarter-century milestone.

Vahe Kerim, president and owner of the market, shares the secret of the market's longevity.

"A good location, management and advertising are key to our success," Kerim said.

Spread over 45,000 square feet, the market welcomes approximately 250 vendors on Saturdays and Sundays.

Shoppers will find fashion products, jewelry, housewares, home décor, electronics, cellphones, toys, food, manicure salons and barber shops.

But the backbone of the flea market is its vendors, who are mostly immigrants.

"We provide support to the vendors who are mostly immigrants, some of them are new in Canada," Kerim said. "So it is a great opportunity for them to start a small business in a safe atmosphere."

The low overhead and the weekend hours make the flea market an attractive option for immigrant business owners.

"Shopping malls are open seven days a week. They are open for 10 to 12 hours a day. It is very difficult for family businesses to manage a store in a shopping mall. They would need staff, have larger spaces and pay higher rents," Kerim explained.

Hiralal Jaikaran has been in business for 13 years. He runs a juice bar called Juicing for Life, specializing in mango, banana and strawberry shakes which are mixed with sugar cane and fresh coconut water.

"My customers are very pleased and happy, so I'm happy too," Jaikaran said. And now we are celebrating the market's 25th anniversary."



Brian MacFarlane and a student shovelling the rink in preparation of the rink's grand opening

James Tessier//Scarborough Observer

Long time coming for Scarborough rink

College prof started the rink project, seeking community's, sponsor's support

James Tessier

Outdoor ice rinks in Toronto are a focal point in the Scarborough community.

Scarborough, however, has traditionally been snubbed by the City of Toronto when it comes to the building of outdoor rinks. Centennial College is working to change that.

Professor of applied biology and environmental science, Michael Gauthier, is leading the Morningside Park natural rink project.

"We have taken an inter-

est in the area around our backyard," Gauthier said. Gauthier explained that after a cleanup and tree planting effort in the spring of 2012 that had over 300 people take part, the Toronto Parks and Forestry began to see the community taking a greater interest in the park. Since then, they have become strong supporters of what the community members are doing in the area.

Home Depot is an active sponsor and has assisted in many of Gauthier's past community events.

"I told Home Depot we were building an ice rink and

asked if they were interested in helping out," Gauthier said. "They got right back to me and agreed to be a part of the project."

Home Depot gave the traps and all the wood that was needed to build the structure of the rink and covered the entire \$1,800 venture because they felt that it was "a good activity" according to Gauthier.

Gauthier has also had the assistance of Brian MacFarlane, an active community member who has experience in creating outdoor rinks.

"With our rink, the best part about that is I get pictures all the time through e-mails," MacFarlane said.

"When I had a crummy day at work and I click on the photos and there are eight or nine little kids with their moms and dads I think that is so awesome," MacFarlane said.

MacFarlane is also an advocate for doing it right as he explained that he likes his ice "perfect."

"I'm very particular about ice; I like to have the smooth ice, so I really baby the ice

a lot which is ok because when you have little kids that is what you want to do," MacFarlane said. "When you're learning how to skate you have to have smooth ice."

Gauthier will also continue to search for new ways for the college to get involved in the project so that it is beneficial for both the students and the future of the rink.

He explained that the faculty of the business program can have students working on possible marketing for the new community rink and architecture students may be able to create new plans for the future.

The rink's grand opening was Feb. 16.



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



Joanne Kaileh // Scarborough Observer

Danyce Luces and Marva Luces enjoy a meal at Joey Bravo's, one of only two Scarborough restaurants entered in Winterlicious this year.

Locals undecided on Winterlicious

Joanne Kaileh

Winterlicious has been a staple in Toronto since the event started in 2003, but even after almost 10 years, its popularity still hasn't caught on in Scarborough. Winterlicious is a biannual event that celebrates Toronto's multiculturalism through cuisine. This year Scarborough has only two restaurants entered in Winterlicious.

Vishnu Karan Rasiah, manager of Vi Pei Bistro restaurants in Scarborough, has never participated in Winterlicious. He believes this is because the event is catered to a city atmosphere.

"With the downtown area it's different," Rasiah said. "It's more tourists, entertainment district, more moving around and everyday you get a new person come in."

Entering in Winterlicious requires participants to pay a fee of around \$1,000. For Rasiah, it's about looking at whether investing in Winterlicious is worth it.

"Even if we were in Winterlicious, we'd have to do more advertising to bring in the people from downtown," Rasiah said.

"We thought about it last year but you have to look at your return before you invest in something," Rasiah said. "We can always bring in more

business, but in our case we have our regulars."

Eirene Papaianou, support supervisor for Winterlicious, says the event is for all restaurants to get involved in, not just downtown Toronto.

"It has always been intended for the entire city," Papaianou said. "Scarborough is Toronto..."

There are a number of reasons why they don't participate and they are all very personal to each restaurant." Joey Bra-

vo's is a restaurant entered in Winterlicious from Scarborough. This is its sixth year participating. Manager Stacey Demma says it encourages business in the winter season.

"The way they promote it is it comes after the holidays. It gets the businesses a little bit of action during the time it's extremely slow," Demma said.

Demma is aware of the downtown competition, but believes it should not stop Scarborough restaurants from participating.

Rasiah says he will think about entering his downtown Vi Pei location next year, instead of his Scarborough one.



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

Scarborough's got talent

Joanne Kaileh

Talent is shining in Scarborough's youth.

Seth Dyer, 19, is part of a Scarborough arts program called the EAST Project. The project is a collaborative initiative for local youth ages 16-24, aimed at creating a documentary and music video over an eight-month period.

There are three parts the youth can participate in: music collective, project management and documentary collective.

Dyer says the program gives youth opportunities and experiences they would not normally have.

"Scarborough arts and EAST has branched out my network," Dyer said. "I've made a lot of

good friends, had the chance to work in the most professional places available. I've learned a lot in terms of marketing myself and developing myself as an artist."

"I feel like if I wasn't involved with the Scarborough programs that I wouldn't be the same."

Dyer wants to pursue a career in music with the skills he has acquired, but more importantly, he wants to make a difference using with his music.

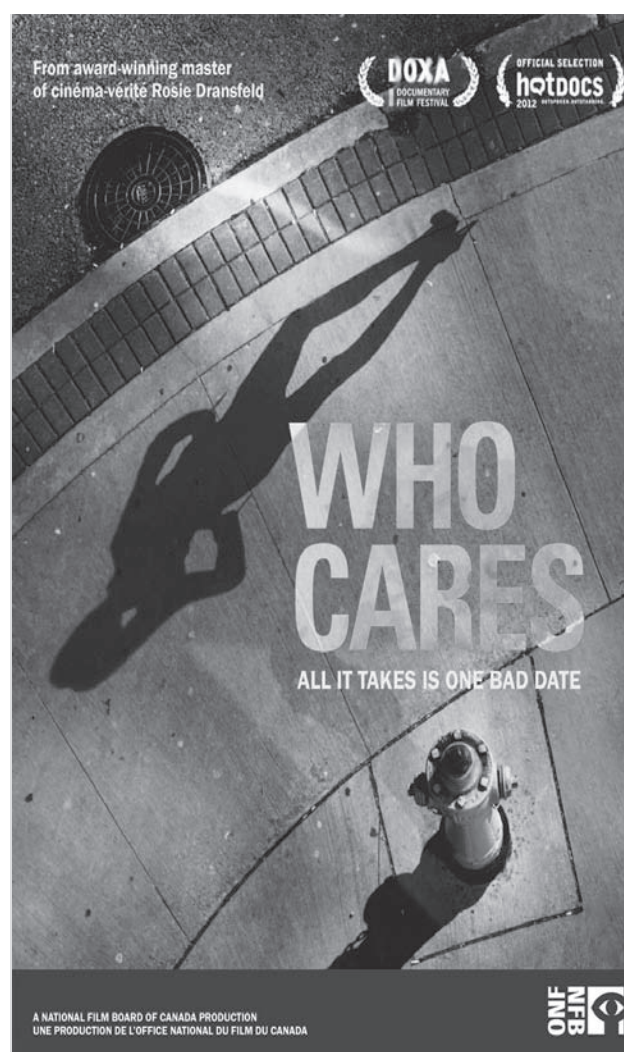
"My intention with my music is not necessarily to be rich and powerful," Dyer said.

"I just want to be able to give back because I've been through a lot and I've seen a lot of people that haven't had a lot and I want to be able to help that."



Joanne Kaileh // Scarborough Observer

Seth Dyer (Left) and Troy Beharry (right) are participants of the Scarborough Arts program the EAST project. Jen Fabico (middle) is the coordinator of the program. Both Dyer and Beharry say the program has given them the opportunity to pursue a future in music.



Taste of Canadiana in Agincourt

National Film Board screens film series at Agincourt library

Ali Raza

The National Film Board of Canada Film Club screened one of its films Tuesday night at Agincourt Library in Scarborough. The film, entitled *Who Cares*, is one of a series of films the NFB plans to screen at the Toronto Public Library.

The NFB Film Club is screening a series of four films each month from January to April at the Agincourt location.

"The selection of films is from the NFB, they chose a series of four films to run here," Jane Aspinall, librarian at the Agincourt branch, said. "I chose to volunteer. They put it out on offer,

and I thought it was a great sounding program."

The films, all of which are documentaries produced for the NFB, are *Payback*, *Who Cares*, *Status Quo* and *Vanishing Point*. *Payback*, a film based on Margaret Atwood's bestseller of the same name, was shown in January.

Tuesday night's film screening was *Who Cares*, a film by Gemini Award-winning director Rosie Dransfeld. It exposes the lives of sex trade workers in Edmonton.

Dransfeld shows the danger involved in the sex trade, as well as the problems women in the trade face, such as abuse, violence, drug use and murder.

"It's about the lives of three women," said Aspinall. "It's cinema vérité, so [Dransfeld] doesn't intrude a lot on the narrative. So it's really just these three women and you can see how difficult their lives are."

The NFB produces films about hard-hitting subjects in Canadian society. Each of the four films in the series focuses on a social issue.

"This is the role of the NFB, to make films that talk about important issues for our society," Lily Robert, director of corporate communications at the NFB, said. "It allows Canadians to be in contact with their reality, and from there they can make their own opinions

about the films and issues."

The NFB uses public libraries as venues for their films. It hopes to attract audiences in a public domain to watch these films.

"We're hoping for a big audience," Aspinall said. "Sometimes you have to try things out and see what direction they take."

Agincourt library screens the films for free, and any who wish to see them are welcome. NFB films are also available on the online screening room at www.nfb.ca. But to create more of a social atmosphere, a setting in which Canadians can talk about important issues affecting our society, attending these public screenings is highly recommended.

Scarborough kids 'needed our help'

Samantha Bridges

healthier life.

It started with the realization that kids in Scarborough needed a hand.

Youthlink took to the streets of Scarborough in 2004, recognizing the need for counselling and support which would help many young people find their way towards a healthier lifestyle.

"We knew that we had to branch off into Scarborough because we knew there were a lot of kids in different areas in Scarborough that needed our help," Youthlink executive director Janice Hayes said. "This is why the walk-in counselling has been successful."

Youthlink offers free walk-in counselling that takes place every Wednesday, and it's been well-received, she said.

"We're starting to see at least 25 patients a week," Hayes said.

For almost 100 years, Youthlink has provided youth with the care and necessities they need to live a

Programs like sports, co-ed residence and free counselling are available to aid youth.

"Our experience (in Scarborough) so far is that half of our patients get what they need from the walk-in, and then the other half will put in a request for regular counselling," program director Katina Watson said. "We get a lot of youths and families who come in and talk to us."

"You need to have a strong support group around you and that is something very important to us."

And there's more to be done, Hayes said.

"I think we've only touched the tip of the iceberg here in Scarborough," she said. "Our numbers are growing and that tells me that there are a lot of people who need our help."

"As long as we continue to help people who are in need, we will have no problem moving forward," Hayes said. "There's just so much more that we can do to help."

Summit gives youth VOICE

Coun. Paul Ainslie wanted to try something different.

He wanted to find better ways of engaging Scarborough youth in their community, he said.

"We've always done the traditional, 'Here's the service organization, here's what we're doing,'" he said. "It's not always what youth want. So we thought we'd try a different process, with youth telling the service organizations, 'This is what we want.'"

The Ward 43 Youth Summit was held at the Scarborough Civic Centre in late January. Students and youth workers spoke before various community services to present a new project called Victims Of Increasing Creative Elements (VOICE). The committee discussed problems that youth typically face.

VOICE was started last fall to raise awareness of the need for programs to be more accessible to youth, and for youth to have their voices heard.

Youth are not always willing to take part in community activities, often because there of misunderstandings, said Josette Holness, a member of the summit and a social worker in the community.

"There's a distrust in the sense that sometimes we're there, and sometimes we're not," Holness said. "They're not aware. As much as we think they are, they're not... We have to address how we're going to organize that."



■ Paul Ainslie

~ Madalyn Hamann



Gabriella De Sousa, of Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School at her apprenticeship last year with Monarch Group.

Courtesy of Gabriella De Sousa

Students succeed through doing

Samantha Bridges

For high school students worried about their future, apprenticeship programs may help relieve their stress

While most Toronto high school students may be worried about their academic future, officials at Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School believe students can still succeed.

The Toronto District School Board's (TDSB) latest census showed that 73 per cent of Toronto high school students are unsure about their future.

It's an issue many Toronto parents and teachers are not taking lightly.

Some students feel they don't have an opportunity for academic success and are undecided on post-secondary education.

Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School Co-op business teacher Sandra Pezzetta,

believes apprenticeships give students the tools to build a great career.

"Apprenticeships have the ability to change a person's personality. It makes them want to work, and I have never seen a student that hasn't come out successful," Pezzetta said.

Although Mary Ward's apprenticeship program has been successful, many Scarborough high schools do not offer similar programs in providing information on alternatives to college/university.

"Kids will go anywhere there is work. They are not particularly interested in university or college and want to know what else is

out there," Pezzetta said.

Nuala Kelly, owner of apartment and housing company Kalli Management Ltd., has been a part of Mary Ward's apprenticeship program for 10 years. She says as a business owner she understands how important it is to give students the experience, but as a parent she can't help the development of an emotional attachment.

"I got involved because my son was at Mary Ward and expressed interest in an air conditioning apprenticeship. I thought it was a great idea and I gave it to Mary Ward," Kelly said.

Kelly's company offers several apprenticeships, but

it's her chef apprenticeship that is getting the most attention.

"I've had about eight kids from Mary Ward get involved in the chef apprenticeship over the years," Kelly said. "All the students involved in the program have come out successful."

Kelly says Scarborough needs to offer the work experience to students and that employers need to take a chance.

"The reality is that you can't just fill space and time with a job. The students need to have passion and enjoy what they do, and that is something that can only be taught through experience."

A THOUGHT FOR THE PENNY

Scarborough residents say being without the coin will be a significant change



Stella Brothers: "I'm going to miss it because I remember when I moved to Ontario 50 years ago, I was glad to have pennies to survive."



William Barker: "It's going to be around for a few more years, so once it's finally gone I don't think we're going to miss it much."

Linda Cotrina & Deidra Barton

It's time for Canadians across the country to bid adieu to the penny.

On Feb. 4, the Royal Canadian Mint discontinued the distribution of the coin to banks.

Last year in March, the announcement was made by the federal government in order to save approximately \$11 million a year.

It reportedly costs 1.6 cents to produce the penny, more than it's actually worth.

Scarborough resident Stella Brothers, 70, said, "I guess it's good in one way

but bad in another. Some people say they're still going to use them anyway. I'm going to miss it because I remember when I moved to Ontario 50 years ago, I was glad to have pennies to survive."

John Doe, 42, said, "Well, yes and no. Yes because it's been around for a long time and no because it's kind of a pain. You have to keep all those pennies and it only takes up more room in your pocket. Yes and no I'll miss it."

"No, I do not care. I don't find much of value to it. I do agree with them getting rid of it," Lester Penalosa, a 19-year-old student, said.

Melanie, 27, an assistant events coordinator, said, "I guess it's not a necessity once you get rid of it but why get rid of it? I don't see what's wrong with it. It seems like an unnecessary process to get rid of it. There wasn't anything wrong with it."

Dennis Grant-Stuart, 71, a draftsman said, "Well, according to the mathematical calculations, what I've seen, I don't think we need it. I don't think I'm going to miss it."

William Barker, 53, unemployed, said, "No. Like they said, it costs more to make now than it's worth. It's going to be around for a

few more years, so once it's finally gone I don't think we're going to miss it too much."

Ben Barton, 22, student, said, "It's a good thing because pennies are useless and they take up space in your wallet."

Alexandra Merino, 22, in human resources said, "I don't really think we need the penny. They make a valid point of it costing more to make than what it's worth, especially with inflation, everything is costing more. It made sense back when things were under a dollar. But the economy is growing and changing every year."

Hospital improves patient care through fitness

Lauren LiBetti

Brightly coloured exercise mats line the floor of The Scarborough Hospital's fitness centre. It's 12:30 p.m. and employees are more than halfway through their weekly yoga class.

Lori Irvine, organization and staff development coordinator, explains how The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) uses fitness to improve patient care.

"They (healthcare workers) are wired to help the people around them and their patients, but not so much their own selves," Irvine said.

"So we have to remind them and provide an accessible facility so they can look after themselves

and, in the end, be better healthcare workers for their patients."

According to Irvine, the better healthcare workers care for themselves, the better they care for patients. TSH provides a 24-hour fitness facility to employees for only \$15 a month. The fitness centre includes cardio machines, free weights and fitness classes such as body weight boot camp and zumba.

Chris, a physiotherapist at TSH, frequently uses the fitness centre.

"The best thing about this place? One, it's got everything. Two, the convenience. If it was on the other side of the road, I probably wouldn't go," Chris said. "As a physio what we do is move people



Lauren LiBetti // Scarborough Observer

Employees at The Scarborough Hospital attend weekly yoga, one of the six fitness classes.

around, we get them going. We have to be in pretty good shape to help people who are weaker. So this is for work and for life after work."

Of the 3500 employees at TSH, about 500 of them are fitness centre members.

Exercise brings employees together and reminds them of the mission of the hospital, to provide quality patient care.

"When you come down to be part of a fitness class or work out, there's a housekeeper in there, with

a VP, with a finance guy, who's in there with a social worker... but in the end we are all in the same boat trying to do the same thing at the hospital," Irvine said. "There's nothing like sweating next to somebody."

Irvine, who started at

TSH as a fitness instructor 11 years ago, attests to the positive effects employee fitness has on patient care.

"One of our main things is the quality of our patient care. And in order to do that, we got to be healthy ourselves."

Reptiles on the rise

Linda Cotrina & Deidra Barton

The animals people often fear are growing in popularity amongst a diverse demographic.

For those who may not have the time or space to look after the more traditional pet such as a cat or dog, might gravitate towards the less conventional snake, lizard or gecko.

"Reptiles require very little space and very little maintenance and more and more people are starting to realize that," said Karen Truong, co-owner of All Reptiles in Scarborough located on Kennedy Rd.

Truong and a friend opened the shop at the end of 2008. Over the years she's noticed a much broader demographic coming into her shop and purchasing

reptiles.

"Our main demographic use to be white males between 18-25 for the longest time, but now we get families in here, all kinds of ethnic backgrounds, people of all ages," said Truong.

Most people feel that reptiles are either slimy or venomous, which is not the case.

"Usually they are more scared of you than you are of them," said Truong.



Deidra Barton // Scarborough Observer

Karen Truong holding Jesus the Tegu.

A LEAP IN LIZARDS!

- Bearded dragons, leopard geckos, ball pythons and corn snakes are the most popular with customers.
- No reptile stores carry any venomous snakes.
- Reptiles that live in a dry climate are lower maintenance.
- The biggest snake they have in the store is 10 feet long.
- 'All Reptiles' get their animals from local breeders, importers or do their own breeding.

That's a Wrap

From Asian to Middle Eastern, Scarborough wraps food up deliciously and internationally. There is plenty of tasty and visually pleasing food to eat in the multicultural neighbourhood.

SeYoung Park and Joanne Kaileh



Peking Duck is a national dish of China. The duck, roasted until the skin is thin and crisp, is typically carved in front of diners. The slices of meat and skin are wrapped in mandarin pancakes with Chinese dipping sauce (hoisin sauce), spring onion stalk, carrot and cucumber sticks. The remaining duck meat is chopped and fried with vegetables. The second dish is also wrapped, this time in cabbage. Casa-Imperial Fine Chinese Cuisine is located at 4125 Steeles Ave. E.



Korean vegetable wrap called ssam-bap is rice, sauce and meat wrapped in a leafy vegetable. Ssam means "wrap" and bap means "rice" in Korean. A variety of vegetables and meats can be combined. Some of the leaves Makkal Chon serves are lettuce, red kale, boiled cabbage, bok choy and others. Diners have a choice of beef marinated in soy sauce (bul-go-gi), chicken teriyaki, spicy boneless chicken (dak-gal-bi), grilled mackerel, spicy pork, pork marinated in soy sauce (yang-nyum galbi), and spicy squid and pork (osam bul-go-gi) to accompany the leaves. There is also a vegetarian option of basic vegetable wraps. Makkal Chon is located at 1979 Lawrence Ave. E.



You can make your own falafel wrap at home. Simply purchase Cedar falafel mix from the international section of most grocery stores, add water and fry the falafels. Add tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, tahini sauce and peppers if desired, and enjoy.



Photo courtesy of Ben Sharp // RTR Media Inc.

Scott McGillivray gives Twyla Gendron a tour of the work being done to make her basement an income suite.

Twyla's Project

A community comes together to help a woman keep the last home she shared with her husband

Paula Last

Not many TTC bus stops in Scarborough are as lovely and civilized as the one in front of Twyla Gendron's house.

It sits on the corner of a quiet, bungalow-lined street in the Scarborough neighbourhood of Cliffside and is the picture of tranquility.

Riders can wait for the number 20 bus on a garden bench. Three Japanese maples stand in front, and there's a rock wall for kids to either sit or stand on.

Gendron, 59, and her husband, Larry McCabe, who died in 2010, built the garden together when they moved to Cliffside in 2009.

"It's called the TTC garden, and people, they just love it," Gendron said. "My daughter (Lauren, 27) was here and she was putting up mulch one day. The bus driver opened the bus (door) and said, 'This is the nicest stop around. We just love coming by here, seeing what you guys are doing.'"

However, since Jan. 25, Gendron's house hasn't looked or sounded as tranquil as it normally does.

A porta-potty stands on



Photo courtesy of Twyla Gendron

Larry McCabe, about a month after getting home from hospital in 2003.

the driveway. The side yard contains a PODS storage box. In the basement, the ceiling and walls were ripped out, and it's filled by a bunch of guys with a boss named Ryoji (pronounced Yo-ji) Sasaki. Sasaki's boss is Income Property host Scott McGillivray.

Anyone who watches the program knows if you invite Scott McGillivray inside your house and ask for help, it won't be long before a sledgehammer appears.

All this chaos is laying a new foundation for Gendron's retirement plan, the one she calls "Freedom 95."

Life in The Beach

As you'd expect, the road to Freedom 95 isn't a

joyride. Just over 10 years ago, Gendron and McCabe were living in The Beach on Victoria Park Avenue.

McCabe had been in business for himself, building stereo speakers and doing some consulting work with other companies. Gendron worked as a health education counsellor. Life was good.

West Nile Virus

But 2002 had other plans for Gendron and McCabe's family.

West Nile Virus was fairly new back then. Toronto's first case was reported in 2001. Toronto Public Health reported 163 cases of West Nile Virus in 2002 -- 71 involved hospitaliza-

work and they "muddled along" for a while.

"He did a little bit of work after that, but not much," she said. "It contributed to a lot of depression. And I think it really devastated him more than he was willing to admit out loud."

A recently published McMaster University and United Way Toronto study says that more than half of working adults in Toronto today currently have no benefits. Because he was self-employed, McCabe was in the same boat back in 2002.

tions, 11 resulted in death.

It was one of those conditions that went right over the heads of physicians. By the time McCabe was admitted to hospital he had multiple symptoms: cognitive, vision, high blood pressure, and vomiting. One specialist after another left his room baffled.

Finally, Gendron sent one of the kids to get a nurse.

"He needs to be in the ICU right now," the nurse said, who wheeled McCabe's bed up to the ICU herself.

Twenty-nine days later when he was moved to a medical ward, McCabe was out of the woods, but the ordeal was far from over.

McCabe spent a total of 10 and a half months in St. Michael's hospital.

They were told that "he would never walk or talk or function again, ever," Gendron said.

Going home

"In that first three months of his coming home, he literally couldn't lift his arms, so lunches had to be prepared and left at the counter height so that he could access things," Gendron said.

Gendron continued to

On top of dealing with the emotional impact of the physical changes, and the changes in relationships with friends, finances were at the forefront of their concerns.

"Gradually you slip behind," Gendron said. "And you think, 'Things are going to turn around. Things are going to get better, because they always have.'"

But they didn't.

Gendron eventually made the call to her real estate agent.

"OK, John, you've given us our breathing space," she said. "We're now asphyxiated. We need to look



Naomi Grosman // Scarborough Observer

Twyla Gendron, at her home in Cliffside.

around.”

One of her neighbours, a contractor, suggested Cliffside.

Cliffside

When Gendron first met McCabe in 1972, it was love at first sight. They moved in together three weeks later.

The same thing happened for Gendron when she saw her current home (although the move in date may have come later).

The first thing they did was install a wood-burning fireplace and raise all the arches of the doorways.

“All the houses we’ve lived in since I was 15, the doorways have been raised because of me,” Nathan McCabe, 31

He stands 6-foot-8.

Gendron also got the garden started.

“I like flowers ... it’s not something that I was raised with, because I grew up in Regent Park. There weren’t a lot of gardens in Regent Park,” Gendron said.

Gendron is a serious gardener, to put it mildly.

She has strong opinions about colours, certain of which – yellow - will never find their way into her garden.

Her gardening skills eventually came in handy in unexpected ways.

Meeting the neighbours

If you live in Cliffside and want to meet people, it may be time to take up gardening.

“Everyone wants to know what you’re doing when they walk by. No one’s afraid to say ‘Hello, how’s it going, what are you doing here?’” Nathan McCabe said.

A second tip is to throw a good party.

“We have an annual Christmas party where we just invite anyone within ... 20 houses in any direction and say come on by to meet and greet your neighbour,” Nathan McCabe said.

“And it’s fun, and we light the fire, and they have a Bailey’s, and they toodle on home,” Gendron said.

Getting to know some people worked out pretty well.

Another blow. And another. And a couple more.

Gendron’s mother died before Christmas 2009. In March 2010, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. In May that same year, she lost her job. July was a lumpectomy. Then September - November 2010 was chemotherapy for Gendron.

December was a month of rest. January – February 2011 was radiation.

But the biggest and most unexpected blow of all came in the middle of all that.

In August, 2010, McCabe was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died nine days later.

For Gendron, the breast cancer became a non-issue.

“It really felt like it was nothing. I would take all the cancer in the world if thought he would still be here.”

One day while Gendron was at one of her day-long Princess Margaret Hospital appointments, Heather Healey, a close friend,

stayed with Larry McCabe at the house.

“I didn’t know this until just very, very recently. He had said to her, ‘I don’t think we’re going to be able to make the mortgage this month.’ And she could tell that (it) really bothered him,” Gendron said.

“So she started calling people,” Gendron said.

Enough money was raised to help Gendron stay in the house for a year while she went through chemo and radiation.

At the end of that year, Gendron and her friends decided that the original plans that she and McCabe had for the basement could be reworked for a better purpose - to pay her mortgage. Twyla’s Project was born.

Building an income suite

In addition to being the host of Income Property and McGillivray is a seasoned real estate investor. It’s well-known to his fans that he bought his first

investment property as a student while studying at the University of Guelph. “I know the benefits of having that,”

McGillivray said. “It paid my mortgage for seven years.”

Because Gendron couldn’t pay for the renovation, she was turned down for the show.

When McGillivray saw local journalist Catherine Porter’s Toronto Star article about Twyla’s Project, he thought he could help.

“When we got here, we realized they need a lot of help,” he said. “When you’re in the situation, you can’t just turn your back.”

Gendron has been pretty impressed by his crew’s work so far, and not just their renovation expertise.

“There is a genuine cama-



Photo courtesy of RTR Media Inc.

From left, Janice Dunk, Twyla Gendron, Scott McGillivray, Heather Healey

Everybody deserves this kind of kindness.

- Twyla Gendron

radier,” Gendron said.

Everyone deserves this kind of kindness

Gendron is overwhelmed by the kindness that she is receiving via the Twyla Project.

Her friends of many years, Heather Healey and Janice Dunk, are the trustees for the fundraising effort.

Neighbours are bringing lunch for Sasaki’s crew every day. One day at the site, there had been a scheduling hiccup and two lunches were cooked for the same day. They were both eaten (except for the salad).

While her friends take care of the fundraising efforts, Gendron continues to find the silver lining in the worst situations.

“As hard as it is, I was glad that he wasn’t in pain,” Gendron said. “There was no lengthy, drawn out horrible cancer death.”

“I think every human being is entitled to (a good death),” Gendron said.

Moving on

“The new normal sucks,” Gendron said.

It’s about moving for-

ward, because you have to.

Gendron is working again in December at a chiropractic office downtown. In the spring, she’ll be adding weekend shifts to her schedule at the East End Garden Centre.

The people there have been kind, going as far as donating some money from their annual fundraiser to Twyla’s project.

“They tease me be-

cause on my shift, I won’t sell any reds and yellow tulips,” she said.

Gendron has gained a new appreciation for her health and understands acutely the potential for downward mobility.

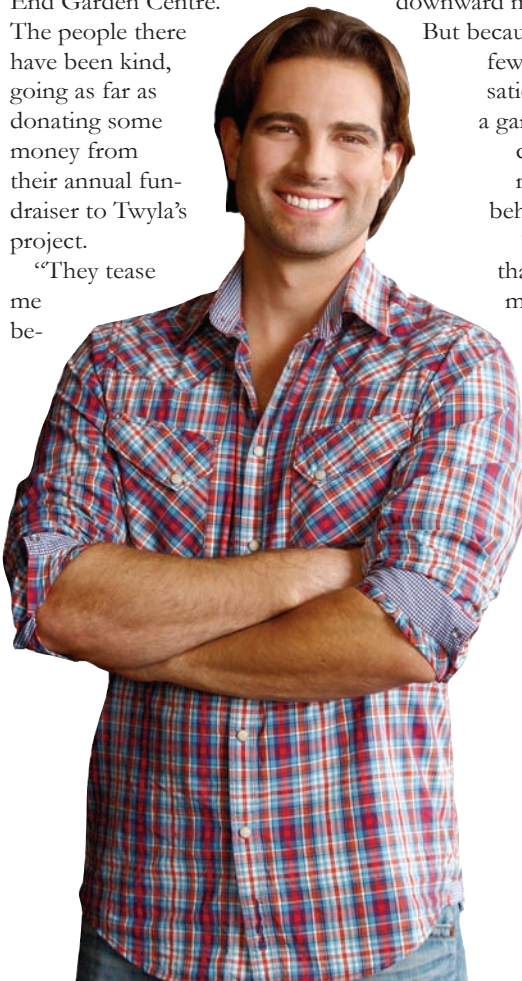
But because of a few conversation over a garden, the community is behind her. “I believe that community is ...

like a two way street. So if you’re a good neighbour, I think you’re going to get it back.”

McCabe asked to be cremated and be scattered in Katmandu.

By collecting toonies and loonies, the family is going to find a way to take him there.

In the meantime, his ashes are in the bedroom, keeping watch during the Christmas parties, when the guests leave their coats in the bedroom.



\$20,000 was raised to support Twyla’s Project. Scott McGillivray donated his crew, brought suppliers on board, and personally covered the remaining costs, which ran higher than the initially predicted \$50,000.

Old Scarborough survives

Scarborough Historical Museum hides in the Thomson Memorial Park on Brimley Road, an original farm field of Scarborough's first settlers, away from the eyes of passersby. But they tell locals of immigration history of the past two centuries. Youth volunteers and history interpreters bring the past to life.



Sun Lingmeng // Scarborough Observer



Scarborough Historical Society Archives is located in Eastern Scarborough inside the former W. J. Morrish General Store, at 6282 Kingston Rd. Now it is used for general storage for local community history. The Scarborough Archives opens on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m., other days by appointment. Visit scarboroughhistorical.ca for more information.



Sun Lingmeng // Scarborough Observer



Photo courtesy of Scarborough Archives

In 1896, Scarborough celebrated the 100th anniversary of the settlement of Scarborough Township by building the Centennial Library. Despite its old age, the library is not in use today. It is now a storage room looked after by the pastor from the nearby church pictured below.



Sun Lingmeng // Scarborough Observer



Aroj Yaqub // Scarborough Observer

Guess who?



Centennial grad Ashley Diana Morris posing for Guess.

Courtesy of Odette Sugerman

Sweet treats hit our streets

Joie Ann Merana

A Scarborough couple bakes little treats that make a big difference.

Johnder and Ronalyn Perez built So Into Cupcakes near the intersection of Markham Road and Ellesmere Road in 2011.

"Most of the cupcake shops are downtown so people up here, unfortunately, would have to go downtown to fulfill their cupcake craving," Perez said. "So that was one of the reasons why we wanted to open here, to offer cupcakes where nobody else was doing it."

o Into Cupcakes emphasizes the idea that "less is more." The casual interior and simple cupcake designs are the trademarks of the bakery.

"We wanted the emphasis to be on the cupcake," Perez said. "So when you walk in, everything is very simple. And the focus goes into the collection of different flavours we have displayed."

But the cupcake store's focus goes beyond just flavours. The couple hopes to make a difference in the Scarborough community through fundraisers, charity events and providing opportunities for co-op students to explore the world of baking. Myrtle Jurado, 23, works at o Into Cupcakes.

She recalls participating in a toy drive for the Danzig community. o Into Cupcakes donated about six dozen cupcakes to the community that suffered greatly after the worst street shootings in July 2012.

"Since it was the Danzig community and it was close to home, we wanted to do something for them," Jurado said.

The co-op program offers high school and college students the experience needed in the baking business. The students assist with the baking, decorating and overall operation in the kitchen. Students gain valuable experience and are able to explore the field.



Joie Ann Merana // Scarborough Observer

Scarborough native finds her niche in unexpected field of work

Larry Cheung

Ashley Diana Morris was just one face among many at a Dierks Bentley concert last February in Vancouver.

But it was her face that drew photographer Odette Sugerman.

"The photographer came up to me at the end of the show and introduced herself, and said she did a lot of work with Guess," Morris said.

Initially the 24-year-old Scarborough native was skeptical.

"How often do you meet somebody who's a huge, famous photographer that

shot for Vogue and shot for Guess, and they look at you and they're interested in shooting you?" Morris said. "It just seemed so surreal."

Everything changed after that.

Morris has since gained celebrity status as the new face of Guess Lingerie and Bikini, joining a list of some of the biggest names in modelling, including Claudia Schiffer, Adriana Lima and the late Anna Nicole Smith.

With no experience in the field, modelling never crossed her mind as a viable career.

Morris is a University of Toronto Scarborough English and theatre graduate.

She later graduated from sports journalism at Centennial College.

Going through school as a self-described "normal" girl, Morris said she didn't fall within any cliques.

"I believe she was genuine, polite and kind," said Jeremy Choi, who attended junior high and high school with Morris. "She was a girl you can definitely take home to your parents."

"I wasn't surprised to see her named as the new face for Guess Lingerie. She definitely has inner and outer beauty, and she's always been a go-getter."

Following graduation from Centennial, Morris moved to Vancouver to "chase the dream" in broadcasting as an intern with CTV.

"The main goal was to get into the sports side of jour-

nalism," Morris said. "I really wanted to do sideline reporting for a Major League Baseball team or I wanted to get into just reporting for the news."

"When I got the CTV internship out here, I thought it was a great opportunity and I could maybe get my foot in the door."

Morris came close to realizing that dream.

"I had an interview for reporting with the Canucks and I came in second, so that was a bit of disappointment," she said.

Then came that fateful concert.

"I guess everything worked out for a reason," she said with a laugh.

Morris has high hopes for her new ca-

reer as a model.

"A dream for me would be Sports Illustrated or walk the runway show at Victoria's Secret," Morris said.

But she hasn't given up on her love of sports journalism. Morris said she hopes her career in modelling will translate into a sideline reporter position for a Major League Baseball team.

Make a note, Blue Jays.



Scarborough designer turns his passion into product

Joie Ann Merana

The four walls of high school became the breeding ground of ideas for a young fashion designer from Scarborough.

"Designing has been something I wanted to do since Grade 9," Michael Nyarkoh said. "And it's been a constant evolution."

Nyarkoh, 21, is one third of +Wolfe, a contemporary clothing line for men.

Nyarkoh, along with fellow designers Erixon Bernardo, 19, and Justin Escutin, 19, began the design of

+Wolfe last August.

Nyarkoh, who is a fashion business student at George Brown College, has always been interested in creating art — either through poetry, music or design.

His love for design and fashion led to the creation of his very first clothing line in ninth grade called Abstract Intentions.

"[When] +Wolfe came into surface...it was like I was still hungry," Nyarkoh said. "I was [also] with people who were very much hungry to make clothes."



Joie Ann Merana // Scarborough Observer

Designer Michael Nyarkoh is launching a men's clothing line with two friends.

Nyarkoh says Bernardo and Escutin of +Wolfe have played an important part in his design journey.

"They were very much the reason why I wanted to design again," Nyarkoh said.

The team is determined to make its presence known in the fashion industry.

"We have always wanted whatever we do to be homegrown," Nyarkoh said. "We want to be the poster child of Canadian menswear fashion."

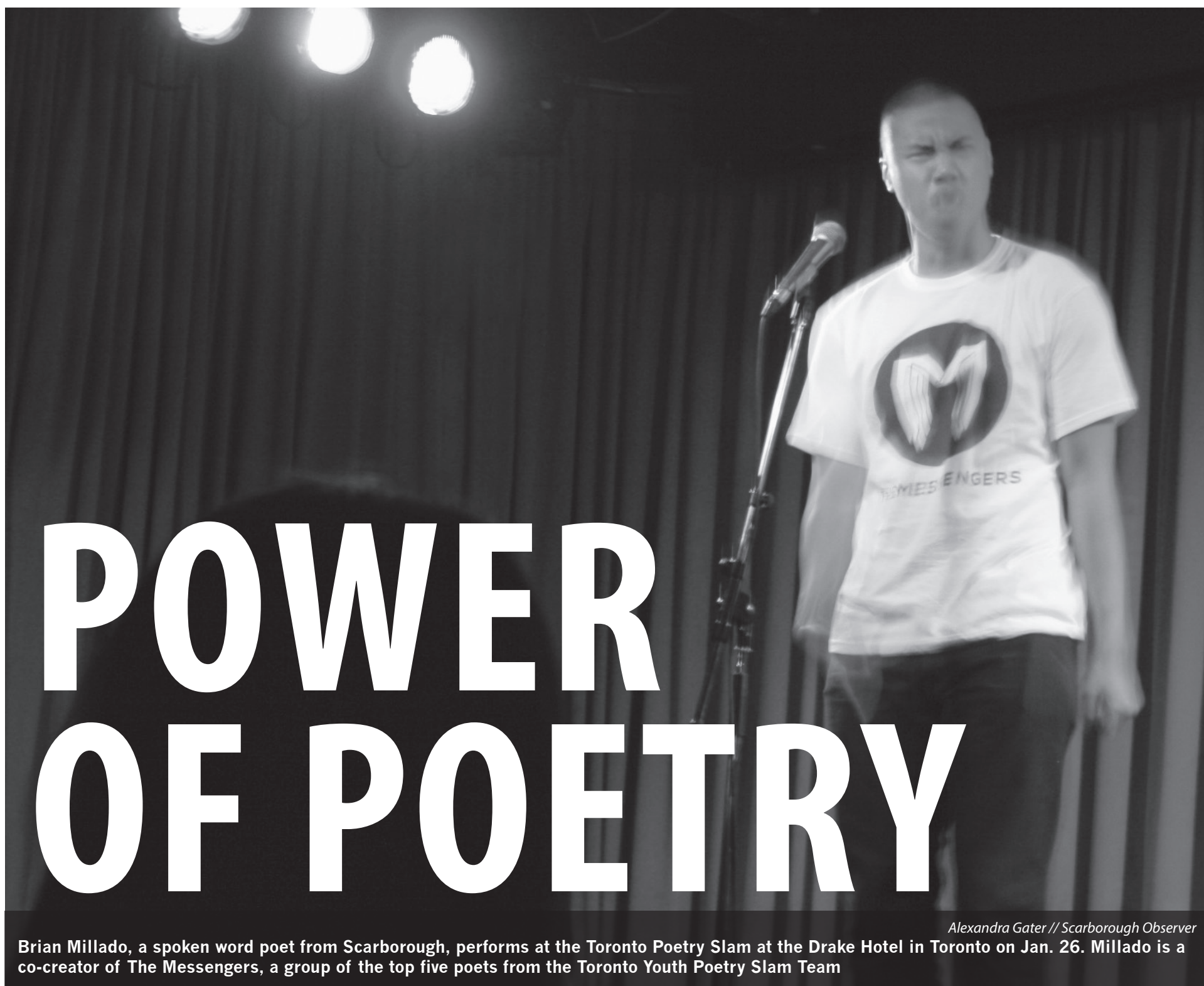
Though the team juggles school, part-time jobs and

family, Nyarkoh, Escutin and Bernardo stay consistent in the design and branding of +Wolfe.

With great support and belief in their brand by those who surround them, +Wolfe is gaining momentum and creating a buzz in downtown Toronto.

"We're working towards making Canada a place that really provides good fashion," Nyarkoh said.

As +Wolfe prepares for the launch of their fall Capsule Collection, Toronto can only wait for what they've got to offer.



Alexandra Gater // Scarborough Observer
 Brian Millado, a spoken word poet from Scarborough, performs at the Toronto Poetry Slam at the Drake Hotel in Toronto on Jan. 26. Millado is a co-creator of The Messengers, a group of the top five poets from the Toronto Youth Poetry Slam Team

Brian Millado and his group, The Messengers, are passionate about performing, and helping local kids

Alexandra Gater

Spoken word poet Brian Millado will never pay to see a therapist. “Poets often use the phrase, ‘Poetry is cheap therapy,’” Millado says. “You don’t have to pay someone ... and there’s a potential for you to even get paid to spill your emotions out.”

At only 20, the Scarborough resident is making his name as a poet in Toronto — and helping others do the same.

Millado has written poetry since elementary school and began performing his poems at 16. Now studying English and history at Ryerson University, he writes about hardships, heartbreak and the false image of males. What he

doesn’t write — and he states this with emphasis — are love poems, unless you count his poem “Fast Food”, comparing a missed opportunity with a girl to burger.

Kim Angelo Santos, Millado’s best friend since Grade 11, remembers going with him to his first competition at the Drake Hotel in Toronto.

“Given that it was his first competition, he really took it in stride and gave off an air that said something like, ‘I’m grateful enough to be in this competition and pursue something I care about,’” Santos says. “As far as I saw, he was in the competition for the experience, not any sort

of glory.”

Still, Millado placed fourth in the competition, and went on to win second place in the BAM! Youth Poetry Slam in 2010.

“It’s a magical feeling when you’re up there and everyone is grasping onto your words,” Millado says. “It’s like ... ‘I’m going to talk for three minutes and you’re going to listen, not because you have to, but because you want to.’”

A few months later, Millado co-created The Messengers, a group of the top five poets from the Toronto Youth Poetry Slam Team. The members, who refer to themselves as a collective rather than a team, have finished first in many competitions all over Toronto and in parts of the United States. In 2011, The Messengers were the first team to represent Canada at the Brave New Voices spoken

word festival (as seen on HBO) in California. Last summer, the group took top spot in the first youth team slam in Toronto.

“He puts his mind to something, he gets it done, simply said,” Santos says.

It’s that drive, Santos says, that has made Millado successful at a young age.

Five years after starting a lunchtime open-mic poetry slam at his Scarborough high school, Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School, Millado continues to provide his peers a chance to express themselves through the art form across Scarborough.

“[Poetry] is a really accessible art,” Millado says. “All you need is a pencil. And even though there are judges, no one can judge you on what you write ... because it’s your life.”

It is for this reason, Millado says, that he strives to engage youth in spoken word poetry.

Though Millado already

runs the official Toronto Youth Slam, he says he’s thinking about organizing a similar event in Scarborough.

“Scarborough might benefit from a Scarborough

Youth Slam because of all the stuff that’s been happening over at Danzig this summer,” Millado says.

“People just need an activity to push them away from that.”

Millado says he strives to do just that through his work as a senior leader at Uniffect, a program run by a charity called UNITY.

“Uniffect is the Scarborough poetry slam group where teens from at-risk areas come for spoken word workshops bi-weekly,” Millado says. “It gets kids together and gets them in a creative environment to write poetry and perform it in front of friends.”

Bidhan Berma, 16, is a member of Uniffect. When Berma met Millado more than a year ago, he immedi-

ately looked up to him as a mentor, he says.

“He’s really taken on not only a leadership role in my life, but (he’s) more of a big brother,” Berma says.

“He’s probably the best that I’ve

ever seen live,” he says.

“I don’t think videos do him justice. He has so much pres-

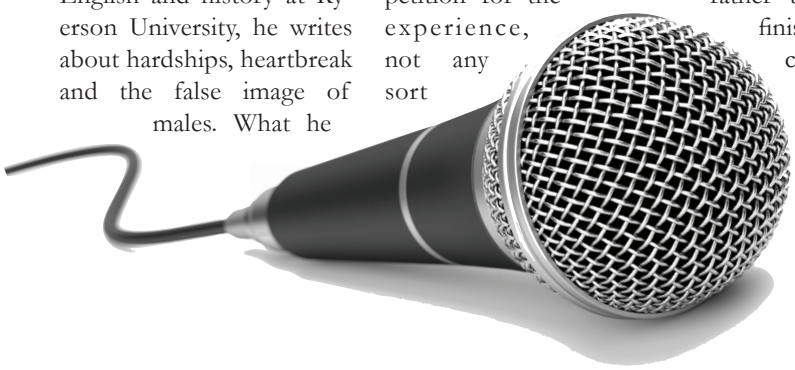
ence. He definitely revolutionized,

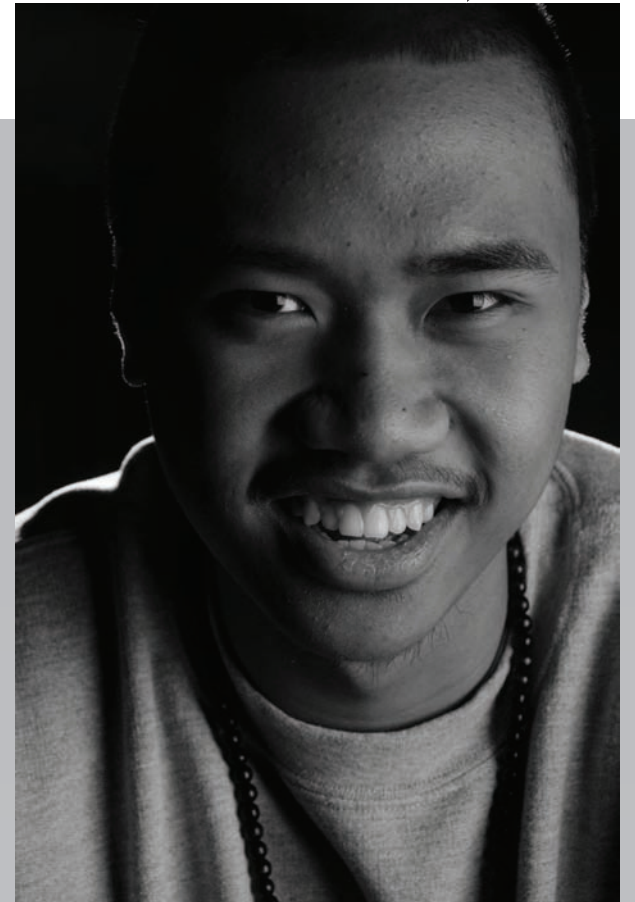
not only the way that I look at performing, but the way that a lot of people I know look at performing.”

Millado says he hopes to one day empower youth as a teacher or by continuing his work with Uniffect.

“If everyone was open to this idea of poetry, so much good would happen,” Millado says. “There would be so much less violence, and (more) knowledge of people.”

— With files from Samantha Bridges, Alissa Heidman, Sun Lingmeng and SeYoung Park





Alexandra Gater // Scarborough Observer

Fast Food

By: Brian Millado

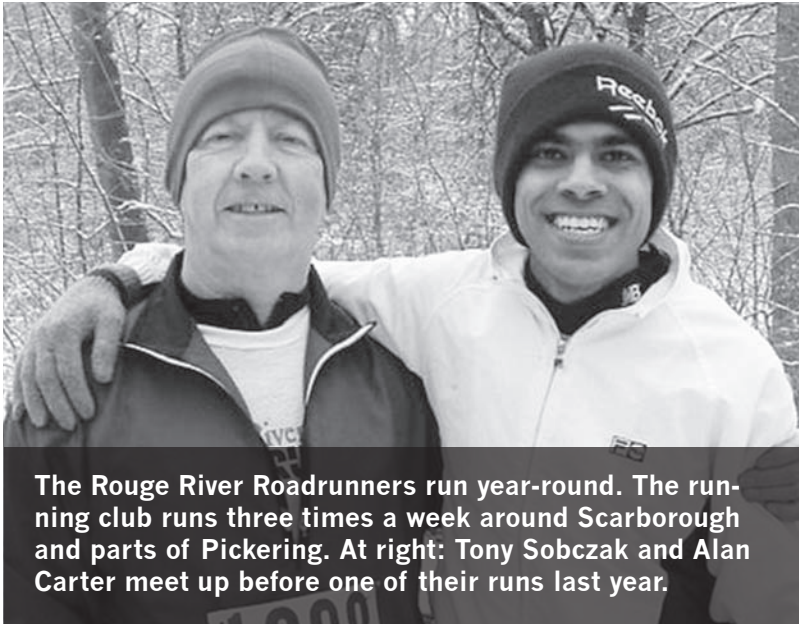
Fast Food.
 As I creepily admired her
 eating the combo 1 meal at
 McDonald's,
 I was mesmerized to present
 her with a big mac.
 Initially, she claimed my
 tactics were daily deals,
 and she was interested in food
 for thought.
 Letting my mind ketchup, I
 mustard the strength to
 regroup, then relished at the
 opportunity she presented me.
 I surely was in a pickle,
 left in a chili state, as
 she currently viewed me as a
 cold'slaw.
 That's something I couldn't
 swallow.
 I'd hate to believe that there
 was beef between us,
 But the extended, heated look
 and the grill she shot my way
 made me feel like I was being
 burned.
 I told her that she could have
 it her way,
 All I ask is that she play the
 Dairy Queen to this Burger
 King.
 Her mood changed as she
 proclaim, "I'm lovin it!"
 Now my heart fries under the

heat of discussion.
 Perhaps it was now all gravy
 for this po' teen.
 She laughed, so she lettuce
 continue.
 She told me I was not like the
 past 5 guys.
 I was more of a hot dog.
 To my ego, this was able to
 Super Size Me.
 I assumed it was cake from
 here.
 But I remain chicken, and the
 pressure dropped me to my
 toonies, Tuesday
 Is when we would ride the
 subway to eat fresh.
 Or so I'd hope.
 Or perhaps I could drive thru,
 request of her, and off my
 change at the first window of
 opportunity.
 Then we could ride off to a
 white castle where I'd present
 ring, onions were not the
 reasons for these tears of
 happiness.
 But for now, I eat my words.
 Remain seated in the far
 corners of this McDonald's
 establishment.
 Cheesed and bacon from how me
 being this junior chicken
 allowed for missed
 opportunities.
 I finally understood the
 concept of fast food.
 Fast.

"The way I typically describe this poem," Millado says, "is: 'You know how, when you put your hand under really hot water, it begins to feel cold?' That's how I'd described this piece. The puns are extremely forced and corny and cringeworthy, so I overdo it (satirization) so much so that it's 'so bad, it's good.' It's also the first comedy poem I've ever written."

Events:

- Millado is set to facilitate a workshop lecture for an organization called ACT / Victoria Village Action for Neighbourhood Change for more than 100 high school students, then presenting his poetry to them on March 15.
- Members of the Messengers are set to feature and guest judge at a poetry slam event ran by UrbanArts on March 15.
- From March 6-13, four of the Messengers, including Millado, will be attending "Louder Than A Bomb 2013" in Chicago. See the fundraising link at: indiegogo.com/projects/hamilton-youth-poetry-slam/x/2403290



The Rouge River Roadrunners run year-round. The running club runs three times a week around Scarborough and parts of Pickering. At right: Tony Sobczak and Alan Carter meet up before one of their runs last year.

Photos courtesy Alan Carter



RUNNERS TAKE IT ALL IN STRIDE

Rouge River Roadrunners keep moving despite bad weather, traffic—even off-leash dogs.

Lauren LiBetti

It started in 1984 with a group of individuals who ran together on a regular basis.

Today, despite minor obstacles, the Rouge River Roadrunners continue the tradition.

“Our members are male and female, ranging in age from their late 20s to 60s. We run year-round ... through rain, snow and just about everything else,” said Alan Carter, a 15-year member of the Roadrunners.

Running provides many health benefits, said Alicia Savona, a physiotherapist at Sunnybrook Hospital’s Holland Orthopaedic and Arthritic Centre.

“Running is a great cardiovascular exercise. It has a lot of benefits for your muscles, heart, lungs, circulation and general well-being,” Savona said. “As long as you are safe and relatively healthy, you should be able to do it in all weather.”

The Rouge River Roadrunners meet three times a week at the Port Union Community Centre in

Scarborough. Outdoor running presents some minor obstacles unseen in indoor running.

A common concern for outdoor runners is motor vehicles, Carter said.

“We literally have to have eyes in the back of our heads,” he said. “You have to be very careful in regards to cars. We try to be very observant of the vehicles and try to get out of the way.”

Cold weather poses another challenge, Savona said.

“You have to take in consideration layering, staying

dry, wet conditions, snowy conditions and risking hypothermia. You want to layer and make sure you have materials that keep moisture away from your body,” Savona said.

In spite of the group’s name, the Roadrunners don’t just stick to roads. Members also run on trails and tracks.

“You want to be careful running on different surfaces. Running on uneven surfaces can irritate hips, ankles and your knees,” Savona said. “If you have a history of joint problems, previous falls or fractures,

you want to be careful with uneven surfaces. It’s a common injury.”

Even dogs — especially those that are off-leash — can pose a tripping hazard for runners, Carter said.

Minor obstacles aside, Carter said the joys of running make it worth doing.

“One Thursday night, a guy said, ‘Let’s run along the Rouge River Trail,’ Carter said. “I said: ‘There’s no lights along the trail. You’re crazy.’ We get on the trail and there is a beautiful moon lighting the way.”

“There are quite a lot of highlights.”

Synchro swimmers pool talent

Madolyn MacCallum

It takes long hours of practice to make dancing in water — as a group — look effortless.

But that’s exactly what Scarborough’s Variety Village Recreation Centre’s national and junior synchronized swimming teams aim to do.

“They practice five days a week,” said Julie Scanlan, coach of the 13-15 B team. “On Saturday it’s five hours and Sunday is seven hours.”

The long practices do not just consist of working on the routines in the water, but also include land programs like Zumba classes.

Scanlan said they take Zumba classes because it allows the girls to feel the beat of the music, coordinate dance skills and get a good cardio workout.



The Variety Village Recreation Centre’s synchronized swimming team practises its routine at a recent practise, one of five weekly.

Madolyn MacCallum // Scarborough Observer

“They don’t get a lot of time in the water doing laps because of pool space, so this is a great way for them to do cardio exercise,” Scanlan said.

The goal for the synchro teams is to prepare for

competitions.

Scanlan says the Variety Village teams participate in 6-8 competitions.

A routine is built for the whole year. Judges provide feedback at the various competitions, which

the team uses to alter their routine.

“The routine at the beginning of the year looks totally different than at the end of the year,” Scanlan said. “The end of the year is usually a lot more diffi-

cult, stronger looking, then the beginning.”

Scanlan said the competitions also include a duet and solo category.

“Those are usually given to the top girls on each team,” she said.

Serving up a dose of healthy living

Madolyn MacCallum

Louis Donnelly, 89, plays volleyball twice a week to keep fit.

“I don’t have to try too hard,” he said. “It’s important to keep the blood circulating. To stay young.”

Fellow player, John Cortti admires Donnelly’s commitment to the group.

“He’s our pride and joy,” Cortti said. “He’s always smiling and he lasts the whole two hours.”

The Don Montgomery Recreation Centre hosts a volleyball drop-in program which runs twice a week for men and women 55 and older.

Donnelly may be the oldest player in the group but there are others who have illnesses that don’t slow them down.

Ken Holden suffers from Parkinson’s disease and had to cut back on his athletic activities, but still finds time to enjoy volleyball.

“I still hang in here,” Holden said. “But usually I can’t stay for two hours, so if I come in and spend an hour, then I’m happy.”

During her time at the centre, player Betty Hicks has seen many friends sidelined due to illness. This was the case for colon cancer survivor Renato Ercia who was away from the sport he loves for months.

“I have come back to stay active,” Ercia said. “I’m clear now, I’m a cancer survivor.”

The programs offered at the centre are meant to encourage individuals to get out and stay healthy. The volleyball program is fun and allows the players to feel comfortable, no matter their ability.

“I was terrible,” Nancy Campbell said. “I’m still probably their worst player, but I enjoy it anyway. It’s a great bunch.”

Sharks make playoffs

Team-playing pays off for Scarborough Sharks



Scarborough Sharks captain, Emily Nicholls, battles for the puck in the team's final game before the playoffs started.

Taylor Giffin // Scarborough Observer

Taylor Giffin

A shark may have never been spotted in Peterborough Ont., but the city should put itself on alert.

The Scarborough Sharks will be in town as the playoffs in the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League start next week.

The Sharks intermediate A team face the Peterborough Ice Kats in the first round of the postseason.

The Sharks have won the last eight games, including five straight shutouts.

The team hopes their hot streak can lead them to a win in the best three out of five game series.

"It's very important going into the playoffs having that little streak. The girls are all stepping up right now and we are riding that streak," said Sean Misketis, 25, the assistant coach of the Sharks.

"Hopefully it will continue and we can keep playing how we are playing." After finishing third in the standings, one point back from both the leading Whitby Wolves and the Oshawa Lady Generals, the Sharks will start the first round of the playoffs on Saturday,

Feb. 9 at home.

Although, the Ice Kats finished well behind the Sharks in the standings and lost both games to them during the season, the sixth-place finishers in the regular season will still provide some difficulty.

Sharks captain, Emily Nicholls, 20, says the team from Peterborough can be physically commanding out on the ice.

They also sport some strong play from in between the pipes.

"They have a really good goalie and we struggle, sometimes, to put the puck into the net," Nicholls said.

"Their goalie has hot games all the time so that is our biggest challenge going into the playoffs."

One thing the team will have to make sure of is to not struggle on the power play.

As a team, the Sharks have only been given 98 minutes in penalties. Compared to the Ice Kats, who have taken 182 minutes, meaning the Sharks could see a lot more time with the man advantage.

"Hopefully we can draw some penalties and capitalize on those power plays," Misketis said.

Seeing as they take a lot of penalties, hopefully our power play can click.

It is a short series so we got to take advantage of that."

With or without the man advantage, the team is still going to have to make sure they share the puck.

"We have been really playing individually lately, but we are more successful when we play as a team,"

Nicholls said. The team has played well the entire season, but it is what they do in the playoffs that counts.

There are high expectations of the Sharks, especially to come out on top in the first round.

"I am really impressed with how the girls played, actually, this whole season.

"We just hope we can bring it into the playoffs and go further this year," Misketis said.

Nicholls shares her sentiment and believes her team will be able to find the success they seek.

"Anything can happen, but I would like to see us go and win it in the first three games," Nicholls said.

"(It will give) us good momentum going into the second and third round."

Golden Hawks soar

James Tessier

The West Hill Golden Hawks hockey squad has settled into its home in the Greater Toronto Hockey League after a lawsuit, a league change, an executive change and a calibre change in the past three years.

Now it's time for the team to fly even higher, said Golden Hawks general manager Phil Carter, who would like to create an AAA team.

"It's down the road," he said. "There should be an east-end AAA team.

"There's 700,000 people in Scarborough, they can support it."

But it's a slow process, Carter said.

"We started automatically with A teams (in the GTHL) and we are doing our AA gradually, so it makes a huge difference because that's where you lose most of your players," he said.

The challenge now, Cart-

er said, is to bring back the players and families who left the community organization.

"We have great loyalty," he said. "When our families leave, they usually leave reluctantly because there is no option for them."

"It doesn't happen overnight, usually they come back if you are successful and you have good programs. Good players follow good programs, so we have been trying to build our programs up."



General Manager of the Thirsty Penguin Grillhouse Graham Cocking, is happy that the NHL has returned.

Taylor Giffin // Scarborough Observer

Hockey fans still devoted

Taylor Giffin

NHL hockey has finally returned. Three weeks into the shortened season, all the questions as to whether fans of the game were going to return have been answered. Not only do the TV ratings and attendance levels at NHL arena's lead to this conclusion, so too, does business at local Scarborough establishments.

"We have seen a lot more

excitement around the rink after the NHL has been back. People are genuinely excited to have hockey back and it has certainly shown in the after-game activity we have at the facility," said Graham Cocking, general manager of both the Scarborough and Victoria Park Canlan Ice Sports.

During the NHL lock-out, there was talk that fans would not be overzealous to return to the game. That does not seem to be the case. An average of 3.3 mil-

lion people tuned in to the game and it was viewed, at some point, by 27 per cent of the Canadian population. These stats set new highs for a regular season game on the network.

"We have seen an increase in business since the NHL has started back up," Cocking said.

Winter is not the same without hockey, for the fans.

"A few beers afterwards, some wings and some good hockey ... you can't go wrong"



The Toronto Marlies hit the ice with a Golden Hawks minor team.

Courtesy West Hill Golden Hawks



The boys are back in town

Scarborough Stinger third baseman Robbie Gennuso throws the ball during the pre-game warm up at a tournament in Ohio last year.

Madolyn MacCallum // Scarborough Observer

New local training facility an early advantage for Stingers

Madolyn MacCallum

It's not Florida, where the big league Blue Jays head for spring training, but the Out of the Park Sports baseball facility works for the Scarborough Stingers Midget AAA squad.

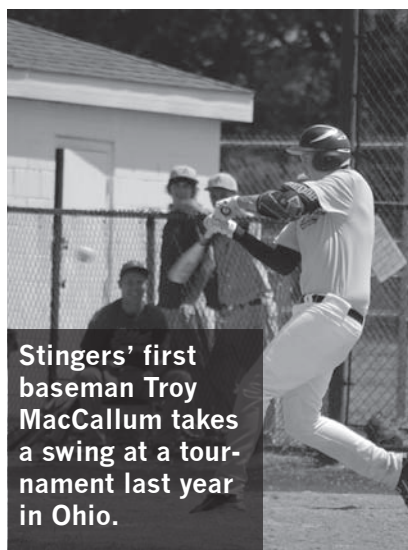
The indoor facility, which opened on Jan. 5 at 1510 Birchmount Rd., is conveniently accessible for the team, coach Mike MacCallum said.

The Stingers used to commute to Ajax for their indoor training, he said.

"We start in early January and do a lot of work indoors just to get the muscle memory back in baseball form," MacCallum said.

The Stingers use Out of the Park to work on fielding and hitting drills, he said.

"Mostly it's just working on getting the repetition down for fielding and hitting the ball," MacCallum said.



Stingers' first baseman Troy MacCallum takes a swing at a tournament last year in Ohio.

Madolyn MacCallum // Scarborough Observer

Out of the Park is a 14,000-square-foot indoor baseball facility, which has 50 foot ceilings, four batting tunnels, three pitching mounds and a 6,000-square-foot infield area.

"It's just has a lot more room to do different activities," MacCallum said.

Seventeen-year-old Stingers' third baseman Robbie Gennuso, 17, said he likes training in the batting cages at Out of the Park.

"During the indoor training, I hope to improve my mechanics batting-wise," he said.

That, Gennuso said, includes improving his discipline at the plate by working hard in the gym during indoor training.

The ease of access to the training facility is an advantage as the team gets prepared for the upcoming season, MacCallum said.

"We want to win the Toronto Baseball Association and get into the Ontario Baseball Association Championship and go from there," MacCallum said. "We want to win a tournament or two and we want to show well in the Elimination Nationals in August."

Duo fourth at OCAA badminton championships

Taylor Giffin

A pair of Centennial College Colts badminton players came up just shy of a podium finish on home turf last month.

Sarah Nualan and Jia Yi Feng won four matches and lost one in the round robin stage before dropping their final two matches for a fourth-place finish.

Badminton players from across the province descended on Centennial College Feb. 15 and 16 as the school hosted the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's (OCAA) badminton championships.

"It is great you have your friends and your family here to support you," Nualan said. "It feels like your home. You do not have to travel and worry about being stressed out. Everyone is just having a good time here."

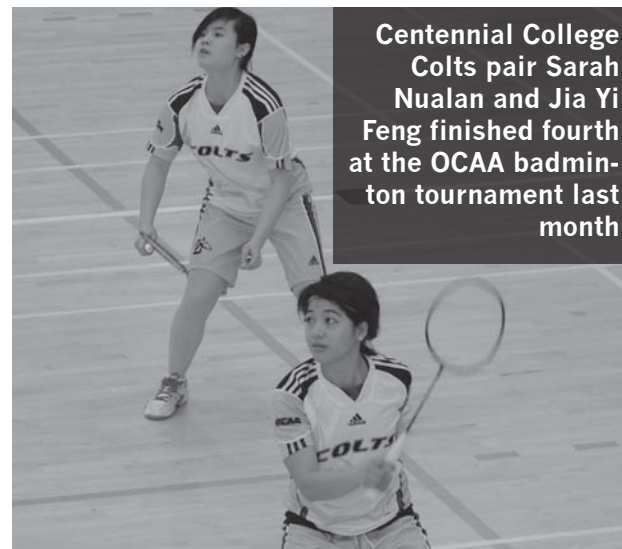
Nualan and Feng qualified for the championships after placing second in the East regionals.

The OCAA tournament consisted of 48 competitors from nine colleges across Ontario. It also marked the first time the badminton championships were hosted at the new athletic facilities at Centennial College.

"It is a change for us. It is the first time we have had it here in the new gym. It gives the team a little bit of an advantage to play in front of the home crowd," Colts head coach Stephen Wong said.

Nualan and Feng said they plan to play together again next year. The pair can build off this year and prepare themselves to do better, they said.

And maybe, they hinted, that may mean winning the OCAA championship. "We might have a shot," said Nualan.



Centennial College Colts pair Sarah Nualan and Jia Yi Feng finished fourth at the OCAA badminton tournament last month

Taylor Giffin // Scarborough Observer

Donors dodge, Crescent Town youth win

Sarah Dayal

Giving is its own reward, the saying goes.

But not at a recent charity dodgeball tournament.

"The teams that donated the most got bigger incentives within the games, such as game do-overs and team switching," said Fatema Zaman, co-founder and CEO of the Chaara foundation.

The non-profit organization raised over \$500 at the tournament thanks to donors who in return got to participate in a dodgeball tournament.

Charity dodgeball tournament participants raise cash for afterschool programs in their old neighbourhood

"The money raised will go towards creating sustainable after-school programs for youths between the ages of 11 and 14 in the Crescent Town area," said Najeeb Khan, co-founder and CEO of the Chaara foundation said.

The games were held at St. Dunstan Catholic School and consisted of 10 teams of six corporate professionals each.

Some of the corporations that took part in the games included TD Cana-

da Trust, Scotiabank, Rogers, TTC and Loblaws.

"It's the first charitable event we've held and all teams are made up of young professionals who grew up within the Crescent Town area and are now coming back to support the community," Zaman said.

The organization, consisting of six young self-addressed millennials, has only been around for a year. Most are still working students who originally

looked to create a foundation that stood out from the rest.

"There are so many worthy Canadian charities which made it hard to choose which ones to donate to so we thought it would be great to become a charity that could help fund other charities," Zaman said. "What makes our charity so different is that we follow the 100 per cent model where any donation made goes strictly to the cause."



Sarah Dayal // Scarborough Observer

Team Dodge Caravan gets ready for the first dodgeball game of the day after raising the second highest amount of money for the Chaara foundation's recent event.

Scarborough cheer team aiming for the top at next competition

BRING ON THE FALLS

Scarborough Titan cheerleader Chelsea Anirood pulls a heel stretch with a lift from Tatyana Doran, Jesse Ellis and N'Jaida Lindo.

The Scarborough Titans senior cheerleading team placed second at a national competition last May. This year, their eyes are set on first.

"It was a really new team. We had never had a senior team before, so (coach Kaileigh McComb) and I were a little nervous," coach Sarah Traynor said. "But they went in and they seemed really focused. They just hit a really good routine."

Last year's second place win surpassed expectations and set a high standard for this year, McComb said.

"We're hoping, come the next few months, we can do really well like last

year. We're trying for a higher title," she said.

The Scarborough Titans include both a junior and senior team, both of which compete at the all-girl level two category. According to McComb, level two designates what stunting and tumbling the team can compete with.

Improved tumbling is one of the ways the Titans plan to stand out in their 2013 national competition, Traynor said.

"We implemented a tumbling program into our regular program. So we're hoping to up our scores in tumbling, which is something we've always sort of lacked," she said. "I think that might give us a little more of an edge this year."

In three months, six athletes gained a back handspring, the highest tumbling

skill permitted at their level.

The team is also securing an edge by working on team bonding exercises. Traynor said.

"We're really putting a lot of emphasis on team as family, do it for your family, train for your family, that kind of thing. And I think that if we had put that emphasis on them last year, maybe last year would have been better," she said. "It seems to be working really well this year. They're doing a lot better."

Both junior and senior Titans cheerleaders will compete among 300 teams in May at the Cheer Evolution nationals in Niagara Falls, Ont.

"This year there is a much different vibe for this team. It's a little bit smaller, but this year they are tighter," Traynor said. "I think they want it more."

Story and Photos by LAUREN LIBETTI



Scarborough Titan coaches Kaileigh McComb (left) and Sarah Traynor.

Ending violence one dance step at a time

Madalyn Hamann

Residents in a Scarborough community danced to support a cause for women across the globe on Valentine's Day.

Zumba instructor Dawn D'Sa hosted a 1 Billion Rising campaign at Guildwood Community Church, as part of the global V-Day Movement to end violence against women.

It was D'Sa's first time taking part in the campaign.

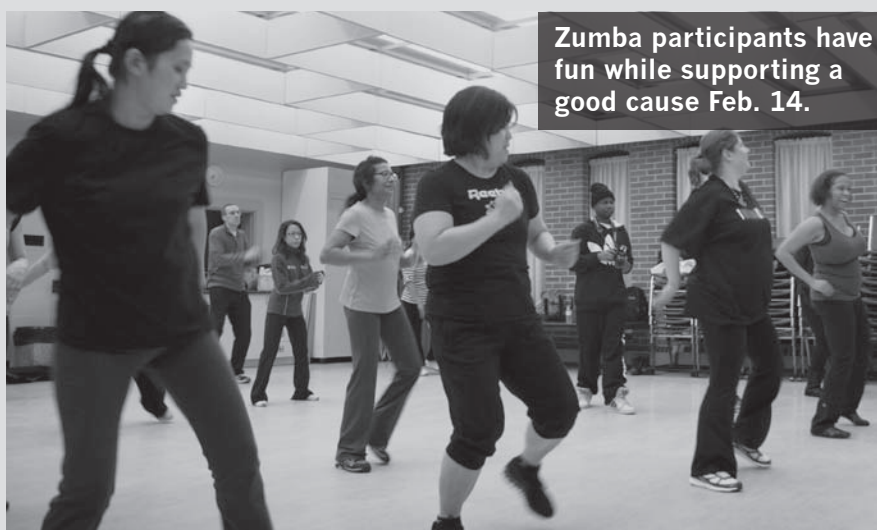
"I just heard about it recently, through Facebook," D'Sa said. "When I saw it, I felt compelled to do some-

thing."

The V-Day movement, created by Eve Ensler, is marking its 15th anniversary; its concept is based on a United Nations statistic that one in three women on the planet will experience violence in their lifetime. 1 Billion Rising is a call for women and men "to rise up, dance, and strike to demand an end to violence against women and girls."

D'Sa's campaign did just that: it was one of five groups in the GTA that participated.

The hour-long dance class drew over a dozen participants, many of whom were regular attend-



Zumba participants have fun while supporting a good cause Feb. 14.

Madalyn Hamann // Scarborough Observer

ees. Karen Matthews lives in Etobicoke, but makes Zumba a weekly activity she attends.

"With Zumba, you can't go wrong," says Matthews. "It is just a room filled with people that are here to have

fun, and that's what makes all the difference for me."

Although it was D'Sa's first time supporting the

V-Day campaign, she has held Zumba fundraising campaigns since 2010. Her first Zumba fundraiser was for building wells in Malawi.

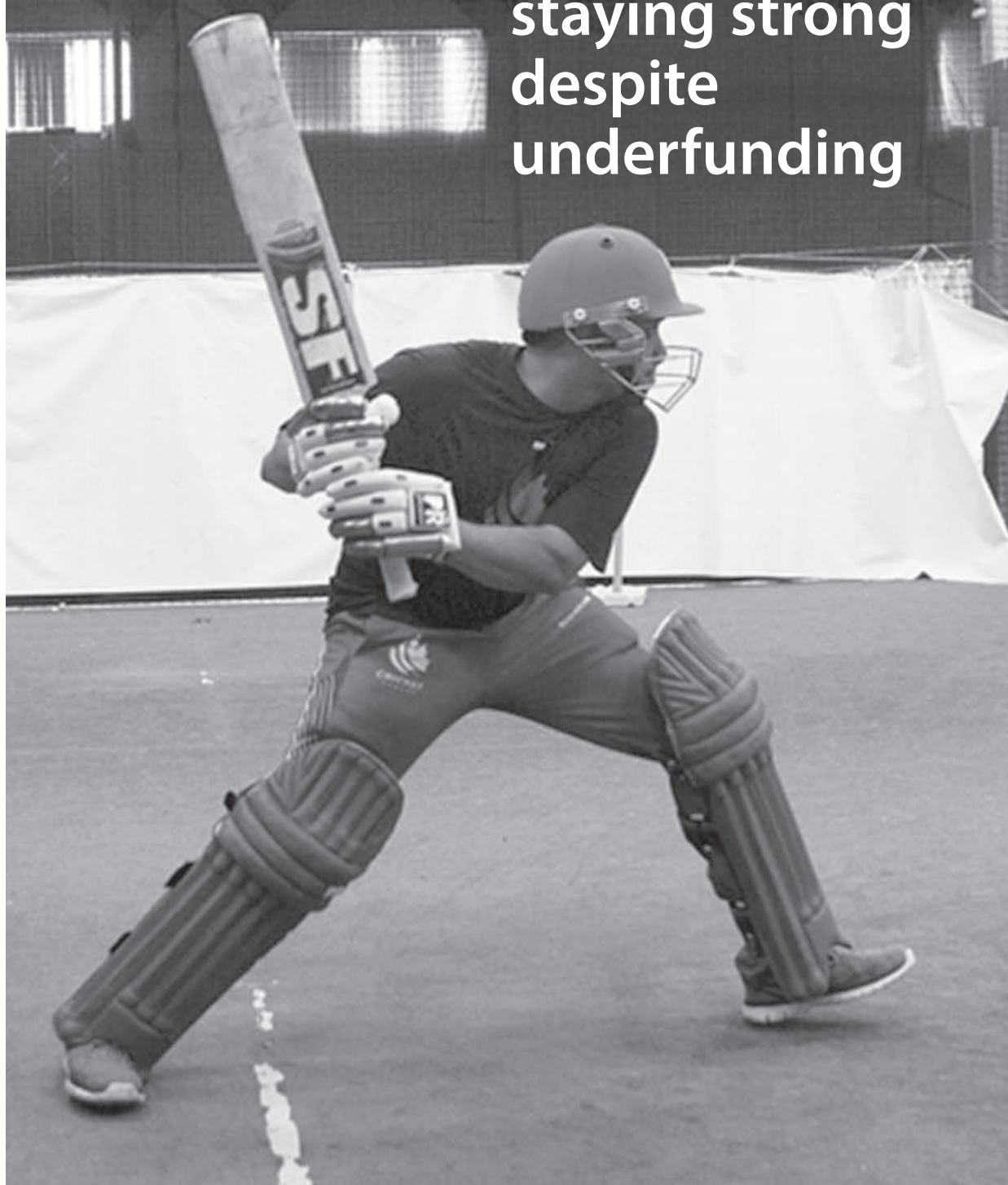
More recently she has raised money for women's programs, including Armagh House, a shelter for women who have suffered from abuse. She began raising money for it last year and continued to this V-Day.

"It just tied in really well with the mandate of 1 Billion Rising," said D'Sa.

The event raised \$550 in cash and \$1,000 in product donations such as clothing and feminine protection.

Odd place for cricket space

Canadian team staying strong despite underfunding



Larry Cheung // Scarborough Observer

A Team Canada cricket player bats at the winter facility in Scarborough.



Larry Cheung // Scarborough Observer

Larry Cheung

The Canadian National team gathers in a small, dark warehouse, an odd place for the country's best cricket players.

Not exactly what you would expect for the Canadian national cricket team, but this is their winter home. The warehouse where they train is situated behind a suburban plaza at the corner of Markham and Ellesmere roads in Scarborough.

Having received only \$78,000 from Sport Canada for the 2011–12 year, Cricket Canada finds the financial support given to to run its program pales in comparison to other national sports programs.

Rathan Moorthy, Cricket Canada's brand and marketing manager, has been hard at work to raise awareness and support for the program.

"This sport is tremendously underfunded in this country," Moorthy said.

In comparison, the Canadian Soccer Association received \$3.5 million from Sport Canada, according to the Department of Canadian Heritage. Only Ski Canada and The Peres Centre for Peace received less.

Canada's men's national team is currently ranked 64 in the FIFA world rankings. The International Cricket Council on the other hand has Canada's men's national team ranked at 16 in the world rankings, yet the funding doesn't align to their level of success.

"One of our concerns is that because cricket is a minority sport played by a the South Asian population,

we are concerned we may be marginalized a little bit in that respect," Moorthy said. "But if you look at the things that have been happening in the last couple years, cricket is becoming more prominent with Sportsnet."

With interest from Rogers Sportsnet and a growing acknowledgement from the rest of Canada, cricket has a bright future ahead.

"Our participation is through the roof," Moorthy said. "We say that we have about 60,000 registered participants in our programs on the year and that number is growing annually by about 10,000."

Even with the underfunding, the national team stays competitive and trains hard with the resources they have. Head coach Augustine Logie, former West Indies and Trinidad and Tobago cricketer, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the team.

"We have two sessions a day, morning and evening" Logie said. "Most times they attend both sessions, but generally because of school and work commitments, they come to the evening sessions."

"It's about being as mentally tough as possible," Logie said. "Being physically strong and trying to improve your technical and tactical ability, so when we get out there, we can compete even keel with most of our opposition."

The team is currently in the early leg of a training stint in Trinidad and Tobago where they will compete in several matches.

Teaching life through golf

Larry Cheung

Scarborough native golf pro Andrew Ximines, 38, loves kids. When he sees a smile on their faces, it puts a smile on his.

His genuine nature in giving back and treating others the way he wants to be treated makes him well liked by his peers. It is no surprise that he is involved with the National Junior Golf Academy (NJGA), a youth program that uses golf to

teach kids age 7–18 life skills. "My background is working with kids and I love the game of golf," Ximines said.

Ximines has been part of NJGA for two years as supervisor of the program.

He meets with the kids weekly, hanging out and teaching children the skills they need on and off the golf course.

"I think it's a good tool for kids to learn about themselves, to learn etiquette, to learn discipline, because I

had to go through that when I first started golf," Ximines said.

Ximines's calm, positive attitude makes him a great role model for the kids. So far, the program has 30 participants of all ethnicities, as everyone is welcome.

NJGA continues to grow, with a goal of becoming a nationwide program. With sponsors on board such as Capitol One, their future looks bright.

"Every night we start at about 5:30 p.m. then we

teach golf for an hour and life skills," Ximines said.

"Every kid that comes into the program has to learn to shake hands properly, to look people in the eyes and say please and thank you."

The combination of golf and life skills training is a hole-in-one for the NJGA and it instills a value system for the youth.

Scholarship opportunities are offered to participants who go through the program helping them with their post-secondary studies.



Courtesy of Andrew Ximines

Andrew Ximines, top left, who uses golf to teach life skills, also extends his lessons to Jamaica, as seen in this photo.

Ice dance pair prepare for Worlds

Scarborough-based figure skating pair compete at the World Figure Skating Championships in March

Taylor Giffin

In mid-March Scarborough sports fans can cheer for some local talent when the World Figure Skating Championships get rolling in London, Ontario.

Piper Gilles, 21, and Paul Poirier, 21, ice dancers who train out of the Ice Galaxy in Scarborough, will be looking to cap off an excellent first international season together when they take to the ice at the Budweiser Gardens on March 14.

"This year was really all about experience," Gilles said. "The more we are out there, the more people see us, the more we can get the fans and the judges to enjoy our skating."

The dance pair has been skating together for only two years. In her junior ca-

reer, Gilles had represented the United States and had to wait to become eligible to compete for Canada as per International Skating Union rules.

"Paul and I knew each other before we started skating with each other. It took a little bit getting used to because you don't know how the other person reacts," Gilles said.

It did not take long for the two skaters to feel at ease with each other. Out on the ice it seems as if they have been skating together forever. The first thing you notice is a natural honesty between them when they interact.

"We joke around a lot but we have a good feeling for each other. Some days we know one person is tired, and you know to back off a little bit. I think we just

have a good understanding," Gilles said.

When you skate everyday, it does not take long to develop chemistry.

Gilles and Poirier are a young team and lack experience compared to their competition, but they have big goals as they plan their future in the sport.

"At the end of the year you can reanalyze where you are, how your body is doing, how your placements are and what you need to work on," Poirier said.

"I mean, obviously we want to go the Olympics next year."

So far this season, Gilles and Poirier have skated well.

The team got to achieve their main goal after a strong showing at the Canadian National Championships. That important finish qualified the team to



Photys by Taylor Giffin // Scarborough Observer

Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier train at the Ice Galaxy in Scarborough

compete in both the Four Continents in Japan and the upcoming World Championships.

"It gives us two extra opportunities to compete internationally, get experience and get more exposure. Just the fact that we are going

makes the season mission accomplished," Poirier said. "We still want to be improving and skate really well at those two competitions."

At the Four Continents this past weekend, Gilles and Poirier finished in fifth spot. Although they did not

garner the same amount of points they had in previous outings, they got the experience that they are after.

The pair will look to have another strong outing at the upcoming World Championships to complete a season that has been a success.



Scarborough speed skater rises to the top

Jessica Romaniuk's skills were a surprise discovery

Paula Last

On Sunday afternoons, Centennial College student Jessica Romaniuk, 24, puts on her skates for some intense training at the Ajax Community Centre. It's how she stays in shape for her next speed skating competition.

Romaniuk is a 15-year veteran of the Special Olympics in track and bowling. Speed skating is a recent addition to her suite of events.

"The speed skating thing kind of happened by accident," Romaniuk said. "I was doing laps and



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the coach noticed, so he said why don't you come out for speed skating."

That was three years ago.

One of her coaches, Chris Maybill, discovered Romaniuk doing laps in his wife's skating program, *Learn to Skate* with the Ajax Rising Stars.

It seems to have worked out pretty well, given that Romaniuk ascended to the national level within two years.

According to Maybill, "She took off."

"We took her to a competition out in Belleville, and she placed well."

That race was a qualifier for provincials.

"I got first place. Next

thing I know I'm going to provincials. I (got) first in that, which means I'm headed to the nationals," Romaniuk said.

At nationals in 2012, she collected two bronze medals.

Maybill clearly spotted a talented skater. But he gained more than just speed in this athlete.

"She's very determined," Maybill said.

"She really thinks that she had to do well, not only for her family, but also myself and Duncan LeBlanc, her other speed skating coach."

"Every time she's gone out for any kind of competition, she has had a personal best," Maybill said.

Even though Romaniuk fell short of qualifying for the trip to PyeongChang, South Korea, to com-

When she wasn't racing she was cheering everybody on.

- Coach Chris Maybill

pete in the 2013 Special Olympics World Games this February, that's the level where she has set her sights.

Maybill has similar plans for Romaniuk.

"It's actually one of my biggest goals (to see her go to worlds). I want to see her do well," Maybill

said.

Coming so close was tough on Romaniuk.

"I remember talking to her when she was at the boards and she was almost in tears because she feels that she actually disappointed me," Maybill said.

In addition to wanting to please her coaches, Romaniuk is a big supporter of her teammates.

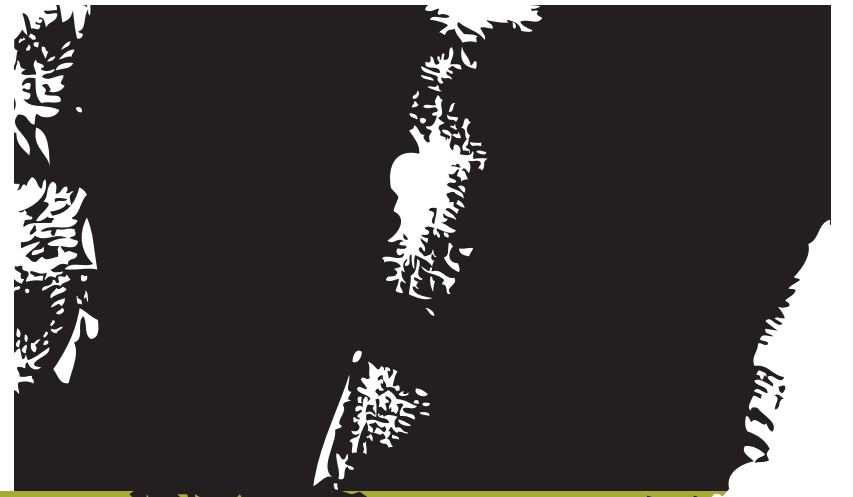
"When we were in the dressing room, when we were in Thunder Bay when she wasn't racing, she was cheering everybody on," Maybill said.

"And there are some athletes who actually disappear when they're not racing, and she was right beside the boards, cheering everybody on."

But when she hits the ice, it's another story.

"Once we're at the line, it's 'Okay. We're no (longer) teammates, we're enemies,'" she said.

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