

The Scarborough
OBSERVER

CENTENNIAL
COLLEGE

Magazine

Vol. 1, No. 2 • May 2012



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CENTENNIAL
COLLEGE
#300

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Becky Robertson // Scarborough Observer

Scarborough is a hidden gem, and we wanted to bring it out to the open for everyone to appreciate. In this issue, with the help of a more experienced and enthusiastic staff, we did exactly that. As a team, everyone strived to look for different ways to tell the unique and often untold stories of Scarborough residents, landmarks, community organizations, and even animals. As we did, we discovered new things about the place: off-leash dog parks, a bee yard nestled in University of Toronto Scarborough's rooftop, and several notable personalities who have achieved success in Hollywood and the Olympics, among others.

Through this magazine, we highlight all these stories in order to take Scarborough out from the background and bring it to centre stage where it can get the attention it deserves. In this issue we included a little bit of everything: news about important establishments like hospitals, high schools, and sports fields, stories about wildlife, the new Rouge national park, and Scarborough's vibrant arts scene.

With these stories, we wanted to ensure that, through the paper, residents and visitors alike will be able to cherish Scarborough for all its uniqueness and diversity.

Looking at what we know now and what we knew before, we really have learned a lot about Scarborough and its residents. Each story has given us a newfound appreciation for the place and a pride for being tasked with writing its tales.

We want to thank everyone involved with making this magazine: the editors, the writers, the production team, and the faculty.

And of course, we want to thank you, our readers, for picking up the paper and reading all the stories we have to share.

We hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed working on it.

Sarah Taguiam,
Managing Editor

Melissa LoParco,
Asst. Managing Editor

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Parks Canada will begin acquiring land to turn a 15,000-acre urban land wilderness.

The Little Rouge Creek



The Little Rouge Creek is sensitive habitat.

Help us keep it, and you, safe!

Do you want to get across the creek?

Take the Orchard Trail to your right. Walk across the Twyn Rivers Drive bridge. Then turn left to join the Mast Trail.

Please, do not walk across the creek.

- Ice, rocks and changing water levels are hazardous
- Any contaminants on your shoes may enter the water
- Many plants and animals live in the creek, and their life cycles can be easily disrupted
- Continued impact weakens and erodes the bank

Learn more about the Rouge watershed at www.trca.on.ca/protect/watersheds/rouge-river



www.rougepark.com
June 2011

National park will boost business

Sarah Taguam // Scarborough Observer

Sarah Taguam
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Land once supposed to be a garbage dump, highway, and subdivision is slated to revitalize the economy of GTA's eastern reaches as Canada's first near-urban national park. Rouge Park, which borders Scarborough, Pickering, and Markham, is to be expanded into a 15,000-acre wilderness, befitting national park standards through the federal government's help. It will be the first national park to sit so close to an urban population. "The Rouge would be really

accessible," said Glen De Baeremaeker, Scarborough Centre councillor and Rouge Park Alliance member. "In fact, I am afraid that too many people will show up." De Baeremaeker predicted these visitors would be looking to rent overnight accommodations and purchase more food and gas. Rouge Park Alliance chair Allan Wells says these needs will be answered by the future creation of small businesses in the park's surrounding area. "There's lots of room for business expansion," Wells said. "I imagine that there will be more restaurants and shops

once the park is completed." Environment minister Peter Kent agreed, saying that the park will be "taking a look at places where small business opportunities might exist." Kent added Parks Canada itself would also be providing a variety of commercial services inside the Rouge. "On top of new businesses, we will offer services like transit, food, educational and interpretive centres, and a network of man-made trails," he said. According to him, these will ultimately lead to more job opportunities. "I'm not sure how many years of

employment, but it will provide continuing work like operating, cleaning up, and rehabilitation, for example," Kent said. De Baeremaeker envisions proposals for more visible staff and new services will "make people talk more about our country." Kent says Rouge Park will encourage city residents to enjoy nature and act as a springboard for other national parks. "It will showcase and encourage people to visit more distant parks like Banff, Bruce Peninsula, and Cape Breton," he said. Canada's national parks currently generate around \$3 billion for the economy.

Kent said the Rouge will be another great investment. "We reviewed the park's financial needs and maintenance, and decided that being part of Parks Canada is our best option," Wells said. Kent estimated that renovation will take five to 10 years to complete, while the Rouge Valley Alliance said capital costs for the project might be from \$80 million to \$100 million. Kent also announced the federal government is currently accumulating land that will make up the national park, whose rough boundaries will likely be finalized by fall. 50

Opinion

ROUGE RENO: BETTER OR WORSE?

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Rouge Park is to undergo a five to 10-year renovation. Although plans are still in the drawing phase, plenty of problems pop into mind at the thought of this suburban park's expansion. Expanding brings more visitors and larger crowds, which means having to build more accommodations for the park: more parking, attractions, and restaurants.

This will amount to more trash from newcomers. But, let's break it down one subject at a time, as each brings complications to the expansion plan.

We'll start by discussing vehicle parking. Cars are one of the most popular modes

of transportation in this city, so they will be a major part of the expansion plan. Toronto is already congested with cars going in and out because people need to go through the city.

Will Rouge Park's expansion bring hordes of people to Scarborough that will slowly bring car congestion similar to Toronto's?

Issue number two: attractions.

Some serious brainstorming needs to be done to decide what exactly to add to the park.

But what else is going to attract people? Bike trails could be in future plans and off-leash dog parks would be a great way to bring in more people.

Building an area just for kids to play would also be ideal, as it would make the park more family-friendly.

Lastly, we need to look at the impact future restaurants and nearby small businesses will have on the park.

If I buy a bottle of water or a snack, I don't want to walk around for half an hour, unable

to find a recycling bin to throw out my trash.

I don't want to see garbage dumps beside trees or a bush rather than in bins.

The issue at hand is: how are we going to keep this place clean?

Someone should ensure that the new crowd of people coming into the park will put their garbage in the right place.

This means more garbage and recycling bins should be placed where convenient.

The renovation can be a step in the right direction but there has to be planning to ensure its success. 50



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How do you feel? Let us know at torontoobserver.ca



Paul Ambrose, principal at Sir Wilfred Laurier Collegiate Institute, says the Fraser Institute's ranking system fails to truly depict a school overall.

Becky Robertson // Scarborough Observer

Fraser Institute rankings may be off the mark

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Scarborough secondary schools score an average grade of 5.3 out of 10, according to the recently released Fraser Institute School Rankings.

Though some schools in the area rated poorly, the Institute said the study isn't meant to be a comprehensive indication of a school's success.

And some Scarborough principals agree.

"The scope of how they rank is so limited that I don't think it's accurate," said Paul Ambrose, principal at Sir Wilfred Laurier Collegiate

Institute, which received a score of 5.1. "To rank schools, no matter where they are, using the same measurement, ... I don't believe that's fair. How can you make those determinations using a two-variable formula?"

The Institute looked exclusively at EQAO Grade 9 math test results, along with pass rates of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. But some say these two things may not paint a fair representation of a school as a whole.

"It's a real issue as far as I'm concerned because EQAO testing is not a real judgment of whether the

kids are achieving the provincial standards," said Jerry Chadwick, Ward 22 Scarborough East's public school trustee.

He said the Institute should take into account things like graduation rates and factors that are school-specific, like the prevalence of ESL or special-needs students.

This other data isn't available for the Ontario rankings, said Michael Thomas of the Fraser Institute.

"In other provinces we have more information," he said. "In B.C. and Alberta, for example, we have other important indicators such as graduation rate [and] credit

completion rate."

These indicators may have been beneficial to Scarborough's Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute, which scored zero this year and ranked 710 out of 718 schools in the province.

Because Borden's programming differs from other high schools, Chadwick said, it should not be compared to them.

Borden principal Anthony Hack said that because his school doesn't offer any academic-level programming, the population of students writing the EQAO test is not the same as in other schools.

The results for his school, though consistent, may be skewed, he said.

"They need to make sure when they lay out the results that it's clearly communicated what their assessment tools are and how not all schools serve the same demographic population," Hack said.

According to Thomas, the Fraser Institute tries to make it clear to parents that the ratings are not absolute.

"It's not the whole picture," he said. "We won't want someone to take our rating for the school and think that it's an over-arching complete judgment of the school. It's not." SO

Scarborough school rankings

- R.H. King Academy scored 7.7 and ranked 97 of 718.
- Woburn Collegiate scored 6.4 and ranked 321 of 718.
- Wexford Collegiate scored 6.2 and ranked 360 of 718.
- Sir Wilfred Laurier Collegiate scored 5.1 and ranked 523 of 718.
- Cederbrae Collegiate scored 4.5 and ranked 587 of 718.

Source: Fraser Institute



The new Order Assist allows customers with disabilities to use drive-thrus, says Tim Hortons store manager La Shown St. Louis.

Maya Akbay // Scarborough Observer

Helping the hearing impaired Scarborough Tim Hortons branch first to install Order Assist

Maya Akbay
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The discomfort felt by people with hearing or speech impairments when ordering at food joints might soon be over — at least in some spots.

The Tim Hortons branch at Kennedy Road and Hwy. 401 is catering to its hearing- and speaking-impaired customers to ensure they feel more welcomed and at ease, store manager La Shown St. Louis says.

Owned by disability advocate Mark Wafer, the branch is Canada's first Tim Hortons to have a device installed for customers with special needs.

Order Assist has since been installed in Wafer's

four other Tim Hortons stores in the GTA. It's also proven helpful to people with language barriers, such as immigrants or tourists.

"Usually with customers that have hearing deficiency or something like that, they have to come inside the store if they want to order," St. Louis said.

"But with this device installed for the drive-thru, they don't even have to come inside or get out of their car."

Order Assist allows customers ordering in drive-thru lanes to press a button and inform staff they have either a hearing deficiency or language barrier.

Employees are alerted through a signal in their earpiece and a light that

turns on inside the store. Customers are directed to pull up to the window, where they receive an Order Assist form to write their orders.

Regular customers receive several forms at once to save time.

"It's not just much easier for them, it's much easier for us, too," said employee Michelle Munawa.

"When the order is written down for you, there's no miscommunication."

Munawa recalled serving a customer with speech impairment before the device's installation.

"[The customer] had a hard time placing his order, all while the lineup behind him grew," she said.

"Sometimes, you don't

know how to communicate with them."

Employees had to undergo several training sessions before the device was set up.

"We learned that you have to know how to be patient with them, and not cross their personal boundaries," St. Louis said.

The store does not only extend special accommodations to customers, but to potential employees who may have disabilities themselves.

There are many people with disabilities who have been employed at the Kennedy branch.

"We really believe in giving everybody an equal opportunity," St. Louis said.

"It's the right thing to do." SO



Courtesy // Cammie McGinnis

A recent check found this home, priced just shy of \$3 million, to be the most expensive home on Scarborough's market...



Nino Meese-Tamuri // Scarborough Observer

And this two-bedroom townhouse, at \$118,000, was Scarborough's least expensive.

Where is your home on the range?

The highs, lows of Scarborough real estate

Housing stats

- The average home in Scarborough stays on the market for 30 days before being sold or taken off the market.
- The average home price in Scarborough is about \$450,000.
- The average home price in the GTA is over \$530,000.
- The average home price in the GTA has increased by 5% since last year.
- Scarborough home prices, on average, are the least expensive in the GTA.

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How much luxury can money buy in Scarborough? You have to visit the private neighbourhood overlooking the Scarborough Bluffs to find out.

Nestled among other million-dollar properties lies Scarborough's most expensive home, or at least it was during a recent check. Priced at \$2,995,000, the 9,000-square-foot home requires you to have a rather

large piggy bank.

What do you get for that price?

The spacious house features six bedrooms with a matching number of bathrooms, six additional living areas, a fitness and games room, a state-of-the-art open-concept kitchen, a huge backyard, and a pool.

However, sitting on two acres of land right near the edge of the Bluffs, the view

is the house's true selling feature.

But real estate agent Peter Edwin Baker said that selling luxury properties in Scarborough can prove challenging because of the area's reputation.

"When people hear Scarborough, they often don't realize that there are \$3-million houses here," said Baker, who was charged with selling Scarborough's top luxury home.

Another deciding factor is price. The home's list price

was recently reduced by \$200,000 from its original price of \$3,195,000.

"The sweet spot for top high-end properties in Scarborough is probably between \$3,000,000 and \$3,500,000," Baker said. "The highest price that a home ever sold for in Scarborough was \$3,500,000."

Baker said he is certain that prices in Scarborough's luxury market won't rise to such levels any time soon, especially since demand is low. **SO**

Immigrant language tests leave some tongue-tied

Leslie Emmons
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Getting into Canada to work just got a little harder.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney recently announced that starting July 1, newcomers under the Provincial Nominee Program in low-skilled professions will have to take a mandatory test in French or English before they're allowed into Canada.

Jobs that don't involve much skill will now require potential workers to be tested on their reading, listening, writing and speaking skills.

There are positives to this plan. It will be easier for immigrants to acclimate to the country and feel they are part of Canada, not just foreign visitors.

But it still leaves a lot of questions.

Many people come to Canada without knowing

Opinion

English or French, but contribute greatly by doing the jobs that Canadian-born citizens choose not to do.

According to the 2006 Statistics Canada census report for Scarborough, the area is home to more than 346,000 immigrants, which is over 57 per cent of that population. More than 334,000 residents are first-generation Canadi-

ans, and only 46 per cent of them speak English as their first language.

Placing these language requirements on workers in areas such as trade, manufacturing, and sales can potentially make the pool of available applicants to these jobs smaller.

Statistics Canada reported over 24 per cent of Scarborough's population work in sales and services, while the manufacturing labour force provides over 15 per cent of industry in

the area.

If someone comes from a country where they have never been exposed to English or French but is a good worker, how will they stand a chance on gaining entry? Many new workers learn the language when they arrive through exposure.

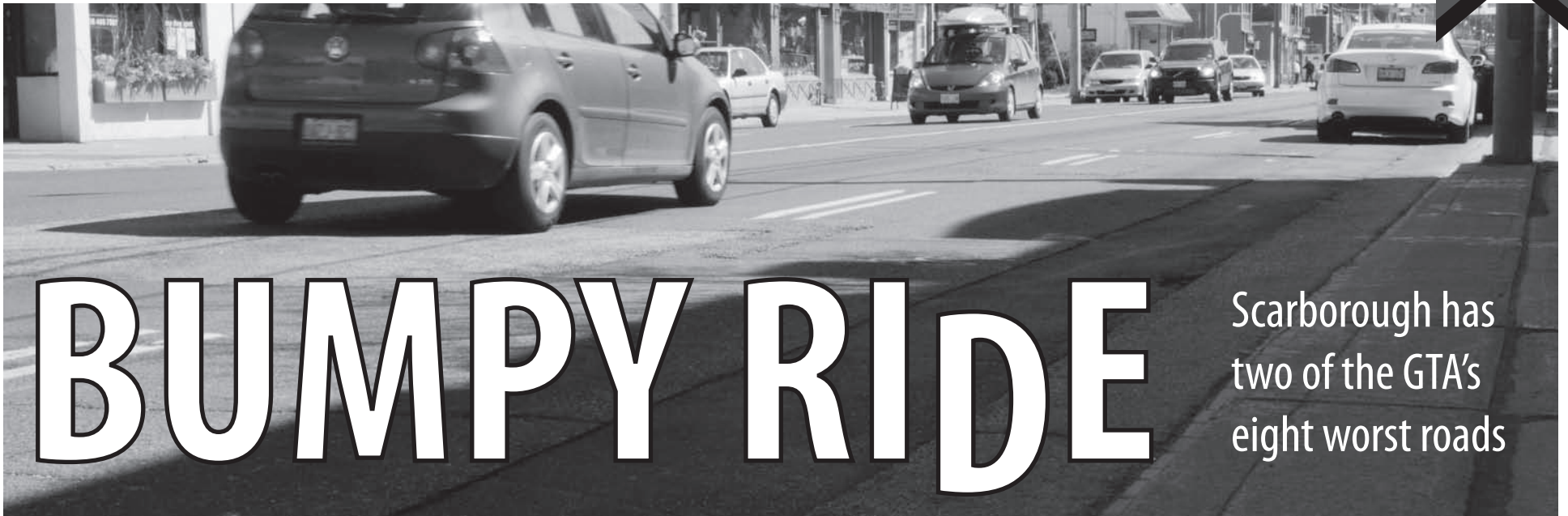
It may prove better to look at potential workers' credentials.

If they are qualified, they can be enrolled in an English or French learning

program upon arriving in Canada.

This new requirement makes one think that had these restrictions been in place generations ago, some of our family members may not have made it into Canada.

So, while the language test can help assimilate immigrants to Canada, it is to be hoped it doesn't become a barrier that stops a strong work ethic with a potential to contribute to this country. **SO**



BUMPY RIDE

Scarborough has two of the GTA's eight worst roads

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Potholes and uneven pavements are taking the fun out of hitting the open road these days — and Scarborough motorists can't seem to catch a break.

Two Scarborough roads were listed among Ontario's worst in the Canadian Automobile Association's 2010 survey: Kingston Road and Lawrence Avenue East.

TTC bus driver Stewart Clubley has driven on both.

"There's a certain spot on Kingston, between Birchmount Road and Victoria Park Avenue,

which should be blown up," he said. "You literally have to stay in the middle lane. If you're driving in the right-hand lane closest to the curb, it's unbearable."

Clubley, who has been part of the TTC's Birchmount division for the past 11 years, regularly serves routes along Kingston Road, in addition to Don Mills Road, Victoria Park Avenue, and Warden Avenue.

"I've had a few riders come up and thank me for driving in the centre lane on Kingston," he said. "Buses aren't meant to take large

I've had a few riders come up and thank me for driving in the centre lane on Kingston.

- Stewart Clubley

holes. When they go over potholes, it sounds like a gun has gone off. Going over bumps, the bus not only moves up and down,

but also twists from side to side."

CAA spokeswoman Faye Lyons cited numerous issues that make Ontario's worst roads unpopular with drivers.

"Weather and congestion are factors that can cause damage to roads," she said. "Most of them see cracked pavement, potholes, and receive patchwork rather than resurfacing."

Like Lyons, Clubley said patchwork is what earns some of Ontario's worst roads a spot on the CAA's list.

"When crews dig holes and fill them back in, they can't make them perfectly level again," he said. "They

refill the holes rather than paving over them, making the road dip down or crest up a little bit, which means a pretty bumpy ride."

For this year's survey, the CAA asked motorists to name 10 roads.

Scarborough's contenders

include Lawrence Avenue East, Kingston Road, Finch Avenue East, and Birchmount Road.

Voting concluded on April 24, and results will be available on the CAA's website in the next few weeks. ^{SO}

The GTA's eight worst roads of 2010

1. Lawrence Ave.
2. Finch Ave.
3. Dufferin St.
4. Eglinton Ave. W
5. Steeles Ave.
6. Kingston Rd.
7. Bayview Ave.
8. St. Clair Ave.



Less violence, more theft in 2012

Nino Meese-Tamuri
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Scarborough has seen a shift from violent crimes towards theft and robberies in the early months of 2012.

Crime statistics for the beginning of 2012 showed a 17 to 23 per cent decline of violent crimes like murder, assault, and sexual assault compared to numbers from early 2011. Murders decreased by one in five cases this year. There were also 237 fewer assaults reported.

However, the community experienced more possessions being stolen. There were 396 robberies in 2012, up by 28 per cent from last year's 309 instances. Auto theft and thefts of items valued over \$5,000 also slightly increased by three to seven per cent, respectively.

Bucking the trend, however, were break-ins, which decreased by 17 per cent to 402. ^{SO}

In the author's chair

How a teacher turned her students' aspirations into inspirational realities

Ani Hajderaj

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At the St. Lawrence elementary school, a special education teacher was inspired by two of her students when they told her they wanted to become children's storywriters.

"Usually, student with learning disabilities don't like to do much writing, so I wanted to encourage them. I thought maybe if they get to see some of their work in published form, they will be motivated to go on with this," she said.

Susan Remedios, 49, a teacher at St. Lawrence elementary school, is respon-

sible for the organization of author's night that happened on April 19 in the gym of her school.

I don't know what I want to be, but I definitely want to write and make books.

- Toni Lewis

The gym was filled with students, parents, and teachers, all gathered to celebrate the publishing of the students' literature. The books ranged from poetry to short stories and fiction that was produced by the students of the school.

"I came across studenttreasures.com. It publishes children's books for free (if the school meets a minimum requirement of 80 primary students participating)," she said.

Since Nov. 2011, the entire student body has contributed stories, poems, and short stories. Kids from kindergarten through third grade had their material published in a compilation book, while kids from the fourth grade through eighth grade got to publish their own individual books.

Toni Lewis, 13, is one of the many students who published a book. It is titled *What's The Difference* and is a fictional story about two girls who act racist towards another girl in class.

"I asked my sister for ideas, and she gave me some ideas on how I can write about racism. My best friend gave me ideas about the characters having a fight," she said.

Toni recited her story in front of parents, students,

Toni Lewis, 13, reads her book *What's the Difference?* before parents and fellow students. Her book explores themes of friendship and racial discrimination against students.



Ani Hajderaj // Scarborough Observer

and teaching staff on author's night. In addition to writing the story she also produced the art within the book.

"I doodle a lot," she said. "Sometimes I draw Manga characters."

That helps her write and share stories with other users of the application. She is currently working on two other stories.

Her father, Anthony Lewis, 50, is supportive of her writing and said that it has helped her be more independent.

"Sometimes she reads the story," he said "I try not to

edit it too much because my sense of language is different from hers, and I find the minute I start to change it, it changes the whole feel of the story."

"She has a lot of written material, I looked at it and I think it's very good quality, so I encourage her to write as much as possible when she gets too involved in the computer. I try to get her off it because it takes away from her creativity," he said.

Lewis used to write poetry when he was younger and encourages his daughter to do her own research.

Although she doesn't know what she wants to do in the future, she said she has aspirations of being a part-time writer.

The general sense of all of this, as described by Remedios, is to really promote literacy among young children and help them get a sense of who they are as individuals so they can grow up to become more creative.

"We value their ideas, we want to give them a sense that their ideas are being valued and that they are important," she said. 50



Reboot Canada president Don Inouye enjoys connecting charities with the technology they need to serve the community.

Alicia Ferrero // Scarborough Observer

Reboot Canada makes a difference high tech style

Reboot provides low-cost computers for charities

Alicia Ferrero

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Reboot Canada helps charities stay organized by giving them refurbished computers

The charity was founded 16 years ago by Honeywell software developer Colin Webster, who knew there was a great need for inexpensive technology.

"Colin was walking down the hall at his work one day and saw a pile of computers just sitting there. The company had replaced and upgraded their equipment. He wanted to re-use the computers, so he started Reboot Canada," Inouye said.

The charity, located on Lawrence Avenue East,

accepts donations of old computers and computer parts, then distributes them to non-profit charities and low-income individuals for just the price of extra parts. A computer with a monitor, Microsoft Office, and Windows, for example, costs about \$140.

According to Inouye, Webster put what would have been garbage to good use. Currently, Reboot Canada is still going strong.

The company gave computers to over 500 charities and received over 200 donations last year. The charities must qualify to use the service.

Reboot also offers an equipment pickup program for people making large do-

nations, and it has a reconnect program, which sets up computer labs in seniors' centers and in drop-in locations.

"It's fantastic," says Reboot president Don Inouye. "The reconnect program allows seniors to have free and unlimited access to computers. It allows them to send emails to their family, do their online banking, and even vote online. For some seniors, it is their first time using a computer."

The program also accepts co-op students from high schools and universities and has a technical support team on staff. The charity currently has six high school co-op students who help assess the quality of equip-

ment donated.

"Computers are expensive. If you donate to a charity, the last thing you want your money spent on is a computer," Inouye said.

Reboot charges a small fee for computer equipment that's donated but has no use. The Ontario Environmental Stewardship program is the reason behind the fee.

"It costs money to dispose of equipment. It runs us \$17.50 to \$35.50 to dispose of old monitors," Inouye said.

Some recent charities Reboot Canada has donated to are the Learning Enrichment Foundation and Riversides. 50

Local bee project gets a lot of buzz

Brian Hamlin tends to the bees at UTSC, but officials plan to expand the project for community interaction

Georgia Williams

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There's a quiet hum growing in Scarborough east's Highland Creek area as the honeybee population increases.

The surge in bee numbers is due to efforts of a student group at the University of Toronto Scarborough and local beekeeper Brian Hamlin. They want to bring attention to the plight of nature's unsung hero, the honeybee, who collects nectar for their queens while pollinating crops and flowers.

As a part of the Honeybee Project, four individual beehives were placed on the roof of the Social Sciences building at the Military Trail and Ellesmere campus in May 2010. The bee yard is meant to raise awareness about the importance of honeybees and other pollinators.

After two successful seasons on UTSC's roof, the University and Hamlin are planning on expanding the project into the Highland Creek Valley behind the Scarborough campus. The expansion would include three additional hives that will give the community an opportunity to take part in beekeeping.

Billi Jo Cox, UTSC's project coordinator with the Office of Business and Administration, is excited about the additional apiary in the valley.

"It's such a great project, it's really getting a lot of buzz, if you will," said Cox.

Though community engagement is an added benefit of the move, bee health is the key motivation.

"We also want to put in a pollinator garden to create awareness about flowers and plants that actually support the honey bee and other pollinators," Cox said.

The rooftop hives were modeled after similar ones in the University of Toronto's St. George campus. However, the buildings in the downtown campus have natural wind and weather barriers from the surrounding skyscrapers that the buildings in Scarborough do not have.

"Here there aren't many tall buildings sheltering the hives, and last year we had to replace three of our four hives," Cox said. "The queen bees had died over the winter because of the wind and other things that we didn't know because we're in the pilot phase."

The current rooftop location has also proven to be a barrier to students and the community who don't have individual access to the roof.

To make the bee yard more accessible, the relocated valley hives will be used as teaching aides for students and community members who want to learn about ecology and conservation.

"Brian is going to mentor members of the community that are interested and essentially teach people how to bee keep," Cox said. "It will be a lot more accessible for everyone."

In addition to extra hives, a pollinator garden will also be added to the valley's various community gardens. Pollinator gardens feature a variety of flowers and plants ideal for honeybees to collect nectar and pollen used in their honey making.

Hamlin, who has been a beekeeper for 37 years, emphasized the importance of diverse plants and flora in natural honey production.

Hamlin said this doesn't only help increase the product's quality, but honey made from the distinct plants and flowers of an area has a distinct taste.

Eating local honey has positive medicinal effects as well.

"Honey has traditionally been used by many ancient cultures as a healing medicine," Hamlin said. "Recently, because of environmental issues, people have become aware of what's going on with the planet, and there seems to have been a reawakening of some of these things that are quite ancient."

Hamlin is equally excited about the opportunity to expand his bee operation and engage those interested in beekeeping.

"I enjoy what I'm doing, it's a passion. My idea was to make connections with the students and the community, and by having them on the roof, it isn't really happening," he said. "If it was in an accessible area, people could actually observe them."

Last year, Hamlin was able to collect 70 pounds of honey from the hives in Scarborough, which quickly sold out at local farmers' markets.

As part of his sustainable business model, proceeds were reinvested into the many hives Hamlin manages around Toronto and in the surrounding areas.

Hamlin and UTSC hope to have the valley apiaries and garden ready by May.



All honey collected from the Scarborough hives can be purchased at the UTSC farmers' market set to kick off June 6, in the campus parking lot.

Courtesy // University of Toronto Scarborough

Duo bike for cancer cure



Jason Ettore (left) and Raul Pavon (right) both agree to 'conquer cancer, knock it out of here, and get a cure.'

Jennifer Pang // Scarborough Observer

Scarborough cyclists, participating in this June's Ride to Conquer Cancer, vow to knock out the disease

Jennifer Pang

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Jason Ettore and Raul Pavon have a lot of things in common.

Both live in Scarborough, both enjoy biking, both have seen people suffer from cancer, and both have now accepted the challenge to fight the deadly disease.

This June, the two men will participate in the Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer, a two-day cycling event from Toronto to Niagara Falls.

Ettore and Pavon are not alone, and will be united

with thousands of others on the 200-kilometre path.

"People that know somebody who has been affected by cancer [will be riding] and there are also people who have survived cancer that are going to be participating," Pavon said. "There are lots of cancer patients who did not make it and [will] be in our memories on this ride."

According to the Canadian Cancer Statistics for 2011, 40 per cent of women and 45 per cent of men in Canada will develop cancer during their lifetimes. This in-

cludes Pavon's mother, who suffered from breast cancer and his wife, who had skin cancer.

Like Pavon, Ettore also saw his family and friends suffer from cancer. He said it distressed him when he saw cancer take his colleague's life at a young age.

"It was too much for me," he said.

After seeing enough suffering, Ettore and Pavon are now devoted to fighting it.

The 200-kilometre journey, however, is not the only challenge they face. Each rider must raise \$2,500 or

more before the event in order to participate.

According to conquercancer.ca, proceeds will go towards The Princess Margaret Hospital to provide care for cancer patients and to support research initiatives for cancer therapies.

Pavon said that it hasn't been easy to ask people for money.

"People keep saying 'Oh yes, let me know when you are ready, so I can fill out the donation form and I can contribute.' When you ask, [they say] 'Oh, right now isn't a good time,'" he said.

Ettore also continues to struggle in reaching his fundraising goal.

"I expected a certain amount from requests, a certain amount from night school, and a certain amount from hockey polls, fundraising parties, and dinners," Ettore said. "But you don't really achieve as much as you think you are going to achieve. And then you are scrambling."

Despite the obstacles, Pavon said giving up is not an option.

"A lot of cancer survivors and [people] diagnosed with

cancer always keep fighting, no matter what. For me, it's to never give up, and always keep fighting," he said. "I am riding for my mom, my wife's family. We need to conquer cancer, knock it out of here, and get a cure."

Ettore and Pavon have been rigorously preparing themselves for the journey to Niagara Falls.

"I have been going to the gym every other day and I do anywhere from 30 kilometres to almost 50 kilometres," Pavon said.

Ettore himself usually does 40 kilometres. ⁵⁰

A different kind of 'buzzed'

Scarborough resident Larry Kosowan spent the last three years growing his hair for the Canadian Cancer Society

Diana Faria

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Almost cut my hair, it happened just the other day, Scarborough resident Larry Kosowan sang, playing his acoustic steel-string guitar.

Larry Kosowan performed the song Almost Cut My Hair by Crosby, Stills and Nash in the back of the Working Dog Salon mid-April.

But Larry Kosowan did cut his hair. All 12 inches of his flowing, dark brown locks.

Larry Kosowan has been growing out his hair for the past three years to have it long enough to cut and donate to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Partnered with Pantene's Beautiful Lengths initiative, the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) aims to make wigs for patients who have lost their hair as a result of medical treatment.

"Cancer seems to touch everybody, everywhere," Larry Kosowan said. "When you think of someone going through the indignity of losing their hair for a medical treat-

ment ... it's something I can do to make it easier for them."

Larry Kosowan also organized a fundraiser for the Scarborough Women's Centre, which helps women transition to become economically and emotionally independent. His sister Lynda Kosowan is the centre's executive director.

"We're really delighted that he's taking this initiative and appreciate his support," said Lynda Kosowan, adding she thinks "it's lovely" that her brother brought together the CCS and the Women's Centre.

Larry Kosowan had his hair cut by Gordana Andonov, who has been his hair stylist for about 10 years.

Andonov said it isn't the first time she cut someone's hair to be donated to help cancer patients, but it was the first time she was a part of a donation that also involved a fundraiser.

Andonov brushed, ponytailed, then cut Larry Kosowan's hair with a crowd of about 50 cheering people in the salon.

With half of his hair cut and the other half in small pony tails, Larry Kosowan stood up and continued to play Crosby,

Stills and Nash.

After the song, Andonov cut the rest of Larry Kosowan's hair. His flowing brown locks were then placed in an envelope, ready to be sent off to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Larry Kosowan raised a total of about \$4,000 for the Scarborough

Women's Centre with the help of supporters close to home and across Canada, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

Some donated in person while others donated online

through www.CanadaHelp.org.

"He set up a giving page where you can directly make a donation to the Women's Centre just by clicking on the link," Lynda Kosowan said. "I'm really impressed with what he's been able to do."

The donations will go toward helping women in the centre.

"[They are] often dealing with issues around emotional health, newcomer integration, abuse, and poverty, and are not sure what they want to do with their life," Lynda Kosowan said.

"[They] are looking to get more direction, more skills, and to feel connected with others so that they have the motivation to move forward."

At the salon, Larry Kosowan also organized a 50/50 draw for the prize money, as well as a raffle in which ticket holders won such prizes as a palm-reading gift certificate, pens, and various hair care products. ⁵⁰

■ Larry Kosowan



For more photos and info on Larry Kosowan's fundraiser, visit online at torontoobserver.ca

LIVING ON THE EDGE

Roughly 12 people a year are rescued by specially trained officers after falling over the Scarborough Bluffs

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Gary Crawford grew up in the Scarborough area and is now the city councillor for Ward 36, which covers Bluffer's Park. Ever since he was a teenager, he remembers stories of people scaling the sides of the Scarborough Bluffs or venturing close to the edge to experience the majestic views. "This is something that has been going on for

generations," Crawford says. Although the city has put signs and fences up to keep people away from the eroding cliffs, there are always those who take the risk.

People wandering too close to the edge of the cliffs is an ongoing problem that tends to happen in spring and summer, Crawford says.

To be ready to rescue people who fall over the cliffs, Toronto Fire Services trains a unit for weeks at its special operations centre.

The officers have to do extensive training in rappelling and victim recovery.

"It takes a couple of weeks to get somebody proficient in it, and then the crew and

the truck will continually go through year-round training," says Stephan Powell, Toronto Fire's district chief of public information.

When someone is reported stuck on the Scarborough Bluffs, the fire department sends out its rescue truck.

The truck is different from the usual pumper trucks, which are used to put out fires, because it has all the necessary equipment to perform a rope rescue. The firefighters usually perform the rescue with EMS and police waiting at the top of the cliff.

"Some people slide down or they fall and they can't get up without injuring themselves," Powell says.

"Others are climbing and they have injured themselves, and they need to be rescued because they can't move."

A normal response unit generally includes about 12 officers. However, depending on the circumstances, Toronto Fire may not send all 12.

Once they arrive at the scene, there are some specific steps that officers follow to make sure they're performing the rescue safely.

Although the officers are highly trained in these rescues, Crawford says it's important to prevent these accidents before they happen.

The city provides education in the community and local schools for people to understand the dangers of the Bluffs.

"People do have to take precautions and realize that, as beautiful as it is, it is dangerous," Crawford says.

SO

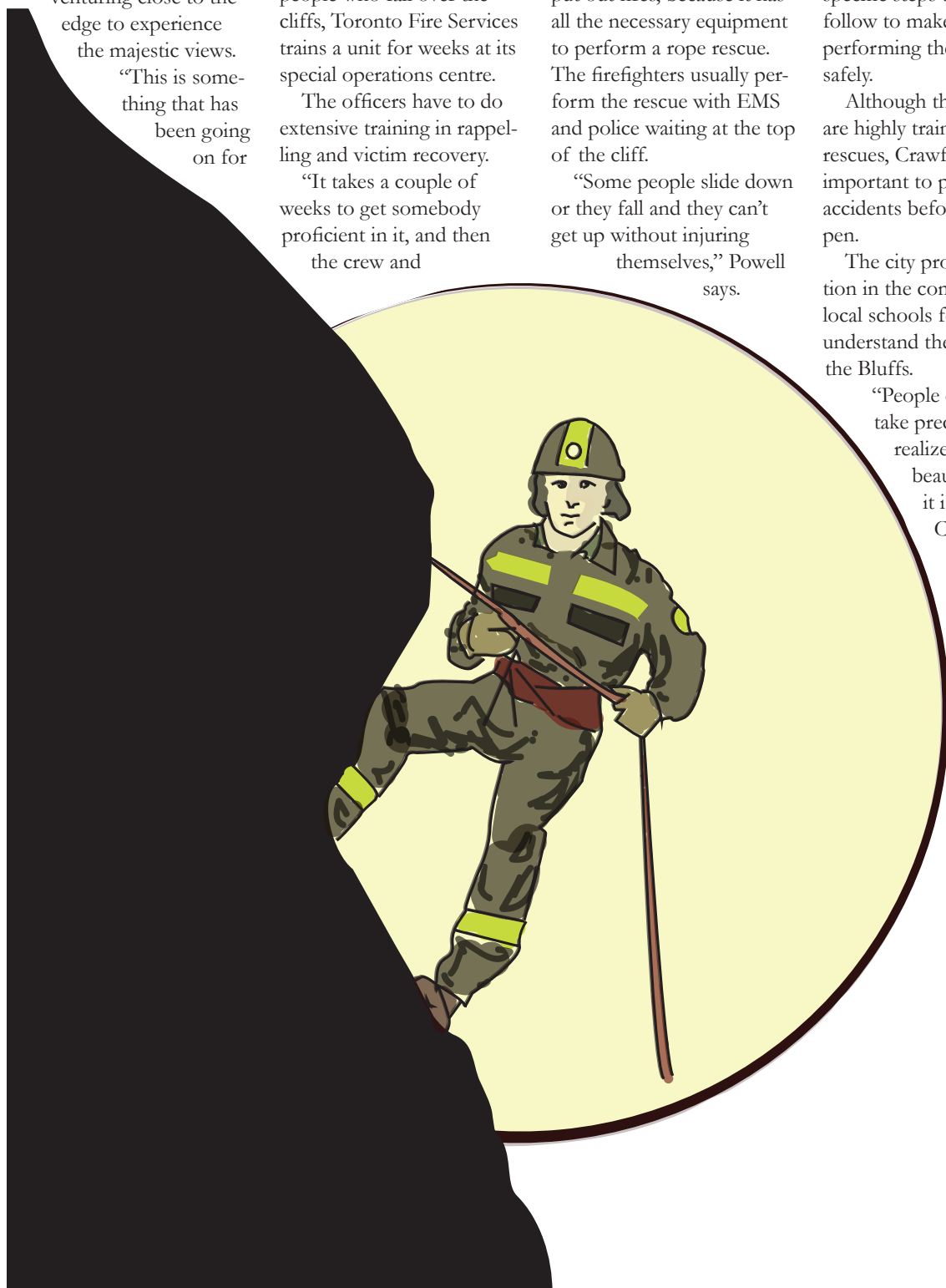


Illustration by Alexandra Quigley // Scarborough Observer

Fire Department Rescue Steps:

1 Assessment. This includes locating the victim and figuring out the best plan of attack. "It may not be down the same path as the person fell.

That path may very well be dangerous," Toronto Fire district chief Stephan Powell says. This would mean they would pick a route on either side of the victim. They also ensure they don't drop any debris on the victim as they descend.

2 Secure Ropes. The officers must make sure they tie their ropes to something secure, like a vehicle. They then set up the ropes over the top of

the cliff and secure the safety line. They always rappel with two ropes. "If you have just one line and something goes wrong and it breaks, you're just going to fall. Whereas if you have two lines, if one breaks, the other catches your weight," Powell says.

3 Rappel Down the Cliff. Two officers are sent over the edge and they rappel downward until they get to the same level as the victim. They then secure

themselves and work their way over horizontally to the victim. One officer usually observes the rescue while the other performs it.

4 Stokes Basket. Once the officers have reached the victim, a Stokes basket is lowered from the top. A Stokes basket is a closed-in litter that securely fastens the victim for rescue. If the person has a neck injury, they would put a collar on him/her. Also, if he or she had a broken bone, it would be splinted and secured so it doesn't move.

5 Hoist. The officers at the top of the cliff then hoist the basket up. The officers who went down to help the victim guide the basket to ensure the victim doesn't hit any obstacles. One officer will go up with the basket and the other will stay at the bottom until the basket is at the top.

6 Treat For Injuries. Once the victim is safely at the top, he or she is transferred from the Stokes basket to an EMS gurney. He or she is then treated and assessed by EMS staff. If necessary, the rescued will be escorted to the hospital.

12 Roughly, the number of rescues that the fire department performs each year.

14 The number of kilometres the cliff runs along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

65 The number of metres above the water the Bluffs is at its highest point.

70 Thousand Approximate age of the Bluffs, formed by the gradual erosion of a glacier.



Jaclyn Dunham // Scarborough Observer



OFF LEASH OFF TO START

If you are a Scarborough resident and have a dog, you should know the parks in the community. The parks are fenced in and the dogs can be off-leash.

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Mayor Rob Ford's recent announcement that the city will be increasing its vigilance for people who let their dogs off-leash in undesignated areas raises the topic of off-leash dog parks and their importance for communities.

The risk of having to pay a \$250 ticket to let your dog roam free has made off-leash dog parks more popular since they began springing up in 2007, when the city created a dogs off-leash policy providing controlled spaces for owners to bring their dogs to play without a leash.

Scarborough residents used to have to travel long distances to Markham, Pickering, or downtown to bring their dogs to an off-leash park before Brian MacFarlane and the Curran Hall Community Association began the process of getting Scarborough its very own off-leash dog park.

"I thought it was nice how people would just sort of congregate around and talk, and dogs would be running," he said. "It was good because it really brought people together and I thought that might be nice for our neighbourhood, too."

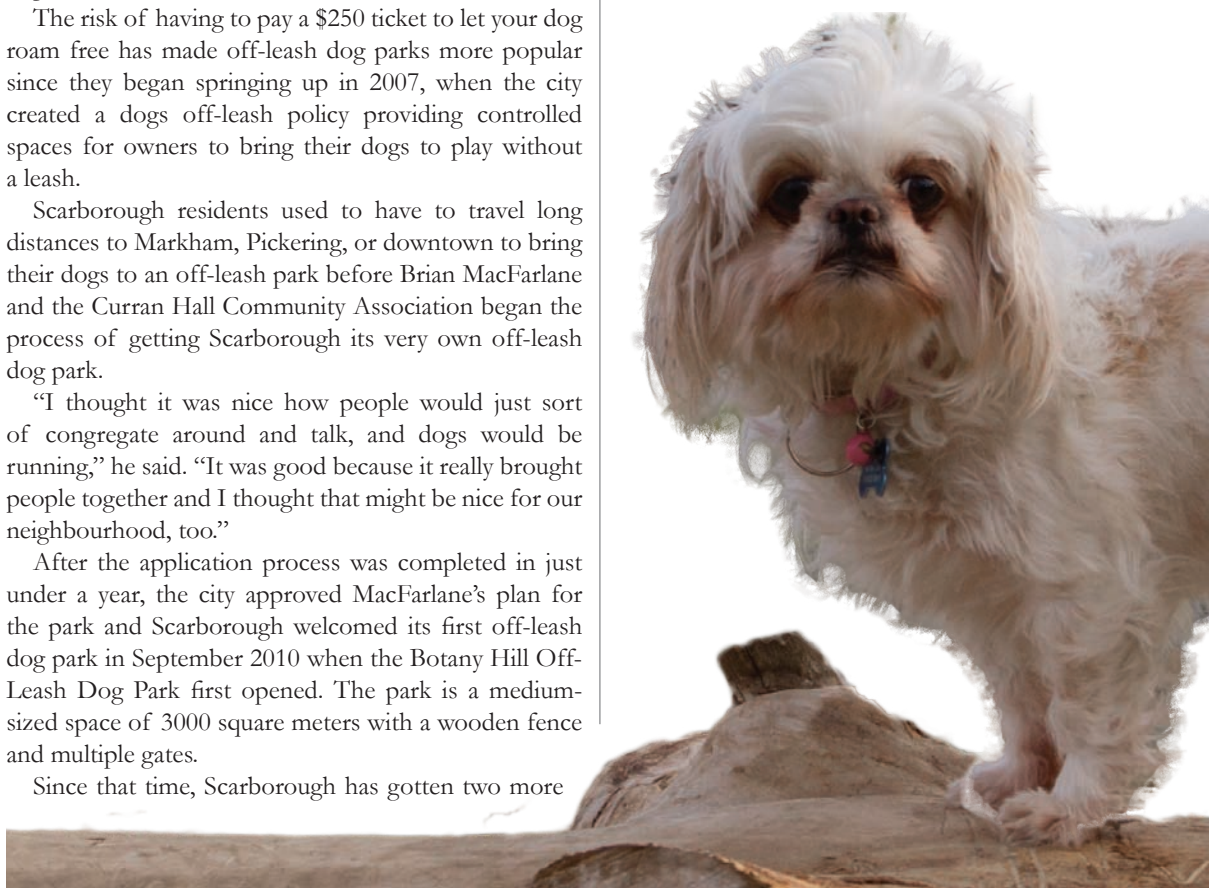
After the application process was completed in just under a year, the city approved MacFarlane's plan for the park and Scarborough welcomed its first off-leash dog park in September 2010 when the Botany Hill Off-Leash Dog Park first opened. The park is a medium-sized space of 3000 square meters with a wooden fence and multiple gates.

Since that time, Scarborough has gotten two more

off-leash dog parks, one in Thomson Memorial Park and another in L'Amoreaux Park. The community near Wanita Park has also recently applied for its own off-leash dog park.

Ryan Foley lives in the area near Botany Hill Park and has been taking his dog Nitro to the park since it first opened.

"It's convenient. It's a great place for the dogs to

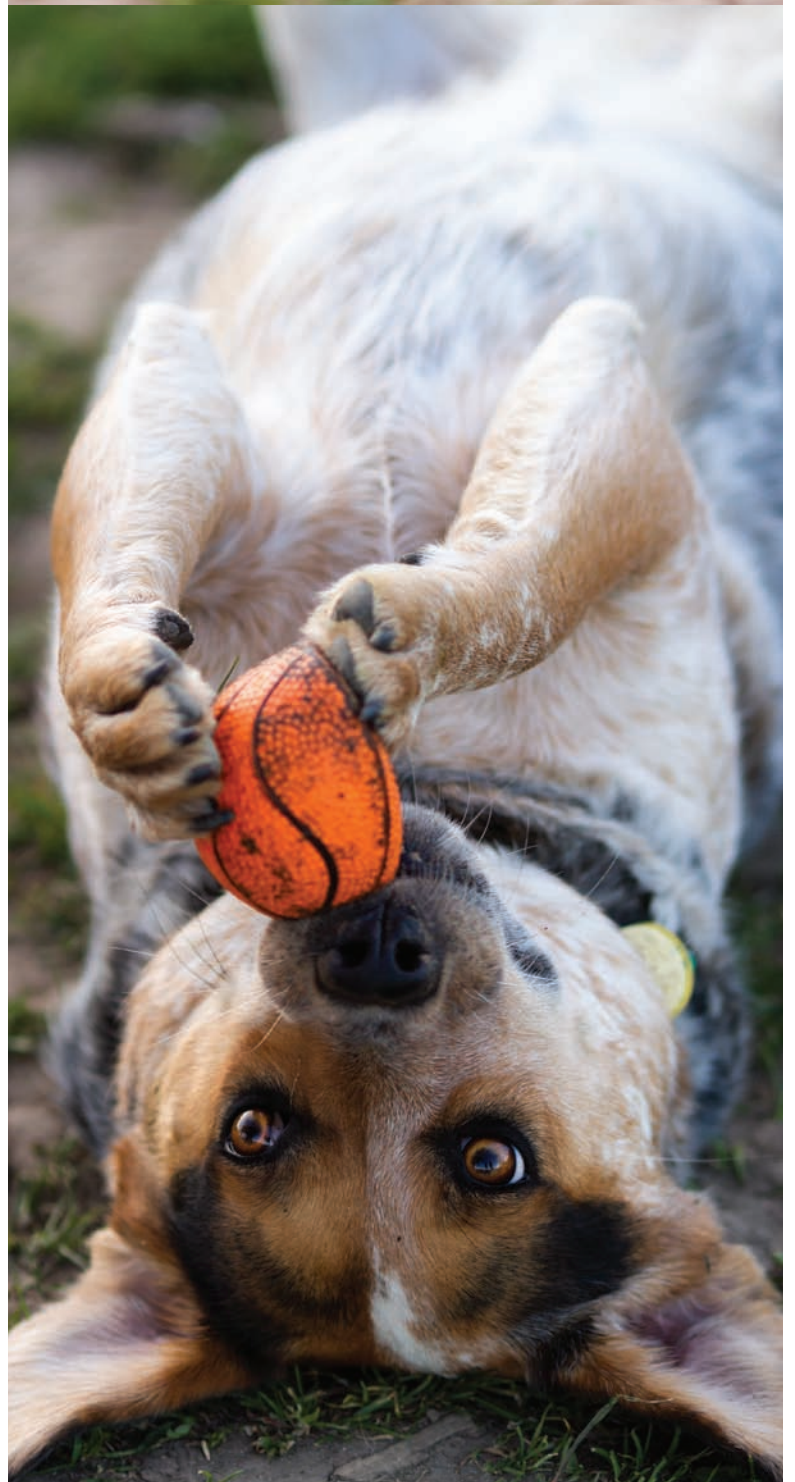




EF SH, GREAT ART



Ryan Foley plays catch with his dog Nitro on a sunny Thursday afternoon at Botany Hill Off Leash Dog Park, Scarborough's first off-leash dog park.

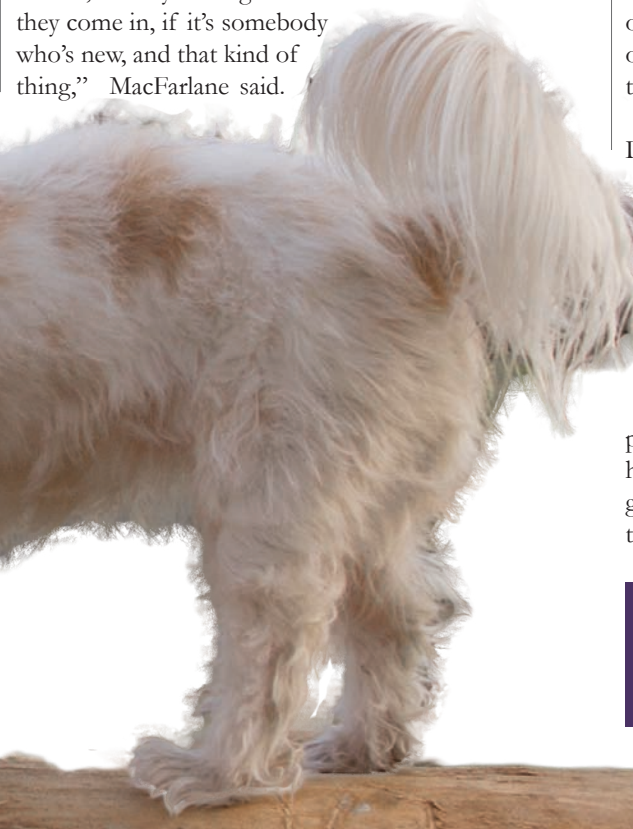


The city is cracking down on off-leash dogs. But fret not, there are dog off-leash and free to play without the fear of fines . . . or worse

socialize. You get to meet people in the neighbourhood," Foley said.

Although there are two bylaw officers in the neighbourhood who come by periodically to the Botany Hill Off-Leash Dog Park to ensure all the rules and regulations are being followed by users, MacFarlane says that the users themselves enforce the rules of the park more than anyone else.

"They're very protective about the place. They're very careful, like if your dog has had shots or whatever before they come in, if it's somebody who's new, and that kind of thing," MacFarlane said.



"They want to make sure that it's kept safe and clean and that's really what we like actually. It shows stewardship of the place."

Most of all, the dog park has allowed people in the neighbourhood to meet each other and bond with one another, both the owners and the dogs. MacFarlane said the best part about the park is that it is having a positive influence on the community and bringing people together.

"It's like actually if you had kids, if you had a group of kids in the same age group that are excited to see each other, that's what the dogs are like...that's actually what the owners are like, too," he said.

A group of people who use the Botany Hill Off-Leash Dog Park even got together to build an agility course for the park in memoriam of a fellow dog park user, Aron Royle, who died this year.

"He [Royle] died in a tragic snowmobile accident, actually. That was just recently. So, a bunch of the guys are getting together. They've donated some money. They're going to put up an agility course in here. It's kind of nice," Foley said.

Besides giving dogs a safe, regulated space to run and play without a leash, the Botany Hill Off-Leash Dog Park has provided residents in the area with an opportunity to get out and meet each other and to become involved in their community.

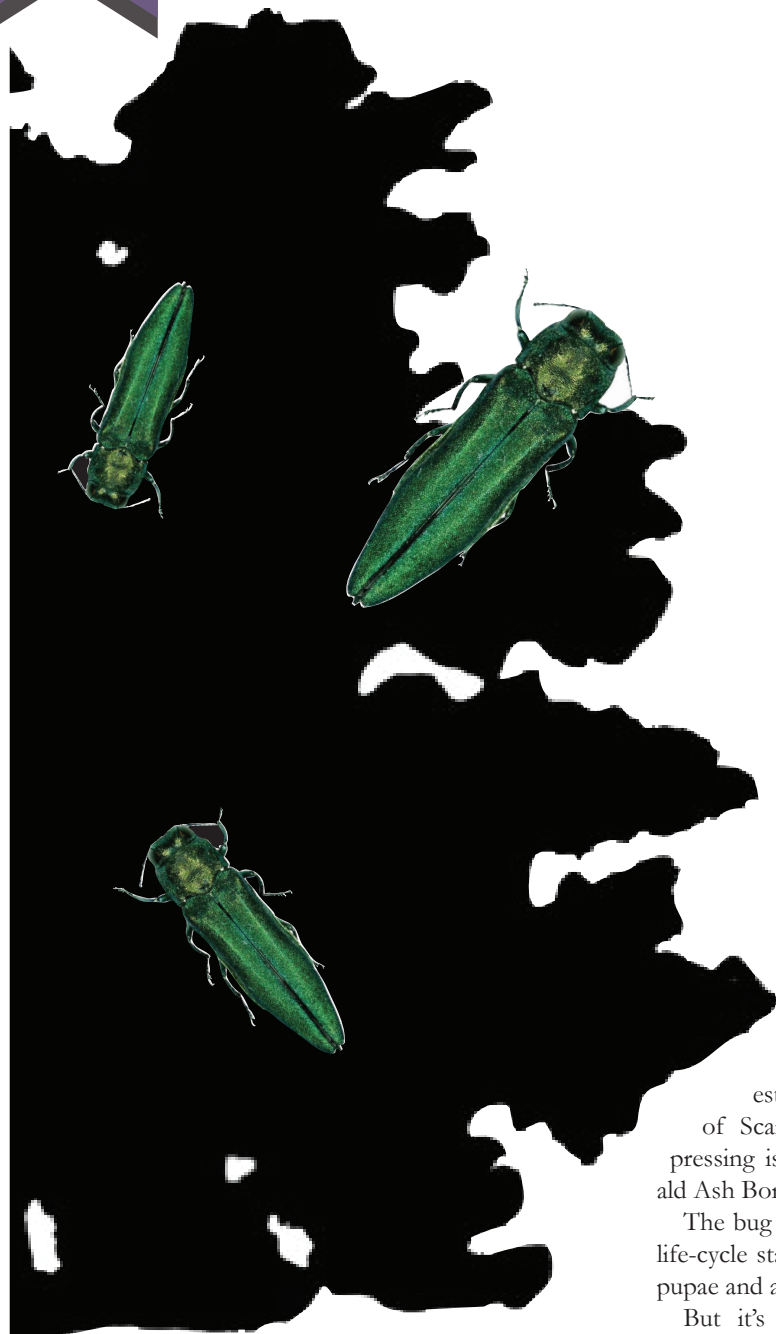


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Photos by Matthew. P. Wocks

TINY TREE TERRORS

A small, green killer is on the loose in southern Ontario. Erin Silverstein of the LEAF program recently spoke to the Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society about the devastation caused by the Emerald Ash Borer



Carleigh O'Connell
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The Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society recently received a visit from a very green guest. Fortunately for them, it was guest speaker Erin Silverstein and not an Emerald Ash Borer beetle.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a tiny metallic green beetle that kills and feeds on all species of ash trees.

Toronto's approximately 160,000 ash trees make up 8.4 per cent of urban canopy cover in the city.

"This is a huge infestation. It's all doom and gloom," Silverstein said. "There is little hope for the ash trees in Ontario. The infestation has spread all throughout Toronto."

Silverstein said the loss of ash trees is most noticeable in Scarborough and North York, and is most devastating in urban areas.

Silverstein is a University of Toronto graduate and has a degree in forestry and geography, with a deep environmental focus.

She is part of Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF), an organization dedicated to protecting and improving urban forests since 1996. LEAF has helped plant over 17,000 native trees in the GTA.

It also educates the public about environmental factors that impact the

city's urban forests, including one of Scarborough's most pressing issues, the Emerald Ash Borer.

The bug has four distinct life-cycle stages: egg, larvae, pupae and adulthood.

But it's the larvae that causes the most harm.

As they grow and develop, the larvae burrow into the tree's living tissue that allows nutrients and water to move up and down the trunk, otherwise known as its cambium layer. With thousands of larvae inside, the tree's vascular system is cut off and the flow of nutrients is interrupted, killing the tree.

"Most ash trees are expected to become infested and die by 2017," Silverstein said. "That's really not that far away. [The beetle] is a fast-moving killer."

After Dutch elm disease spread through the city in the 1970s and 1980s, decimating street elms, one of the common trees that replaced the Dutch elm was the ash.

Now, Silverstein said the ash will be destroyed as well.

"It's a bad turn of luck that this has happened," she said.

Unfortunately, early detection of the infestation is extremely difficult. By the time symptoms, like bark deformities and S-shaped larvae galleries, appear in the tree, it's more than likely too late to be saved.

"After signs and symptoms appear, it means that the tree is too far gone," Silverstein said.

However, she added, even though Southern Ontario's ash trees are ultimately doomed, there are ways to prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer into other areas of the province.

How to fight off the beetles

Most of the Emerald Ash Borer's spread can be blamed on people moving firewood from their homes in the city to other areas of the province. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has issued federal ministerial orders that prohibit the movement of firewood from specific areas of Ontario. This is to hopefully keep the beetles out of Northern Ontario.

"Let's try and save cottage country for now," Silverstein said.

A bio-insecticide called TreeAzin can be injected into the base of an ash to kill the beetle and its larvae, but it's expensive.

The city is using TreeAzin on a case-by-case basis, only injecting trees that are large and valuable to the urban canopy. Two thousand trees are slated for injections this May. The city plans to remove dead and dying trees on city property, and will replace them with other species.

Silverstein said Canadian and American scientists are working on introducing some bio-controls, like a species that would help terminate the Emerald Ash Borer. However, research is in a very early stage.

Silverstein suggested homeowners with infested ash trees should look into removal and replanting. Have a certified arborist test your soils and recommend which type of tree is best to plant in place of an ash, she said.

"When replanting, remember, the bigger the better," Silverstein said. "Bigger leaves mean more photosynthesis, which increases the canopy cover and ultimately leads to a greener, cleaner environment." ^{SO}

Emerald Ash Borer Quick Facts:



Emerald Ash Borer beetle

- * The Emerald Ash Borer is a beetle that feeds on and kills all species of ash trees.
- * It's colour is an iridescent metallic green.
- * It is about a centimetre long and less-than-half a centimetre wide.
- * It was first discovered in North America in 2002 in Detroit and Windsor.
- * It is believed to have come from Asia on wood packaging/crates.
- * It flies, but is so small it is often carried by the wind.
- * Most of its spread is by people moving firewood.
- * Ash trees infested by the EAB die within two or three years.
- * Most ash trees in southern Ontario are expected to become infested by 2017.

Source: arbordoctor.net



■ Silverstein

Carleigh O'Connell // Scarborough Observer

Museum celebrates milestone

Facility putting together exhibits and programs for its 50th anniversary

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The Scarborough Museum is turning 50 this year.

Opened in 1962, the museum will hold a big celebration for its anniversary on June 27.

However, the museum will rely heavily on volunteers and donations to fund the celebration because it has to.

Curator Madeline Callaghan says the museum works within a very restricted budget from the City of Toronto.

"We really utilize the resources from volunteers to really maximize the program," Callaghan says. "We've been able to keep any additional costs to a minimum because there's really no budget for it."

Despite very little city funding, coordinator Elaine

Savva says the museum's anniversary will be celebrated all year with various events starting June 27.

"The event is celebrating a lot of things. It's Canadian Multiculturalism Day, so we're [also] celebrating that," Savva says. "One way they're doing this is through an exhibit which the museum is putting together called Destination Scarborough."

Savva says Destination Scarborough will showcase different suitcases throughout the museum.

"Each suitcase will showcase an individual who has immigrated to Canada

and what they brought with them that was really important," she says.

The museum is also going to have an exhibit of oral history interviews that discuss the challenges im-

migrants face when they move to Canada.

"We're turning it into a very inclusive environment where we're hoping to bridge the gap between the very first settlers and the immi-

grants today," Savva says. "We want to show that history is a connected thread, a continuum."

The Scarborough Museum's 50th anniversary festivities are to kick off at 6:30 p.m. on June 27. **SO**

We've been able to keep any additional costs to a minimum because there's really no budget for it.

— Madeline Callaghan



Scarborough Museum will continue hosting its Scarborough Fare cooking program for its 50th anniversary.

Louise Andre // Scarborough Observer



The craft that goes into art is the C word at the Doris McCarthy Gallery.

Thomas Wallenius // Scarborough Observer

Art attack

The Bluffs Gallery and Doris McCarthy Gallery are rekindling residents' appreciation for Scarborough

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The Scarborough arts scene has been more than active this spring as residents are re-introduced to local beauty by two galleries.

The Bluffs Gallery, located at 1859 Kingston Rd, is the centre of all the activity. This spring, the gallery is hosting a members' exhibition to showcase local artists' work on abstract and traditional art.

The gallery is working alongside the Doris McCarthy Gallery, located at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Both galleries have played host to meet and greets for local residents to come out and meet the artists that have exhibits.

"We have held several events so far this year, both at the Doris McCarthy Gallery and here [The Bluffs Gallery]. They all had great turnouts from residents," said Susan Dimitrakopoulos, Scarborough Arts membership coordinator.

The last exhibit at the Doris McCarthy Gallery, entitled *The C Word*, had a large opening ceremony on February 10. The exhibit was a demonstration of the gallery's commitment to showcasing different forms of art, including abstract and 3D art.

"The C Word rep-

resents the craft that goes into art. Art is much more than a painting or a sculpture. The work that goes into the piece is the actual art," said exhibit curator Richard Montgiat.

The event coincides with The Bluffs Gallery's springtime exhibit, which showcased pieces ranging from hand painted post cards and paintings to jewelry and sculptures.

The exhibit runs until May 18 and visitors can purchase works by local artists.

Scarborough's art scene has been growing over the past decade with the influx of people from varying cultural backgrounds.

Both homegrown and immigrant artists have been taking full advantage of galleries, universities, and libraries around Scarborough to display their art.

The inspiration for art, however, is not hard to see. From its luscious Rouge Valley to the bluffs, many artists call Scarborough and its art galleries home.

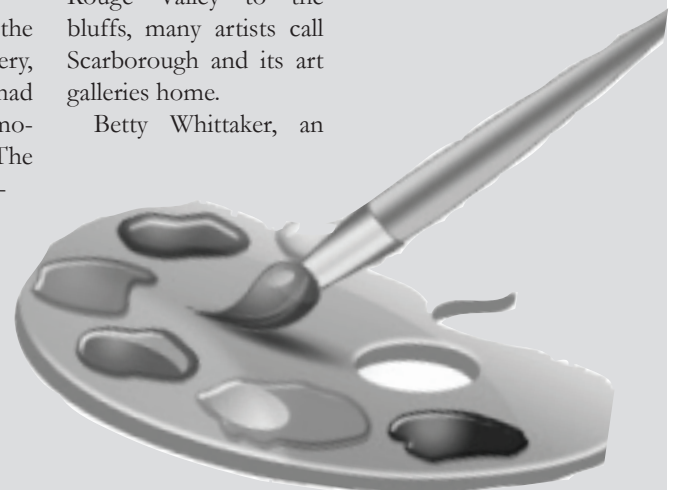
Betty Whittaker, an

artist originally from Scarborough, sees Scarborough as the inspiration of her work.

"Before I moved to Huntsville I knew I was taking a piece of Scarborough with me," Whittaker said. "I have begun painting the Muskoka landscapes more and more, but I still make sure I am able to return to my former home at least four times a year to paint."

Whittaker said that her and her fellow artists like to raise more awareness about Scarborough's art scene.

This spring and summer seasons, both the Doris McCarthy Gallery and The Bluffs gallery will be hosting numerous exhibits and events. An exhibit entitled *The Age of Consent* will be held at Doris McCarthy starting in April, while The Bluffs Gallery will be showcasing local art done by Rob Snikkar in June. **SO**



For the love of music

University of Toronto alumni strengthens community ties through their concert band

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Many graduating music students are left with no place to play after finishing school, but Christopher Ng decided to fix that.

Two years ago Ng, a University of Toronto alumnus, began the UTSC Alumni and Community Concert Band. It started with 12 members and has since grown to 32.

Ng takes care of the music direction as conductor while his counterpart, Ainsley Lawson, plays the

clarinet and deals with the administration.

"People will walk in and out of your lives. Having this alumni band, you sort of hold onto those ties," said Ng, who wants to help his fellow alumni stay in touch with friends, teachers, and classmates who they may have lost contact with.

Alumni band members play all types of instruments, including woodwinds, brass, and percussion — opportunities they would have had no access to after university.

"It's a place for people to play after high school or university where they other-

wise wouldn't have a place to continue with their music," Lawson said.



Rebecca Raveendran // Scarborough Observer

University of Toronto Scarborough Campus.

Lynn Tucker, UTSC's Arts and Events programming director and a visual and performing arts professor, said the alumni and community band allows graduates to be involved with their community.

"I think it's important for them to ... have a way to give back to the community.

In this case, we are advocating for music and engagement in the arts," Tucker said.

To attract more alumni and community members to join, the UTSC Music Ambassadors Program held a reception following the Spring Awakening music concert.

Patrick Dan Lacuna, president of the association,

believes the philosophy that "Music is a lifelong journey."

He wants spread the word about the UTSC Alumni and Community Concert Band's existence.

"The main purpose [of the reception] is to let people know that the alumni band has already started, and we are looking to make it bigger and we are looking for more members," Lacuna said.

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Scarborough composer hits high notes in Hollywood

Colin Aguiar's travels and upbringing give his musical scores a distinct, unforgettable sound

Sarah Taguam
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Born in India, raised in Scarborough, spent summers in Europe, and now living in L.A., composer Colin Aguiar has seen the world — and it resonates in his music.

Colin Aguiar has scored two Academy Award nominated films and recently composed the soundtrack for *Rosie Takes the Train*, an official Canadian Film Festival selection.

He also wrote the music for critically acclaimed television series *Traders* and *Harrison Bergeron*.

Filmmaker Jigar Talati, who worked alongside Colin Aguiar in the Oscar

nominated *Fly*, says Aguiar's music is a "remix of sounds from different cultures."

"Colin's music is always working on more than one layer and contains a rich sense of history," Talati says. "You'll hear an Irish flute in a score with tablas (Indian drums). You don't do that kind of thing unless it's part of your experience."

Colin Aguiar says that while he was trained in classical, he lived and travelled in exotic countries where ethnic music lived up the streets.

"All the years of travelling exposed me

to different places and different sounds — it was like acquiring a degree in ethnomusicology," says Colin Aguiar, chuckling.

Exposed to music at an early age, he recalls spending his childhood watching his father, who sang with big bands across the world.

"I really loved watching my dad and I thought it would be amazing if I can write songs that he was singing," he says. "I decided that I wanted to be a composer ... and I have always been attracted to this job since I was three."

Father Cleto Aguiar says

that he knew his son would make a name as a gifted musician ever since Colin Aguiar picked up his first drumsticks at two years old.

"Colin always had great passion in music," Cleto Aguiar says. "As a young kid, he would listen to great music writers like Ravi Shankar ... and we'd run and get him musical tapes from big composers."

Talati, who has grown to become Colin Aguiar's close friend, says he's "never met anyone who understood music the way Colin did."

"A lot of composers tend to go for what's the trend musically, but Colin really tries to see it in a filmmaker's perspective," Talati says.

While they were working

on a commercial, Talati was surprised when Colin Aguiar presented a self-made chart tabling the commercial's peaks and values and pinpointing where the music can take a break or come up.

"No one really does that, it's something a director would do — and that's what really sets him apart," Talati says.

Another testimony to Colin Aguiar's talent as a composer was his work in the 2004 sci-fi flick *Systems of Units*.

He was faced with the challenge of writing the score for a film centred around a society where verbal communication is forbidden.

"I planned to have a score with a choir but the question was what text I

was going to use instead of the usual Latin text," he says.

In a stroke of genius, Colin Aguiar called University of Toronto's computer information department and asked for codes of old computer viruses. He then used the code as text for the choir.

Colin Aguiar says that his experiences dating back to childhood did not only open him up to the world of cultural music, but also to different ways that he can innovate tradition as well.

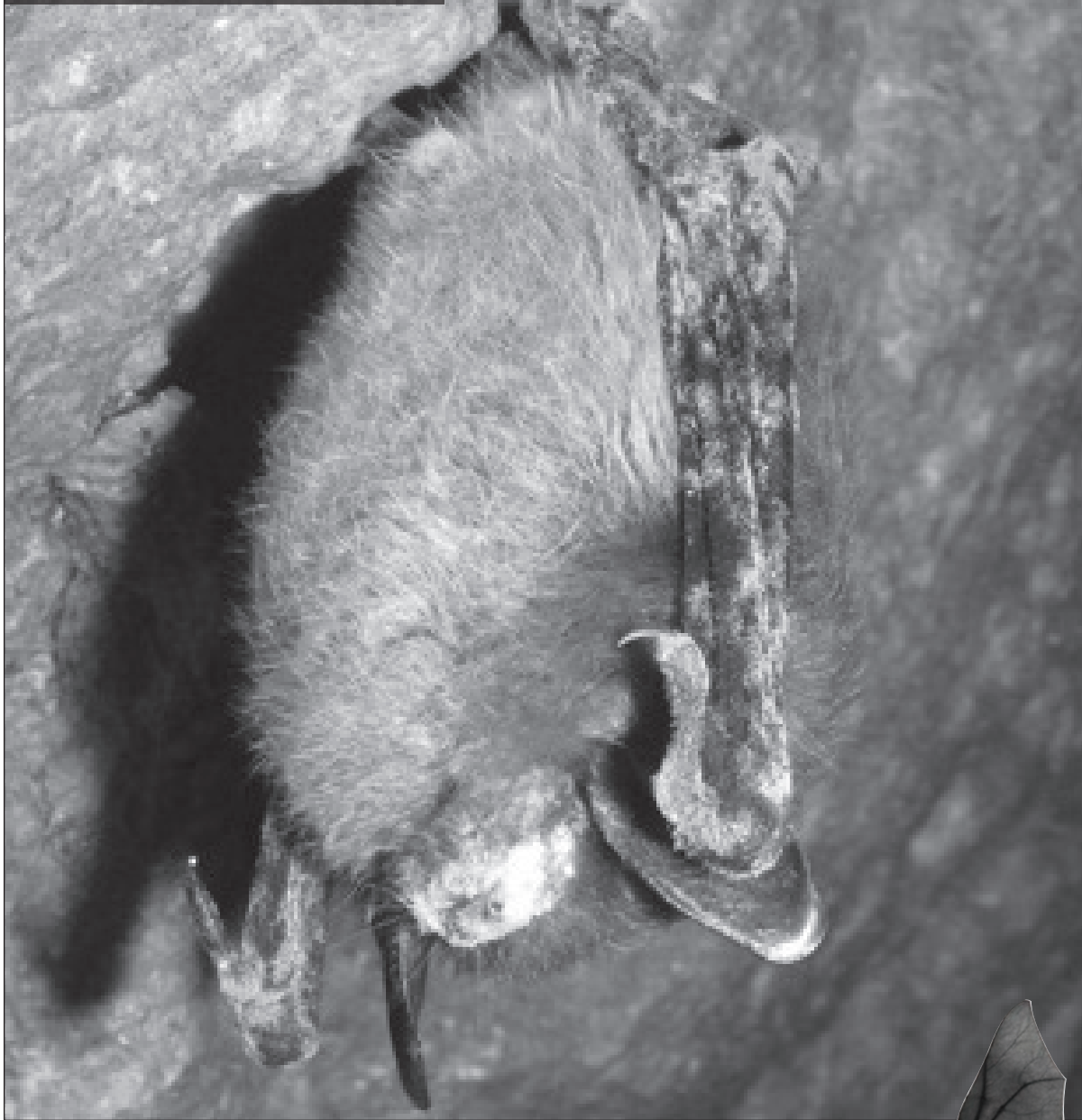
Talati says that as a composer, this is Colin Aguiar's greatest asset.

"To have a composer that could help you tell story that works across borders.. is a huge advantage," he says.



■ Colin Aguiar

A little brown bat shows signs of white-nose syndrome at Greeley Mine in Vermont.



Disease taking a bite out of bat species

Courtesy of Martin Moriarty // U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A foreign fungus causes die-off, threatening bats

Carleigh O'Connell
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More than five million bats have been killed in Eastern Canada and the United States in recent years due to a disease called white-nose syndrome.

The culprit: a European fungus that more than likely arrived in North America on the boots of an unsuspecting traveller.

Fortunately for Scarborough, no bats within the Rouge Valley park system have been identified with the disease.

"But, having said that, there is no one from the Rouge Park staff that has conducted a formal survey or any in-depth monitoring," said David Lawrie, program director at the Rouge Valley Foundation.

The disease was first found in a cave in Schoharie County, N.Y., in 2006.

Its spread is rapid and as of 2010, the fungus has been identified in over 115 caves in North America. It has been detected in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Bats with white-nose syndrome develop patches of white fungus on their muzzles and other exposed skin tissues while they hibernate in the winter.

This fungus makes a bat's body temperature increase with fever.

The high temperature causes a bat to wake up early, burning its stored fat too quickly.

The bat is then left weakened and usually dies before the winter

ends.

"Bats are an important part of our local ecosystems and the fact that millions are dying is a great concern," Lawrie said.

Rouge Park's staff is planning to do some preliminary bat surveys and monitoring when their annual grant money arrives. They plan to conduct what they call a bio blitz in the Rouge Valley in the middle of June, when they will identify as many types of plant and animal species as possible, including bats.

Lawrie believes the blitz will help them learn about the health and population status of local bats.

"Once we have some broad-scale data on the bat

population and distribution within the Valley system, we will focus more specifically on strategies that will help protect them," Lawrie said.

On June 2 and 3, the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre will also be holding its annual Rouge Valley Eco Exploration event where flora and fauna experts will talk about the ecology and life histories of various species.

For the past two years, there has been a bat expert present at the event.

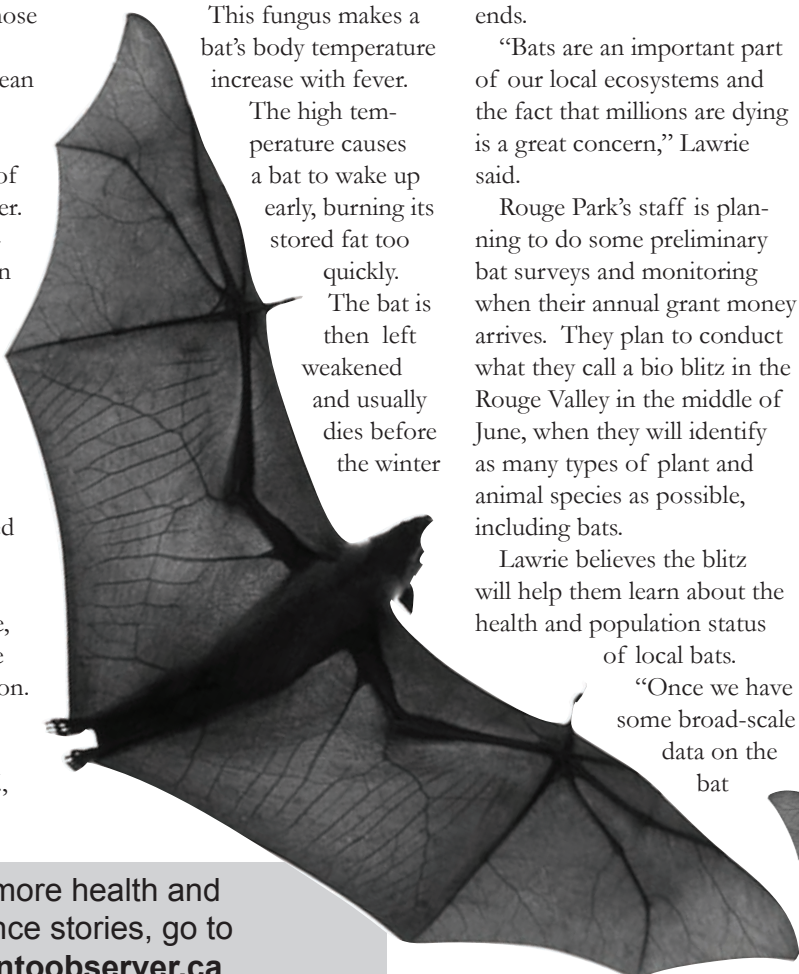
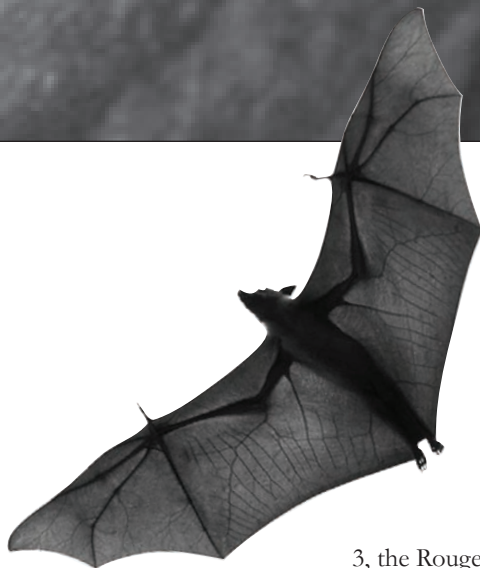
"[Jacqueline Miller] is very knowledgeable and will talk in detail about the white-nose syndrome," Lawrie said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has requested that anyone entering and exiting a cave decontaminate their clothing and equipment to prevent the fungus from spreading further.

A bat with white-nose syndrome has only a five per cent chance of survival.

"We want to conserve our bat population for the ecosystem and future generations.

There is still hope yet," Lawrie said.



DID YOU KNOW?

- There are eight different species of bats in Ontario. Little brown bats and big brown bats are the most common ones.
- One bat can eat three times its weight in insects.
- The syndrome got the name "white-nose" because some bats have visible rings of white fungus around their faces.
- The fungus grows on bats while they hibernate in caves and abandoned mines. It seems to irritate the bats and cause them to wake up, which then forces them to use their winter fat stores quicker.
- White-nose syndrome has killed more than a million bats in the northeastern U.S.
- There does not appear to be any human health risks associated with white-nose syndrome.
- As of yet, there is no cure or treatment for the disease.

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources



For more health and science stories, go to torontoobserver.ca

ROUGE VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM

Rouge Valley Health System's new program prioritizes surgical wait times.

Arielle Quigley // Scarborough Observer

Hospital receives grant

Arielle Quigley

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A new program designed by a team from the Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) will ensure priority patients receive their surgeries first.

"This new program is about equity and fairness to make sure that you get your surgery when you need it," said Renate Ilse, RVHS's program director of surgery, endoscopy, and central processing.

Ilse was part of the team that came up with this idea. She said the current process of manually booking surgeries through a doctor's assistant is very difficult.

Many factors need to be considered when

booking a surgery and sometimes the decision might be too difficult for secretaries, according to Ilse.

She said some were unintentionally booking lower priority patients before higher priority patients.

The Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) donated the \$10,000 grant to create RVHS's new computer program. The grant was awarded during the CCO's annual Chief Information Officer Day on Feb. 10.

Rick Skinner, vice president and chief information officer at CCO, said this program will help hospitals use their surgical resources more ef-

ficiently.

"It's using [available] technology and information to optimize our health care system, both from the perspective of the patient and the health care system [itself]," Skinner said.

The program is not yet in place, but Ilse said they are hoping to begin using it within six months.

They will have to present their progress at next year's Chief

Information Officer Day.

RVHS will be the first hospital system to use the program.

"One of the unique things about Canada, particularly Ontario, is that all of our hospitals have the same problem.

So, we've already been told by CCO and several other hospitals that if it works, they want it," Ilse said.

Rouge Valley operates the Rouge Valley Centenary in Scarborough and Rouge Valley in Durham. 50

This new program is about equity and fairness to make sure that you get your surgery when you need it.

- Renate Ilse

Five Factors to Determine Surgery Date:

- Doctor's availability
- Operating room schedule
- Patient availability
- Other patients on the list
- Rules already implemented by the government

Training needed for sickle cell diagnosis and treatment

Hospitals are having trouble distinguishing anemia from drug addiction, causing longer wait times

Shantal Otchere

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Hospital emergency staff need more training in sickle cell crisis screening, say medical professionals.

Physicians at the Scarborough Hospital acknowledged that this process is currently flawed, which is detrimental for sufferers.

The Scarborough Hospital implemented a new sickle cell crisis protocol in its emergency department last month in what physicians are calling a move to "serve a diverse population."

According to Doreen Alexander, president of the Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario, this effort does not resolve the fundamental lack of understanding going into sickle cell care.

Sickle cell disease is a blood disorder which causes abnormally-shaped red blood cells. This condition often causes extreme bouts of pain referred to as "crisis."

Alexander said a major concern for sickle cell patients is not being able to receive the large amount of medication required to deal with pain during crisis.

She said physicians sometimes misunderstand a sufferer's need for the copious amount of narcotics to be similar to the wants of those suffering from drug addiction.

"[Patients with sickle cell] do suffer a lot, because one of the things they encounter in the emergency department is being told that they're drug addicts looking for a fix instead of being looked at as an individual who really needs to be treated," Alexander said.

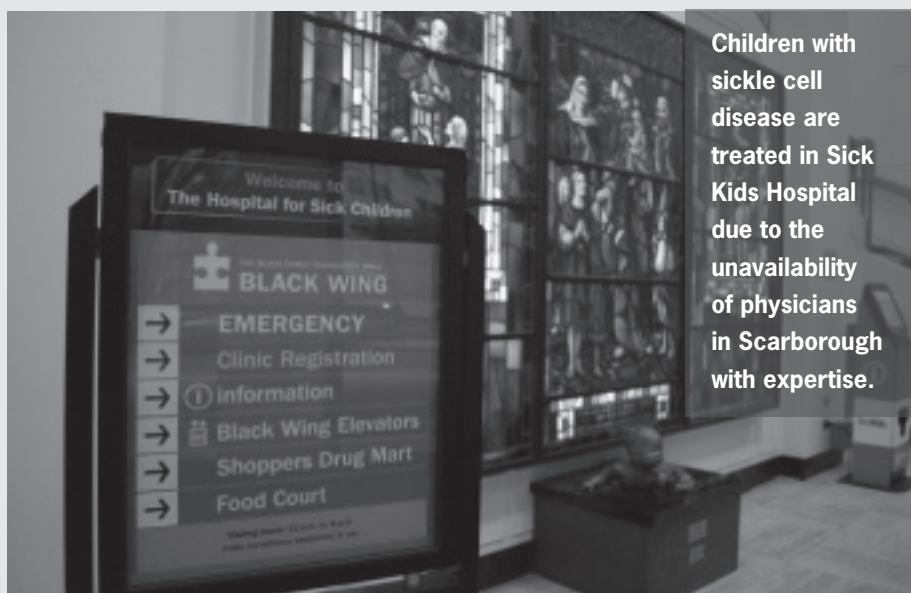
"There is this disconnect," Scarborough physician Dr. Eric Hurowitz said. "These individuals

are in pain and require an industrial amount of narcotics that physicians and nurses were really uncomfortable with. Unfortunately, there is a really distinct group of people who require this care."

This is a major point



■ Doreen Alexander



Children with sickle cell disease are treated in Sick Kids Hospital due to the unavailability of physicians in Scarborough with expertise.

Shantal Otchere // Scarborough Observer

of contention for sufferers and their families as, Alexander has found, those in crisis who seek emergency attention may be deemed less of a priority and subject to longer wait times or turned away altogether.

Dr. Peter Azzopardi says that the belief that

all sickle cell sufferers belong to a distinct group no longer holds true today.

In his experiences with the disease, he has found that sickle cell is not just a concern for groups of African or Mediterranean ancestry.

"As our cultures

become more diverse, this isn't just a problem that you only see in the black population anymore. We're also seeing children of basically any background showing up with cases of the sickle cell disease that we wouldn't normally look for," Azzopardi said. 50

Hungry for more

Breakfast programs in Scarborough high schools suffering from a lack of funding

Morgaine Craven
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Lack of funding is preventing the growth of breakfast and food programs in Scarborough schools.

The Toronto Partners of Student Nutrition (TPSN) — a group consisting of both Toronto school boards, the Public Health Department, Food Share, The Toronto Foundation for Learning, and its Catholic school board counterpart, the Angel Foundation for Learning — placed a moratorium on the division of municipal and provincial funding that provides subsidy for existing breakfast and food programs in schools.

TPSN is refusing new food program applicants from schools in the Scarborough and Toronto area for an indefinite period.

“We realized if we slice the pie thinner, and add more and more programs, each school would be down to a nickel a day and we just couldn’t do that,” said Catherine Parsonage, executive director and

CEO of the Toronto Foundation for Learning.

“Unfortunately, the [TPSN] decided that to keep programs going at all, it was going to have to place a moratorium, and that was a heartbreaking thing to have to do — to say the funding’s not growing, we can’t start anymore.”

Parsonage said programs that used to get at much as 40 cents a meal from provincial and municipal funding now get a little less than 20 cents a meal, with about 10.5 cents coming from the provincial government and nine cents from the city.

The rest of the programs’ funding has to come from groups like the Toronto Foundation For Learning and Breakfast for Learning, fundraising within schools, and parent donations.

With unexpectedly high levels of students joining the programs and a lack of increased funding at both governmental levels, the school boards are struggling to maintain the food programs that already exist.

“It’s not enough,” Parsonage said. “[Food costs] have gone up 14 per cent in the last two years.”

To be eligible for government funding, schools must follow regulations on what is served. One whole grain, such as a whole grain pita or bagel, one fruit, and one dairy (either milk, cheese or yogurt) must be given to each student.

Of the eight Catholic secondary schools in Scarborough, only five have breakfast programs: Blessed Mother Teresa, Francis Libermann, Neil McNeil, Jean Vanier, and Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II is still waiting on funding from the government, but having obtained smaller funds through the Angel Foundation for Learning and a program called Breakfast for Learning, they run a program on a much smaller scale.

Two Catholic schools, Mary

Ward and Cardinal Newman, are waitlisted for funding.

Joanne Benvenuti, Angel Foundation’s student nutritional officer, said that between the two schools, roughly 400 students are affected. “Over 70 per cent of students arrive at school having not eaten,” Benvenuti said.

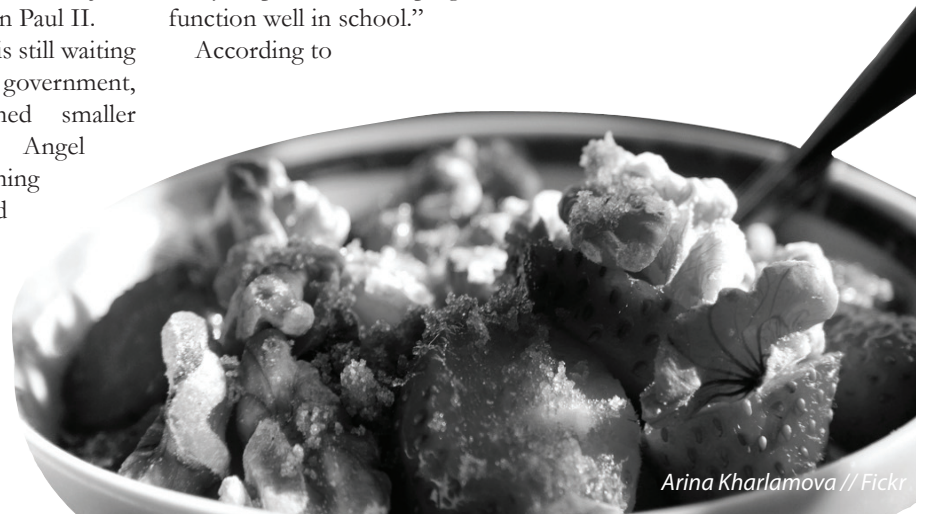
“Being able to focus in class and to produce well is directly related to how you’re feeling and what you’ve had to eat, so providing a really nutritious meal at the beginning of the day is really important to helping them function well in school.”

According to

Parsonage, what’s needed is federal funding for breakfast programs.

On May 11, the TDSB is releasing a study detailing the effects of nutrition programs on students, namely increased attendance and credit accumulation, and falling suspension and absentee rates. Parsonage hopes that this will draw the federal government’s attention.

“[Canada] is the only westernized country in the world that doesn’t have a national nutrition program,” she said. ⁵⁰



Arina Kharlamova // Flickr

Dining healthy in Scarborough is hard, but possible

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With so many health-focused restaurants in Toronto’s downtown core, Scarborough residents may have trouble knowing where to find healthy restaurants closer to home.

Restaurants like Fresh, which has three locations in Toronto, are vowing to serve the public more healthy meals made from natural ingredients without animal by-products. Fresh is primarily a vegan restaurant that prides itself on being a healthier choice for those eating out, but has yet to open a location in the Scarborough area.

Judi Wilkie, a registered dietitian with Toronto Public Health, says there are ways to eat healthy without going to a restaurant that explicitly advertises itself as such.

“I would certainly be looking for restaurants where there is more choice,” she says. “For instance, I could ask for a dressing on the side or a



The Scarborough Town Centre food court now offers healthy options, like Cultures.

Becky Robertson // Scarborough Observer

lower-fat dressing, and I could ask for foods prepared in a certain way so they are lower in fat, calories, and sodium.”

Wilkie says it depends on what you choose to order, not necessarily on where you order it.

“I would look for those [restaurants] that could actually provide

their nutritional information so that I could make a choice ... and would have more information to choose from,” she says.

Restaurants specializing in organic and vegan options may have more nutritious food, but they can be hard to find. It is important to stick to basic nutrition concepts

like the food groups when ordering your meal.

Vince Chan, who co-owns the Natural Food Depot on Lawrence Avenue in Scarborough, says he is often asked where there are healthy restaurants in the area.

“Whoever has an expensive menu is often healthy nowadays,” he says. “All the

high-end restaurants can be that way, with [options like] gluten-free and extra virgin olive oil. I mean, the idea of eating healthy is not really a fad anymore.”

Because his competitors include big chains like Wal-Mart and Metro, which now offer organic and whole foods, Chan says many companies in

the food service industry have caught on to the consumer’s desire for healthier options.

Most chain restaurants like Jack Astor’s and Casey’s offer changeable menu options like grilled chicken instead of breaded, whole wheat pasta instead of white, and salad dressing on the side.

Subway and Pita Pit serve meals that cover all food groups, include fresh vegetables, and have their nutritional information available in-restaurant or online.

All of these restaurants have Scarborough locations.

The Scarborough Town Centre has also upgraded its food court to include healthier fast food alternatives like Cultures restaurant, which specializes in salad, soup, sandwiches, and smoothies.

So, although Scarborough may not have any specialty health food restaurants, it is certainly possible for residents to access healthy options while dining out. ⁵⁰



Fees to use fields like Birchmount Stadium will be waived this season, but some are calling for field classification guidelines to be revised before the city begins looking into revenue models for next year.

Council hits fee out of the park

Akihiko Tse // Scarborough Observer

City waives costs for sports fields after complaints from cash-strapped leagues

Akihiko Tse
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City council has unanimously approved waiving \$1.5 million in sports field fees and consulting with sports groups in setting fees for 2013.

An official from a Scarborough sports group said the fees are undeserved, especially if paid toward low-quality fields.

Toronto is the only municipality in the GTA that doesn't charge for its sports fields for youth leagues.

Steve Donaldson, vice-president of the Scarborough Soccer Association, said other regions have exceptional fields that warrant the fees.

"There has to be an understanding on behalf of the city that you can't just arbitrarily call something wonderful and charge for it even when it's garbage," he said.

Had the fees gone through, the city would have charged teams depending on the quality of fields they used.

"We're not letting them use a flawed model to bill us," Donaldson said, adding the city's current method of grading the quality of fields was flawed.

Donaldson said he would be providing the city with a re-ranking of some of the city's field facilities in the consultation process.

He used Thomson Park, located near Brimley Road

and Lawrence Avenue East, as an example. According to him, the park was a premier field, but is now used as an artillery range, causing the quality of its playing surface to become horrendous.

Councillor Norm Kelly (Ward 40), chair of the parks and environment committee, refuted claims that the ranking of sports fields was arbitrary.

He said the city's staff is competent enough to judge the standards of city property.

"If there's anyone that possesses particular knowledge, it's the city compared to any other singular source out there," Kelly said. "The city is willing to talk, and that's a good thing. But in the end, if push comes to shove, it wouldn't be unreasonable for the city to prevail. It's their property."

Despite the disagreement on the fields' quality, sports groups were rejoicing in

their victory when a subsequent 41-0 vote to cancel the fees was passed without debate April 10.

"At this point, it's pointless to point fingers," said Scarborough Baseball Association (SBA) president Kevin Sheehy, who was pleased to see the city change its stance.

With the proposed fees, Sheehy said it would have cost SBA \$60,000 for all its groups, and \$100,000 for all youth baseball programs in Scarborough.

Donaldson added it would have led to more than \$20,000 for field costs, \$1,500 for individual rep teams, and \$100 per player to play.

The city has agreed to transfer salary savings from the Parks and Recreation op-

erating budget in order to offset the \$1.5 million in fees.

The new fee caused an outcry from sports groups who already set their membership rates for the coming year.

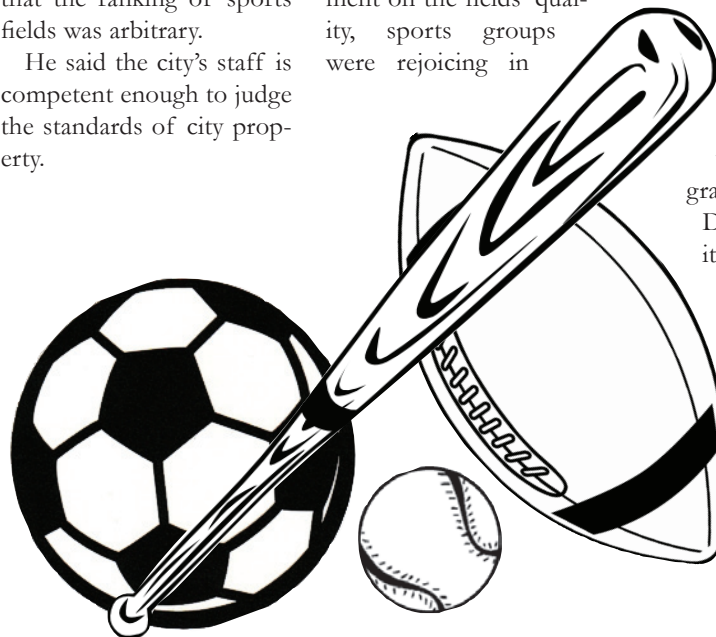
Kelly said although councillors are partly to blame for not reaching out to sports groups, organizers should have also been more attentive to public information that affected them.

"I suspect that even if they were informed up front, they would still have been unhappy," Kelly said.

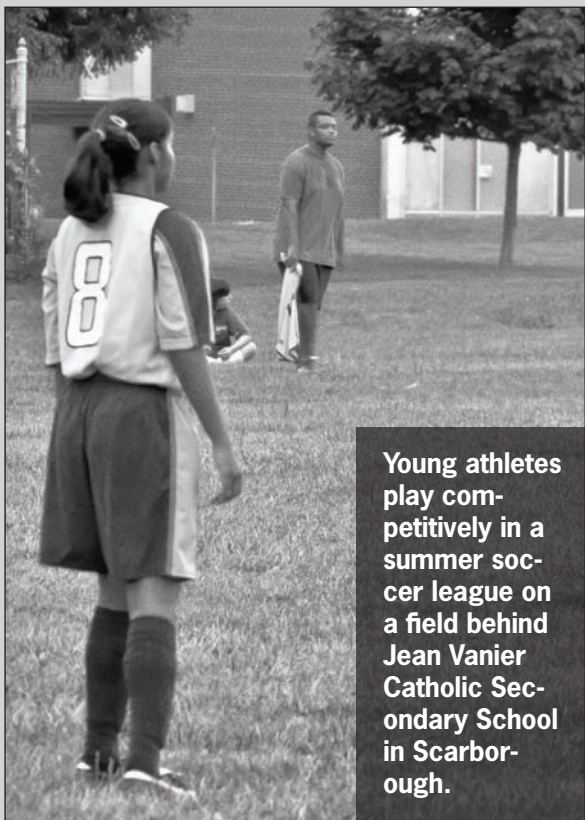
"But in the end, the decision was made that because there was the perception of an incorrect or awkward procedure, we should roll back the fees."

Sheehy is looking on the brighter side.

"We're hoping that if they feel that fees are necessary, they come up with something more workable financially," he said. 50



Opinion



Young athletes play competitively in a summer soccer league on a field behind Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School in Scarborough.

Sarah Taguam // Scarborough Observer

Field fees flawed

Mayor Rob Ford is a volunteer football coach, but hours on the gridiron failed to teach him one essential lesson: don't take the field away from the players by proposing fees.

The GTA prides itself as a city that meets the needs of all its residents. Even though the fees were deferred until next year, this latest addition to the municipal budget threatens to turn parts of Toronto into places where only the well-to-do can enjoy most recreational activities.

More than a quarter of Scarborough's population is made up of low-income families and another quarter consists of newcomers struggling to find their footing.

To save money on daycare, some families turn to volunteer groups who offer free activities. Some, in an effort to make sure their kids are off the streets, send their kids to free sports programs. This is possible because of free public sports fields.



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The new user fees for these fields, which comes to \$120 per child, will significantly change that.

Most volunteer sports organizations won't be able to afford the increase, signifying the end of free lessons for many. Even some families who send their kids to private leagues that use the fields would be forced to pull their kids out from participating in the sports programs because of the increased cost.

I imagine almost all the kids who use the city's sports fields find it enjoyable playing, learning, and growing up on them.

To take that away from them, especially without proper consultation, is abhorrent.

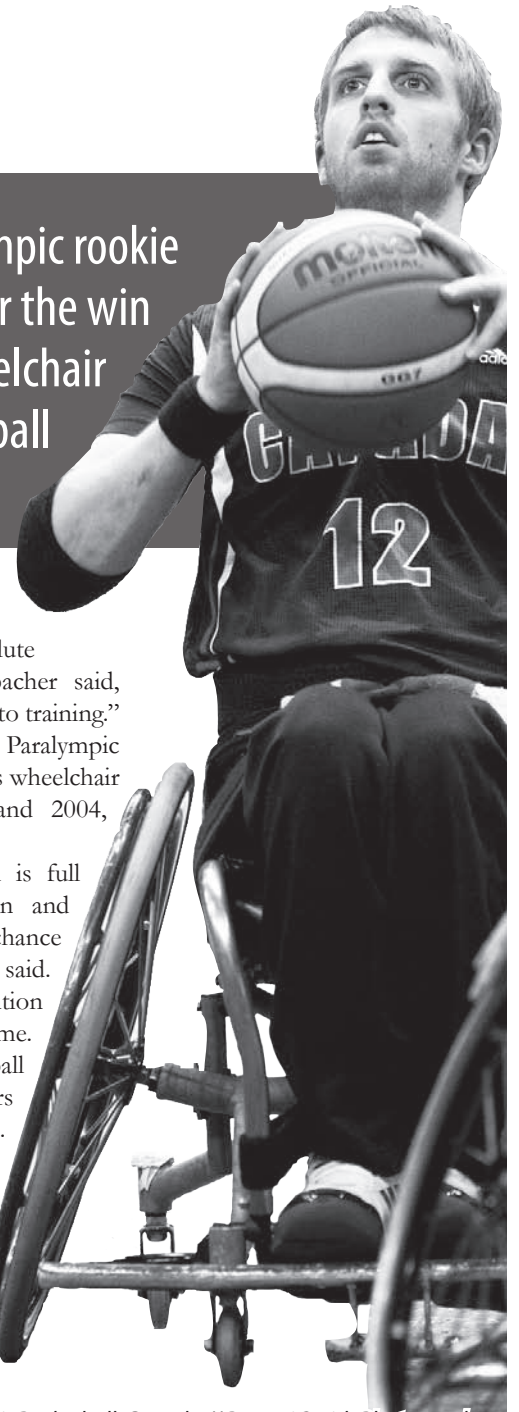
The projected \$1.5 million revenue from the user fees will go to the city's general revenue.

Now, with sports organizations and families unwilling to pay the new fees, I don't see how Ford's government will get that additional \$1.5 million to balance its books.

Without another look at this fee, I envision the grim future of GTA's sports fields: empty and lying wasted. 50

Going for GOLD

Paralympic rookie goes for the win in wheelchair basketball



Dileen Simms
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It can be hard to believe the positive sentiments behind words when it's your hurt child that's saying them, Carol Diefenbacher says.

In 2000, her son Brandon Wagner was involved in a car accident. He was the only one who survived but the crash left him paralyzed.

"Brandon said after his accident, 'You know mom, you've always taught us that everything in life happens for a reason,'" Diefenbacher recalled. "I felt like I had just been punched in the stomach."

Twelve years later, those words ring true. Wagner, now 28 years old, is set to represent Canada

for the first time in wheelchair basketball on the Paralympic stage this summer in London.

"Nothing else really matters right now," said Wagner, who wears 13 on the national team. "I quit my job ... to train for London. All the hard work is really starting now."

A fact that his personal coach, Stephen Bialowas, can endorse.

The hours of practice and preparation are grueling. He needs to be motivated and determined to persevere to stay at the top of his game, he said.

Over the next four months, Wagner, who trains at Variety Village Sports Training and Fitness Centre in Scarborough, said he will double his efforts to be in

competitive shape. He's in the gym five to six times a week, on and off the court.

He added that he was paying particular attention to speed, quickness, and agility.

"Brandon possesses that drive and determination to hit the gym every day," Bialowas said. "By all accounts he has pushed his game to higher levels."

Wagner missed out on a national team spot four years ago.

"In 2008, I came up short," he said. "So it was exciting, really emotional to make the [2012] team."

After the crash that left him paralyzed, Wagner focused his energies on basketball with the encouragement of a coach in his hometown of Burlington, Ont. His commitment to the sport allowed him to play and study at the University of Illinois, where he was named student athlete of the

year in 2009.

"He's an absolute driven soul," Diefenbacher said, "incredibly committed to training." Canada is the reigning Paralympic silver medallist in men's wheelchair basketball. In 2000 and 2004, Canada won gold.

This year, the field is full of strong competition and Canada has "as good a chance as any to win," Wagner said. But, he added, his intention is to help bring gold home.

"Wheelchair basketball opened a lot of doors for me," Wagner said. "If I was able-bodied, I would never have gotten this far." 50



■ Brandon Wagner

Courtesy of Wheelchair Basketball Canada // Bogetti Smith Photography

Swimmer dives for success

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Paige Schultz had been anticipating this moment for the last four years.

"It's crazy how fast it's come," the 20-year-



Courtesy of Canadian Heritage // Flickr

old East York swimmer said in a March 9 interview before this year's Olympic trials in Montreal. "Two thousand and eight feels like yesterday."

In the trials that started March 27, Schultz competed in the 200-metre freestyle and the 200-metre individual medley — events that have seen her emerge through the ranks on the Canadian swimming circuit.

However, the second-year health studies student from the University of Toronto Scarborough fell short of making the team selected to compete in London. She came first in the women's

200-metre freestyle B final with a time of 2:02.14, but placed ninth in the 200-metre individual medley B final with 2:20.32.

"It's not what I wanted, but I will have to take it," Schultz said after the trials.

Her coach Byron MacDonald had an equally frank assessment.

"Paige swam near her best time in the event we focused on, but we both knew it would take a best time by a bunch to move up the ladder to make the team," he said.

Schultz first began making waves at the Junior Pan Pacific Games in 2009, when she placed third in the 200-metre individual medley with a time of 2:15.57, breaking fellow Canadian Nancy

Sweetman's previous record of 2:15.61 set in 1990.

She followed up her previous performance by winning bronze at the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara with the Canadian women's team in the 4x100-metre freestyle relay with a time of 3:48.37, behind record-setting United States (3:40.66) and Brazil (3:44.62).

"I think I'm as prepared as I can be," Schultz said prior to the trials. "I'm going in under the radar. I'm not a big player but I have the possibility [to contend]."

Despite Schultz's best efforts, Erica Morningstar of Calgary, who qualified in second with a time of 2:12.99, and Julia

Wilkinson of Stratford, Ontario, who won the trial in 2:12.78, will represent Canada in the 200-metre individual medley.

Samantha Cheverton of Pointe-Claire, Quebec (1:57.98), and Barbara Jardin of Montreal (1:57.34) will contest the 200-metre freestyle event, with Brittany MacLean of Etobicoke and Amanda Reason of Windsor rounding out the 4x200-metre freestyle relay team.

Canada will be sending its largest swimming team ever to the Olympics with 31 athletes qualifying at this year's trials.

Schultz, however, is optimistic for the future even before the trials began.

"I'm only 20 and the average age to make an

Olympic team is usually 26," she said. "So I still have one, maybe even two quadrennials left in me."

MacDonald said Schultz's goal now is to get back to training and work her way back into the national team.

With the Pan Am Games coming to Toronto in 2015, the attention on Schultz has not been lost at the Scarborough campus, which is adjacent to where the competition's aquatic centre is to be located.

"I think it's fantastic for the university," said Scott McRoberts, director of athletics and recreation. "It's even more important to show that you can be both successful academically and as an athlete." 50

Scarborough's sport of choice

Soccer proves most affordable, most recognized sport to Scarborough residents

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Kids need to be active during the summer break and the best way for them to do that is by playing sports.

One of the best in Scarborough is soccer. But why soccer?

"It's the most affordable sport because children don't need a lot of equipment to play it," says Scarborough resident Waylin Chang, whose two sons, ages 8 and 10, participated in a soccer league last summer. "A lot of the other

sports require you to buy expensive equipment, which isn't worth it since kids outgrow the equipment so fast."

Soccer is also very easy for beginners to pick up rather than the more advanced summer sports, such as baseball, which has more complicated rules that kids might have trouble comprehending.

This especially applies to Scarborough, where many immigrants are more familiar with the beautiful game as they've likely experienced playing it in their home

countries.

Ammar Raza, 16, says the multicultural feel of soccer is one of the main reasons it's his favourite sport.

"Soccer is one of those sports that everyone plays and that's really fun," says Raza, who plays on Stephen Leacock Collegiate's senior soccer team. "You get on the field and there are brown guys, black guys, white guys and Asians all playing in the same game. No other sport has that."

Soccer is also a physically demanding sport

that provides the player with good exercise, more developed leg muscles and improved stamina.

Neil Dutta, a physical trainer based in Scarborough, says soccer is a good sport to play for kids who want to stay fit.

"Playing soccer is an excellent way for kids to stay healthy. Kids around 6 to 12 are really at risk of getting out of shape because they don't exercise since they don't see it as fun," Dutta says. "Soccer is a good way for them to have fun and exercise to stay healthy at the same time."

Soccer is also very accessible to parents and kids.

Organizations such as the Scarborough Soccer Association (SSA) and the Just 4 Kicks Soccer Club allow kids to play soccer both recreationally and competitively.

When asked what he thought was the most popular sport in Scarborough, Raza's answer was simple.

"Oh, it's soccer for sure," he says. "Go anywhere in Scarborough and you'll see soccer games happening in the area." **SO**

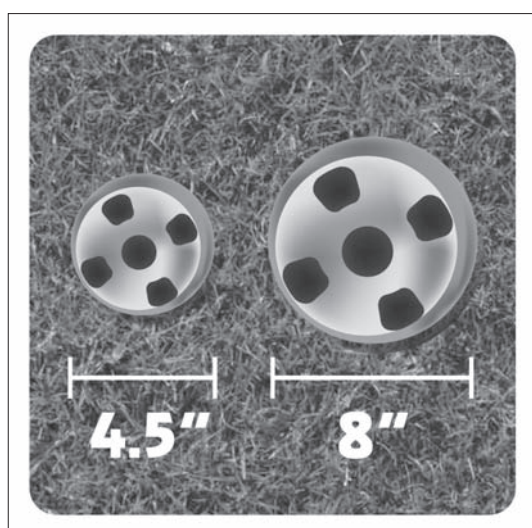


Scarborough soccer leagues are set to start playing games in May.

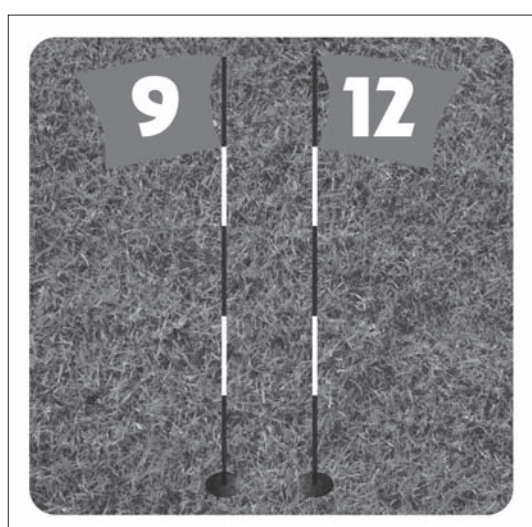
Micah Taylor // Flickr

Finishing under par

Three ways to make golf accessible for Scarborough residents



Current golf holes are 4.5 inches, which leaves very little room for error. Doubling the diameter of golf holes will allow beginners to have an easier time sinking putts.



Tournament length golf courses have 18 holes. A usual round of golf can last four hours. Cutting down the number of holes in a course to nine or 12 can significantly save time for players.



Buying used clubs and other golf equipment, and cheaper golf clothes can save you hundreds of dollars. Smaller courses may mean savings in club memberships and daily play fees.

Illustration by Irene Gurbein

'Golf 2.0' coming to a course near you

Money biggest deterrent for non-golfers

Ali Dar
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Golf can be a relaxing way to spend several hours outdoors. Many golfers will tell you it's one of the best things about the sport aside from the friendly competition.

But ask a person who doesn't play golf why they don't pick up the sport and they'll tell you it takes too long to play, is frustrating or costs too much money.

With that in mind, Glenn Goodwin and Denis Matte, two of Toronto's biggest golf authorities, believe the sport needs tweaking to appeal to a more diverse population, especially one like Scarborough's.

Goodwin, the Greater Toronto Area Golf Association's president, says the game is too difficult, while Matte, Scarboro Golf and Country Club's manager, says playing 18 holes takes too much time.

Both agree money is probably the biggest deterrent for people thinking about getting into golf.

With the sport's three problems identified, Goodwin and Matte have come up with possible solutions.

"There are a lot of nine- and 12-hole golf courses popping up, and that's probably what the future holds for golf," Matte says. "A population like Scarborough, which has a high concentration of households with large families, have less time to play golf."

Goodwin, on the other

hand, wants to change the golf hole's size.

"Having a bigger hole makes the game easier. And having an easier time means less frustration, more fun," he said.

Jack Nicklaus, one of golf's legends, proposed the same idea during his keynote address at the 2012 PGA Merchandise Show. He calls the new format "golf 2.0."

The current golf hole is 4.5 inches in diameter. Nicklaus has experimented with eight-inch holes.

Bigger holes and smaller courses mean faster play, which Matte and Goodwin believe may lower costs for a round.

"Small golf courses mean less maintenance and that would mean clubs charging less money for a round or a membership," Matte says.

"Scarborough has many new immigrants and understandably money is tight, but it shouldn't be a reason to keep them away from the game," Goodwin says.

Public courses don't require a membership and have relatively cheap daily rates.

"Public courses are great to start at and are very cheap," Goodwin says. "Private courses like Scarboro Golf and Country are something one should probably strive towards."

Time, difficulty, and expense weigh on the golf world, but the two men hope that tweaking a game they love can help with the games growth. **SO**

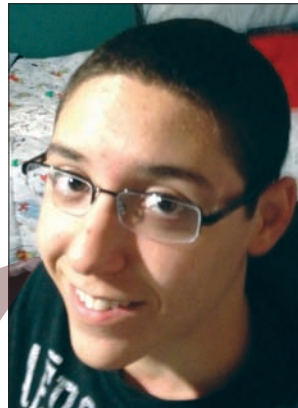
From the STREETS

What's the best thing about Scarborough?



The best thing about Scarborough is that there are tons of newly opened Asian restaurants offering tasty varieties that suit the needs of picky foodies all across Toronto.

— **Jessica Liu**



I like that Scarborough is so multicultural. I enjoy meeting new people and finding out where they are from.

— **Rene Alves-Machado**



I would have to say my favorite part is how everyone is a friend of a friend.

— **Ashley Sherwood**



Personally I like [Scarborough] because I'm used to everything here and most of my family is here. Everything is generally cheaper here too compared to areas like downtown Toronto or Vaughan.

— **Arini Markandu**



My favourite thing about Scarborough is the transit because in Durham it's not really good, they come every half an hour to an hour. In Scarborough, [busses] come every ten to fifteen minutes.

— **Jadeem Daley**



Ever since I came to Canada this is where I've lived. I love Scarborough, it's a diverse city.

— **Juliet Miller**

Let the summer job hunt begin

Rebecca Raveendran
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The hunt for summer jobs is soon to begin. Once school is out, hundreds of students will be giving out resumes, applying online, and exploring every possible resource to find a job. To secure summer employment, job hopefuls should consult local Scarborough employment agencies.

The following three summer employment programs are offered for students. Not only do they help find employment for students, but they also provide assistance throughout the entire job search process.

AYCE

Location: 505 Consumers Rd. #102
Phone: (416) 491-7000
Website: www.ayce.on.ca

- Program offered to students age 15–30
- Contracts run from April 1 to Sept. 30
- Subsidies provided for employers
- Jobs previously offered in movie theatres, lifeguarding, and camps
- Help provided for resume writing, interview skills, and job preparations
- Applications are accepted throughout summer, but jobs tend to be limited near the end of July

Tropicana Community Services

Location: 300 Borough Dr.
Phone: (416) 296-7154
Website: www.tropicanacommunity.org

- Program offered to students age 15–18
- 16-week job placements available
- Free employment training provided
- Post-employment support given (debrief of summer experience)
- Students are paid through the agency
- Job contracts are for July and August
- Jobs previously offered in labour market sectors, retail, and summer camps

Scarborough Town YMCA Employment Centre

Location: 230 Town Centre Ct.
Phone: (416) 296-9907 ext. 456
Website: www.ymcagta.org

- Program offered to students age 15–30
- Full-time summer jobs offered
- Part-time jobs for students in school
- Student must be returning back to school
- Directly apply to employer of interest
- Drop by the YMCA centre and register (you need a work permit, SIN card, photo ID)
- Job openings will be posted weekly
- Jobs previously offered in customer service, parks and recreation and camp counsellors
- Subsidized employment (employers receive \$2 an hour for every hour the student works)
- Jobs are for 16 weeks maximum
- Keep a look out for job fairs that are held every month. Recruiters may hire on the spot.



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